

Yonkers Residents Concerned Over Three Shootings & Stabbing Over Two Weeks



groups like SNUG, which held a Peace Rally attended by Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy and Councilwoman Deana Robinson, are working to prevent gun violence in Yonkers

By Dan Murphy

Yonkers residents and elected officials expressed their concerns over three shootings and one stabbing in the City over the past two weeks.

Yonkers Police reported the following: On Tuesday, March 4th, 2025, at approximately 3:35 PM, members of the Yonkers Police Department responded to the area of 326 Walnut Street on a report of two males shot outside the location. Upon arrival, officers located a 39-year-old male with a gunshot wound to his torso. First Responders rendered medical aid and transported him to a local trauma center with significant internal injuries. Other responding officers immediately began canvassing the surrounding area for witnesses and suspects. A second 31-year-old male victim sustained a gunshot wound to his face and was privately transported to a local hospital, where he was subsequently stabilized and transferred to a trauma center for treatment of serious facial injuries.

Detectives from the Major Case Squad, in conjunction with the Digital Forensics Unit, and Crime Scene Unit, responded to the scene and interviewed witnesses, recovered surveillance video, and processed ballistic and forensic evidence. Preliminary findings indicate that a brief verbal altercation between other uninvolved parties and the victims preceded the shooting. The suspect then produced a handgun and fired two shots, striking both victims, before fleeing the scene on foot towards Elm Street.

Detectives quickly identified a person of interest, and over the next several days worked to build a case in support of criminal charges and arrest. The suspect was identified as KEYMEL WASHINGTON, a 23-year-old resident of Yonkers. Despite initial unsuccessful attempts to locate him, the Yonkers Police Department disseminated information about Washington through news and social media channels. This public outreach ultimately led to Washington surrendering to the Yonkers Police Detective Division on Monday, March 10, 2025. WASHINGTON

continued on pg 11-

A Call to Action:

Restoring Common Sense to New York

COMMON SENSE SANITY
A Republican's Point of View

Al Villate

Op-Ed
By Alberto Villate

New York, and Yonkers in particular, stands at a critical juncture. Our political system, dominated by a single party, has strayed far from its intended purpose. The Democratic Party's unchecked power has fostered an environment where radical agendas overshadow the fundamental needs of everyday citizens.

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continued on pg 4-

YMA Lady Eagles Hoops Champs!



For the first time in program history, the Yonkers Montessori Academy girls basketball team is a Section One champion! The Eagles defeated Dobbs Ferry, 56-45, to win the Class B championship on March 9 at the Westchester County Center. Yonkers Montessori wins their first gold ball ever, with MVP Emilee Doherty had a career high with 22 pts. But it was a team effort, with Arselia Mustafaj 12 points, Liliana Toro 11 points, Anisa Mustafaj 4 points, Keira Peters, JeVeah Thompson, & Kaia Sutherland each had 2 points.

continued on pg 15-

I Will Meet You On McLean!

Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade Set for March 22



The Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade is excited to return to McLean Avenue for its 68th edition on March 22, 2025, at 1 PM. The Yonkers St. Patrick Parade on McLean Avenue is one of the largest parades in the State of New York, and certainly one of the largest celebrations of culture in Yonkers. This year, the Grand Marshal is Denis Mulcahy, who is most famous for his work with the peace process in Northern Ireland, playing a role in the signing of the

continued on pg 12-

Yonkers' Food Scene: From Old Favorites to New

Trends – A Culinary Journey-De Costa's

By Maya Kollarmalil



Yonkers has long been a city where tradition and innovation intersect—especially when it comes to food. From classic family-owned establishments that have been serving the community for decades to fresh new restaurants embracing the latest dining trends, the city's food scene reflects its diversity and resilience.

To explore how Yonkers' culinary landscape has evolved, we spoke with Nuno DeCosta, co-owner of De Costa's, a well-established local favorite serving customers for nearly three decades. DeCosta and his brother took over the restaurant in 2005 after working as servers since 1998. Over the years, they have preserved the restaurant's identity while adapting to the changing times.

"We've been here for so long—almost three decades. We're a local staple," says DeCosta.

continued on pg 12-

Westchester Congressman Split: Lawler Votes Yes, Latimer No, on Budget Plan



CONGRESSMAN LAWLER RELEASES STATEMENT ON PASSAGE OF BILL TO KEEP GOVERNMENT OPEN AND FUNDED

Today, Congressman Mike Lawler (NY-17) released the following statement after voting to keep the government open and funded through the rest of Fiscal Year 2025. The measure passed the House 217-213, with all but one Republican voting in favor of the measure, and all but one Democrat opposing the measure.

“Today, I was proud to cast my vote to keep the government open and funded through the remainder of Fiscal Year 2025, allowing us to continue our important work in the reconciliation process,” said Congressman Lawler. “While there is much still to be done, this bill allows us to focus our efforts on protecting critical services like Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare for those who rely on them, reducing federal spending, lifting the cap on SALT, securing our border, and ensuring our country remains the strongest military power in the world.”

“As the Hudson Valley’s representative in Washington, I will never be party to a shutdown,” concluded Lawler. “I was disappointed to see so many of my colleagues, including every House Democrat from the state of New York, vote for one.”

Rep. Latimer Votes Against Partisan Government Funding Bill

Today U.S. Representative George Latimer (NY-16) voted against the partisan government funding bill and released the following statement:

“It is clear that everyday residents are outraged with the cut and destroy method of management by the Trump Administration. This strategy is an outrage. Without providing guardrails or reasserting Constitutional authority about how to spend money that Congress appropriates, this systematic dismantling will continue.

The government funding bill today deserved a ‘no’ vote. It does not include any of these critical guardrails and submits to the will of Trump and Elon Musk as they to continue to tear down our government. We offered an alternative bill which would keep the government open without implementing disastrous policies – the Republican majority wouldn’t even consider it.

The bill has significant cuts to housing programs for seniors and domestic violence survivors, and cuts funding for veterans’ healthcare. My priority is to make life less expensive for working families. This funding bill does not achieve that goal. It does the exact opposite.”

Republican Thomas Massie of Kentucky, voted no, and Democrat Jared Golden, of Maine, voted yes. They were the only two defections out of 430 members voting.

Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

In Trouble with the IRS or the NYS Tax Department?

In trouble with the IRS or the New York State Tax Department? I can help.

My name is Gerald Snyder, and I am an enrolled agent and a former IRS Group Manager. I have successfully represented clients before the IRA and the NYS Tax Department for over 25 years. I resolve liens, levies, seizures, income tax and sales audits, and penalties and trust fund recovery issues. I also handle unfiled tax returns.

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For more information, call me at 914-793-5654 or email me at thasnyder1@verizon.net.

Burn Ban Issued for Westchester County



Outdoor fires, including for the purpose of brush and debris disposal, are prohibited.

Due to high winds and dry conditions, New York State has set an early outdoor burn ban for Westchester County. The burn ban prohibits outdoor fires for the purpose of brush or debris disposal, and it also prohibits uncontained fires and open fires used for cooking. Backyard fire pits and contained campfires less than three feet in height and four feet in length, width or diameter are allowed as are small, contained cooking fires.

In recent days, large brush fires and wildfires have scorched hundreds of acres of land in Suffolk County and threatened adjacent homes. Earlier today, the Suffolk County Police Department disclosed that embers that blew away from a backyard fire, which was set for the purpose of making s’mores, were responsible for some of the resulting fires.

County Executive Ken Jenkins said people need to be vigilant due to the windy and dry conditions in Westchester. “As the Suffolk County wildfires show, even a small backyard fire can have enormous consequences. In any situation where a small campfire or cooking fire is created, we ask residents and visitors to keep those fires under constant watch. Make sure to have water or a fire extinguisher on hand in the event a fire starts growing out of control,” he said.

A residential burn ban was set to go into effect in New York State on March 16 but was moved up by the state as a precaution. “New Yorkers are facing increased wildfire risks due to the combination of dry conditions and strong winds,” Governor Hochul said. “As we work tirelessly to combat the fires in Suffolk County, we must all do our part to prevent further damage. I have issued an immediate burn ban across Long Island, New York City, and parts of the Hudson Valley to protect our communities, and our state resources are fully mobilized to support fire suppression efforts.” Putnam, Orange, Rockland, Dutchess, and Ulster counties are also included in the burn ban.

