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Friday June 2, 2023

Who Trashed Redmond Park? Yonkers Police Search For Driver



- The Yonkers Police Department is investigating an incident of felony criminal mischief to Redmond Park that occurred over the Memorial Day weekend. Trespassers apparently tore up the field on ATV's and dirt-bikes. The park has been undergoing renovations for the past year as part of the City's commitment to invest in green spaces for our neighborhoods; this incident may further delay re-opening - photo attached.

Yonkers Police investigators are working to identify and apprehend the perpetrators who will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Yonkers Police at (914) 377-7900. Anonymous tips can be sent by texting the key word YPD plus the tip to CRIMES (274637).

Help the Yonkers Police solve this crime if you can. The renovated field had not yet opened.

City of Yonkers Adopts Budget: 2.9% Tax Increase, 4-3 Vote

Breen, Merante, Pineda-Isaac Vote No

Following weeks of budget hearings, the City of Yonkers 2023-2024 Budget was adopted today with a 4-3 vote by the Yonkers City Council. The Adopted Budget invests in public safety and quality of life services, continues to provide its largest contribution to Yonkers Public Schools and stays below the state-mandated property tax cap.

The 2024 Adopted Budget increases the Maintenance of Effort to the School District budget by \$5 million, bringing the total transfer to education to \$740 million — making it the largest amount ever budgeted by the city and the largest local share of any big city to a district outside of New York City.

Mayor Spano stated, "This budget is sound and responsible. Given the difficult year, I want to thank the cooperative effort of our City Council, as we make smart investments in our first responders, quality services for our residents, while relieving our taxpayers as best as we can and making the vital investments in education so we can keep moving Yonkers forward."

"We were able to achieve this Budget through careful deliberations while successfully addressing the growing needs of the third largest city in the state, sustaining the needs of education, public safety, public works, and advancing green spaces through the parks department. The goal ever being prioritizing the quality of life for the City while establishing a fiscally responsible budget. Collaboration between the City Council and Administration ensures continued fiscal accountability and success for the City of Yonkers," commented Yonkers City Council President and Budget Chair Lakisha Collins-Bellamy.

"I am proud of the hard work that was put into this budget process. Each day I strive to deliver for the people of the City of Yonkers. This is a fiscally sound budget with additional funding added to public safety, an increased Maintenance of Effort by \$5 million for Yonkers Public Schools. As an elected official, it is important to pass a sound and healthy budget that will deliver for the constituents. This budget does exactly that and we should be proud of what we have accomplished," said Yonkers Council Majority Leader and Education Chair Tasha Diaz

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Who is Shatika Parker?



*First District City
Council Candidate
Shatika Parker*

I think the best way to understand who Shatika Parker is and to separate her from the other candidates, is to state explicitly who she isn't.

Shatika is not someone who will be controlled by any administration. As a lifelong resident and community activist Shatika is dedicated to making sure representation for District 1 is truly indicative as the voice of the people. Growing up in School Street Housing Projects (Municipal Housing Authority of Yonkers — Calcagno Homes), she has experienced and continues to recognize what it's like to be apart of the unheard population in Yonkers. Working families who don't have the time and opportunity to becoming politically savvy and attend every board meeting provided by the Yonkers City Council still deserve a voice at the table. As the District 1 representative Shatika plans to ensure there is transparency in government, information is accessible and the voices of District 1's most vulnerable populations will be heard. Working with our state, county and district representatives I will also make sure District 1's voices are heard far, wide and across the legislative spectrum.

Shatika is not someone who will allow mediocre investments into our education system without pushing back and being creative about how we inject funds into the budget. A product of Yonkers Public Schools, graduating from Lincoln High School and currently serving on the Academy of Finance at Lincoln, she

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By Dan Murphy

As the summer approaches, one of the best ways to get outside and 'smell the roses' is to visit Untermeyer Gardens in Northwest Yonkers. Untermeyer Gardens was recently voted the #1 tourist attraction in Westchester County by TripAdvisor, and last year had 125,000 visitors.

The remarkable gardens created by New York City lawyer and civic leader Samuel Untermeyer (1858-1940) for his family's estate on the Hudson River, were designed by American architect William Welles Bosworth. Untermeyer acquired the Greystone estate in 1899, and the gardens, unveiled in 1917, grew and flourished for years. Following Untermeyer's death in 1940, the gardens were largely abandoned, vandalized, and fell into decades of disrepair.

However, with the founding of the Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy (2011), there have been extraordinary efforts to complete a series of extensive restoration projects, dedicated to returning Untermeyer Gardens to its former glory and splendor.

The mission of the non-profit Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy is to raise funds to employ horticulturists and restore the gardens. And that restoration under the Conservancy and President Stephen Byrns has been remarkable.

"Untermeyer Gardens is one of the country's only major public gardens that is free to everyone, which ensures that it is an inspiration to people from all walks of life. We rely almost entirely on donations from individuals to care for this magical place," said Byrns, who will be hosting one of the Conservancy's major fundraisers, The Sunset Soiree, on June 4.

This summer, The Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy will host ten concerts in the Amphitheater, which seats about 250. The Minnie Untermeyer Concert Series (named after Samuel Untermeyer's wife) will begin on June 10 with Persian Music; other concerts include performances from music and dance groups,

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Gov. Hochul-We Need Your Help!

Leadership Needed on Migrant Crisis & Hudson River Dump

By Dan Murphy

NY Governor Kathy Hochul has two urgent matters that require her attention, on behalf of the people of Westchester County: Provide assistance with the relocation of migrants from New York City to Westchester and leading the opposition to the dump of one million gallons of Nuclear Waste into the Hudson River by Holtec, owner of the now closed Indian Point Power Plant in Buchanan.

Included in the NYS Budget passed last month was \$1 Billion to help New York City provide shelter for the 70,000 migrants that have arrived from the southern border. But NYC Mayor Eric Adams says that the cost for the migrants has already reached \$5 Billion and is looking for more assistance from Hochul and from President Joe Biden.

Adams is looking to move some of the migrants to Westchester, and other Hudson Valley Counties. 100 migrant families are temporarily residing at the Ramada Inn in Yonkers.

On a recent appearance on NY Fox 5 news, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano asked for assistance from the Governor to help pay for the cost of education and health care for the migrant woman and young children at the Ramada Inn.

"Yonkers is ready to do their fair share. That's why I am hopeful that the Governor steps in. There continues to be communication, but we are keeping all options open. We are 1/80th the size of New York City. These matters could be budget busters. They can walk into a Yonkers school and apply for education services for young children, and adult education services. We will have to make accommodation.

Q-Are you surprised that you don't hear anything from our President, or our Senators from New York -Schumer and Gillibrand?

A-It is very quiet out there-and it's unfair to local governments. We will continue to press the Mayor of NYC and the Governor to give us the plan and give us the resources to make it work. I can't imagine that the Governor of New York State gave a billion dollars to New York City so that they can ship people to other communities. I am certain that is not what that money is for, and we are going to make that case for the people of Yonkers.

