

# Yonkers Rising

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Friday March 10, 2023

## “Shoplifters and Thieves Beware – Stay Out of Yonkers”



**Yonkers Police Commissioner Chris Sapienza, at podium, with Mayor Mike Spano, Councilman John Rubbo, County Legislator James Nolan outside of Marshall's on Central Park Avenue. Photo by Maurice Mercado**

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano joined Yonkers Police Commissioner Christopher Sapienza to announce the deployment of the Yonkers Police Department's latest initiative to combat a recent increase in larcenies among big box retail stores. Year over year, reported shoplifting incidents in the City of Yonkers have doubled and total property crimes have increased 10%.

“While overall crime in Yonkers has decreased dramatically in the last 10 years, the rise in property crimes in the last year, specifically with shoplifting, is concerning and requires immediate action,” said Mayor Spano. “Our obligation is to serve and protect our businesses and their customers, and with the precision approach by our police department to these offenses, we can drive out these criminals. These thieves are looking at shoplifting as a sport, but we want them to know – it’s game over when they get to Yonkers.”

Yonkers Police released its multi-unit approach to target these crimes, especially for those occurring at some of the City's hot spots along Central Park Avenue:

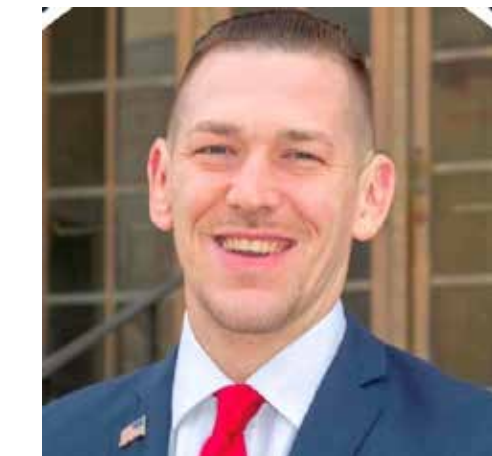
- Directed patrols: institute for major box stores
- Pattern Crimes Unit: deploy in a plain clothes capacity and are posted in major retail parking lots to intercept offenders
- Crime Control Strategies Unit: identify top offenders and recidivists and informs police resources
- Neighborhood Stabilization Team: increase deployment of foot patrols along highly-trafficked shopping centers and recently burglarized businesses
- Crime Control Strategies Unit: work closely with the Westchester County District

*continued on pg 7-*

## Yonkers GOP Nominates Merante for Mayor; Breen for City Council, Nolan, Kozak, Diaz for County BOL



**Top left, Councilman Anthony Merante, republican candidate for Mayor; right Councilman Mike Breen**



**County Legislator James Nolan, left, Debbie Kozak, right**

Yonkers republicans are fielding a full slate of candidates for the upcoming November elections. Included in the GOP field are incumbents and new candidates. In a release, the Yonkers GOP wrote,

The Yonkers GOP is proud to announce that at our convention on February 16, 2023, nominated the following candidates for the 2023 campaign season.

Anthony Merante Yonkers Mayor, Nick Speranza Yonkers City Court Judge, Michael Breen Yonkers City Council District 5, Giulio Tata County Legislator District 14, James Nolan County Legislator District 15, Debbie Kozak County legislator District 16, Jose L Diaz for County Legislator District 17.

“These candidates are energized and ready to hit the campaign trail. We, the Yonkers GOP, are looking forward to supporting them in their efforts and are looking forward to a spirited campaign season,” said the party in a release, after nominating candidates for all four county legislative seats in Yonkers, and City Court.

Breen is running for reelection in the 5th district. Nolan is seeking reelection to the County Board, district 15, after defeating Ruth Walter two years ago. Kozak is running in the 16th district for County Board, and will challenge David Tubiolo.

Editor's Note: We have highlighted the two major parties endorsed candidates because with the democratic and republican committees helping their endorsed candidate collect signatures, they will be on the ballot. With petition season upon us, we will wait to see how can collect enough signatures to get on the ballot, and then will report their campaigns to you.

## Hey Yonkers, Root for Yonkers Idol on American Idol!



**Yonkers own Amara Valerio will compete on American Idol on Sunday**

The people of Yonkers will be rooting for Amara Valerio during American Idol this Sunday March 12. Valerio, 20, is a former Yonkers Junior Idol and Yonkers Idol contestant. If successful, Amara will be the first Yonkers Idol to make it on American Idol.

Here's the release: The iconic competition series “American Idol” will continue their search for the next superstar on Sunday, March 12 (11:35 p.m.-12:35 a.m. EST/9:02 p.m.-10:02 p.m. MST/8:02 p.m.-9:02 p.m. PST), following the 95th Oscars® on ABC. In this new audition episode, viewers will embark on a nationwide search, with help from superstar judges Luke Bryan, Katy Perry and Lionel Richie, across New Orleans, Las Vegas and Nashville to find the next singing sensation. Emmy® Award-winning host and producer Ryan Seacrest hosts the iconic singing show which is currently in its 21st season. “American Idol” airs Sundays on ABC and is available next day on Hulu.

Dany Epp (she/her), a 23-year-old Gymnastics Coach from Suffern and Amara Valerio (she/her), a 20-year old college student from Yonkers sang their hearts out for superstar judges Luke Bryan, Katy Perry and Lionel Richie in the great city of Las Vegas.

Good luck Amara! Yonkers is Proud of You!