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Westchester County Executive Jenkins Signs Legislation to Challenge Con Edison Rate Increases



Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins signed legislation that solidifies the County's commitment to challenging Con Edison's proposed utility rate increases. This action follows a unanimous, bipartisan vote by the Westchester County Board of Legislators to join the major rate case in New York State.

Jenkins said: "We are taking a strong stand today to protect our residents from unreasonable utility rate hikes. This legislation ensures that Westchester County will have a powerful voice in the rate case proceedings, advocating for working families, seniors, and small businesses who would be disproportionately affected by the proposed hikes."

Board Chairman Vedat Gashi said: "Thank you to County Executive Ken Jenkins for signing this act, that we passed unanimously last night, so that together, so that we can demand fair, transparent utility pricing for the people of Westchester. When families are forced to choose between paying utility bills and other essentials, we have a responsibility to intervene and fight for fairness."

Minority Leader Margaret A. Cunzio said: "Con Edison's recent request for authorization to increase gas and electric rates by double digits is a huge financial burden for Westchester residents. With the County Executive Ken Jenkins signing this BOL legislation to become a party in this rate case shows our commitment to all of our constituents as we continue to work together to make Westchester work."

Legislator Colin D. Smith Chair of the Board's Legislation Committee said: "I am honored to join County Executive Jenkins and my fellow colleagues in taking a stand in the rate case. The hardworking families and small businesses of Westchester County deserve utility rates that are fair, affordable and accessible. I will continue to advocate and fight for the best interests of my constituents and the County as a whole, doing everything within my power to support them."

Legislator David T. Imamura said: "Thank you County Executive Jenkins for ensuring Westchester has its day in court. Working people in the County deserve to have the chance to lower our energy rates. All people want is to be able to afford keeping the lights on and their homes warm and we are taking action to ensure that."

Assistant Director of Energy Conservation and Sustainability Elijah Reichlin-Melnick has been designated as the County's Intervenor for the Con Edison rate increase proceedings. Jenkins emphasized the importance of ensuring that Westchester County's concerns are heard loud and clear during these proceedings.

Jenkins said: "The County's participation guarantees that local voices—those of residents and business owners alike—will be amplified."

While acknowledging the need for reliable energy and infrastructure improvements, Jenkins strongly condemned the passing of excessive costs onto consumers, especially without transparency and accountability.

In addition to signing the legislation, Jenkins announced that he will be participating in the Public Service Commission's online hearing in early April. He also called for Con Edison to hold an in-person hearing in Westchester County, giving residents and business owners the opportunity to directly voice their concerns and get the answers they deserve.

Jenkins said: "If Con Edison truly believes this rate hike is justified, they should face the public and explain their reasoning."

The 2nd Amendment and Yonkers

By Eric Wolf schoen



Like you, I hear daily commercials for the Bryna gun that is sold throughout the country. But for some reason the commercials by the likes of Bill O'Reilly and Jeanine Pirro say the gun can't be shipped to New York and Yonkers.

Yonkers? What? A 14 year old kid can buy it in Walmart in Rockland County but it can't be shipped to Yonkers or New York City. What did Us poor Yonkersites do?

Let's start at the beginning. Powered by compressed air (CO2), the Bryna SD shoots .68 caliber round projectiles that can disable a threat from up to 60-feet away. It's a serious gun for lack of a better word. The key word is disable. It's not like a regular gun that serious injures people.

Seems like given our world today it is an instrument worth pursuing. But there is one problem. The laws of the city of Yonkers as they are right now now don't allow it:

§ 74-1 License required to sell air guns.

It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, offer to sell or have in his possession any air pistol or air rifle or similar instrument in which the propelling force is a spring or air, except that the sale of such instruments, if accompanied by delivery to a point without the City, and possession for such purpose shall not be unlawful if such person shall have secured an annual license from the Police Commissioner of the City of Yonkers authorizing such sale and possession.

§ 74-2 Record of sales.

All persons dealing in such instruments referred to in this chapter shall keep a record showing the name and address of each person purchasing such instrument or instruments, together with the place of delivery, and said record shall be open to inspection during regular business hours by the officers of the Police Department of the City.

§ 74-3 Issuance of license.

The Police Commissioner is hereby authorized to issue, in his discretion, upon payment of a license fee in the amount of \$10, an annual license authorizing the sale and possession of such instruments for delivery to a point without the City.

§ 74-4 Pistol permit; registration; fee.

[Added 1-11-1966 by G.O. No. 1-1966]

The Police Commissioner may also issue a permit for a spring-, gas- or air-operated pistol to any person who holds a current New York State pistol permit. Said pellet gun shall be registered in the same manner as all other pistols, and the cost for said permit shall be \$1.

\$10 to Allow a Bryna to be sold outside Yonkers to a Yonkers resident. \$1 for permit to use it. I guess the Yonkers Councilmembers need to examine these low figures.

Laws on the books prohibiting the use of a Bryna are against the 2nd Amendment. That why the sooner they can the Yonkers City Council and Mayor need to change the laws and allow the device to be sold and used in Yonkers. Like the rest of this country!

I guess my conservative side came out this week. Let's hope we don't need to use a Bryna but It's a good thing to keep us safe in 2025!

Reach Eric Schoen at ewschoen@icloud.com.

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Taryn Duffy to Depart Empire City Casino to Launch Consulting Firm



Taryn Duffy

After 14 years at Empire City Casino, including six years under MGM Resorts following its acquisition of the Westchester VLT casino, Taryn Duffy is departing her role as Vice President of Public Affairs for MGM's Northeast Group. A recognized leader in public policy, communications, coalition building, and corporate social responsibility, Duffy has launched her own consulting firm, Tarsam Public Affairs.

Duffy's tenure has been marked by her ability to unite stakeholders, from community leaders to unions and businesses, in support of Empire City's pursuit of a full commercial casino license. Her strategic brand and reputation management efforts have helped position Empire City as a leading contender in the highly competitive licensing process.

With more than three decades of experience spanning the legal, government, and corporate sectors, Duffy has served as Chair of the New York Gaming Association and holds leadership roles on multiple boards. Her expertise in lobbying, PR, and corporate social responsibility continues to influence policy and business objectives, making her next chapter one to watch.

Propel NY Energy Invites Westchester County Residents to Community Information Sessions to Learn About Underground Electric Transmission Solution

The New York Power Authority (NYPA) and New York Transco are hosting Community Information Sessions to share information about Propel NY Energy, an innovative underground electric transmission project.

Propel NY Energy will bolster the reliability, resiliency, and capacity of the downstate grid through the delivery of energy resources on Long Island, and in parts of New York City, and Westchester County. This project includes the installation of approximately 90 miles of new underground and submarine transmission lines, and new and upgraded electrical stations carefully routed to minimize impacts to surrounding communities and the environment. This multi-year project, scheduled to be in service by 2030, will result in long-term benefits for New York homes and businesses as the demand for electrical power continues to increase now and into the future.

The schedule for Community Information Sessions in Westchester is as follows:

- Tuesday, March 18 in New Rochelle – 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
New Rochelle Public Library – 1 Library Plaza, New Rochelle, NY 10801
- Wednesday, April 9 in Tuckahoe – 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
Tuckahoe Community Center – 71 Columbus Ave, Tuckahoe, NY 10707
- Thursday, April 10 – VIRTUAL 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

To register for one of the Westchester NY Community Information Sessions, please use the RSVP link here.

To register for the Virtual Propel Community Information Session, please use RSVP line here.

For more information on the Propel NY Energy Project, please visit www.propelnyenergy.com.

On This Day in Yonkers History...



Yonkers Mayor in the 1930's Joe Loehr

By Mary Hoar, City of Yonkers Historian, President Emeritus Yonkers Historical Society, recipient of the 2004 Key to History, Yonkers Landmarks Preservation Board Member, Revolutionary Yonkers 250 Chair and President Untermyer Performing Arts Council

Monday, March 17th

March 17, 1942: The mystery of why Yonkers Savings Banks violated the blackout two days earlier was solved! Although usually scrupulous in observing the tests, the Sunday night malfunction caused bank lights to flicker instead of remaining out. The master switch was supposed to turn lights on at dusk and off at 10:06 pm. A new system was installed and calibrated to turn lights off at 6 pm Saturdays and turn it on Monday mornings.