One false rumor had migrants coming to Pleasantville to shelter at the Cottage school. JCCA, which operates the residential center for young people ages 7-16 with emotional and mental health challenges. "JCCA cares for young people, and our campus is not licensed to house families or single adults. We have no plans to house migrants relocated by Mayor Adams from New York City," said spokeswoman Anna Gold.

The Town of Mount Pleasant, and Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi, declared a State of Emergency in anticipation that the migrants were coming to the Cottage School. "It is appropriate for the Town to issue a State of Emergency similar to the action taken by other local municipalities. The Town is without the necessary resources (both at the Town level and at a school level) to handle an influx of migrants to the Town.

Further, the housing of migrants at the Pleasantville Cottage School is illegal as it would violate the Town's zoning laws."

The State of Emergency declared by Supervisor Fulgenzi, and by other elected officials in Rockland, Orange, and Dutchess Counties, may not be legal, and at some point, may have to be adjudicated in the courts. So far, the State of Emergencies declared by Rockland County Executive Ed Day has not been challenged in court. In Westchester, a determination by the County Attorney found that a state of emergency cannot be declared in response to a migrant crisis but can only be used for a Hurricane or other natural disaster.

The other matter that has another two months before coming to a boil is the planned dump of one million gallons of nuclear waster into the Hudson River by Holtec, the owner of the Indian Point Power Plant.

Protests against the planned dump continue in Westchester communities along the Hudson, and State Senator Pete Harckham and Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg are moving forward with state legislation to prohibit the practice. But many environmental groups believe that if Governor Hochul would intercede, Holtec would be more willing to change their plans. Holtec has another planned Nuclear Waste Dump on Cape Cod.

City Budget continued from pg 1-

Budget Snapshot:

- \$1.4 billion total budget
- \$740 million appropriation for the Board of Education, the largest ever budgeted by an Administration
- Increases in property tax rate of 2.9%, staying within state-mandated tax cap

The vote by the council was closer than most thought, with three councilmembers voting no. Councilwoman Corazon Pineda-Isaac, Minority Leader Mike Breen and Councilman Anthony Merante all opposed the spending plan, which passed 4-3.

Pineda-Isaac and Merante are running for Mayor. Breen is running for reelection in the 5th City Council district.

Latinas United in Law Enforcement Endorse Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano in June 27 Primary



Latinas United in Law Enforcement, a prominent organization representing Latinas working in law enforcement across Westchester County, is thrilled to announce its official endorsement of Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano in his bid for reelection in the upcoming June 27th Primary. This endorsement highlights Mayor Spano's exceptional leadership, unwavering dedication to public service, and his profound commitment to empowering diverse communities.

Latinas United in Law Enforcement strives to promote the advancement and representation of Latina officers in law enforcement agencies. In endorsing Mayor Spano, the organization acknowledges his outstanding track record in advocating for diversity and creating equal opportunities for underrepresented groups in Yonkers.

As a respected figure in the community, Mayor Spano has consistently fostered an environment that encourages inclusivity and cultural sensitivity within the Yonkers Police Department. He has demonstrated his commitment to building strong relationships between law enforcement agencies and diverse communities, facilitating effective communication and understanding between officers and residents.

"I am deeply honored and grateful to receive the endorsement of Latinas United in Law Enforcement," said Mayor Mike Spano. "This endorsement carries significant meaning for me, as it represents the recognition and support of a remarkable organization committed to promoting diversity and empowering Latina officers in law enforcement. I have always believed in the power of inclusivity and the strength that comes from embracing our diverse community. Together, we have worked tirelessly to build bridges, foster understanding, and create a safer Yonkers. I am humbled by this endorsement and look forward to continuing our collective efforts to make Yonkers a place where everyone feels safe, valued, and empowered to thrive."

Founder and President Johanny Monegro stated, "Mayor Spano has demonstrated his commitment to hearing our voices and delivering tangible results for the community. We have seen significant improvements in education and infrastructure during his time in office, and we must continue to work towards positive outcomes for all."

Mayor Spano's steadfast dedication to enhancing public safety in Yonkers has yielded tangible results, resulting in safer neighborhoods and increased trust between law enforcement and the community. His implementation of innovative crime prevention initiatives and robust community policing programs has significantly contributed to the reduction of crime rates and the overall improvement of public safety outcomes.

The endorsement of Mayor Spano by Latinas United in Law Enforcement further solidifies his standing as a remarkable leader who values diversity and recognizes the invaluable contributions of Latinas in law enforcement. By supporting Mayor Spano's re-election, LULE aims to ensure the continued progress and empowerment of Latinas in the Yonkers community.

Latinas United in Law Enforcement encourages all voters to support Mayor Mike Spano in the June 27th Primary and to stand with him in his ongoing efforts to create a safe, inclusive, and vibrant Yonkers.

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Yonkers Mayor Spano Expands City Food Scrap Recycling Initiative

Curbside Collection Pick Up Available

Curbside Pick-Up to Include up to 500 Households at Residential Buildings

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced the Yonkers Department of Public Works (DPW) is launching a new Curbside Food Scrap Collection pilot program, expanding its food scrap recycling initiative in partnership with Westchester County's Department of Environmental Facilities. Two hundred households at 1085 Warburton Avenue are the first participants in the pilot program, which will serve as a model for expanding to other buildings and households.

"Since its launch last spring, we have seen great success with our Food Scrap Collection program, collecting between three to four hundred pounds of food scraps per week," said Mayor Spano. "Now, by focusing on food scrap recycling at residential buildings, we are supporting participation among residents who may not otherwise be able to participate due to a lack of yard space for backyard composting or transportation to the Recycling Center. With our partnership with the County, our hope is eventually to make curbside food scrap collection available citywide, which will increase our recycling efforts and better protect our environment."

As part of the curbside collection pilot program, the City of Yonkers provides each household with a food scrap kit, including a countertop pail, a larger storage bin, and a roll of compostable bags. Residents are able to empty their bin as often as necessary into two of the City's large totes located at the building's designated food scrap drop-off site. Yonkers DPW crews pick up the building's food scraps twice a week on regular refuse collection days. The City then transfers the food scraps to a compost facility in northern Westchester through a partnership with Westchester County. Yonkers DPW will track the amount of food scraps diverted from the waste stream through this pilot program. The City plans to expand the program to up to 500 households during the initial phase, and is also exploring food scrap collection at Yonkers Public Schools as early as next school year.

Last spring, the City of Yonkers launched its citywide food scrap recycling program at the Yonkers Recycling Center (735 Saw Mill River Road), which allows residents to drop off their household food scraps for composting. Home food scrap kits are available for purchase (\$20) at the Yonkers Recycling Center. Kits include one 1.9 gallon countertop pail, one six-gallon home storage and transportation bin and a roll of 25 compostable bags. Filled bags can be dropped off at the Yonkers Recycling Center during regular operating hours. Diverting food scraps lowers the City's solid waste disposal costs, reduces household waste and reduces the amount of waste transferred for incineration at the Charles Point Resource Recovery Facility.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer stated, "This pilot program launch is another step toward our goal in Westchester County of utilizing every means necessary to reduce what we put in the waste stream. With Westchester's largest City on board under the leadership of Mayor Mike Spano, our food scrap recycling program is well on its way to producing the results we were aiming for when first launched."

