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Friday March 25, 2022

Yonkers Saint Patrick's Day Parade Doesn't Miss a Beat, Continues to Grow in Popularity



Grand Marshal Pat McCrudden with Larry McCrudden photos by our Facebook friends



Mayor Mike Spano with Mary Calvi



parade co-chair Deirdre O'Mara with RJ Puma, right, and Vic Costa



Rep. Jamaal Bowman with Assembly-member Nader Sayegh



above: Girl Scouts troop 2038



left: YFD Pipers



below: County Legislator James Nolan, left, City Council Minority Leader Mike Breen and GOP candidate for Governor Lee Zeldin

Facts Don't Lie: A Ten-Year, Transformational Change in Yonkers Under Mayor Spano



L-R-City Council Majority Leader Tasha Diaz, new City Assessor Lynette Thomas-Briggs, City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy and Mayor Mike Spano

By Dan Murphy

Facts don't lie. And stats don't lie either, and the statistical data from the past 10 years in the City of Yonkers show reductions in unemployment and crime, increased investment in real estate and development, and interest from corporate American to be a part of New York's third largest City. Combined with an increase in population and continued improvement in education, there is good news to be told about in Yonkers, and just like the manager of a baseball team gets the credit for success, or blame for the failure, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano is getting the credit for the City's successes.

And that credit is coming from the mayor's supporters, but also some of his critics, whose opinion of Spano has changed just as the opinion of the City of Yonkers as a good investment has changed on Wall Street, with many believing that Yonkers is about to embark on a "Generational Change," of new jobs and opportunities for residents in all parts of the city.

The population in Yonkers has increased at a time when New York State's population is shrinking, resulting in Yonkers now being NY's third largest city. And while other cities have faced divisiveness and turmoil, Yonkers has seen a continued increase in diversity of its elected officials and employees at City Hall and the Board of Education. And improvements in education metrics for the 26,000 students in the Yonkers Public Schools continues to improve.

The one constant through these ten years is Mayor Mike Spano. In conversations with dozens of elected officials, party leaders, non-profits, and stakeholders, both the supporters of Mayor Spano and even his critics point to the same fact: Things have gotten better in Yonkers under Spano's watch, and many are wondering what happens in two years when Spano leaves City Hall.

But first the data. The facts don't lie:
Unemployment-was at 3.60% for Dec 2021 in Yonkers, and over the past 5 years, remained below 5%, until COVID, when unemployment figures spiked across the state and country. Yonkers remains below the State average unemployment rate, and below the other Big 5 Cities in NY; Rochester, Syracuse, Buffalo and New York City.

Crime: Several companies that compile crime data have named Yonkers one of the safest mid-sized cities over the past three years, 2019-2021. Vivint Home Security -named Yonkers as the 20th Safest community in 2021, based on crime data from

See story on pg 7-

Hochul, in Tie with Zeldin, Proposes Changes to Bail & Criminal Justice Reforms "All Second Offenses Within a Certain Period of Time Will be Bail-Eligible"



Governor Kathy Hochul has proposed a criminal justice reform package that includes reversing some of the changes enacted two years ago, including the elimination of bail reform for many crimes. Gov. Houchul confirmed her 10-point plan that was leaked. A memo leaked to the NY Post, (or was it given to them on purpose?) that includes giving judges more discretion to hold defendants on bail for additional types of crimes and based on their history of repeat offenses.

"For offenses that are not currently subject to arrest, police will have the ability (though not the requirement) to deny a Desk Appearance Ticket (DAT) and arrest an individual who has previously received a DAT within eighteen months. All second offenses within a certain period of time will be bail-eligible," reads a copy of Hochul's memo, which she'll negotiate to include in her \$216 billion budget proposal due April 1.

The 10-point plan includes:

For the most serious felonies, allow bail determinations to be informed by factors including criminal history and history of firearm use and possession. Judges will be allowed to set bail not based solely on the "least restrictive" conditions deemed necessary to ensure a return to court. The statute will set forth specific criteria on which judges will base their determinations, including criminal history and history of firearm use/possession.

- Make repeat offenses subject to arrest and bail-eligible
- Make certain gun-related offenses, hate crimes offenses, and subway crime offenses subject to arrest and not [desk appearance tickets]. Certain offenses which presently are subject to desk appearance tickets will be made only eligible for arrest.
- Make certain gun-related offenses bail-eligible.