March 17, 1966: Baseball hero Jackie Robinson addressed the parents and children of School 22! Invited by Yonkers resident Reverend Wyatt Tee Walker, the Special Assistant to Governor Rockefeller for Urban Affairs, Robinson not only spoke to the audience about his time in baseball, but also 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.

Tuesday, March 18th

March 18, 1928: The Westchester County Sanitary Sewer Commission announced they had tentative plans to build two sewage disposal plants in Yonkers, one at Saunders Dock and the second at Ludlow Dock.

March 18, 1940: Because the Common Council did not notify the press or public of the previous week's Council meeting, allegedly an oversight. Councilman Edith Welty instructed City Clerk Francis Heafy, Secretary to the Council, to notify the newspapers whenever a meeting was called. Welty said, "it is not a policy of the Council to exclude the press from its meetings."

Wednesday, March 19th

March 19, 1922: More than 500 people attended the formal dedication of the new maternity ward at St. Joseph's Hospital. Mrs. Dennis O'Brien, wife of the show business lawyer, headed the reception committee for the glittering event.

March 19, 1934: Yonkers had another one of its "mayorless" days. Mayor Joe Loehr was away on a cruise; in his absence, Council President John Condon became Acting Mayor. However, John was a New York Central employee and had to go to work! He only was able to get to City Hall for a short time in the late afternoon. During the time he was at work, people declared the city was "mayorless," as there was no provision in the City Charter for someone to take over for an Acting Mayor!

Thursday, March 20th

March 20, 1924: The New York Telephone Company filed plans for a new central office building at 40-44 Main Street; the three-story building was to cost an estimated \$250,000.

continued on pg 10-

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FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

Notice of formation of S2K REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/09/2024. 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 NCH REGISTERED AGENT, 42 BROADWAY, FL 12-200, NEW YORK, NY, 10004-3892. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

484 SAW MILL LLC - Notice of formation of 484 SAW MILL LCC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/05/2025. Office: 7 Burkewood Road, Hartsdale NY 10530 Westchester County. SSNY designated Ciaran Rogers as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 7 Burkewood Road, Hartsdale NY 10530. Purpose: Real Estate

Notice of formation of Break Bread Not Hearts, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/26/2024. 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: Break Bread Not Hearts, LLC PO Box 36 Valhalla, NY 10595 Purpose: any lawful activity.

Name of formation of THEOAK LLC. Date of filing Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State (SSNY) 6/14/24. The LLC is located in Westchester County. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against it served is to the principal business location at c/o 669 Main Street, Unit 605, New Rochelle NY 10801. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Ambit Psychological Services, PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY 12/17/24. Office: Westchester County.. SSNY designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 933 Mamaroneck Ave Ste 202, Mamaroneck NY 10543. Purpose; Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Schmoose Pack Projects LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/20/2024. 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 Bruce Wong 10 Station Square Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of 130 FRANKLIN AVE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 10/15/2024. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Brian Caldwell at 68 North Steet, Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of OnPoint Home Designs LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 8/28/2024. 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, 14 Crosby Court, Cortlandt Manor NY 10567. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of 1M Consulting LLC filed with the SSNY on 11/05/2024 with the existence date as 01/01/2025. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whole processes against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of processes to the LLC, 3 Ward Street, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Granola Girl, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/19/24. 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, 206 B Heritage Hills Drive, Somers, NY 10589. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of LIQUID ASSET SERVICES LLC. Application for Authority Filed with the SSNY on 12/05/2024. 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, 46 LINCOLN AVENUE, PORT CHESTER, NY 10573. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of ME YOU & BIJOU, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the State of New York (SSNY) on 02/03/2025. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to ME YOU & BIJOU, LLC, 1585 Central Park Ave, Unit 157, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of DebAnneArt LLC. Art. of Org. filed with SSNY on February 20, 2025. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1 Balint Drive, Apt. 365, Yonkers, NY, 10710. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of JJJ Roadside Solution, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 01-07-2025. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Joel Armando Mena, 25 Knowles Street, Yonkers, New York 10705. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) # 2025 – 02

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PALISADE TOWERS PHASE 1 ELECTRIFICATION RENOVATIONS

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (“MHACY”) is soliciting proposals from qualified firms for a Palisade Towers Phase 1 Electrification Renovations as specified in this Request for Proposals (“RFP”).

This RFP package contains submission requirements and terms and conditions and other pertinent information for submitting a proper and responsive proposal. This RFP is the only information provided to prospective bidders (hereinafter “Responders” or “Respondents”) and is available online starting March 17, 2025, at www.mhacy.org.

There will be a Pre-Bid Conference for interested parties on March 27, 2025, at 9 A.M. at 8 Schroeder Street, Yonkers, NY. The RFP questions deadline is April 4, 2025, at 3:00PM Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any and all questions must be emailed to Procurement at procurement@mhacy.org by the deadline. No telephone calls and/or written communication sent via mail will be accepted.

Bid Submission Proposals must reach MHACY no later than 3:00 PM (EST) on April 21, 2025. Late submissions will be handled in accordance with the provisions in Form HUD-5369B.

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

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

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

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

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Letter to the Editor:

UNFOUNDED CRITICISMS OF SOCIAL SECURITY ARE FALSE AND PEJORATIVE

March 11, 2025

Letter to the Editor:

With all due respect, I take issue with Joe Pettit's Letter to the Editor appearing in the March 7, 2025 edition of Westchester Rising and Yonkers Times ("Social Security – Who is Stealing Our Benefits?")

Here are basic facts of the Social Security Program, initiated in 1935 during the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and expanded over the years by several Republican and Democratic administrations:

- The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Social Security program's constitutionality in cases argued in 1937, 1960, 1987 and 2012;
- Social Security provides for a wide variety of benefits – Old Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) for retired workers and their survivors; Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) – for those disabled and cannot work; and SSI for persons who are aged, blind and disabled.

When the program started in 1937, about 54,000 Americans were receiving benefits at a cost of \$ 1.3 million; today, roughly 72 million American receive benefits at an annual cost of \$ 2.9 trillion (Social Security and Medicare);

Mr. Musk's recent assertion that the Social Security Administration (SSA) failed to record the deaths of millions of people over the age of 100 is erroneous, according to the well-regarded Concord Coalition. Since Social Security's enactment, more than 530 million social security numbers (SSN's) have been issued; but the SSA maintains a computer database system that filters out those persons who have passed away – while no system is 100% perfect, there is no way there could be the number of dead or non-persons that Mr. Musk says there are.

Recently, the SSA Trustees estimated that Social Security and Medicare will not be able to meet all their financial obligations in 2035 and 2036, respectively, as a result of demographic changes.

The problem is not fraud in the Social Security program. It has worked well for nearly 90 years. The real problem lies in ensuring that there will be adequate funds to meet the future needs of all Americans.

Both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue (Congress and the White House) need to come up with solutions to solve this problem, just as they did in 1983. To paraphrase Ronald Reagan, "the time is now" to get this done!

STEPHEN R. ROLANDI

Larchmont, New York

(The writer is an adjunct professor of public administration and formerly served in the administrations of New York City Mayors Edward I. Koch, Michael Bloomberg and Governor David Paterson. A life-long Republican, he is active in the Ripon Society, Principles First, and Moderate Republican PAC).

Peekskill Woman Arrested by SPCA-Westchester For Starving Her Three Dogs



Gracie, one of the dogs SPCA rescued from Peekskill apartment

On March 6, SPCA Westchester announced that their Humane Law Enforcement Unit (HLE), under the direction of Ernest Lungaro, arrested and charged Shannon Deleg (33) of Peekskill, NY with three counts of animal cruelty.

The SPCA's HLE Unit visited Ms. Deleg's apartment after receiving a tip on the SPCA's confidential animal cruelty hotline regarding a dog in distress. Upon arrival, they discovered an emaciated pit bull curled up in a ball whose ribs and spine were clearly visible. The dog, now known as Gracie, is skin and bones, weighing just 27 lbs. when a dog her size should weigh nearly double that.