Under the County's Residential Food Scrap Transportation and Disposal (RF-STAD) program, the County's Department of Environmental Facilities arranges for the consolidation, transportation, and processing of food scraps collected by municipalities. The County's participation reduces the cost so that it is the same as-- or less than -- the transportation and disposal cost of garbage, making food scrap recycling feasible for municipalities that otherwise would not be able to offer this service. With the City's participation, Yonkers is the largest municipality in Westchester's Residential Food Scrap Transportation and Disposal program. Residents can visit the Yonkers Recycling Center, at 735 Saw Mill River Road, Mondays - Saturdays, 7:30am-4:15pm. For more information on Yonkers food scrap recycling program, including acceptable food scrap items and how to participate, visit www.yonkersny.gov/foodscraps.

Shatika Parker continued from pg 1-

knows what equity and opportunity or the lack thereof, means for our students. The lack of Guidance Counselors, bare minimum extra curricular budgets, 2.5 days for our Pre K 3 program and the fact that our teachers are working without a contract is unacceptable. As representative of the 1st District, where many of the disadvantaged black and brown students live, Shatika intends to be an advocate on all fronts for elevating the quality of education experience for our youth. After school programs, extracurricular activities and mental health programs are of the utmost importance to support our kids as they navigate our education system.

Shatika is not someone who will place the needs of developers over the needs of residents who currently reside here. Overdevelopment in District 1 is rampant and we don't have a voice on the council who is willing to push back and stand beside residents to push for development that makes sense and has community buy in. Having lived in every type of housing this city has to offer, Shatika understands the housing crisis from a lens the current council member and the other candidates do not. We need affordable housing legislation and investments that don't just look good on paper but make sense in reality for families who have to live with it, everyday.

Shatika is not someone who will only address issues with our parks, roadways, sewage system and infrastructure, as they arise. Reactive legislation is sometimes inevitable. But to the extent possible we should always be looking ahead at what we can do to improve our city. Some of the most traveled streets like North Broadway, Warburton Avenue, Ashburton Avenue, Riverdale Avenue and more recently Alexander Street need maintenance to ensure safe commutes for residents. For residents in the Ludlow area, the issue with the Waste Water Treatment plant in Yonkers needs a solution by way of collaboration with our County officials as soon as possible. The Parks in District 1 need consistent and ongoing attention, not just during political season. I plan to ensure this is the type of action oriented office representing District 1.

So who is Shatika Parker? A 31 year old Yonkers native, mother, business woman and community activist. Shatika's 10 year combined education and career in government along with her lived experience is why you should elect her to become the next person for Yonkers City Council District 1.

Shatika says "I am a product of the best and the worst of this city, and I vow to fight for funding and legislation that will improve the quality of life for residents in the 1st District. This race is not about me, it's about finally having a community voice on the City Council and with community support and action, we will have just that."

Editor's Note: Shatika Parker is a candidate for Yonkers City Council in the First District. She is running in a democratic primary on June 27.

Chris Johnson Must Vacate His Legislative Seat



by Eric Wolf Schoen

Chris Johnson is an incredibly nice guy. An excellent Legislator. But he is breaking the law by having his primary residence listed not the place where he lives. He must vacate his County Legislative seat immediately.

This is a no brainer. Johnson says he waiting for a legal opinion. You don't need to be a rocket scientist to figure this one out. You don't score a run in baseball unless you have touched 4 bases. No points in basketball unless you get the ball in the basket. Can't bake a chocolate cake without chocolate. And in Westchester County you can't represent a district unless you live there full time.

In the 80's we had a similar situation with a Yonkers City Councilman who wanted to continue serving even when he didn't live in the district. A group of us fought it and the official ultimately resigned.

The situation with Johnson is a little more complex because there is an affordable housing unit with government subsidies involved. In 2010 he purchased an affordable housing unit located in the 16th district, verifying last May it was his primary residence. Ten days later, Johnson signed papers to purchase an \$800,000 house, which is in the 15th district, certifying that was his primary residence.

The county charter requires legislators to live in the district they represent. Johnson's primary opponent says he no longer does and must resign. It's not resign. By living outside the district you have vacated the seat. No ifs, ands or buts! Johnson told the Journal News that he sleeps on a couch in the affordable unit which is in the district from time to time. He said he is allowing a relative and that relative's girlfriend to live in the affordable unit. Which opens up a whole other can of worms. Affordable units are supposed to be occupied by the ones who qualified for the unit in the first place.

This is the only part of this mystery that needs investigation. Is it legal for the affordable unit to be used by someone who did not initially qualify for it. If there is one case like this there's probably hundreds. Mayor Mike Spano has called for an investigation into what occurred here. The funding source should investigate what occurred and if it is illegal make Johnson pay back any subsidies he illegally obtained.

But this whole thing is a no brainer from the county legislative side. Mr. Johnson does not live in the district he represents. That's the whole story, forgetting about everything else.

Let's hope this situation comes to a conclusion promptly. Laws are meant to be followed! And no one is above the law! Frankly it's pitiful how long this situation has been allowed to go on. I can't believe it took so long to bring 'The Johnson Family' situation to a head.

As an aside if Johnson was collecting a pay check and should not have been, the County and District attorneys need to see if any monies need to be clawed back.

A former County Legislator once told me that all the legislators on the County Board have enormous egos. What do you think?

Ron DeSantis

Many politicians announce they are running for office everyday of the week. They hold a press conference, a call with supporters, there's a million ways to do it. I know Ron DeSantis is buddies with Twitter's Elon Musk, but that was no reason to try a new way to announce that he was running using a new part of the Twitter platform.

Here you are in second place for the Republican nomination and you are going to try out new technology to make an announcement? You have to be crazy when there are so many proven methods for candidates to stake their claim for office.

The whole mess that occurred with over 700,000 people trying to get on to hear the announcement crashed the platform and was an embarrassment to DeSantis, Musk and the whole Twitter operation. These things need to be perfected before they are used widespread otherwise you have the situation that occurred here. We have seen this before.

And Mr. DeSantis' way of speaking was not conducive to the platform anyway! You were unable to see him talking, and you can tell a lot by looking into someone's eyes and viewing their facial expressions.

9:30 P.M. Robocalls

If Congress wants to do something to benefit Americans, they have to deal with these crazy robocalls we get on our landlines and cell phones. The other day I got a 9:30 p.m., yes 9:30 p.m. call from Hilton Hotels trying to sell a hotel package.

Now I have had no affiliation with Hilton for a long time, and I don't know how they obtained my number. But I am early to bed, early to rise, and I was sound asleep at 9:30 p.m.

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Westchester County Unveils the First Full Cricket Pitch at Croton Point Park



Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins helps open Cricket Pitch Park

Westchester County residents can add cricket to their list of activities this summer now that Westchester County's first full cricket pitch is open at Croton Point Park in Croton-on-Hudson.