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Yonkers Resident Wins \$40,000 on Wheel of Fortune



The 39th Season of Wheel of Fortune, included its annual College Week, and one of the contestants was Yonkers resident Patrick Mehler. Patrick is a student at Cornell University and represented the college, and the city of Yonkers well by winning \$40,000 and a trip to Barbados.

One of the many fans rooting Patrick on was State Senator Shelley Mayer. Patrick was a fantastic intern and born Leader! Can't wait to cheer him on!

Mehler came from behind to win, but got stumped on the final clue, which was Yellow Daisies. Congratulations and thanks for making Yonkers proud!

Yonkers Arts Weekend (YAW) Returns May 21

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced that the City of Yonkers is presenting its 8th annual Yonkers Arts Weekend (YAW) festival on Saturday, May 21. The art festival is a one-day event, filled with exciting new programs, workshops, exhibitions and more.

"Yonkers continues to secure its reputation as an artistic hub in the region and we are so excited to share that with residents and visitors each year during Yonkers Arts Weekend," said Mayor Mike Spano. "Yonkers' rich history, coupled with our thriving arts community, transforms the City, especially the historic waterfront district, into a walkable museum. I'm thrilled that we can continue to bring this event to our community."

Since its inception in 2014, YAW has created a prominent arts district in the City of Yonkers. Several city galleries have opened, along with dozens of local and international renowned muralists and artists contributing to the City's downtown revival. YAW attracts more than 10,000 visitors a year to city galleries, the Carpet Mills Arts District, Hudson River Museum and Untermyer Gardens.

Artists who would like to showcase their work during Yonkers Arts Weekend can submit their information and samples of their work at www.yonkersartsweekend.com or www.yonkersny.gov. The deadline for artwork submissions is Tuesday, February 22 by noon and must be sent to Rosa.Sudol@yonkersny.gov

This year, YAW will deliver a comprehensive range of pop-up exhibitions, free art workshops, and musical performances across four dynamic venues including:

- Pop-up galleries & art workshops in the Downtown Waterfront District
- The 19th Annual YoHo Artist Open Studios at the historic Alexander Smith Carpet Mills, and now designated the Carpet Mills Art District
- Untermyer Gardens, music by the Untermyer Performing Arts Council
- Hudson River Museum – new programs and workshops to be announced soon

"Every year Yonkers Arts Weekend celebrates the richness and diversity of creativity highlighting the best in traditional and contemporary art while fostering community pride and family entertainment," said Yonkers Artist, Haifa Bint-Kadi.

Yonkers Arts Weekend is produced by the City of Yonkers Planning & Development Department in partnership with Yonkers Downtown/Waterfront BID. Community partners for YAW include: Yonkers Arts, US+U/Warburton Galerie, YOHO artists and Carpet Mills Arts District (CMAD), Hudson River Museum, Blue Door Art Center, Riverfront Art Gallery, Sawyer Place, RXR Realty (Developer/Owner), Untermyer Gardens Conservatory, the Parks Department, and AMS Acquisitions. For more information on Yonkers Arts Weekend, visit www.YonkersArtsWeekend.com

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He's Back! George Washington Returns to Yonkers



L-R-George Washington, County Legislator James Nolan, City Councilman John Rubbo and Dr. Iris de Rode at Yonkers Brewing Co.

By Mary Hoar

Hero of the American Revolution and our first president, George Washington was seen visiting scenes from his storied past last week in Yonkers! Accompanied by Historian Dr. Iris de Rode, he visited the beautiful and historic St. John's Episcopal Church in Getty Square, originally built in 1752 by the Philipse family. No doubt, he was hoping to find his first love Mary Philipse at St. John's.

Washington and de Rode then headed to Yonkers Brewing Company to sample a bit of Yonkers' locally made beer, a golden liquid Washington was reported to enjoy. According to his unpublished journal in the New-York Historical Society Quarterly published April 1947, clergyman Joshua Brookes noted Washington habitually "had a silver pint cup or mug of beer, placed by his plant which he drank while dining."

While there, Washington, portrayed by Mike Grillo, assisted honoring Dr. de Rode, visiting from France and on a tour of Westchester Revolutionary War sites. Dr. de Rode researched the French-American alliance during the American Revolution for her doctoral dissertation, using unpublished documents as her sources, particularly the papers of Francois Jean de Beauvoir, Marquis de Chastellux. A Major General in the French expeditionary forces led by General Rochambeau, Chastellux was the principal liaison between Washington and Rochambeau; their collaboration created a true friendship between our future president and the Major General.