## Yonkers 4x400m Relay Qualifies for Nationals, Domingo Qualifies For State Championships



**(L-R) Akeem Carnegie, Elroy Able, Anthony Cruz, Ethan Arias, and Ben Domingo at Section 1 State Qualifiers at the Armory NYC in Manhattan. Photo taken by Katterina Shuba.**

*By Derrick Touba*

On February 19th the Yonkers Track Team competed at the Section 1 State Qualifiers, The Yonkers 4x400m relay qualified for New Balance Nationals while captain Ben Domingo qualified for states in the 55m hurdles at the Armory NYC in Manhattan.

The Yonkers 4x400m relay has had a significant amount of success the past two seasons. Last year four runners from the senior class of 2022 became the first Yonkers 4x400m relay to qualify for states and nationals, so this new group of runners had a substantial amount of success to live up to. The relay consisting of Elroy Able, Ethan Arias, Akeem Carnegie, and Anthony Cruz exceeded all expectations this indoor season. The complete quartet wasn't finalized until a week before state qualifiers and yet still managed to compete with the best of section 1.

In the preliminary heats the relay finished with a staggering time of 3:32.21, blowing by the 3:34.00 needed to qualify for Nationals. This time was three seconds faster than their season's best as Yonkers proved to be a viable contender for states. Three of the members had splits under 53.2 seconds as it took a complete team effort to complete the feat. The mark was the third best time going into the finals, they placed fourth with a finishing time of 3:40.48. While unfortunately missing qualifying for state championships by two places, they can still hold their heads high as qualifying for the national competition.

Third leg senior Able, while happy with the success, saw it as just another accomplishment

“It was just another day at the office,” he said. Able anticipates greater success at the next contest as he hopes to end his last high school indoor season on a high note. They'll join teammate Ben Domingo as qualifying for the National competition.

Additionally, Domingo had an outstanding performance of his own, and is now headed to New York State Championships. Domingo at the beginning of the season set a goal to compete in states in the 55m hurdles and on this day completed it. The second best hurdler in the section entering the contest, the senior hurdler knew he had to perform when the lights were brightest. Domingo in the preliminary rounds ran an impressive 7.98, second going into the finals. In the finals he ran a time of 7.89, tying his own personal best to place second and qualify for state championships.

*continued on pg 4-*

## Yonkers Martin Luther King Jr. Poem/Video Contest Winners Celebrated



Eighth grade poem winner Savaun Taylor of Martin Luther King Jr. Academy) pictured above.

On Feb. 18, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano joined Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, public officials, judges and various community leaders in presenting the winners of the City's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Poem/Video contest during the Mayor's Annual Black History Month Celebration.

Eighth grade poem winner Savaun Taylor, of Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy, and ninth grade video contest winners Ava LeCoq and Evelyn Vazquez Ramirez, of Roosevelt High School-Early College Studies, were selected from the 200+ submissions received by Mayor Spano and members of his African American Advisory Board.

"I am continually impressed and inspired by the talent and dedication of our City's youngest residents, our students, and I commend their work in this year's contest," said Mayor Spano. "As Mayor, I am happy to see more young people joining the movement for positive change. They are leading the discussions, spreading awareness and motivating others to take action."

This year's Black History Month theme, Black Resistance, took a look at how African Americans have fought repression from America's earliest days.

Ø Eighth grade poem winner Savaun Taylor of Martin Luther King Jr. Academy wrote a poem about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., highlighting resistance, repression and resilience.

Ø Ninth grade video contest winners Ava LeCoq and Evelyn Vazquez Ramirez of Roosevelt High School-Early College Studies produced a video depicting how African Americans have fought repression from America's earliest days. They also included two prominent African American champions who fought for equality.



### Praying for the Fire Victims from Bronx River Road Blaze 95 Units -One Dead

As we go to press, our thoughts and prayers go out to those who lost their apartment in a 4 alarm fire at 671 Bronx River Road. And our thanks to the members of the Yonkers Fire Department for fighting the flames.

Mayor Mike Spano said, People living at 671 Bronx River Road were abruptly awakened this morning. Evacuated by our Yonkers Fire Department, wearing pajamas, clutching whatever they could grab. One man living in the apartment building succumbed to the fire. We lost one of our neighbors today. Thank you to our Yonkers Fire Department for bravely battling this blaze and helping people get to safety. Thirty-five firefighters were hurt and the City along with the Red Cross is now assisting those impacted by this fire. Please keep the residents of this building and our YFD in your prayers today."

Read more online at [Yonkerstimes.com](http://Yonkerstimes.com) and in print next week, including ways that you can help.

Ninth grade video contest winners Evelyn Vazquez Ramirez and Ava LeCoq of Roosevelt High School-Early College Studies.

Also in attendance and pictured: State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. Mayor Mike Spano, City Council Majority Leader Tasha Diaz. Yonkers Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada, Councilwoman Corazon Pineda-Isaac., Dwanita M. Crosby Mayor's Public and Community Affairs Assistant

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# Did You Have Your Catalytic Converter Stolen? Call the YPD!



On Wednesday, March 1, 2023, shortly after 6AM, members of the Yonkers Police Department responded to the parking garage in the rear of 80 Alexander Street on a report of an occupied suspicious vehicle. Thereat Officers located two vehicles next to each other – a 2022 BMW X7 and a 2016 Lexus ES 350 – and three subjects, one outside the Lexus and two occupying the BMW. The Lexus had no license plates attached and the trunk was fully open; Police initiated an investigation.

Officers observed inside the Lexus tools commonly used to remove catalytic converters, including a hydraulic jack and an electric Sawzall metal cutting instrument. A registration inquiry of the Lexus yielded it was suspended for parking violations; a registration inquiry of the BMW yielded it was reported stolen out of Suffolk County, New York. All three subjects were placed into custody pending further investigation. An inventory search of the BMW yielded 17 cut catalytic converters in the trunk, presumed stolen. Further inventory searches of both vehicles yielded additional cutting tools and accessories, including multiple batteries, metal sawing blades, bolt cutters, and a portable two-way radio. All three subjects were placed under arrest.