Ambassadors of the sport of cricket within Westchester County were instrumental in developing the layout of the new pitch. Westchester County Parks identified Croton Point Park as the prime location as its underutilized ballfield would be able to seamlessly transition into a cricket pitch. The conversion consisted of installing cement slabs to the existing field and determining the perfect padded turf. Several samples of turf were tested to pinpoint which gave the best bounce to the ball.

Additional guidance by the team of ambassadors was provided to determine the positioning of the wicket.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "Westchester County Parks has so much to offer and we are continuing to build on the greatness we already have with new features, like the cricket pitch. I'm thrilled that we are bringing Westchester County's first full cricket pitch to Croton Point Park as visitors will have the opportunity to play cricket and explore one of the Westchester County Parks system's gems."

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, Kathy O'Connor said, "I'm elated to add cricket to the list of sports available to play at our parks. I encourage residents to try something new this summer and play cricket at Croton Point Park!"

The cricket pitch will be available to rent in one-hour to two-hour blocks and can be rented back-to-back for the day. Call the Westchester County Parks permit office at (914) 231-4575 to reserve and for fees.

2023 Pride Month Series: Legends, Statements and Stars

By Dennis Richmond Jr.

Happy Pride Month! Pride Month is rooted in the Stonewall riots in New York City in 1969. It's humbling to write about a community that has influenced and continues to influence the world. The LGBTQ+ Community shapes the world through fashion, slang, art, and music, amongst everything else. This week, I'm focusing on Black Present and Future LGBTQ+ Icons. All of them inspire us in four different ways. Who can forget Pray Tell, the emcee played by Billy Porter in the smash hit POSE? His performance helped shatter the notion that gay Black men have to look a certain way.

Someone closer to home, Cienna Rosalina continues to show us how to be an effective ally to the trans community. She inspires us because she's using her voice to speak up and out and, in the process, is still becoming a social media powerhouse. Kevin JZ Prodigy inspires us by constantly giving us bops and bangers on the ballroom floor and beyond. You might have seen him on The BET Awards or heard him on Beyonce's album Renaissance. Kiyziah "TS Candii" Vaughn is an activist and author using her creative genius to push, expand and obliterate preconceptions about what Black trans identity means.

Let's give it up to our icons and future icons paving the way!

Billy Porter is an actor and writer from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1992, in his early twenties, Porter won \$100,000 on the television show Star Search. Billy became a star. Four years later, he appeared in his first film, Twisted. To date he's been in almost a dozen movies and appeared in almost two dozen television shows. Billy Porter has solidified himself as a Black LGBTQ+ Icon.

Cienna Rosalina is a trans rights advocate from Yonkers, New York. She dedicated her life to advancing trans conversations and improving the lives of others. At her age, Cienna is no stranger to adversity. She uses social media to educate and inspire. "I'm a kind spirit who finds comfort in helping other people," she once said. A social media influencer, Cienna boasts over 140,000 followers and almost 4.5 million likes on the popular social network TikTok. This future legend said, "I'm speaking for a community of people who society wants to be quiet."

Kevin JZ Prodigy is a vogue performer and solidified ballroom commentator from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Kevin has been in the game for at least 18 years, and he shows no signs of stopping. Beyonce's song Pure/Honey off her 2022 album Renaissance featured Prodigy. People across the world vogue to chants created by Prodigy- especially in New York. There's nothing like nice warm, "bam-bam-sha-wam," from this star.

Kiyziah "TS Candii" Vaughn is an author and trans rights activist from Tennessee. She moved to New York City over five years ago to look for more resources and a supportive community for trans folk. Since, Vaughn has become an activist and the founder of Black Trans Nation, a national organization committed to uplifting the living experience of Black and Brown trans people and the GNCP. In February 2021, she was one of the leading organizers, along with others, who fought to end the Walking While Trans law. In 2022, she released her first book, Becoming Candii: My True Transgender Story.

Dennis Richmond, Jr., is an author and journalist focused on the Black, Latinx, and LGBTQIA+ Community. He lives in Yonkers. Follow him on Twitter @NewYorkStakz.

Free Immersive STEM Program for Students in Grades 6-8 at Mercy College

Empowering students with STEM and entrepreneurship skills to help build future success

Mercy College is partnering with Verizon and the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE) to offer a free project-based immersive STEM program, Verizon Innovative Learning STEM Achievers, for middle school students starting on July 17, 2023.

Verizon Innovative Learning STEM Achievers aims to empower middle school students in under-resourced communities to explore STEM subjects, learn problem-solving skills and gain exposure to career opportunities in technology fields. Participating students will receive mentorship, access to next-gen technology and hands-on training connected to real-world challenges. The initiative provides engaging programming where 6th-8th grade students can learn design thinking, 3D printing, augmented reality, and social entrepreneurship. No prior knowledge or experience is required.

This program begins with a three-week in-person session this summer from July 17th to August 4th, 2023 and an in-person full-day workshop at Mercy College in the fall and in the spring. Food and transportation for participating students will be provided!

Verizon Innovative Learning STEM Achievers is part of the company's education initiative that helps to address barriers to digital inclusion under Citizen Verizon, the company's responsible business plan to help move the world forward for all.

To learn more about Verizon Innovative Learning, please visit: www.verizoninnovativelearning.com.

To register, please visit <https://naccemeets.nacce.com/vil/home>.

Letter to the Editor:

I look forward to your continued coverage about the garbage service to me, a Yorktown taxpayer and homeowner. You have not written about the topic in more than a month, but the service being provided is substandard to say the least.

Please get back on the case!

Carolyn Maloney, Yorktown

Senate Leader Stewart-Cousins Rescinds Honor Given to Woman Who Lied About Vets Being Removed from Newburgh Hotel for Migrants

Kudos to State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, for rescinding an honor given to Sharon Toney-Finch, who has been caught in a lie about homeless veterans being removed from a Newburgh hotel to make room for migrants from New York City.

That story, blasted across the front pages of the New York Post and on Fox News, is FALSE! Toney-Finch concocted the story, offered to pay homeless men to lie about it, and put migrant families and the hotel staff at the Crossroads Hotel at risk after death threats were made.

State Senator Rob Rolison from Poughkeepsie, named Toney-Finch as his nominee for a Woman of Distinction before the scandal, and Senate leader Stewart-Cousins rescinded the honor days after the story was proven false.

"In light of these distressing revelations, it is necessary that we remove the nomination and ensure that the accomplishments of the other deserving recipients are not overshadowed," Stewart-Cousins said. "It is imperative that we maintain the integrity of this prestigious accolade."

Several media reports have spoken to homeless men in Newburgh who were offered \$200 to lie about their veterans status, and that they were removed from the hotel for migrants. Hotel staff have also stated that they never had homeless veterans at their hotel.

Sharon Toney-Finch is the director of the non-profit Yerik Israel Toney Foundation (YIT), and is a veteran.

NY Attorney General Letitia James' office is now investigating YIT after Assemblyman Brian Maher called for an inquiry. Maher has worked with YIT in the past, and called the Fake News claims made by Toney-Finch, "devastating and disheartening."