Not only did Yonkers welcome Dr. de Rode, Councilmember John Rubbo presented her a City of Yonkers proclamation officially naming the day as Dr. Iris de Rode Day! County Legislator James Nolan officially welcomed her to Westchester County.

The following day, Dr. de Rode visited the Yonkers Historical Society's Sherwood House Museum, welcomed by the society's President Loren Chaidez, Trustee Richard Mangini, President Emerita Mary Hoar and volunteer Jason Medina. Sherwood House is one of the few remaining restored pre-Revolutionary tenant farmhouses in the metropolitan area, and the site of Yonkers first doctor's office. It reopens for the Spring season 1 pm Sunday, April 10th.

The Yonkers Historical Society and Revolutionary Westchester 250 cosponsored this visit to Yonkers.

YouTube Takes Down Yonkers Police Video of Attack on Elderly Asian Woman



The Yonkers Police Department was notified on March 21 that a video posted on YouTube, which showed footage from an apartment building entrance of an elderly asian resident being beaten by a man, would be taken down because "it violates our violent or graphic content policy."

The decision was objected to by the YPD who posted on Facebook, "Dear YouTube, Safety isn't derived from censoring content and information; it's the product of a free society that adheres to the rule of law.

The decision by YouTube raises an interesting debate over whether certain images should be shown to the public to create awareness, and opposition to hate, or whether the images and content are too graphic to be shared with the community.

There are valid arguments to be considered on both sides of this debate. Another area of hate crime in Westchester has been in the posting of anti-semetic symbols and swastikas. It has been the policy of Yonkers Rising, Westchester Rising and YonkersTimes.com to try and print these symbols of hate, as a way to warn the public about them, but also to be aware if they see them to report them.

But we also understand that the images, or in this case, the video content, is difficult to see and to watch.

Send us your opinions to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

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Latimer, Westchester County Government Mark Women's History Month by Honoring Four Yonkers Women

Send in the Clowns



Maddie Cheatham-Walker



Nancy Maron



By Eric W. Schoen



Jeni Wallace



Lucy Vigilant-Smith

Westchester County Executive George Latimer Marks Women's History Month Honors Four Extraordinary Women From Yonkers

Westchester County Executive George Latimer, the Westchester County Board of Legislators and the Westchester Women's Advisory Board selected 17 women from across the County who exemplify strength, community service and leadership. Each honoree will receive a proclamation from the County Executive for their work at the next virtual meeting of the Women's Advisory Board on March 21.

Latimer said: "Westchester County is made up of so many extraordinary women doing amazing things in education, entrepreneurship and community service. In Westchester County, we know women can be dynamic leaders and we have placed more women in key leadership roles during my administration than any other in history. I think of my grandmother and how she was born without the right to vote. I think of my mother, a blue collar worker who dropped out of school in the 8th grade. She overcame obstacles and provided a firm foundation for our family. In Westchester County, I am proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with these exceptional women who continue to break the glass ceiling for others to follow. During Women's History Month, we want to highlight and celebrate these accomplishments."

Westchester Women's Advisory Board Co-Chair Shannon Powell said: "It is with great pleasure that we have the opportunity to honor this amazing group of dynamic women from across Westchester County during Women's History Month. These women deserve to be recognized for their outstanding achievements in a variety of fields and for the numerous contributions they have made in service of their communities. Our women honorees exemplify the best of Westchester."

Four Women from Yonkers were honored. They are:

- District 14: Jeni Wallace, Yonkers Human Rights Commissioner
- District 15: Nancy Maron, President, Board of Trustees, Yonkers Public Library
- District 16: Maddie Cheatham-Walker, Pamela's Big Heart Foundation
- District 17: Lucy Vigilant-Smith, President of Park Hill Residents' Association

Mobile Shredder Dates for Yonkers

Mark Your Calendars Westchester County Mobile Shredder Events in Yonkers For Guidelines, visit <https://bit.ly/3He2nYR>

Wednesday, March 30, 2022 10:00am - 1:00pm
Yonkers Murray's Skating Rink, 348 Tuckahoe Road

Wednesday, April 13, 2022 10:00am - 1:00pm
Yonkers Murray's Skating Rink, 348 Tuckahoe Road

Saturday, May 21, 2022 10:00am - 1:00pm
Yonkers Murray's Skating Rink, 348 Tuckahoe Road

Stephen Sondheim, the man who re-invented the Broadway musical and died last year was born this week in 1930 in New York City. One of his most famous shows was 'A Little Night Music.' A song from the show, 'Send in the Clowns' pretty much sums up what's going on all around us today!