Commissioner Chris Sapienza stated, “This case is a good example of community and police working together; trust your instincts, if you see something out of the ordinary, give us a call. In this incident, a report of a suspicious vehicle resulted in the apprehension of three non-residents suspected of stealing multiple catalytic converters, a serious problem in our region, in addition to recovering a stolen vehicle. Thankfully, our Police Officers were once again quick to react and place these bad actors into custody.”

Luis ABREU-MARTINEZ, 29-years-old and a resident of Manhattan NYC, was booked on one charge of Possession of Burglar Tools, a Class A Misdemeanor in the New York State Penal Law. Frederi MENDEZ-GUZMAN, 28-years-old and a resident of Manhattan NYC, and Justin CORDERO, 19-years-old and a resident of Manhattan NYC, were both booked on one charge of Criminal Possession of Stolen Property 2, a Class C Felony in the New York State Penal Law. ABREU-MARTINEZ was released with a Desk Appearance Ticket and MENDEZ-GUZMAN and CORDERO were arraigned in Yonkers Criminal Court on March 1. The case is being prosecuted by the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office.

The investigation remains open and on-going; in order to charge the defendants with the catalytic converter theft(s), the owners of the targeted vehicles must file a complaint. The Yonkers Police is asking any residents who had their catalytic converters stolen the night of February 28 – March 1 (or days prior) to call the Yonkers Police at (914) 377-7900 or send an email to [police@ypd.yonkersny.gov](mailto:police@ypd.yonkersny.gov). Please reference case 23028582.

## Third Precinct Police Community Council

The Third Precinct Police Community Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 15 at 7:30 PM at the Chema Community Center, 435 Riverdale Avenue. Usual quality of life concerns will be discussed. Residents and merchants of southwest Yonkers are strongly urged to attend this important community meeting. For further information please contact Bob Stauff, President at 914 476-2284 or Captain Mike Mulvey at 914 377-7427.

# 600 Columns..and I’m Still Here!

By Eric Wolf Schoen



Typical day last week. I went for my coffee to Panera and someone came up to me upset at a Red Light Ticket they received. They wanted my advice how to fight it. They knew my opposition to the cameras having read it in Yonkers Rising.

I parked my car on South Broadway in the Square to pick something up and a long time friend said she enjoyed my column. I went to Will Library and one of the Security Guards came up to me and asked if I was the guy in the newspaper. I was looking at the bulletin boards and someone came up to me and said they enjoy my column.

Let’s not even mention the times I witnessed someone with a copy of the paper and jokingly asked them if they ever read the column on page 3 in the newspaper. We opened the paper and the astute readers said, ‘Isn’t that you?’

600 columns down, about twelve years of weekly writing, and trucks are still trying to go under bridges way too low for them on our region’s parkways. I saw it again last week, the truck having to be backed up, traffic backed up at least a quarter mile on the Saw Mill south approaching the Cross County. If I don’t see it, I hear it on the radio from the entrance to Yonkers to the border line on the Hutchinson River Parkway. Quite often when the truck gets wedged traffic is backed up north and south, east and west but we were lucky last week that the truck stopped before it reached the bridge at Yonkers Avenue so it didn’t back up traffic in all directions. No one from the NYS Transportation Department is willing to address the problem. This problem must be a major expense in that the bridge has to be inspected to insure it’s integrity every time there is a hit.

Red light cameras. Writing about them is always fun as it’s rare I don’t get a response. It seems like everyone has gotten one that costs not just the \$50 in the legislation but an extra \$15 ‘service’ fee. The traffic lights are not calibrated, and if you get too close to the light you will get a \$65 ticket. Cars still stop short causing rear end accidents, a problem since the programs inception. It’s a money maker for the city and has nothing to do with traffic safety. Fortunately people know where the cameras are by this point and try to avoid them.

Every other WESTCHESTER community has signs leading up to the cameras alerting motorists to their existence. The signs are just as effective as the cameras themselves. Problem is no one in City Hall gets it and they are just worried about the dollars the program brings in.

Bail reform the State Legislature passed is of little concern to the people of Yonkers and Westchester county. The only affect it has is when someone commits a crime that use to require bail or incarceration and now the person is set free. Free to commit more crimes!

The smell of cigarette smoke has been replaced by marijuana smoke. The only beneficiaries are the smoke shops and the supposed individuals who have been affected by previous laws and now get priority in obtaining a marijuana sale license. These people broke the laws and are now getting rewarded for it? Crazy!

We lost Charlie Brown’s Steakhouse, a Yonkers staple missed by everyone. Many ethnic restaurants have opened throughout Yonkers and Westchester, and Yonkers will soon be home to Westchester county’s first Chick-Fil-A. Some people love them, this writer has had better, particularly with French fries vs. the thick fries down the street at Nathan’s.

The games our politicians have played with term limits are nothing but a joke. They have gone from a voter approved two 4 limit terms to 3 four year terms and now they are on their way to four 4 limit terms. Mayor Spano assured me that he was not in favor of terms greater than two 4 limit terms, and then went against his word approving the extension to three 4 four year terms. The question is not that Mayor Spano is doing a bad job. There are other people in the third largest city in New York State who can do the job of Mayor. Councilpersons are part time jobs according to the City Charter but they make them full time jobs.

While we are talking about elected officials, I have never seen a press release from either Councilpersons or Mayor that didn’t start with the word, ‘I.’ Elected officials are partners with the people, elected with the support of the people so ‘We’ is a more appropriate word. It gets tiring when all you read is ‘I’ and ‘me’ and the occasional ‘we.’