"The YIT Foundation purports to protect and support veterans, but the dishonest claims and fabrication of the facts by YIT does enormous harm to our homeless veterans by creating mistrust," Maher said, referring to the foundation by its shortened name. "I am calling for an immediate investigation by the New York State Attorney General's office and the Orange County District Attorney into the YIT Foundation based on the new information that came to light today."

New York City Mayor Eric Adams also called for an investigation. "Instead of stepping up, we're seeing hateful language and outright lies," Tweeted Adams.

Administrative Opening Monticello Central School

High School Principal

The Monticello CSD is seeking forward thinking and dynamic School Building Principal who can lead MCSD's highly engaged faculty, staff, parents, students, and community. The successful candidate will have a vision of educational excellence, be highly motivated, and demonstrates an ability to impact student learning.

Starting Salary: \$150,000

NYS SDA/SAS/SBL Certification Required plus 2 yrs. of previous administrative leadership and 3 yrs. exp as a classroom teacher preferred.

Please apply online by **June 15th** at

<https://monticelloschools.tedk12.com/hire> or OLAS EOE

113456

Administrative Opening Monticello Central School

Assistant Elementary Principal

The successful candidate should possess: Knowledge of research-based instructional programs & practices; exp. w/ teacher supervision & evaluation; a record of successfully improving learning experiences and enhancing school to home communication; and can provide a supportive environment with knowledge of social-emotional competencies, restorative practices, and promote a culturally responsive educational climate.

Salary Range: \$86,000 to \$106,000

NYS SDA/SAS/SBL Certification Required plus

3 yrs. exp as a classroom teacher preferred.

Please apply online by **June 15th** at

<https://monticelloschools.tedk12.com/hire> or OLAS EOE

113456

Maria Regina High School Celebrates Class of 2023 Commencement



Analiese Monteiro, left, and Lia Porco, right

Maria Regina High School had much to celebrate at its 62nd Annual Commencement exercises held at the Hartsdale campus of the renowned all-girls Catholic high school, on June 2. The graduates, their parents and other family members as well as members of the administration and faculty will enjoy a program of inspirational addresses, starting with those by Class of 2023 Valedictorian Analiese Monteiro and Salutatorian Lia Porco.

In keeping with Maria Regina's tradition of students being accepted by some of the nation's leading colleges and universities, Monteiro will attend Wilkes University's Nesbitt School of Pharmacy where she earned a highly competitive seat in the six-year Doctor of Pharmacy degree program. Porco will major in mathematics at Northeastern University.

The guests will also hear from Dr. Joseph Fusco, Chair of the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS) Visiting Team, who will deliver the keynote address.

His appearance at the Commencement follows the April 14 notification of Maria Regina's first-ever accreditation by MSA-CESS, one of the major developments during Maria Regina's 65th anniversary year celebration.

At the completion of his team's visit to Maria Regina last November, Dr. Fusco wrote in his Summary and Closure report: "... You raise individuals of character who can transform the world into a better place for all. You develop resilient people who are stronger in mind, body and soul when they leave you than when they arrived. There is a culture here at Maria Regina that extends far beyond the classroom. The greatest testimony to the impact that your attitudes are having is that most students achieve such a sense of self-esteem and such a "can do" attitude."

Maria Regina's Commencement exercises will also be honored with comments about the school's 65th Anniversary by Michael J. Deegan who will retire this August as Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of New York, capping a distinguished 50 plus-year career in Catholic education as a teacher, principal, associate superintendent and deputy superintendent.

But that's not all. Members of the graduating class of 1973, who were invited to the 2023 Commencement, will be honored again by receiving 50th Anniversary diplomas. They will join in congratulating the 2023 graduates and wishing them success in their post-secondary pursuits, following the path of Maria Regina's alumnae who have distinguished themselves at college and in their careers. To learn more, visit www.mariaregina.org.

Stepinac High School Celebrates 2023 Valedictorian and Salutatorian



Ryan Fudale, left, and Donal Connaughton, right

Stepinac High School has named seniors Ryan Fudale, from Thornwood as Valedictorian and Donal Connaughton, from Yonkers, as Salutatorian of the Class of 2023.

The honored students will deliver their addresses during Stepinac's 73rd Annual Commencement Exercises to be held outdoors on the White Plains campus of the renowned all-boys Catholic high school, Thursday, May 25.

The academically top performing students were both members of the Susan and Daniel P. Mahoney Honors Academy, the groundbreaking, small three-year advanced learning program— among several of their notable academic, community service and athletic achievements. In keeping with Stepinac's tradition of students being accepted by some of the nation's top colleges and universities, Fudale will continue his studies at Boston College and Connaughton at University of Notre Dame.

Fudale and Connaughton and their classmates will receive their diplomas from Fr. Thomas Collins (Class of '79, President. Parents and other family members and friends will be on hand to congratulate the graduates and wish them success in their post-secondary pursuits, following the path of Stepinac's alumni who distinguished themselves at college and in their careers. For more information, visit www.Stepinac.org.

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On This Day in Yonkers History...



Three-star General William Lennox, born and raised in Yonkers

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 5th

June 5, 1918: Charles Easton, President of the Yonkers Board of Education, signed contracts with the US War Department to train 200 soldiers at Saunders Trades School during the summer! The men would not only learn their "soldierly duties," they would receive eight hours training daily to learn special trades. At the end of the summer, the school turned out machinists, gas engine repairmen, carpenters, plumbers and pipe fitters.

June 5, 1946: The New York Central Railroad released a booklet featuring the historic significance of (Philipse) Manor Hall. Besides the history of the manor and the Hall, the brochure mentioned the box hedge "descended" from the original box hedge planted by Frederick Philipse, thanks to cuttings propagated from the original hedge by Boyce Thompson Institute; cedars brought from Washington's birthplace, Wakefield, Virginia; and the Hall's special elm tree. The elm was grown from a cutting of a tree at Wellesley College, the very tree where Washington assumed command of the Continental Army.

Tuesday, June 6th:

June 6, 1938: The Westchester County Board of Supervisors accepted the baseball challenge of the Yonkers Common Council! Chairman McClelland appointed a committee of two Supervisors—Democrat James Egan of Yonkers and Republican John Downing of Yorktown-- to make arrangements and "keep score." Besides keeping score, the Supervisors wanted to pick the umpire and propose training rules. Egan suggested the game be played at Tibbetts Brook Park on a weekend, and asked people call him with suggestions to "keep the game safe for democracy.

June 6, 1943: Margaret Quinlan of Truman Avenue received word notified her son, Staff Sergeant John Quinlan, tail gunner on the famous Flying Fortress "Memphis Belle," was notified the bomber was flying across the Atlantic with the crew to sell war bonds. The Belle was the first American bomber to return home from European Theater under its own power.

Wednesday, June 7th

June 7, 1910: After Mayor James Lennon discovered the Burns Bill prohibited the Trolley on South and North Broadway, he found Yonkers didn't have the right to grant the original South Broadway franchise in 1907! Continuous digging found a section in the bill stated if a railroad line had been operating for one year "without interference by the authorities or the abutting property owners," it was understood to be "presumptive evidence" consents were given and the railroad could operate without restrictions, even if violating franchise requirements.