The man who rubbed poop on a lady in a Bronx subway car was set free on bail for the 40th time. He then committed an anti-Semitic act attacking a Jewish man and was set free again. Next he threw a weight breaking the window of a warehouse, and a judge finally set cash and bond bail on this creep.

Asian women have been attacked in New York City and right here in Yonkers. Over the weekend the lines were long for canisters of pepper spray given gratis in Chinatown to protect these poor ladies from further attacks by crazy people!

Want a license to sell marijuana in New York State? Granted I don't want one and hate the smell of 'weed.' But the first 100 are going to those convicted of marijuana crimes and their relatives. Doubt it's going to be the 'little people' who get them. And social services agencies who were and are in the business of helping these people. And Governor Hochul has set up a fund to help those who broke the law set up business. You guessed it. Your tax dollars and mine.

Many People are afraid to drive with the crazy drivers on the road. Honking you. Switching lanes. Speed racing. Going way over the speed limit in clearly marked areas, even when there are multiple speed bumps on the road. Flashing their lights at you. Giving you the middle finger. The state needs speed cameras on our roads and more police officers on the ground and helicopters in the air to deal this this.

I go exercising at Tibbetts Park in Yonkers. People who are an 1/8th of a mile or more from others out in the open wearing face masks to prevent them from getting Covid-19!

New Mayor in New York, new Governor and they can't do anything to improve the deplorable conditions in Penn Station in New York City? People, many from Westchester are afraid to travel through Penn Station trampling over the homeless and others doing no good.

Speaking of homeless, as we go to Press 2500 apartments for the homeless who need mental care and social services sit empty because New York City can't get its act together?

Everyone worried about the conditions at Rikers Island in New York City. The city and state can't get their acts together to clean the place up. Even those accused of crimes deserve to be kept in humane conditions. But what about those of us not on Rikers Island. Or those of us who don't have relatives on the Island waiting their fate. Is anybody worried about us?

The first time someone gets charged or convicted of causing harm, injury or god forbid death due to driving under the influence of Marijuana when legal sales begin, the politicians in this state who approved the law are sadly going to have blood on their hands.

Is it me or does every road I travel on have an accident impeding the flow of traffic? Should our government charge those involved in accidents, many caused by speeding and reckless driving or those driving under the influence with the costs of police, fire, emergency services and clean-up which has got to be in the thousands of dollars? And let's not forget the time lost by the drivers obeying the laws who get stuck sometimes for hours in these situations?

Speaking of accidents, hikers hiking off the designated trails in Putnam County at the Cornish Estate in the Highlands getting stuck and unable to move! 7 State, Parks, County and local levels had to respond. Who pays for this? I say send the bills to the hikers, and if they can't pay lock them up or punish them because they weren't following clearly posted rules!

Weddings cancelled due to Covid and restaurants and catering halls refusing to return monies paid either as a deposit or for the complete cost of the affair. Kudos to Attorney General Tish James for getting the money back. Covid was a National emergency, crisis whatever you want to call it. If you are planning a wedding or any event in the 'living with Covid' scenario we live in, make sure you take out cancellation insurance.

A State Supreme Court Justice, Linda Jamieson gets a mere censure, not expulsion by the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct for failure to disclose a loan she made to an associate. The Judge pressures an attorney representing the associate to make it easier to collect on the loan, she failed to report, as required for 14 years! During the disciplinary hearing, the judge acknowl-

continued on pg 6-

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Red Hot Real Estate Market Shows No Truth to "Everyone Leaving Westchester"

By Dan Murphy

While New York State continues to see an exodus of its population leaving the state, the data from Westchester tell a different story. A recent story in LoHud.com shows that the median sales price for a single-family home in Westchester increased by 2.3% after continually rising over the past 5 years.

The reason for the continued price increase is that demand is higher than supply. Many new homes are sold immediately after being placed on the market. In short, everyone wants to live in Westchester, and the population of Westchester continues to increase, hitting 1 million for the first time in the 2020 census.