We’ve discussed McDonalds coffee price increase (still \$1 if you have the app) and my terrible experience at the pancake restaurant almost on the yonkers Greenburgh border as well as the robbery at my 7 Eleven. I still prefer plastic bags at the supermarket but I can live with disposable bags or paper bags for my groceries.

I never miss a chance to talk about my parents or my sister. Checking to make sure your health insurance plan is up to date is critical in this day and age. Could never understand why Kate Smith no longer sings ‘God Bless America’ in

*continued on pg 6-*

## Multi-Property Auction



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## There’s No Place Like Home: Panel discussion on housing in Yonkers.

### Panelists:

**Samantha Valencia,**  
(AVP of Property & Asset Management WESTHAB)

**Joe Shuldiner**  
(former Assistant HUD Secretary and Former Executive Director of the MHACY)

**Mark Weingarten, ESQ**  
(Partner & Land Use Attorney DelBello, Donnellan, Weingarten, Wise & Wiederkehr, LLP)

### Moderator :

**Nicole Benjamin, JD, LMSW**

### Subjects:

- What are the different types of housing?
- What are the funding sources for housing?
- What role does government play?
- What role can constituents play?
- What is happening in Yonkers?
- Questions from the audience.



**Will Library Auditorium**

1500 Central Park Ave  
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**Wed, April 12**  
**6-7:30 PM**

Hosted by Christine Peters, LCSW, BCBA  
Sponsored By YonkersLedger

**Register:**



click here

**Information :**

[Yonkersawarenessproject@gmail.com](mailto:Yonkersawarenessproject@gmail.com)

## Yonkers Athletic Director Named Certified Master Athletic Administrator



**CSEE Athletic Director Michael DeSimone**

The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association named Michael DeSimone of the Charter School of Educational Excellence a Certified Master Athletic Administrator.

The group cited DeSimone, the school's athletic director, for his contributions to the school and his ongoing professional development in the field of interscholastic sports administration. DeSimone has worked at Yonkers' only charter school since 2011. A year after his arrival, DeSimone started the school's first sports team for basketball. Since then, he launched all the K-12 school's sports teams, which today include 21 interscholastic programs at the elementary, middle- and high-school levels.

"It's not enough," DeSimone said of the charter school's programs. "We really want to make sure that we give every student an opportunity to participate, whether it's an interscholastic sport, intermural sport or an afterschool activity."

DeSimone will expand the charter school's sports program with track and field teams. He also intends to introduce junior varsity teams for freshman and sophomores in 2024.

"Some sports have 50 to 60 kids trying out and we can only pick 15 of them, so there is a need for more programs," he said.

The Charter School of Educational Excellence successfully propels student athletes into college, with several former students playing at the NCAA level. One standout is Tyler Roche, a junior at St. John's University and a pitcher for the baseball team. Roche is expected to enter the Major League Baseball draft.

The recognition by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association is the latest recognition for DeSimone. In 2021, the group Coaching Corps named him a Game Changer of the Month for his work at the charter school. DeSimone said that being a game changer is a matter of building allies and support.

"A game changer is just somebody who has done a good job getting others to see the vision and the philosophy that you have, and demonstrating that it works," said DeSimone. "We're able to carry it out because we have a coaching staff that is extremely committed to our student success, more so off the field than on the field."

### Yonkers Track stars, continued from pg 1-

*When asked about his initial reaction to qualifying for states, Domingo said "Making states for me is the first step to achieving my dreams for medalizing at states while I am happy, the job's not finished yet".*

*Domingo will compete for a state title on March 4th at the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex in Staten Island at New York State Championships, while the Yonkers 4x400m relay will prepare*

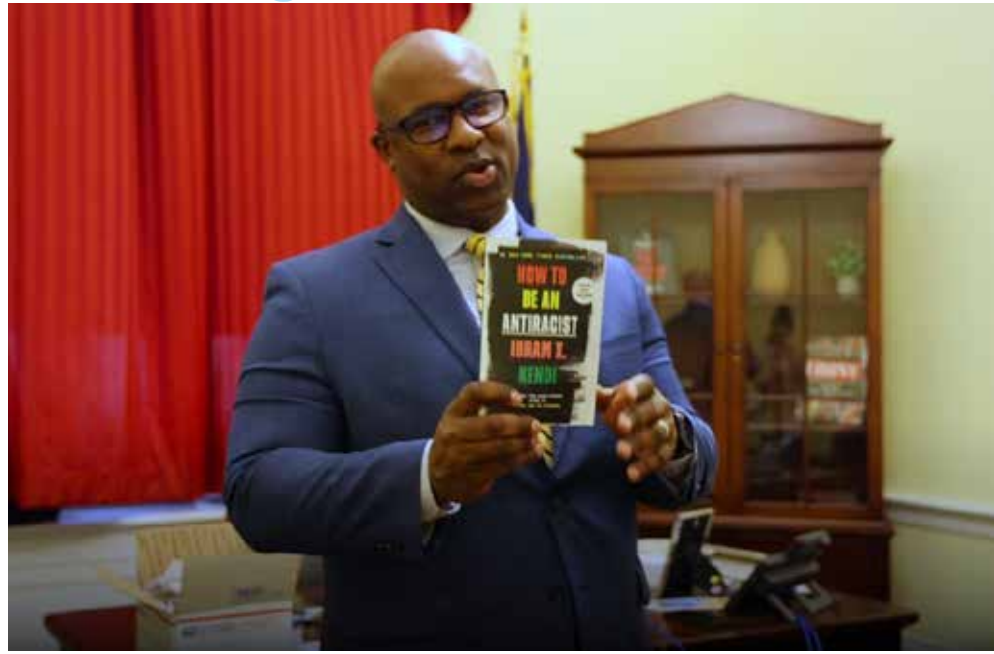
*to compete at New Balance Nationals from March 9-12 at The Track at New Balance in Boston, Massachusetts.*