June 7, 1923: Almost every worker in the Water Department was needed to repair the leak in the water main under Jackson Street. Discovered late in the afternoon, the break had flooded the street by the time Superintendent Harry Foley arrived. Shortly after Foley got out of his car to assess the situation, he saw his car sinking! Almost 150 feet of Jackson Street had given way. Six truckloads of ashes from Otis Elevator Company were used to fill the massive hole before resurfacing the street.... and multiple jacks were used to get Foley's car out!

Thursday, June 8th
June 8, 1924: A grave on Main Street, just below Riverdale Avenue near the

continued on pg 7-

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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 6996 – Opening date: 06/16/2023: Furnish and deliver three 2023, or newer, Ford F-350, or Yonkers approved equal, 4x4 crew cab pickup trucks (FB).
2. Bid 6995 – Opening date: 06/16/2023: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to repair/rebuild car and light truck transmissions as-needed (FB).
3. Bid 6997 – Opening date: 06/23/2023: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to furnish and install TEAM insert valves as-needed (AC).
4. Bid 6998 – Opening date: 06/16/2023: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to repair car and truck springs as-needed (FB).
5. Bid 6999 – Opening date: 06/16/2023: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide hydraulic cylinders and pumps, and repairs to existing units as-needed (FB).
6. Bid 6986 – Opening date: 07/07/2023: Single prime general construction contract for playground upgrades at School 15, 175 Westchester Avenue, School 27, 132 Valentine Lane, School 28, 18 Rosedale Road, and School 29, 47, Croydon Road (MM).
7. Bid 6987 – Opening date: 06/23/2023: Furnish and install one Stewart Signs, or Yonkers approved equal, outdoor LED sign at Riverside High School, 565, Warburton Avenue (AC).
8. Bid 6976A – Opening date: 06/16/2023: Twelve-month contract for the use of a NYS DEC transfer facility for the disposal of City delivered rock and dirt (NG).
9. Bid 6988 – Opening date: 06/23/2023: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for two 12-month terms, to provide arborist services for the Yonkers Public School District as-needed. Services include tree cutting, trimming, pruning, and storm clean-up (KS).
10. Bid 6989 – Opening date: 06/16/2023: Six-month contract to purchase various brands, or Yonkers approved equals, license plate reading cameras, camera hardware, rack and components, and network connectivity (total 29 items) (DC)
11. Bid 6993 – Opening date: 06/23/2023: Hillview Pump Station Valve Replacement Project (KS).
12. Bid 7000 – Opening date: 06/16/2023: One-time purchase of various EMS supplies – 18 items (KAS).
13. Bid 6963 – Opening date: 06/23/2023: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide maintenance and repairs as-needed for the Water Bureau's SCADA System (KS)

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

Having your name put on the 'do not call' list as I have many times still does not work. These companies must be getting suckers to take advantage of their offerings or they wouldn't be making these calls.

Congress needs to tighten up the robocall law. 8:00 a.m. calls are early too, and there must be a way to 'escape' the list. If you want to with penalties for companies that break it.

Public Pressure Works

As I mentioned last week as we went to press, companies are starting to feel the pressure regarding the elimination of AM radio from their new cars. Ford has agreed to put in AM radios in their new cars for the next year, but what after that?

AM radio is a primary means of emergency communication and has been for years. Give your Congressman a call and remind him or her to pass legislation mandating the continuance of AM radios in cars, electric and gas for the future until we come up with better technology to provide what AM radio provides us with now.

Memorial Day

What glorious weather we had for Memorial Day weekend this year. Let's remember and never forget that the holiday is more than hot dogs and hamburgers. It is our time to remember those who died protecting our country.

Every year PBS has a beautiful concert remembering those who gave their lives and honoring veterans who served and escaped tragedy. My only fault with the PBS special is that very obscure patriotic music is played and sung and I feel the large crowds would like to join in singing familiar tunes. Maybe it's me, but this seems to be the case every year. What do you think. Send a note to risingmediagroup@gmail.com to let me know if you agree with me! God Bless America!

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.

Notice of formation of Cake Bar By Charlene, LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/08/2023. 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, 1 Glenwood avenue, 18E, 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.

Yonkers Rising PO Box 705, Yonkers NY 10702-914-815-1388. Proudly serving Westchester County with hyperlocal news. Member NY Press Association. Legal notice inquiries to: risinglegalnotice@gmail.com. Daniel Murphy, Publisher & Editor in Chief,

chester Philharmonic, Gospel Choir performances, and classical music. Tickets are required to attend.

Over the years, we have called Untermeyer Gardens a Hidden Gem in Westchester, but after reaching 100,000 visitors in 2021, and 125,000 visitors in 2022, the secret is out. "We are the best deal in town," joked Byrns. "Most great American gardens cost up to \$50 to enjoy (NY Botanical Gardens). We are hoping to hit 150,000 visitors this year. Untermeyer Gardens was called the most spectacular garden in the 1920's and we are bringing it back to life, bit by bit. There is something for everyone-great architecture, great horticulture, and a spectacular view."

On Mother's Day last month, Untermeyer Gardens had 3,000 visitors, the largest one-day total in decades. And a recent photo shoot from designer Oscar de La Renta proves that the beauty of this location is spreading.

And for Byrns and the Conservancy, the renovations continue. The latest large construction project at Untermeyer Gardens is a renovation of the Persian Pool, located in the Walled Garden. "This was originally a swimming pool, which will become a fountain. We were able to match the mosaics, fabricated in Italy and shipped here. The installation will begin this month and we hope to dedicate the Persian Pool with support from the City of Yonkers and a State grant, and the biggest funding coming from the Iranian community," said Byrns.

The three main, restored attractions at Untermeyer Gardens are The Walled Garden, The Temple of Love and The Vista.

The Walled Garden owes its inspiration to the great Indo-Persian gardens of antiquity. Like the ancient gardens, the Walled Garden is divided into quadrants by waterways and bordered by crenellated walls anchored by octagonal towers. The Indo-Persian walled garden was intended to mimic a paradise on earth and thus had features inspired by religious descriptions of paradise.

The Vista is modeled on a similar series of descending stairs at the Villa D'Este in Italy. At the Villa D'Este, the stairs descend gracefully toward Lake Como while at Untermeyer, they cascade toward the Hudson River.

The Temple of Love is another popular attraction at Untermeyer Gardens, restored through the generosity of Angelo Martinelli in 2017. The Vista overlooks a magnificent view south along the Hudson River and the Palisades. Best viewed from below, it is a stupendous rocky fantasy capped with a round temple. It is the centerpiece of an extended rock garden and is flanked by terraced beds. The outcropping was an elaborate water feature, with water coursing all around it in various waterfalls and ponds. The Temple of Love was created by Carlo Davite, a Genoese stone mason who did work in the Paris Exposition, the St. Louis Exposition and at the Frick Museum.

Byrns told us that while the Gardens have become a popular destination for wedding photography, he likes to keep it open for the public to enjoy. "We really don't want large parties; we want it to be open to the public."