During the investigation, the SPCA's HLE Officers found two more emaciated mixed breed dogs in the apartment. Both were locked inside a filthy, cramped cage and forced to live in thick layers of urine and feces. All three dogs were so malnourished and dehydrated that they were immediately seized and rushed to SPCA Westchester's Rescue Center for emergency care.

"These poor dogs likely cried and begged for food and it's heartbreaking that their pleas were ignored," says Shannon Laukhuf, SPCA Westchester's Chief Executive Officer. "We are so thankful that a Good Samaritan called the SPCA's cruelty hotline before they were starved to death."

If you witness or suspect an animal is being neglected or abused, please call the SPCA's confidential animal cruelty hotline at (914) 941-7797.

Note: The Westchester SPCA is looking for donations to help care for these dogs. The link is at https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/SPCAofWestchester/hledogs.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawI-tBRleHRuA2F1bQIxMAABHUcylW BxsRvE0J2k_7E5-k-qteTCSHCVupme7ag8p_Oy29Mog-rq-UR1g_aem_D4f2tco7Qnh_I_WbfNlkfQ.

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NOTIFICATION OF JOB OFFER

We are hiring attendants to engage at Honda's Café Corp, (Dobbs Ferry, New York). We are seeking candidates who demonstrate leadership skills, successfully motivating and guiding the team. Additionally, having a passion for coffee culture and a desire to learn and share knowledge with both the team and customers is essential. Excellent communication skills to treat customers with courtesy and respect are indispensable. Experience with Microsoft Excel or Planning will be considered an advantage for inventory management, purchasing, and inventory control. Flexibility in scheduling is required, including weekends and holidays. Proficiency either in Spanish and Portuguese languages is desirable, though not essential. 48 Hours per week. INCOME/YEAR – \$ 46,800/YEAR. Please contact Valnei Honda Soares, CEO, via email at procesohonda@gmail.com.

Send us your letters, announcements, opinions,

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Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts' Wheel of Fortune® Jackpot Soars to \$2.5 Million



The anticipation is building at Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts (“Empire City”) as a life-changing jackpot of more than \$2.5 million remains unclaimed on the IGT Wheel of Fortune® Triple Stars® slot machine. This massive prize marks the second highest in the history of Empire City, just behind the record-setting \$2.9 million won by Theresa P. of Ossining, New York, in 2018.

“Empire City Casino continues to offer guests some of the most thrilling gaming experiences available anywhere,” said Taryn Duffy, Vice President of Public Affairs at Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts. “With one of the largest gaming floors in the country, we’re home to exclusive progressive jackpots that can only be won at Empire City. As this jackpot edges closer to the \$3 million mark, we can’t wait to celebrate the next big winner.”

Who will be the next lucky player to join the Empire City ‘Millionaires Club’? The newest member, Leo of Yonkers, secured his spot with a \$1.088 million jackpot win in 2022. Other high-rolling winners include Linda P. of Connecticut who won a \$1,514,634 jackpot and Howard G. of Long Island who took home \$1,473,503. For more information, visit www.empirecitycasino.com.

Beczak Environmental Center-Yonkers Celebrates the Photography of Joseph Squillante

Joseph Squillante Our Hudson River 50-Year Photographic Journey



Travel with Joseph and share his life-long love of photography and the Hudson River



Photographs © Joseph Squillante, 2025
HudsonRiverPhotography.com



Beczak Environmental Education Center
35 Alexander Street
Yonkers, NY 10701
2PM
Saturday, March 22, 2025

On Saturday, March 22, the Beczak Environmental Center will celebrate photographer Joseph Squillante. This year Joseph Squillante is celebrating his 50th anniversary of photographing the Hudson River. This collection travels 316 miles from its source in the Adirondack Mountains to New York Harbor.

Well-respected by the Hudson River community, he works with organizations such as Riverkeeper, Clearwater and Scenic Hudson who has recognized him as a “Hudson Valley Hero.”

His mission is to foster an awareness of the river’s visual magnificence through photography. To this end he and his wife, Carol Capobianco, have founded the Hudson River School of Photography; cultivating an appreciation

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Letter to the Editor: Go Along to Get Along

I am going to discuss why people such as Mike Lawler ‘Go Along to Get Along’.

There are some people who will do almost anything to get ahead. For a great many people their desire to get ahead, or not to lose status, is more powerful than doing what’s right. For these individuals they fear the leaders that overshadow their own status. These people have been termed “yes men”. They must not alienate their superiors for fear of losing recognition and status.

It would be too painful for a “yes man” to take an assertive stance even if they know it’s the correct and moral choice. This behavior feeds cults and it supports the leader’s ability to leverage these followers. This person’s personal behavior choice to Go Along to Get Along is a reflection of their self centeredness and lack of character.

In this letter I am specifically referring to Mike Lawler who will do anything that Trump asks of him regardless of it being helpful or harmful.

Lawler needs to impress Trump. Lawler is much more concerned with Trump’s needs than with his (Lawler’s) own constituents. If Lawler can sacrifice his ethics and principles to elicit Trump’s support to either run again for Congress, or run for Governor, then he’s all in. Perhaps Lawler’s long game is based on his life expectancy vs old man Trump. Perhaps Lawler believes he will sacrifice his soul to keep moving up the chain of command until he himself is at the top.

People of character however maintain their own opinions, beliefs, and values. They take responsibility for their own actions and are willing to speak the truth and always care for others more than for their own selfish needs. Adults accept responsibility for the results of their decisions and they work hard to do what’s right. They don’t focus on only pleasing their superiors. They work on pleasing their (in this case) constituents.

I do believe Lawler to be a very smart person and yet, because he must Go Along to Get Along he’s always voting for Trump’s hurtful and unAmerican Project 2025 agenda. And this constant pressure from above forces Lawler, like an addict, to lie constantly to the voters and the press.

Lawler Public Position	Lawler Action
I will never cut Medicaid	Voted Yes to devastating cuts to Medicaid
I stand against antisemitism	Won’t stand up to his Musk’s antisemitism
Save the White Plains Social Security Office	No action taken
All people are equal	No to voting rights, Gender identity, etc.
Against Fraud	Supports firing Inspector Generals

Lawler is contributing to the destruction of our way of life and standing in the world. Lawler is contributing to the killing of starving children around the world by eliminating all foreign aid. Lawler will contribute to the death of Americans with a severe reduction in Medicaid. Lawler is depriving Americans of their freedom to vote.

And Lawler is sacrificing legislative power to a would-be dictator and ruthless benefactor.

Dear Mr. Lawler, you are either in full support of the Trump/Musk agenda, or you are a coward for not objecting to their harmful actions.

If you are in full support of the Trump/Musk presidency then I brand you a Fascist.

If you are a coward, get some counseling, and then get to work and stand up for American values and the American people.

Mark Lieberman, Yorktown

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“The key to the future of the world, is finding the optimistic stories and letting them be known.”

— Pete Seeger

March 20, 1935: School Five Principal Eljah Parmerter asked the people of Yonkers to help her solve a mystery.

A letter from Hertford County Hospital in England arrived at the school addressed to “Class 4-2 at School Five, Yonkers NY.” The letter thanked the group for the boxful of presents, flannels, a doll and clothing. The mystery? No one at the school had sent the box! Miss Parmerter called every other Yonkers school, but no one claimed the good deed. A similar letter had been sent to School Two a few weeks earlier; again, no one at that school had sent a package.

Friday, March 21st

March 21, 1931: Two cedar trees from Wakefield Virginia, George Washington’s birthplace, were planted on the lawn in front of the Manor Hall to celebrate the Bicentennial of Washington’s birth.

March 21, 1936: Otis Elevator General Superintendent Robert Goodwillie, announced any foreign-born employee of the company must begin action to become a citizen if the worker wanted to keep his or her job.

Saturday, March 22nd

March 22, 1943: Max Braun and Max Singerfield filed a lawsuit against Yonkers to compel it to allow their company to run a live poultry market at 50 Riverdale Avenue. The two had received permission to operate a market in 1942 after making extensive renovations to their store. Health Commissioner Eugene McGillian revoked the permit, claiming it violated the area’s zoning code.