### Notice:

A nonprofit organization in Yonkers, NY is seeking sealed bids for the sale and installation of security related enhancements. This project includes the installation of a CCTV System and associated hardware, an Access Control / Lockdown System, Impact Resistant Doors, and Security Fencing. Selection criteria will be based on price, reputation/experience, and quality of materials proposed. Specifications and bid requirements can be obtained by contacting us at [renovations600@yahoo.com](mailto:renovations600@yahoo.com). All interested firms will be required to sign for the proposal documents and provide primary contact, telephone, fax and email address. Bids will be accepted until 12 pm on April 15, 2023., Work is to commence by May 1, 2023 and completed by November 15, 2023. Minority and Women Owned Businesses are Encouraged to Apply.

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, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

## Congressman Jamaal Bowman Sends Care Package to Governor Ron DeSantis



Amidst Florida Governor Ron DeSantis attempts to remove Black history from public education, Congressman Jamaal Bowman sent a care package with a reading list to the governor.

Rep. Bowman called out Governor DeSantis' for his fear of telling the truth and recent decisions for curricula in public education from K-12 to state universities.

One book in the care package is On Ibram X. Kendi's How to Be an Antiracist:

"I'm a former educator and I love to read books. So we're going to start with this book, How to be an Anti-Racist. Now, again, I know it's triggering. It's a book. It's talking about race and racism. But it's something you should definitely take a look at. Share it with your cabinet, because it will help you to be more enlightened and more engaged in the education process," said Bowman.

On Governor DeSantis preventing AP African American Studies from being taught: "In all seriousness, let's discuss why this is problematic. You are trying to erase my history. You are trying to erase my culture and my heritage. And as a Black man, if I don't have knowledge of myself and knowledge of my history, how can I properly contribute to society?"

### Notice

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Notice of Formation of CR8TIONZ, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 2/21/23. Office location: Westchester County. REPUBLIC REGISTERED AGENT SERVICES INC. designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1434 Western Ave, Suite 1 #7811 Albany, NY 12203 . Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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Application deadline is April 1, 2023.



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Yonkers Rising

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## The Yonkers Police Youth Cadet Program applications deadline March 15th

For more information and to download an application, please visit <https://www.yonkersny.gov/live/public-safety/police-department/community-outreach/yonkers-police-cadets>

About the Yonkers Police Youth Cadet Program  
Become a leader. Embrace community. Drive change.

Sharpen critical thinking skills, hone a dedication to service, and develop leadership excellence through the Yonkers Police Cadets. This Community Affairs Division program helps lay a foundation for future success for youth in our City. Exposure to age-appropriate Police training in the areas of emergency operations by interfacing with different units such as Patrol, Traffic, Marine, Crime Scene Unit, Emergency Service Unit, K-9 Unit, and more; teach planning, strategy, teamwork and decision-making skills to prepare students for successful careers in Law Enforcement and related fields.

## Letter

Dear Mr Schoen,

In the article 'A robbery too close for comfort' you write, 'Drinking their slurpee in a corner of the store so they can't be viewed. I am convinced people are pigs' in this article:

You probably know what I'm going to say: Pigs aren't 'sloppy, filthy, deceitful' etc - these are people traits; pigs are actually very clean, friendly and affectionate, far better behaved than the people you refer to in the 'Robbery' article. We have unfortunately put animal names on all kinds of bad human behavior: Lowlife people are 'snakes,' cheating men are 'dogs/skunks,' con artists are 'rats,' complainers are 'crabby,' stubborn/stupid people are 'donkeys' etc.

We continue to talk this way out of habit...and sometimes to make ourselves feel superior; either way, in 2023, it should end. Women, ethnic groups, LG-BTQ groups etc demand that derogatory labels they've been given in the past be stricken - for good reason: Such names send a dangerous, disrespectful message; its no different for the animals. In fact its more dangerous for them; it helps continue cruelty, malice and contempt for them.

So pls try to be conscious of these terms that unfortunately involve animals. The robbers you referred to are 'thieves' 'cheats' 'crooks' 'lowlifes' 'criminals' etc; there's no reason animals shouldn't be respected - it doesn't lessen us, it makes us better people. Again, wow re 'Animals are people too.'

Thanks very much  
Kiley Blackman

### Shoplifters Beward, continued from pg 1-

Attorney's Office for case enhancement and heightened prosecution  
Communications Division: elevate the priority level of calls for service regarding shoplifting-in-progress to expedite police response  
Field Intelligence Officers: follow-up on uncleared incidents, focusing on suspected recidivists

Precinct Commanders: meet with businesses and retailers, offer guidance for target-hardening, crime prevention awareness, and ensure cooperation with reporting and prosecution

"Shoplifters and thieves beware – stay out of Yonkers," said Police Commissioner Christopher Sapienza. "You will get arrested for your crimes and we will do everything in our power to hold you accountable to the full extent of the law. There is no such thing as a victimless crime and the Yonkers Police will not allow criminals to degrade the quality-of-life in our fair City."

Commissioner Sapienza also noted that many of the perpetrators of these crimes are shoplifting recidivists and continue to be released into the community to reoffend. The City's top three shoplifting recidivists have been charged 14 times collectively since December 2022 for misdemeanors or felonies in Yonkers and surrounding municipalities.

"While we are working diligently to apprehend and charge these criminals, we also are chasing our tails with repeat offenders, preventing our PD from operating proactively because we are going after the same people," Mayor Spano added. "Our residents and businesses deserve better."