Nine gardeners, assisted by a dedicated group of volunteers, now maintain Untermeyer Gardens, which is still a long way from the sixty full-time gardeners once employed by Samuel Untermeyer in the 1920's. And working with the gardeners are Yonkers Public high school interns, who have begun to grow vegetables in uncovered beds that were cropped 100 years ago. More volunteers are always needed and welcomed.

While any visitor is free (literally) to walk the grounds, tours are offered by Byrns and Docents. Please pre-register for all events online at untermyergardens.org.

Upcoming dates include:

- Sun 6/4 11 am History tour 60 minutes Walled Garden to Vista \$12
- Sun 6/11 10 am Trees of Untermeyer Gardens Vista to Ruin Garden tour 60 min.\$20
- Sun 6/11 11 am President's Tour by Steve Byrns 90 minutes \$25
- Sat 6/17 9 am Plant Geek tour 2 hours \$20
- Sun 6/18 11 am Seasonal Highlights (hort) tour 60 minutes \$12
- Sun 6/25 11 am History tour 60 minutes Vegetable Garden to Temple of Love \$12

CLASSES and WORKSHOPS:

- Sat 6/3 11 am-12:30 pm Garden of the Heart: Sufi Poetry Reading \$25
- Fri 6/16 1 am-12pm Chair Yoga in the Garden \$20
- Tues 6/27 9:30 am-12:30 pm Drawing and Painting in the Garden All levels \$50

MINNIE UNTERMYER CONCERT SERIES

- Sat 6/10 5 pm (rain date Sun 6/11 5 pm) Saba Ensemble Persian Music \$35. Persian food available for purchase during intermission
 - Sun 6/18 5 pm Cabaret: German Cabaret Music \$35
 - Fei 6/23 7 pm (rain date Sun 6/25 5 pm) Tom Gold Dance \$35
- Advance registration is required for all at untermyergardens.org.

Private tours are also available. This reporter plans on reserving a private tour with Stephen Byrns. The first 15 people who sign up can join me at a to be determined date. Email me at dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com. Enjoy this summer at Untermeyer Gardens!

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Notice to WESTAIR REALTY, CORP., LAWRENCE MARTIN BELL, ROBIN BELL KALB, LEONARD OTIS BELL, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF HAROLD K. BELL, MICHELLE ANN SILVERMAN, WENDY JOY SILVERMAN, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF HARRY SILVERMAN, LORRAINE LINARZ, MIRIAM WOLFSON AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MINNIE FEINBERG and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LEO FEINBERG AND THE CITY OF YONKERS NEW YORK:

An action has been filed in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Westchester under Index No. 55337/2023 seeking a declaration pursuant to RPAPL Article 15 that the Plaintiff The Zee Zee Goup LLC is the owner in fee simple of the strip of land described on Schedule A hereto and that any persons claiming ownership be barred from all claim to an interest in such property.

A copy of the Summons and Complaint is attached hereto.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

THE ZEE ZEE GROUP LLC,

Plaintiff,

Index No.

-against-

SUMMONS

WESTAIR REALTY CORP, LAWRENCE MARTIN BELL,
ROBIN BELL KALB, LEONARD OTIS BELL,
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF HAROLD K. BELL, MICHELLE
ANN SILVERMAN, WENDY JOY SILVERMAN, THE
UNKNOWN HEIRS OF HARRY SILVERMAN,
LORRAINE LINARZ, MIRIAM WOLFSON AND THE
UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MINNIE FEINBERG and
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LEO FEINBERG AND THE
CITY OF YONKERS, NEW YORK,

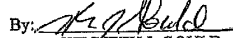
Defendants.

To the above-named Defendants

You are hereby summoned to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff's Attorney(s) within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded herein.

Dated: January 10, 2023

MARCUS, GOULD & SUSSMAN, LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff

By: 
KENNETH J. GOULD
222 Bloomingdale Road
White Plains, NY 10605
(914) 683-0090

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

THE ZEE ZEE GROUP LLC,

Plaintiff,

Index No.

-against-

COMPLAINT

WESTAIR REALTY CORP, LAWRENCE MARTIN BELL,
ROBIN BELL KALB, LEONARD OTIS BELL,
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF HAROLD K. BELL, MICHELLE
ANN SILVERMAN, WENDY JOY SILVERMAN, THE
UNKNOWN HEIRS OF HARRY SILVERMAN,
LORRAINE LINARZ, MIRIAM WOLFSON AND THE
UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MINNIE FEINBERG and
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LEO FEINBERG AND THE
CITY OF YONKERS, NEW YORK,

Defendants.

Plaintiff, THE ZEE ZEE GROUP LLC, by its attorneys, Marcus, Gould & Sussman, LLP, complaining of the Defendants, alleges:

1. Plaintiff, with offices at 3145 Albany Crescent, Bronx, New York 10463, is the owner of real estate known as 189 Scott Avenue, Yonkers, New York, known on the Tax Map of the City of Yonkers, New York as Section 6, Block 6250, Lot 28, and described in Exhibit "A" (the "Premises"), having acquired it by deed from the City of Yonkers dated April 8, 2021, recorded on April 28, 2021 in the Westchester County Clerk's Office, Division of Land Records as Control No. 610953293, Exhibit "A". The Premises is also described as part of Lot 164 on "Map No. 2 Supreme Court, Valentine v. Brady and others for partition sale of that part of Hyatt Farm and Cedar Lot near Woodlawn in the City of Yonkers", made by H.H. Spindler, Surveyor, and filed in the Office of the Clerk of Westchester County, Division of Land Records on June 14,

1889, as Map Number 904. A survey of the Premises prepared by All County Land Surveyor, P.C., dated April 2, 2021 is attached at Exhibit "B."

2. The City of Yonkers had acquired the Premises as the result of a real estate tax foreclosure proceeding filed in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Westchester as Index No. 3643-14 (the "Tax Foreclosure"). A deed resulting from that proceeding dated May 3, 2018 to the City of Yonkers and recorded May 11, 2018 as Control No. 581293254, Exhibit "C", purported to vest title in The City of Yonkers, which in turn conveyed the Premises to Plaintiff.

3. Upon information and belief, the actual last owner of record of the Premises was Defendant WESTAIR REALTY CORP. ("Westair"), having acquired the Premises from Marianne Steffen by deed dated September 13, 1955 and recorded October 7, 1055 in Liber 5513, page 161.

4. Upon information and belief, the individual Defendants are the heirs of Harold K. Bell, the heirs of Harry Silverman, the heirs of Minnie Feinberg and the heirs of Leo Feinberg who were, upon information and belief, the shareholders of Defendant Westair which corporation was dissolved at some point in the 1980's and its assets, including the Premises would have been distributed to its shareholders.

5. Westair also had owned property adjoining the Premises, known as Lots 162, 163, 188 and 189 on Map 904 and, by deed dated June 6, 1984, Harold K. Bell, Harry Silverman, Minnie Feinberg and Minnie Feinberg and John Schleimer as Trustees under the Trust under the Last Will and Testament of Leo Feinberg conveyed those lots to 77 Bronx River Road Owners Inc., a cooperative corporation in a conversion in which some or all of them were "sponsors" of the conversion.