So how does the real estate and population numbers fit into the narrative that people are leaving New York State? It doesn't apply to Westchester. "This puts a lie to everyone's leaving Westchester," said a top Westchester democrat. "Houses that once land in the market are being snapped up for higher prices by people who want to live here. There is no fear of crime of high taxes-the market demand is strong. Your home value is a strong sign of our economic strength."

"The far right narrative just doesn't apply here. As long as Westchester democrats stay moderate, and cut taxes, fund the police, deliver services and stay away from the far left, there will be no red wave in Westchester this November."

Another Westchester democrat who is in the Real Estate business agrees. "I think its normal for those homeowners and residents who are nearing retirement to sell and move somewhere else in normal and that is still happening. But for every home for sale, there are 10 people who want to move into Westchester and raise a family and have their kids go to school. That trend has increased in recent years."

Republicans in Westchester are hoping that a national trend will land here in Westchester. "The red wave required you to vote based on the national or statewide perception of democrats. Our job is to have you focus on what democrats have done right here in your town hall or in the county. We need to tell voters the difference and the result will be another solid election for democrats in November. But like always we have to work for it."

Recent crime data also shows a decline in all serious crimes in Westchester County. Total crimes in Westchester County have decreased by 26.5% Total decreased in all indexed crimes including violent crimes, down 27.6%, and property crimes, down 26.3%.

So the question now becomes, is Westchester County an outlier to what is happening in other parts of the state and country? And do the positive facts detailed in this story, point to a community of voters that will vote democrat?

Mayor Spano Appoints Lynette Thomas-Braggs as First Female City Assessor

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano today announced the appointment of Lynette Thomas-Braggs as the City of Yonkers first-ever female City Assessor. Thomas-Braggs continues her service in Yonkers, bringing over 20 years of experience, most recently serving as a Senior Real Property Appraiser in the City of Yonkers Assessment Department.

"Yonkers takes great pride in promoting those within our City departments, providing opportunities to employees who have the skillset and experience needed to serve in positions of leadership," said Mayor Spano. "Lynette has demonstrated with her over 20 years of experience working in the Yonkers Assessment department that she is an ideal candidate to build on our efforts to provide Yonkers taxpayers with a more fair and efficient assessment process."

"It is truly an honor and privilege to serve the City of Yonkers' constituents," said City of Yonkers Assessor Lynette Thomas-Braggs. "The Assessment Team will continue to strive for efficiency, equity and transparency so that we, as a Team, work with excellence and integrity."

Thomas-Braggs has over 20 years of experience serving in the City of Yonkers Assessment department, most recently as a Senior Real Property Appraiser conducting various duties, including conducting field inspections examining property transfer documents, deeds, and other documents. Prior to her service at the City's Assessment Department, Thomas-Braggs served as a Clerk in the City of Yonkers Finance department for nine years. As a key member of the Department, Thomas-Braggs was charged with handling sensitive information and maintaining financial databases.

The City Assessor is responsible for overseeing the establishment of the assessed value for all property within the municipal boundaries of the City of Yonkers.

Thomas-Braggs fills a vacancy left by former Assessor David Jackson, who retired. Thomas-Braggs' term will run through August 31, 2026.

Hochul Bail Reform, continued from pg. 1-

Make it easier to prosecute gun trafficking.

Targeted reforms of the discovery statute.

Targeted reforms of the "Raise the Age" statute.

Increase funding for pretrial, diversion, and employment programs: Hochul's budget already includes \$83.4 million for pretrial services, but the governor would increase that amount — although the memo did not say by how much. It would also distribute the nearly \$500 million appropriated for "Raise the Age" implementation that has not yet been spent.

Expand involuntary commitment and Kendra's Law.

Increase funding for mental health treatment.

Opposition to Hochul's plan has already come from progressives in the democratic party. And as we go to press, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-Westchester) and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie (D-Bronx) still oppose any amendments to cashless bail or the Raise the Age reforms they passed two years ago.

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano supported Hochul's plan, saying, "I applaud Governor Kathy Hochul for heeding our call to revisit the bail reform law. The new proposed public safety package seems to be a step in the right direction. After being one of the first to call for much-needed changes to the law, I know I speak for all Mayors when I say, we look forward to reviewing the Governor's 10 point plan to ensure we keep those in our cities safe."