From December 2022 to February 2023, there were 162 reported shoplifting incidents in the City of Yonkers. Many more incidents are not reported by local retailers.

Mayor Spano commented, "We need a commitment from our local businesses. We want to keep them in Yonkers and thrive here, so their partnership in charging those who commit crimes in their stores is the first step in stemming this tide."

To report a crime in progress, call 9-1-1. Residents can share anonymous information with the Yonkers Police by submitting a tip online at [www.yonkersny.gov/ypd](http://www.yonkersny.gov/ypd) or texting the keyword 'YPD' plus the tip to CRIMES (274637).

## On This Day in Yonkers History...



Irma Schubert was the first female pilot to fly over her home city of 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, March 13th

March 13, 1959: School Twenty-Nine fourth grader Helene Zolkower of Young Avenue became incensed while watching TV coverage of the desegregation in the South, so wrote to President Dwight Eisenhower.

"Dear Mr. President, I am only a little girl of ten, but I think it's a disgrace to the United States about the segregation in the South. You are President. Maybe you can do something about it. I hope this letter finds you in good health."

A few days later, a letter from E. Frederick Morrow, Administrative Officer of Ike's Special Projects Group, arrived in the mail. He wrote, "The President has asked me to acknowledge your letter to him regarding the sensitive issues of human rights. Please be assured the President will resolutely continue to carry out the responsibilities of his office, inherent in his oath to uphold and defend the Constitution and the laws of our nation,"

Tuesday, March 14th

March 14, 1925: Preston Chapman, Superintendent of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, appeared in the Court of Special Sessions to speak on the summons he issued to Warburton Hall manager Sam Taylor for two underage girls performing in a play. Instead, Chapman was chastised by City Judge Gorfinkel; the judge had spotted two high school girls smoking in City Hall Park a few days earlier. Gorfinkel was so horrified, he told Chapman he should "watch conditions like that... rather than spend time prosecuting cases like Taylor's."

Taylor pleaded not guilty, stating he applied for a permit for the girls to perform, and was not responsible for Yonkers' delay issuing the permit. Taylor was paroled in custody of his counsel Peter Smyth, and the case delayed a week.

March 14, 1927: The first dry ice in the world was manufactured here in Yonkers! The Federal Sugar Refining Company's Syrup Products Company division converted part of its Yonkers plant to manufacture dry ice (frozen carbonic acid gas) to supplement industrial refrigeration. Previously, the carbonic acid gas was sold to soda manufacturers to make carbonated water.

Wednesday, March 15th

March 15, 1939: Speaking at their Americanism program, Assistant State Attorney General Jeremiah Cross told the Yonkers Lodge of Elks America should avoid alliances with other world democracies. He labeled the impending four-day visit of King George and Queen Elizabeth in June as pure propaganda. The Royal couple visited Washington for two days, and spent one day in NYC visiting the World's Fair. Their final day was at Hyde Park with the Roosevelts.

March 15, 1946: Contractor Thomas Brogan gave The Herald Statesman a copy of his letter to Councilman Edith Welty, denying he was contractor for electrical work on Caryl Avenue. Welty had attacked Brogan in the paper, stating "he was ruining Caryl Avenue." Brogan answered Welty only had to call the DPW Commissioner's office to get the correct Contractor's name. Brogan demanded Welty issue an immediate retraction and an apology. The day after her attack was printed, the paper published a correction, stating he was not the contractor responsible for the damage.

Thursday, March 16th

March 16, 1940: Caryl Avenue's Joseph Schlobohm, son of Westchester AAU Sports Commissioner William Schlobohm, sailed for Saudi Arabia to work as foreman of the world's oldest gold mine! The mine, opened 90 years before the birth of Christ, had underground ore the owners wanted to tap, so they hired Schlobohm to run the shaft sinking crew. The Roosevelt High graduate previously worked as a shaft miner in the Metropolitan Water District tunnel in Massachusetts and the Delaware Aqueduct at Newburgh.

March 16, 1968: Deirdre McMahon of Highland Circle, five-year-old daughter of County Sheriff Daniel McMahon, led the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade down Fifth Avenue, accompanied by Sean and Paddy, two Irish Wolfhounds!

Friday, March 17th

March 17, 1929: Irma Schubert, member of Yonkers' G.E.M. championship Girls Basketball Team, was the first woman aviator known to fly a plane over Yonkers! While flying the biplane, she tossed flyers advertising a coming basketball game, then entertained Yonkers with fifteen minutes of aerial acrobatic tricks. Recruited by GEM team Manager Frank McCue and Coach Joseph Reagan, Schubert formerly was a Ziegfeld Follies show girl!

March 17, 1966: Baseball hero Jackie Robinson spoke to the parents and children of School 22, invited by Yonkers resident Reverend Wyatt Tee Walker, Special Assistant to Governor Rockefeller for Urban Affairs. Robinson not only discussed his time in baseball, but also spoke about his son who was wounded in Viet Nam. He advised parents not to push their children, but let them play ball to learn team spirit, both in sports and in the community.

Saturday, March 18th

March 18, 1932: City Judge Gerald Nolan awarded Roberts Avenue resident James Cerasuli \$145 in damages for two peach trees and several grapevines. An old boiler fell off a truck, rolled down Cerasuli's property, damaging trees and vines in its path.

March 18, 1948: Mayor Curtiss Frank appointed Marian Sutton of Belmont Terrace the first woman member of the Yonkers Planning Board.

Sunday, March 19th

March 19, 1928: After greeting thousands of fans, Ruth Elder, the first woman to attempt to fly across the Atlantic, was made an honorary member of the Yonkers Aero Club. She urged creating a Yonkers airport at the ceremony.