When Braun and Singer tried to renew the permit, Supreme Court Justice Graham Witschief instead had them bring the issue to court.

March 22, 1945: Staff Sergeant Thomas Piersall, a ball turret gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress in the 15th Air Force in Italy, received the Air Medal for “meritorious achievement in aerial flight.”

A veteran of more than 18 combat missions, he was a graduate of Saunders Trades School and the Air Forces Flexible Gunnery school in Las Vegas.

Sunday, March 23rd

March 23, 1857: Elisha Otis installed his first commercial passenger elevator at E. V. Haughwout Company, a six-story department store at Broadway and Broome Street in NYC; it moved customers up and down at the speed of 40 feet per minute. By the 1870s, there were 2000 Otis elevators in service.

This led to a great change in the NY skyline, making it feasible to expand upward.

March 23, 1924: Comedian Eddie Cantor, starring in “Kid Boots” on Broadway, appeared at a show presented by the Sunday School Committee of Temple Emanu-El of Yonkers.

March 23, 1945: Three Yonkers heroes were presented with Air Medals for “meritorious achievement” to thank them for their efforts in fighting the war. Second Lieutenant Nils Smith-Petersen, Army Air Force, of Gramatan Drive, received his for leading bombing raids over Nazi Europe. He served as a pilot with a B-24 Liberator bomber group based in Italy.

Staff Sergeant Andrew Wiczkowicz of Orchard Street and Sergeant Thomas Piersall of Riverdale Avenue served as tail gunners on B-17 Flying Fortresses in the 15th Air Force in Italy, and received Air Medals for their achievements in aerial flight.

Questions or comments on this column? 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.

The Yonkers Historical Society invites you to its Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 30th, 2025 at 1:00pm in the Pincus Auditorium of the Grinton I. Will Library, 1500 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers.



This year’s featured program is about Yonkers resident and inventor Edwin H. Armstrong who developed the technology for today’s FM Radio. Our guest speaker is Mr. Al Klase, Telecommunications Historian of The Radio Technology Museum at InfoAge.

This informative presentation will highlight the triumphs and tribulations of the brilliant inventor that Armstrong was. Learn how his developments led to technology that is used in our modern-day cell phones.

This event is open to YHS membership as well as all guests, students, and everyone interested in this fascinating story of American ingenuity.

info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org
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Shootings, continued from pg 1-

was arraigned on two counts of Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree, one count of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, and two counts of Reckless Endangerment in the 1st Degree in Yonkers City Court. Bail was set at \$50,000 cash/\$100,000 bond. Following his arraignment, WASHINGTON was transferred to Westchester County Jail.

Mayor Mike Spano stated, "It's time New York State gives us the resources and tools to enhance public safety. Gun violence does not discriminate and it's crippling cities across the country."

Commissioner Chris Sapienza stated, "The swift response and thorough investigation by our members, coupled with the cooperation of the community, resulted in the apprehension of a dangerous individual. This arrest underscores our commitment to ensuring the safety of our residents and sending a clear message that gun violence will not be tolerated in Yonkers."

In response to recent incidents, and under the direction of Mayor Mike Spano, the Yonkers Police Department has increased motor and foot patrols in targeted areas of the city. Residents and community members can expect to see a strengthened presence of both uniformed and plainclothes officers actively engaged in proactive public safety initiatives.

#2 from the YPD- On Monday, March 3rd, 2025, at approximately 11:30 AM, members of the Yonkers Police Department responded to the area of 1187 Yonkers Avenue on a report of a male shot outside the location. Upon arrival, First Responders located a male with a gunshot wound to his arm. Officers rendered medical aid and stabilized the victim. Other responding officers immediately began canvassing the surrounding area for witnesses and suspects. Patrol Officers quickly located a suspect a short distance away on Bronx River Road and apprehended him without further incident. A Glock 9mm caliber handgun was also recovered from the scene. The victim was removed to a local area hospital in stable condition with non-life-threatening injuries.

Detectives from the Major Case Squad, in conjunction with the Digital Forensics Unit, and Crime Scene Unit, responded to the scene and initiated an investigation. Preliminary findings indicate that the Suspect and Victim were involved in a verbal altercation on board of a Bee-Line Bus which continued after disembarking on Yonkers Avenue. Once on Yonkers Avenue, the altercation escalated. The suspect then produced a handgun and fired one shot, striking the victim in the arm. The Suspect then fled from the location on foot towards Bronx River Road.

The suspect is identified as LEVAR DIMMIE, a 48-year-old resident of Mount Vernon, and is expected to be arraigned on 3/4/25 in Yonkers City Court on one count of Assault in the 1st Degree, and one count of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree. The Victim is identified as Daniel Pena, a 36-year-old Yonkers resident.

Commissioner Chris Sapienza stated, "I commend the swift and professional actions of our patrol officers in apprehending this suspect and securing the scene. The collaborative efforts of our patrol officers, detectives, and Crime Scene Unit were crucial in this investigation. We will continue to work tirelessly to hold those who commit acts of violence accountable."

From the Westchester County Police, who are responsible for crimes committed on the Bee Line Buses: Westchester County Police are investigating a stabbing that occurred on March 5 aboard a Bee-Line bus in Yonkers.

At 5:10 p.m., Westchester County and Yonkers Police Department officers responded to a report that a teen-aged male had been stabbed on the bus as it traveled on Elm Street in the Nodine Hill neighborhood. The assailant exited the bus through the rear door after the attack occurred. Detectives are investigating whether the victim and assailant are known to each other.

Westchester County Police later arrested Eric Dickerson, 20, who was charged with Gang Assault 1st Degree, a felony. Dickerson is accused of stabbing the youth as the bus traveled along Elm Street about 5:10 p.m. on Wednesday. The assailant and several other men had confronted the teen on the bus before the youth was stabbed.

Another shooting happened on Glenwood Avenue on March 2, with Yonkers Police Officers responding to Glenwood Avenue around 10 p.m. after reports of gunfire. They found the man with a bullet wound to his left leg. The man claimed the incident had happened elsewhere, though police couldn't locate a crime scene at that spot. When pressed further, he requested a lawyer and stopped talking.

The more serious concerns from residents were about the Walnut Street shooting, which happened when students were going home from school and the incident on a Bee Line Bus, which many students use to get home from school.

City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy attended a press conference with SNUG and Councilwoman Deana Robinson to highlight the efforts to stem gun violence. But Collins-Bellamy said more resources are needed.

"While overall crime in Yonkers is decreasing, recent gun violence calls for additional action. After discussions with @mayormikespano, the Police Department will increase patrols in downtown neighborhoods, including Nodine Hill.

"As the budget season approaches, there will be a push for more resources to combat crime, focusing on swift arrests for violent crimes and programs targeting youth to prevent gang involvement. The priority is ensuring safety in neighborhoods and homes," said Collins-Bellamy.

Councilwoman Robinson said, "I felt it was important to stop by the Snug peace rally today and really show support to an organization that is trying to help alleviate and combat the violence in our city with Constant boots on the ground and Community support. I am praying that the senseless violence in the city will come to an end and I believe that there is power in prayer and power in unity. Thank you to Snug and thank you to our police department for all the work you do. The job is nowhere near done and it's an ongoing uphill climb. But it starts with us coming together as a community."

Councilwoman Corazon Pineda-Issac said, "I am deeply troubled by the recent act of violence near the Dayspring Community Center, where two individuals were in a shooting incident in broad daylight—right as children and families were making their way home from school. Incidents like these are not just isolated events; they send shockwaves through the entire neighborhood, leaving lasting trauma for those who witnessed it and those who live in constant fear that it could happen again.

In addition to his comments above, Mayor Spano recently posted about the shooting of a police officer in Newark. "Earlier today Newark Mayor Ras Baraka said we have to do a better job keeping guns out of the hands of our young people. This is not a Newark problem, or a Yonkers problem, this is a nationwide issue tearing families apart. We must come together to pray and offer comfort to the impacted families but also find a better resolution to gun violence."