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Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

new telephone building, was unearthed by workers repairing the road. Unidentified remains of an early settlers in Yonkers and an Indian tomahawk were found. June 8, 2001: Yonkers native Lieutenant General William Lennox, Jr., assumed duties as the 56th Superintendent of the United States Military Academy, West Point

Friday, June 9th

June 9, 1939: Frank Love of Hawthorne Avenue oversaw the railroad's guard for King George VI and Queen Elizabeth when they entered the United States at Niagara Falls on the royal train.

June 9, 1943: Columbia University's Thomas Briggs, former trustee of the Yonkers Board of Education, published a book for high schools called My Part In This War, subtitled "Helping on the Home Front." Not only did it describe our nation's wartime economic program, it explained topics such as inflation, rationing, price control, and national conservation; it also explained how young people could help make the war effort successful.

Saturday, June 10th

June 10, 1938: Addressing a Crestwood conference, former Public Safety Commissioner William Cameron stated more than 40 percent of Yonkers motorists were "immune against penalties for traffic law violations," stating "ticket fixing is a vicious practice by which politicians swap lives for votes." He added, "Most ticket fixing is not done through the judges but through city officials... many persons hold office because of their willingness to fix tickets."

June 10, 1939: Thirteen-year-old Girls Scouts Shirley Coles of Palmer Road and Kay Jones of Crestwood met King George and Queen Elizabeth at the World's Fair! The girls were part of the Scouts Guard of Honor for Their Majesties on the platform at the Federal Building. Scouts were chosen for their good qualities... and had to be about the same height.

Sunday, June 11th

June 11, 1938: Yonkers Mayor Joseph Loehr and New York City Mayor Fiorello La Guardia were designated official umpires for the July baseball game between the Councils for the two municipalities; the game, scheduled for July, was to be played at Travers Island. City Hall buzzed with rumors of our Aldermen quietly practicing running and sliding at Sullivan's Oval.

June 11, 1942: Former Mayor William Wallin told the Yonkers War Council the Aldermen's appropriation of \$1500 to purchase gifts for departing servicemen was "wholly unconstitutional" and asked them to go on record against the Council's appropriation since it violated the NYS Constitution. They didn't. The Council had voted the funding after Samuel Hayward, Chairman of the Yonkers Service Clubs Committee who originally sponsored the sendoff gifts, had run out of money.

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

Bee-Line Fare Service Returns to Westchester County Center

Westchester County has announced the return of important services for Bee-Line riders at the County Center. Effective Thursday, June 1, the Parking Office window at the County Center will reinstate the MetroCard refill machine and the sales of individual MetroCards and ParaTransit ticket books. Services will be available Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 pm.

MetroCards available for purchase will include a 2-Trip, 30-Day Unlimited and \$22 card. The refill machine will provide Bee-Line bus riders the opportunity to add value to either their regular or Reduced-Fare card. ParaTransit ticket book reservations for groups will remain handled at the Michaelian Office Building by appointment through Westchester County's Office for People with Disabilities by calling (914) 995-2959.

The County Center is located at 198 Central Avenue in White Plains and is accessible by Bee-Line routes 1W, 3, 5, 6, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 27, 40, 41, 77, and Shuttle Loop. For more information on the Bee-Line visit www.westchestergov.com/beelinebus or call the customer service center at (914)-813-7777, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., and on weekends from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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6. Upon information and belief, none of the Defendants was named or served in the Tax Foreclosure and thus title to the Premises to The City of Yonkers in 2018 as hereinabove described may have been defective.

7. The property subject to the Tax Foreclosure for Tax Lot Section 6, Block 6250 Lot 28 was incorrectly described therein as a 7-foot strip of land but that strip had been previously conveyed by Westair to Charles Cattaneo by deed dated November 15, 1955 and recorded December 20, 1955 in Liber 5538, page 32.

7. Plaintiff seeks a declaration pursuant to Real Property Actions and Proceeding Law Article 15 that it is in fact the owner of the Premises and that the reason for its exclusion from the several deeds and from the Tax Foreclosure proceeding, including the deed to Plaintiff was a mistake or error going back to the conveyances described herein.

8. Upon information and belief, Defendant Westair, the last record owner of record or its shareholders, the heirs of the individual Defendants, have no interest in or valid claim to ownership of the Premises and no basis upon which to claim or assert ownership and they will not be damaged in any way by a judgment granting ownership of the Premises to Plaintiff.

9. No personal claim is made against any Defendant unless such Defendant shall serve an answer to this Complaint asserting a claim adverse to the claims of Plaintiff as set forth herein.

10. Upon information and belief, no unknown other party has any interest in the Premises.

11. Plaintiffs are entitled to a judgment and declaration pursuant to RPAPL Article 15 that they are the fee owners of the Premises and that it be decreed that Plaintiff is vested with

title to the Premises in fee simple, free and clear of any liens or other interests of any other parties hereto.

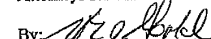
12. None of the individual Defendants nor to Plaintiff's knowledge and belief, any other person or party has ever claimed ownership of the Premises.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff request judgment as follows:

That Plaintiff be declared the owner in fee simple of the Premises free of any liens, claims or interests of the Defendants and every person claiming ownership under them and any other person or party and that such persons be barred from all claim to an estate or interest in the property described herein as the Premises and with the legal metes and bounds description contained in Exhibit "D" and that this Court grant such other, further and different relief as it deems just and proper, together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

Dated: White Plains, New York
January 10, 2023

MARCUS, GOULD & SUSSMAN, LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff

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Title Number: ALQRT-25537W
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SCHEDULE A DESCRIPTION Amended 4/8/21

ALL that certain plot piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester and State of New York, and known and designated as part of Lot Number 164 on a certain map entitled, "Map Number 2 Supreme Court, Valentine V. Brady and others for partition sale of that part of the Hyatt Farm and Cedar Lot near Woodlawn in the City of Yonkers", made by H.H. Spindler, Surveyor and filed in the Office of the Clerk of Westchester County, Division of Land Records, on June 14, 1889, as Map Number 904.

SAID parcel being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point on the northerly side of Scott Avenue distant 50 feet easterly, Deed, 57 feet actual, from the intersection of the easterly side of New Avenue and the northerly side of Scott Avenue;

RUNNING THENCE northerly on a course North 48 degrees 43 minutes 26 seconds East 107.06 feet to a point;

THENCE easterly on a course South 43 degrees 16 minutes 34 seconds East 43 feet to a point;

THENCE southerly on a course South 46 degrees 43 minutes 26 seconds West 107.06 feet to the northerly side of Scott Avenue;

THENCE westerly along the northerly side of Scott Avenue on a course North 43 degrees 16 minutes 35 seconds West 43 feet to the point or place of BEGINNING.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Premises known as 189 Scott Avenue, Yonkers, NY.

*Democrat
for Mayor*

**MIKE
SPANNO**



**PROGRESS
FOR ALL**



VOTE!
PRIMARY DAY JUNE 27

PAID FOR BY MAYOR MIKE SPANNO COMMITTEE