March 19, 1932: Mrs. George Arthur Smith, Regent of Keskeskick Chapter,

continued on pg 6-

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

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the City Council of the City of Yonkers, New York will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York on the following Resolution, to wit:

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**A PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER A GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 43 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, ENTITLED "ZONING" WITH REGARD TO OUTDOOR DINING.**

VINCENT SPANO  
City Clerk

Dated: March 6, 2023

**Public Notice:**

The Yonkers Workforce Development Board, hereinafter referred to as YWDB, is requesting proposals to provide education, employment, training and other workforce preparation services for Youth under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014. An electronic copy of the RFP may be downloaded at <https://www.yonkersny.gov/> click onto Government, Departments, Workforce Development Board, and Year Round Youth Program RFP.

The YWDB will determine the number of awards based on the quality and innovations of the proposals received.

**RFP Procurement Schedule**

(Dates subject to change with notice from the YWDB)

RFP Issue Date:	March 20, 2023
Bidders Informational Session:	March 27, 2023
RFP Questions Due:	March 31, 2023
Proposal Due Date:	April 14, 2023
Grant Award Date:	June 12, 2023
Contract Start Date:	July 1, 2023
Contract End Date:	June 30, 2024

***Eric Schoen, continued from pg 1-***

our ball parks or why the President of our Yonkers School Board gets paid \$15,000 for a volunteer job. Even Mayor Spano agreed with me on that one.

I've written stories about such iconic figures as Len Spano and Angelo Martignelli upon their passing. Story about about a Police Officer killed in the line of duty. Reviews of WESTCHESTER Broadway Theater productions until it's sad closing. I questioned Why in the pandemic YPIE funds weren't spent on more computers for Yonkers students.

Getty Square hasn't changed much and until someone comes up with a plan, I would not spend \$3,000 to live on the Waterfront.

So much ahead. George Santos. Need I slay more? Will all candidates running for office have to have extensive background checks? What happens when the COVID money run out with the Yonkers budget? The TARGET taking over Sears and Wanamakers. With schools being build on the West side of town will bussing either be cut back or eliminated. Will churches and Parochial schools have to shut their doors due to finances. Will unions start running slates of candidates similar to the Nolan win?

During our time together I got two new knees, lost weight, and was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. I have the best doctors treating my Parkinson's, but sadly there is no cure. I would encourage you to make a gift to the Parkinson's Foundation, 200 SE 1st Street, Suite 800, Miami, FL 33131 or parkinson.org on the internet. It takes money to find a cure.

After 600 columns and my diagnosis, I've realized that life is short and there is so much to do. Forgive me if I take a week off or two. I'll try not to do it when there is breaking news or something I feel is important for you to know or me To comment on.

Thank you for inviting me into your homes each week. I hope our acquaintance will continue for many more years! Fight for your rights. Include Yonkers Rising and the Westchester Rising Newspapers in your fight. The local paper has deteriorated so much it's sad. It use to be so good and full of local information. No more!

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 [thistoosyonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistoosyonkers@aol.com).

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

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 5:00pm, Mayor's Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

**A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 75 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS ENTITLED 'POLICE' BY AMENDING ARTICLE VI ENTITLED 'PUBLIC NUISANCE ABATEMENT'**

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

MIKE SPANO, Mayor  
Date: March 3, 2023

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

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 5:15pm, Mayor's Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

**A LOCAL LAW AUTHORIZING THE DISCONTINUANCE AS A PUBLIC STREET AND CONVEYANCE OF A PORTION OF OLD SAW MILL RIVER ROAD**

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

MIKE SPANO, Mayor  
Date: March 3, 2023

**AGENDA FOR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:**

THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023 AT 6:00 PM, WILL BE HELD IN YONKERS CITY HALL, 40 SOUTH BROADWAY, 4TH FLOOR (building is handicapped accessible). PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV .

**OPEN CONTINUED HEARINGS**

# 5790 – Area Variance – James Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of Mehranco Limited Liability Co., owner, on premises known as 1999 Central Park Avenue, Block: 4385, Lot: 42.43, Zone: BR (B30132) (Adjourned to May 2023 ZBA meeting)

# 5797 – Area Variance – Shahin Badaly, P.E., on behalf of Marketin Hila/110 Ravine Realty LLC, owner, on premises known as 110 Ravine Avenue, Block: 2118, Lot: 39, Zone: A (B29521)

# 5800 – Area Variance – James G. Dibbini & Assoc., P.C., on behalf of Sherwood Holding Company, owner, on premises known as 1186 Yonkers Avenue Rear aka 2 Sherwood Terrace, Block: 6315, Lot: 14, Zone: BA (B29260)

# 5807 – Area Variance – DelBello Donnellan Weingarten Wise & Wiederkehr, LLP, on behalf of 46 Randolph LLC & N Broadway LLC, owners, on premises known as 316 North Broadway & 315 Palisade Avenue, Block: 2155, Lot: 59 & 16, Zone: M (B22920)

**NEW HEARINGS**

# 5808 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Eugeniusz Strynowicz, owner, on premises known as 133 Vineyard Avenue, Block: 2170, Lot: 60, Zone: M (B22539)

# 5809 – Area Variance – Neil J. Alexander, Esq., on behalf of City of Yonkers, owner, and Lemor Development Group & Empire Development Capital Holdings, LLC, contract vendees, on premises known as 273 Glenwood Avenue, Block: 2172, Lots: 29-41, 43 & 44, Zone: A (B32120)

# 5810 – Use & Area Variance – David S. Steinmetz, Esq. & Jacob E. Amir, Esq., on behalf of TCP Realty LLC, owners, on premises known as 143-151 Woodworth Avenue, Block: 2102, Lots: 4, 5, 11, 39 & 41, Zone: C (B32117)

# 5811 – Area Variance – Daniel Richmond, Esq. & Jacob E. Amir, Esq., on behalf of Warburton Equities LLC, owners, on premises known as 289 Warburton Avenue & 230 Woodworth Avenue, Block: 2116, Lot: 40 & 7, Zone: A (B31973)

WILSON KIMBALL, CHAIRPERSON, ZBA

***Yonkers History, continued from pg 5***

DAR, turned the first shovelful of earth to plant cedar trees in front of Manor House. The trees came from Washington's birthplace at Wakefield, VA, specifically for Philippe Manor Hall.