Mike Khader Responds to Yonkers Shooting and Calls for Stronger City Council Leadership and Community Engagement

In response to the tragic shooting that occurred on March 5 in broad daylight, which left two individuals injured, City Council President candidate Mike Khader is voicing his deep concern about the escalating violence in Yonkers and stressing the need for stronger community engagement and leadership in times of crisis.

With the city facing an uptick in violent incidents, including at least two shootings per month since the start of the year, City Council President candidate Khader is calling for a unified approach to address public safety issues. He emphasized that leadership during times of crisis is critical, not just through statements, but through action, community support, and collaboration with law enforcement and local organizations.

"Yesterday's incident is a tragic reminder that we must take immediate and comprehensive action to ensure the safety of our neighborhoods," Khader said. "Our community needs leaders who are not just present but actively working to prevent violence and support residents in times of need."

City Council President candidate Khader, expressed concern that, despite the increasing frequency of violent acts, the City Council has yet to address the issue with urgency and clarity. He believes that more can be done to foster stronger communication between elected officials, local law enforcement, and community members.

"We all share the responsibility of ensuring the safety of our city, and that includes working together to find solutions and not just pointing fingers. The residents of Yonkers deserve leadership that shows up and leads with conviction, especially when it matters most," Khader continued. "It's important to recognize that each of us has a role in addressing this issue. For me, this means advocating for a more proactive approach to public safety, supporting our police and community-based organizations, and ensuring that every resident feels heard and protected."

Khader also reiterated his commitment to public safety, calling for stronger community policing efforts, enhanced support for local law enforcement, and initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of violence in the community. He stressed the importance of collaboration and the need for solutions that address both the immediate concerns and long-term strategies to prevent future violence.

"In my vision for Yonkers, we will have a City Council that listens, responds, and leads with both strength and compassion, especially in moments like this. I am committed to working tirelessly to ensure our city is a safe place where everyone feels secure in their homes and neighborhoods," Khader concluded.

Mike Khader is running for Yonkers City Council President, focusing on public safety, community unity, and fiscal responsibility. His campaign is centered on the belief that every Yonkers resident deserves leadership that is responsive, present, and compassionate, particularly during times of crisis.

Dad Goes Wild After Son's Bullying, Arrested for Impersonating a Cop & Assault Outside Lakeland HS



Facebook video of Charles Santiago confronting Hailey Cuozzi, outside of Lakeland High School where he falsely claimed he was a police officer

By Dan Murphy

An unfortunate incident occurred outside of Lakeland High School on March 5 in the Shrub Oak Shopping Center parking lot.

According to Yorktown Police, "On March 5, 2025, at approximately 2:20 pm, officers were sent to the Shrub Oak Shopping Center parking lot on reports of a possible assault in progress. Officers arrived on scene and an investigation was commenced. The investigation alleges the following: The defendant pulled his vehicle in front of the victim (16 years old) as she was walking, exited his vehicle wearing a police type badge around his

continued on pg 14-

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Westchester County Parks to Offer 2025 Lifeguard Certification Scholarships

Westchester County Parks, in partnership with the Westchester Parks Foundation, is offering scholarships to 10 local students who want to work as a Westchester County Parks Lifeguard this summer. The funding will cover their costs to take the required Lifeguard Certification courses.

To be considered for the scholarship, students age 15 and older are encouraged to submit an essay of at least 250 words that explains why they want to become a Westchester County Parks Lifeguard and how they would benefit from the experience. Email submissions to: PRC-Aquatics@westchestercountyny.gov. The deadline is Friday, April 4 at 5 p.m. Those awarded will be notified via email by Friday, April 11.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said, "The lifeguards at our pools and beaches are taught innumerable and valuable skills that will behoove them for the rest of their lives. They also learn how to be strong leaders and handle significant responsibilities. Every young adult in Westchester deserves that opportunity."

Westchester County Parks Commissioner Kathy O'Connor said, "Our lifeguards are the mainstays for safe summer fun at our pools and beaches. We are delighted to help 10 youngsters join the team."

Executive Director of Westchester Parks Foundation Joe Stout said, "Westchester Parks Foundation believes that parks are for everyone, and we support this County-wide initiative to ensure that our pools and beaches are staffed with well-trained lifeguards, and that students have access to learn these skills."

Those awarded with the scholarship will be expected to work at any of the following facilities: Croton Point Beach Croton-on-Hudson, Glen Island Beach New Rochelle, Playland Beach and Pool Rye, Saxon Woods Pool White Plains, Sprain Ridge Pool Yonkers, Tibbetts Brook Pool Yonkers, Willson's Woods Pool Mount Vernon

Yonkers Food Scene, continued from pg 1-

Balancing Tradition with Change

De Costa's specializes in continental Italian cuisine with Portuguese influences, staying true to its roots while embracing new dining habits.

"We wanted to keep the restaurant the same but also evolve. We had eight years of experience when we took over, so we knew the importance of keeping up with the times," explains DeCosta.

Over the past 20 years, Yonkers has seen an explosion of new restaurants, making the local food scene more competitive than ever.

"There are a lot more restaurants now. Twenty years ago, there weren't as many—absolutely a lot more competition," he says.

Despite the challenges, De Costa's has maintained its success by focusing on customer loyalty, consistency, and a family-oriented atmosphere.

"It's a family place—kids work here at given times, and we really get to know our customers.

When people walk in, we want them to feel like they're part of the restaurant," says DeCosta.

Dishes That Keep People Coming Back

While many restaurants constantly try to reinvent their menus, De Costa's has found that classic dishes still reign supreme. Two of their most beloved menu items, Veal alla Nonna and Pork Chop alla Nonna, have remained customer favorites for years.

"Absolutely two of the most popular dishes; people ask for them all the time," says DeCosta.

The Veal alla Nonna features a breaded veal cutlet, pan-fried with sweet vinegar peppers and sliced fried potatoes. The combination of crispy veal, the tangy sweetness of the vinegar peppers, and the hearty potatoes makes it a standout meal.

For those who prefer pork, the Pork Chop alla Nonna offers a grilled center-cut pork chop, topped with hot or sweet vinegar peppers and sliced fried potatoes. The balance of savory, smoky, and tangy flavors makes it a dish that customers keep coming back for.

"These dishes are unique—sweet and sour because of the vinegar peppers. People love the flavor balance," DeCosta adds.

The Evolution of Dining in Yonkers

Even though tradition plays a significant role in the restaurant's success, adapting to change has been necessary.

"We've had to dabble with the times—adding delivery options, adjusting our dining setup, and finding ways to adapt. It's been a roller coaster of 20 years," says DeCosta.

One of the biggest shifts has been the decline of late-night dining, especially since COVID-19.

"There's not as much of a later crowd anymore—it dies out around 10 or 11 o'clock now," he notes.

Additionally, dietary restrictions have become more common, and De Costa's has embraced a flexible approach to meet customer needs.

"We're very accommodating. Diets have changed, allergies are more common, and we make sure to adjust. If someone doesn't like onions, why should they have to eat onions?"

Why Yonkers Diners Keep Coming Back

In a food scene that's always evolving, De Costa's has found success by maintaining a friendly, welcoming atmosphere.

"Right when you walk in, it's a friendly vibe. We're very consistent with service and quality of food," says DeCosta.

As new restaurants continue to emerge in Yonkers, long-standing establishments like De Costa's prove that a balance of tradition, adaptation, and community connection is key to longevity.

Whether you're a longtime resident or a first-time visitor, dining at De Costa's offers more than just great food—it's a taste of Yonkers' history, culture, and the warmth of a family-run business that truly cares about its customers.

Visit De Costa's Today! 400 Yonkers Ave, Yonkers, NY 10704-(914) 964-8887-decostas.com

Maya Kollarmalil is a student at Yonkers Middle High School. She will be writing for Yonkers Rising and Yonkers Times.com about local food establishments and other Yonkers-centric happenings. If you have a story suggestion for Maya, her email is MayaK@Yonkerstimes.com

All Westchester County Golf Courses Set to Open March 19 for 2025

Hit the fairways, make birdies and play like a champ! Dunwoodie and Sprain Lake in Yonkers, Maple Moor in White Plains and Saxon Woods in Scarsdale will open Wednesday, March 12, and Hudson Hills in Ossining and Mohansic in Yorktown Heights will open Wednesday, March 19, weather and conditions permitting.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "Westchester County's six public golf courses offer scenic fairways, challenging layouts and top-notch facilities for all skill levels. Enjoy beautifully maintained greens, stunning landscapes and affordable play. Whether you're a seasoned golfer or a beginner, a great round awaits."