Westchester Innovation Network Grows with New Partners from Yonkers



Dr. Marsha Gordon, president and CEO of the Business Council of Westchester; Wilson Kimball, executive director of the Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers; Heidi Davidson, chairman of the BCW's Board of Directors

The Business Council of Westchester's Westchester Innovation Network (WIN) has added four new partnerships. The new partners are the cyber security firm Huntress; the online health-education platform LessonBee; the post-incarceration job site ConConnect; and the multisensory assessment platform CatchU. Officials from the BCW introduced the new partners Wednesday morning at the organization's board meeting.

Launched in February, WIN is a program aimed at driving economic development and growth within Westchester County by reaching out to innovative companies nationwide and abroad, with the goal of helping them expand locally. WIN's Innovation Match Program launched with five partnerships.

"The growth of our Innovation Match Program demonstrates how essential WIN will be for start-ups looking to partner with established institutions that can help them beta-test new ideas or expand customer bases," said Dr. Marsha Gordon, president and CEO of the Business Council of Westchester.

The Stony Point-based CatchU is a mobile fall-risk reaction time tool designed for seniors that allows for multisensory-based interventions to alleviate disability and maintain independence. CatchU will collaborate with the Burke Rehabilitation Hospital in White Plains.

The Mount Vernon-based LessonBee is an online learning platform with courses and classes that enable users to find their path to health in grades K-12. LessonBee will partner with the Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers to extend its service to public housing residents.

The Maryland-based Huntress delivers security to small- and medium-sized businesses. The service combines automated detection with human threat hunters to analyze suspicious activity, detect hidden threats and stop attacks that would otherwise go unnoticed. Huntress will partner with Progressive Computing in Yonkers.

The New York City-based ConConnect is a digital platform that connects formerly incarcerated people with services they need to find employment and build professional networks. ConConnect will partner with the Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers to help formerly incarcerated public housing tenants.

One of the Innovation Match Program's goals is to provide the local hosts with an opportunity to understand innovation within their industries and to provide valuable feedback to innovators who need to pilot or beta test in a prospective customer setting.

As Governor Andrew Cuomo Ponders a Comeback, Do Any Democrats Support Him?

By Dan Murphy

On March 17, former Governor Andrew Cuomo told Bloomberg that "I'm open to all options," when asked if he is considering a run for Governor this year. And when asked if he would consider creating his own party line to run on, he added, "I've done so before. My father's done it before." (<https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/andrew-cuomo-says-he-s-open-to-running-for-n-y-governor-again-1.1739184>).

It has only been 8 months since Cuomo resigned as Governor during a sexual-harassment scandal. A recent Emerson poll showed Cuomo trailing Governor Kathy Hochul by only four points, 37%-33%, in a democratic primary. But the same poll found 63% of New Yorkers saying that Cuomo should not run for office again. (<https://emersonpolling.reportablenews.com/pr/new-york-state-poll-former-gov-cuomo-potentially-trails-gov-hochul-by-four-points-in-democratic-primary>).

The other, political questions, is what happens if its Houchul, Lee Zeldin, Larry Sharpe and Andrew Cuomo on the ballot in November. Cuomo hurts Hochul and opens the door for Zeldin to win. And his accusers are still out there, standing by their allegations of sexual harassment. And NYAG James is also standing by her report, and recently called Cuomo a liar.

The rumors of a Cuomo comeback comes one day after NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli issued a report which validates accusations that the Cuomo administration underreported nursing home deaths during the COVID pandemic.

Read more on this story at YonkersTimes.com

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Peekskill Man Indicted for Murder in Shooting at Yonkers Bar



Video here: <https://youtu.be/J9HCB23YL-4>

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that Peekskill resident Yaquba McGougain was indicted on charges in connection with a shooting that killed one and injured another at a Yonkers bar in February.

McGougain, 29, was indicted by a Westchester County Grand Jury for Murder in the Second Degree, Attempted Murder in the Second Degree, Assault in the First Degree, and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, all violent felonies. The defendant was arraigned on March 21, 2022, and is being held without bail.

McGougain is charged with fatally shooting 22-year-old New Jersey resident Antonio Antoine-Fils at a bar on Yonkers Avenue in Yonkers, on February 6, 2022, at approximately 2:08 a.m. The victim was transported to St. Joseph's Hospital in Yonkers, where he was pronounced dead. A second victim, who McGougain is also charged with shooting and injuring, was transported to Jacobi Hospital where he was treated for his injuries.

The Yonkers Police Department investigated the incident and arrested McGougain within 72 hours.