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

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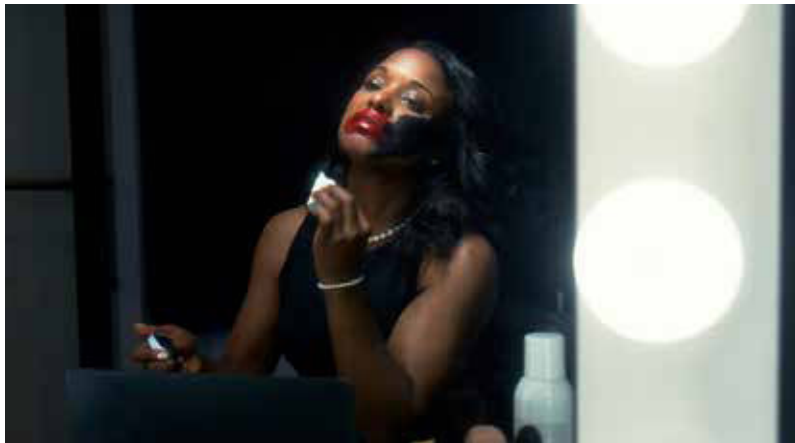
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## YoFi Fest Celebrates Black History Month With a Showcase of Independent Films



*Ballet After Dark, above, and Under the Sun After the Wind, right, two films screened at YoFi Fest.*



To celebrate Black History Month, YoFi Fest presented a showcase of independent films at its Digital Media Art Center in downtown Yonkers. The program featured a selection of short narratives, animation, experimental works and documentaries that examined culture, society, stereotypes and the contemporary African American experience in America.

The movies in the screening included *BALLET AFTER DARK*, a documentary directed by B.Monét about healing trauma through dance therapy, *I WON THE LOTTERY*, a comedy directed by Jenn Shaw about a charter school's lottery admission system, *PAGLIACCI*, a drama about a conservative newscaster who has an existential crisis directed by Alex Ubokudom, *UNDER THE SUN AFTER THE WIND*, an experimental adaptation of the Book of Ecclesiastes that examines isolation during COVID-19 directed by Patrice Bowman, and *WATER BORN*, an animated film directed by Lowell Boston that uses different animation styles to talk about swimming in the Black community.

The program was curated by Patrice Bowman, an award-winning filmmaker who has screened and led workshops at the YoFi Fest film festival in the past, as well as a colorist and the owner of Bowman Pictures. "It's important for people to not only see the variety of Black images on screen, but also the variety of Black filmmakers who can talk about their craft and inspire others," said Bowman, "Each of the films depict different aspects of the African American experience. Covering the breadth of Black independent filmmaking was important to me."

A talkback with the curator and filmmakers followed the program. For more information about upcoming events at the YoFi Digital Media Art Center, please go to [YoFiDMAC.com](http://YoFiDMAC.com).

## Joyous Purim Festival at Chabad of Yonkers



*Above: Leo Scheiner dances with Chaim Hurwitz and his father Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz*

*Right: Shaned and Howard Spielman and one of their children*

*Photos (c) Robert Kalfus*



Photos and story By Robert Kalfus

This year's Purim festivities was the third year after Covid and was free of the previous years' fears, restraints and precautions. Chabad of Yonkers festivities instead this year featured a theme of "Purim in Mexico" and saw people dressed in Mexican theme-appropriate costumes, a live mariachi band, dancing, singing, and a delicious kosher dinner, which included plentiful three cornered cookies known as hamentaschen, filled with prune, apricot, or other fruits.

More than two thousand years ago, Persia, having defeated the Babylonia empire and now ruling the largest empire at that time, spreading from India to Ethiopia, King Achashverosh's concern was to now reward the princes, governors, and subordinates of the 127 far-flung provinces and ensure their loyalty. The King threw a 180 day party in his new capitol of Shushan with unlimited drinking, food, and more where he could display his unlimited wealth and splendor to the thousands invited. Yet his viceroy, the wicked Haman, had an irrational resentment and hatred of the Jewish people, and conspired to kill, murder, and annihilate all of the Jewish men, women and children living throughout the Persian Empire's 127 provinces in one day.

The annual joyous Purim holiday commemorates the Jewish people's victory over the plot of the wicked Haman, who instead was hung with the permission of the King.

Purim this year started Monday night March 6 after sunset, and continued through Tuesday, March 7th. On both Monday night and Tuesday, people listened attentively to the public reading of the Megillah, a handwritten scroll from which the Book of Esther is read aloud, recounting the entire Purim chronology. People dress in costumes, both disguising and revealing our true selves and intentions.

Chabad of Yonkers Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz welcomed all to the Purim party, as "it is the most joyous day on the Jewish calendar! We celebrate the day with celebration, saying we look forward to Purim with gifts of food, charity, reading the book of Esther, dressing in masquerade and festive celebrations".

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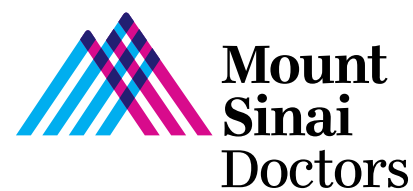
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