Tee time reservations may be made online (non-Park Pass holder) or by phoning the individual courses. Walk-up reservations will also be accepted. All of the courses have onsite restaurants, halfway houses and full-service pro shops. Driving ranges are available at Dunwoodie, Mohansic, Saxon Woods and Sprain Lake.

Any available E-Z Reserve spots will be sold at the courses. E-Z Reserve lets golfers with a Westchester County Park Pass block out a regular Saturday or Sunday tee time for a period of 30 weeks.

Commissioner of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Kathy O'Connor said: "Grab your clubs and hit the fairways—our golf courses, which feature breathtaking views, are calling. Epic swings and picture-perfect greens—let's golf Westchester and make this season unforgettable!"

Visit-<https://golf.westchestergov.com/greens-and-rental-fees/> for more information or to make a reservation.

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

MANUFACTURERS AND TRADERS TRUST COMPANY A/K/A M&T, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER WITH HUDSON CITY SAVINGS BANK, Plaintiff -against- MICHAEL FRITH, LAURA DESHON, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered herein and dated March 5, 2020, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at public auction in the Lobby of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., White Plains, NY on April 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. premises situate, lying and being in the Town of Cortlandt, County of Westchester and State of New York, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the easterly side of Sunny Way, where the same is intersected by the division line between Lot Nos. 266 and 267 on Map No. 6584; being a plot 100.00 feet by 200.00 feet by 100.00 feet by 200.00 feet.

ALSO, situate, lying and being in the Town of Cortland, County of Westchester and State of New York, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the dividing line between Lot 37 and Lot 38 on the above mentioned map where the same is intersected by the northerly line of Lot 267 as shown on Map entitled, as filed Map No. 6584 and which point is distant 99.58 feet southerly as measured along said dividing line between Lot 37 and Lot 38 from the southerly boundary of Red Oak Lane as same is shown on Filed Map No. 25985; RUNNING THENCE South East, 24.00 feet; South West, 89.53 feet; South West 13.64 feet; THENCE North East, 100.00 feet. Section: 34.17 Block: 1 and Lot: 14

Said premises known as 10 SUNNY WAY, CORTLANDT MANOR, NY 10567

Approximate amount of lien \$432,385.27 plus interest & costs.

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale.

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

Index Number 53628/2017.

STUART I. BALL, ESQ., Referee
David A. Gallo & Associates LLP
Attorney(s) for Plaintiff
47 Hillside Avenue, 2nd Floor, Manhasset, NY 11030
File# 7777.122



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Father arrested, continued from pg 11-

neck and verbally identified himself as law enforcement (later determined to be a false statement). The defendant shoved the victim against the building, pulled the victim's phone out of her hands as she was recording him, and threw her onto the ground, causing injuries to the victim. Two uninvolved persons intervened and separated the defendant from the victim. The defendant was placed under arrest at the scene and processed at the Yorktown Police Department. The victim was treated and released at a local hospital.

"According to Yorktown Police, a 42-year-old Putnam Valley, NY, resident was arrested for Robbery, 2nd, a class "C" Felony; criminal impersonation of a police officer, 1st, a class "E" felony; reckless endangerment, 2nd, a class "A" misdemeanor; Acting in a manner injurious to a child, a class "A" misdemeanor; and assault, 3rd, a class "A" misdemeanor.

"The defendant was arraigned by the Honorable Judge Cohen-Pierson, who issued a Temporary Order of Protection protecting the victim. Judge Cohen-Pierson set bail at \$3500.00 cash, which the defendant later posted, and he was released. The defendant is due back to the Yorktown Justice Court on 03/20/25 at 6:00 pm."

Media reports identified the defendant as Charles Santiago. Santiago is facing several serious charges, including two felonies. One of those felonies, impersonating a police officer, is one that prosecutors and law enforcement take seriously.

Add to that the 99% of comments on social media calling for a stiff sentence for Santiago, with many vowing to attend the next court hearing in Yorktown court (March 20) to observe the proceedings.

One or two comments alluded to the fact that the child of Santiago was being bullied by the 16-year-old student, identified by the family as Hailey Cuozzi.

"On March 5, our Daughter Hailey Cuozzi was Viciously attacked by a 42-year-old man who was the father of a male student she goes to Lakeland High School school with. It was in retaliation for a verbal argument that she and the boy had in school. This adult man caused injuries to our daughter, causing her to be hospitalized. To make things even worse this, man identified himself as a police officer displaying fraudulent credentials. He has been charged with multiple violent felonies, including Robbery, assault, impersonating a police officer, and more! I am asking Friends, Family, parents, and students to be in attendance at the courthouse for this man's court appearance in support of our daughter. Let's send a message that this will not be tolerated in our town! Let's send a message that NO plea deals should be considered! These are crimes against a CHILD!! I hope you will join me at the Yorktown town court on 3/20/25. The Court Session starts at 6 pm!! Thank you for your support!!

And "Our daughter was attacked viciously by an adult male yesterday for calling this man's son a "snitch and a pussy" in school.

This "man" grabbed our daughter by the neck and smashed her head into a brick wall and then proceeded to hit her head on the asphalt.

Trying to come down off of what happened to our daughter has been so extremely hard. We fear for her safety and our safety, due to potential retaliation from a very sick man that beat our child.

It is NOT OK on ANY LEVEL for an adult to assault a child. It's not OK that our daughter and we as parents have to worry about our safety going forward," posted the family.

First, let me say that as the father of a former Lakeland High School student if anyone ever did this to my daughter, I would react in the same way as her parents.

What baffles me is why Santiago put his hands on Hailey and, to add to his troubles impersonated a police officer. We understand that his son was being bullied, but how do you take it from wanting to protect your son to facing jail time?

Editor's Note: One video of the incident, from News 12, shows Santiago pulling up next to Hailey and pursuing her. But there appears to be no confrontation on the wall of the supermarket, as reported. The video also shows Hailey attempting to enter the empty car of Santiago. That is when Santiago pulled Hailey out of his car, thus the assault charge.

Watch the video here: <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/3846100797169-putnam-valley-man-accused-of-impersonating-police-officer-assaulting-teenage-girl>

"Were it left to me to decide if we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.

-Thomas Jefferson

INDEX NO.: 70079/2019

Date Filed: 12/4/2024

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS WITH NOTICE

MORTGAGED PREMISES: 109 Morningside Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10701 aka 109 Morningside Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10703

SBL #: 2-2164-20

Plaintiff designates WESTCHESTER County as the place of trial; venue is based upon the county in which the mortgaged premises is situate.

STATE OF NEW YORK

SUPREME COURT: COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, as Trustee, as successor-in-interest to U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, on behalf of the holders of the J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Trust 2006-WMC4 Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-WMC4,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Derick Smith a/k/a Derek J. Smith; Patrick Mitchell a/k/a Patrick M. Mitchell, if living and if he be dead, his heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, devisees, grantees, trustees, lienors, creditors, assignees, and successors in interest of any of the aforesaid defendants; and all heirs-at-law, next of kin, distributees, devisees, grantees, trustees, lienors, creditors, assignees, and successors in interest of any of the aforesaid classes of person, if they or any of them be dead, and their respective husbands, wives or widows, if any, and all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to plaintiff, except as herein stated; Linette Roy; Rushmore Recoveries XIV LLC; John Doe #1 through #6, and Jane Doe #1 through #6, the last twelve names being fictitious, it being the intention of Plaintiff to designate any and all occupants, tenants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises being foreclosed herein.

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 attorneys for the Plaintiff within 20 days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York). In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Amended Complaint.

NOTICE

YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE MORTGAGE COMPANY WHO FILED THIS FORECLOSURE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AND YOU CAN LOSE YOUR HOME.

SPEAK TO AN ATTORNEY OR GO TO THE COURT WHERE YOUR CASE IS PENDING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW TO ANSWER THE SUMMONS AND PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY.

SENDING PAYMENT TO YOUR MORTGAGE COMPANY WILL NOT STOP THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

THE OBJECT of the above captioned action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure \$300,000.00 and interest, recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Westchester on August 14, 2018 as CRFN 582083024, covering premises known as 109 Morningside Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10701 a/k/a 109 Morningside Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10703, SBL #: 2-2164-20.

The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above. The Plaintiff also seeks a deficiency judgment against the Defendants and for any debt secured by said Mortgage which is not satisfied by the proceeds of the sale of said premises.

TO the Defendants Patrick Mitchell a/k/a Patrick M. Mitchell, if living and if he be dead, his heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, devisees, grantees, trustees, lienors, creditors, assignees, and successors in interest of any of the aforesaid defendants; and all heirs-at-law, next of kin, distributees, devisees, grantees, trustees, lienors, creditors, assignees, and successors in interest of any of the aforesaid classes of person, if they or any of them be dead, and their respective husbands, wives or widows, if any, and all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to plaintiff, except as herein stated, the foregoing Supplemental Summons with Notice is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon. Robert S. Ondrovic, J.S.C. of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Westchester, dated and filed February 24, 2025.

Dated: March 4, 2025

/s/ Christina A. Incorvaia, Christina A. Incorvaia, Esq.

McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC

420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 840, New York, New York 10170

Phone: 347.286.7409, Fax: 347-286-7414

Attorneys for Plaintiff,

U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, as Trustee, as successor-in-interest to U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, on behalf of the holders of the J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Trust 2006-WMC4 Asset Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-WMC4

HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS IN FORECLOSURE

NEW YORK STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT WE SEND YOU THIS NOTICE ABOUT THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.

SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT

YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME. IF YOU FAIL TO RESPOND TO THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT IN THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION, YOU MAY LOSE YOUR HOME. PLEASE READ THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT CAREFULLY. YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT AN ATTORNEY OR YOUR LOCAL LEGAL AID OFFICE TO OBTAIN ADVICE ON HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE.

The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. In addition to seeking assistance from an attorney or legal aid office, there are government agencies and non-profit organizations that you may contact for

information about possible options, including trying to work with your lender during this process.

To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York State Banking Department of Financial Services at 1-800-342-3736 or visit the Department's website at www.dfs.ny.gov.

FORECLOSURE RESCUE SCAMS

Be careful of people who approach you with offers to "save" your home. There are individuals who watch for notices of foreclosure actions in order to unfairly profit from a homeowner's distress. You should be extremely careful about any such promises and any suggestions that you pay them a fee or sign over your deed. State law requires anyone offering such services for profit to enter into a contract which fully describes the services they will perform and fees they will charge, and which prohibits them from taking any money from you until they have completed all such promised services.

Happy St. Patrick's Day: A Poem by David P. Carroll

YMA Champs, continued from pg 1-

*On Saint Patrick's day a work of art
And friends and family will gathered round
His happiness a joyful sound
And the little children are waving Irish flags
From New York to Galway bay
We will celebrate Saint Patrick's today*

*So let us celebrate with hearts so free
And Saint Patrick's day is a
Very special day a memory to keep
And memories to cherish and
A toast to Ireland and Saint Patrick
And joy abounds a happy green delight*

*And Ireland's patron Saint Patrick
We love so much and the
Little leprechauns and
There pots of gold and
A tales of magic of Ireland been told*

*In vibrant hues a festive scene
Irish blessings warm and true*

*And parades around the world
Begin it's truly a wonderful sight with
Colours so bright that fill our hearts
With happiness and pure delight
And we raise a glass on this
Saint Patrick's night*

*And on Saint Patrick's Day
The memories we cherish
And so may the love and luck
Of the Irish be with you
All around the world
On this very special and
Loving peaceful day
So God bless you all
And may you all have
A magical and happy
Peaceful Saint Patrick's Day.*

*And Irish music fills the air
And everyone singing everywhere
And stories of Saint Patrick are been told
And Ireland's charm both mystical and bright
The shamrock's green a joyful happy sight and
We raise a glass on this Saint Patrick's day
And night*

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YONKERS TIMES
News in Yonkers and around Westchester

The win put YMA at 21-3 and they moved on to the State regional semifinals where they played Tri-Valley. And the Lady Eagles dominated, with a 69-43 win! in Emilee Doherty had 20 points, Arsela Mustafaj had 12 points, Kaia Sutherland and Anisa Mustafaj both had 10, Grace Gleeson had 8 points. Lili toro had 5, both Keira peters and Je'vaeh Thompson had 2.

Congratulations go out to YMA Coach Elie Moise, who has slowly year by year, built a program that is on the brink of becoming a dynasty. "I'm very proud of our girls. They work so hard and its showing. They work all year round to become better players. Our goal in our city, and at YMA, is to put out a good product and then we send you off to college to play basketball!

"I am very proud of our girls, everyone contributed to this. We are very fortunate that we are in a school, where the community is behind us, the parents are behind us, the administration's support is unrivaled, and the kids have bought in. And for that I am fortunate," said Coach Moise.

The Class B Regional Final will take place on Sunday March 16, when YMA takes on Chenango Forks in a Class B regional final. Tip

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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

INDEX NO. 68714/2022

St Mark's, continued from pg 8-

REVERSE MORTGAGE FUNDING LLC

Plaintiff,
vs.

CLARA B. SOMERVILLE; FEDERAL HOUSING COMMISSIONER,

"JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #12", the last twelve names being fictitious and unknown to plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises, described in the complaint,

Defendants.

To the above named Defendants

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action and to serve a copy of your Answer on the plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days of the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (30) days after service of the same is complete where service is made in any manner other than by personal delivery within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty (60) days of service. Your failure to appear or to answer will result in a judgment against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. In the event that a deficiency balance remains from the sale proceeds, a judgment may be entered against you.

NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT

THE OBJECT of the above caption action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure the sum of \$912,000.00 and interest, recorded on February 27, 2019, in Instrument Number 590583180, of the Public Records of WESTCHESTER County, New York., covering premises known as 116 ESPLANADE, MOUNT VERNON, NY 10553.

The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above.

WESTCHESTER County is designated as the place of trial because the real property affected by this action is located in said county.

NOTICE

YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.

Sending a payment to the mortgage company will not stop the foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

Dated: March 5th, 2025

ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC
Attorney for Plaintiff, Oluwatobi Adedokun, Esq.
900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, NY 11590, 516-280-7675

Plaintiff designates WESTCHESTER as the place of trial situs of the real property

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

Mortgaged Premises:
116 ESPLANADE, MOUNT VERNON NY 10553

Section: 165.57, Block: 2086,

Lot: 2

In addition to musical performances, AIM provides structured playtime that encourages imaginative, cooperative play in a safe, supportive setting. Through singing, dancing, and instrumental music, children not only develop creative skills but also experience the power of giving back to their community.

Complementing this musical outreach, St. Mark's Women on a Mission recently assembled and delivered 200 welcome kits for seniors undergoing rehabilitation at Wartburg. The initiative was supported by a \$3,000 grant from Lutheran Women in Mission – Atlantic Division, under the theme "From One Generation to Another". Each kit included adult coloring books, sudoku puzzles, word searches, markers, and inspirational bookmarks, along with a pen featuring St. Mark's contact information. Residents can use the pen to request prayers or become pen pals with the church's third- and fourth-grade students.

Students from St. Mark's (PreK through Grade 8) enthusiastically participated in assembling the kits, gaining a valuable lesson in empathy and service to others.

"The relationship we have with St. Mark's is one of the many partnerships that make Wartburg special," said Dr. David J. Gentner, President and CEO of Wartburg. "We are deeply grateful to Rev. Robert Boehler, Dr. Jean Boehler, and the entire St. Mark's community for sharing their time and talents to enrich the lives of our residents."

These initiatives reflect St. Mark's ongoing dedication to community service, bringing hope, joy, and spiritual support to seniors while fostering a sense of purpose and compassion in younger generations. St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Yonkers has been serving the Yonkers community for years with a mission to foster faith, learning, and service. Through programs like Arts in Mission and Women on a Mission, the church nurtures connections across generations and shares Christ's message of love and hope.