Detectives from the Major Case Squad and Crime Scene Unit responded to the scene and interviewed subjects and witnesses, recovered surveillance video, and processed forensic and ballistic evidence. Investigation has yielded that the bar was hosting a party on the second floor that resulted in several fights amongst the patrons. Bar management stopped the party and was ushering the attendees outside, some of whom were intoxicated and disorderly. Investigators allege that one of the attendees went to a parked vehicle and retrieved a handgun, and then proceeded to the front of the bar and fired at least three gunshots into the vestibule of the building, striking two employees: a bouncer and a busser. Both the employees were engaged in moving the party crowd outside.

The bouncer, a 23-year-old resident of the Bronx, New York City, was struck one time in the stomach and was treated and released. The busser, Antonio Antoine-Fils a 22-year-old resident of Montvale, New Jersey, was struck twice, once in the torso and once in the hand, and died from his injuries.

Anti-Abortion Protestors Found Guilty of Criminal Trespass at Clinic, Jail Time Possible



On March 17, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that after a three-day trial, a jury found three men guilty of unlawfully remaining at All Women's Medical in White Plains to prevent patients from receiving access to medical care.

Matthew Connelly, 40, William Goodman, 52, and Christopher Moscinski, 52, were each found guilty on March 17, 2022, of Criminal Trespass in the Third Degree, a misdemeanor. The defendants are affiliated with Red Rose Rescue, a pro-life religious group.

On November 27, 2021, at approximately 8:40 a.m., the defendants unlawfully entered All Women's Medical in White Plains, a private medical office. The defendants then remained inside the office for approximately two hours despite receiving numerous verbal warnings to leave from medical staff and the White Plains Police Department.

The defendants, two of whom remained in the waiting room and one who was on the floor blocking the entrance to the office, were arrested by White Plains Police and had to be physically carried out of the office.

"The District Attorney's Office will vigorously prosecute any criminal acts that interfere with an individual's constitutional right to freely access healthcare," DA Rocah said. "There are no insignificant cases when it comes to the protection of reproductive rights."

The case is before Judge John Collins in White Plains City Court, and is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Celia Curtis. The District Attorney's Office thanks the White Plains Police Department for its cooperation in the prosecution of this trial. The defendants are scheduled to be sentenced on June 20, 2022.

For the B misdemeanor conviction, the three defendants could receive up to 90 days in jail. Or the Judge could give them probation or, more unlikely, a conditional discharge.

Many believe that the reason the defendants went to a trial was to promote their pro-life cause, but also because any plea agreement came with jail time. DA Rocah's office might be asking Judge Collins for some type of jail time in a case that drew national attention, and where both sides of the argument have highlighted this case.

The Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion, WCLA, called the defendants terrorists, and posted, "Today the jury spoke for the people of New York. The evidence was crystal clear. The six-woman jury rendered a guilty verdict in under 30

continued on pg 7-

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On This Day in Yonkers History...



The Yonkers City Clerk had offices at Philipse Manor Hall before a historical renovation **By Mary Hoar, President Emerita Yonkers Historical Society, recipient of the 2004 Key to History and President Untermyer Performing Arts Council**

Monday, March 28th

March 28, 1951: Two twelve-year-old boys found \$33,736.25 while exploring the old Bigelow mansion on Hawthorne Avenue! Thomas Novak and Alfred Graves, also Hawthorne Avenue residents, found the bundles of currency and gold coins in three cans hidden under the house eaves. Six months earlier workers found \$25,000 hidden in the home. Commissioner William Comey announced Yonkers police would guard the house to prevent trespassers from conducting their own search.

Agnes Edgar Bigelow, the first Yonkers woman to fly in an aeroplane, died eight months earlier. Her father was a founder of Archer, Edgar, Merrill and Condit, the successful wholesale and retail grocery store; its building at the foot of Main Street is the location where the Post Office stands today.

The 14-room home at 204 Hawthorne Avenue was razed soon after their discovery... but not before it was painstakingly searched "board by board" for more hidden treasure.

Tuesday, March 29th

March 29, 1951: Yonkers Public Safety Commissioner Patrick O'Hara announced he had not received an answer to his telegram to New Hampshire Senator Charles Tobey, a Republican serving on the Kefauver Crime Investigation Committee. Tobey told DC reporters he received an unsigned threatening letter with a Yonkers postmark, but didn't remember what the letter said. As soon as this news reached Yonkers, Councilman Michael Nugent introduced a resolution urging the Kefauver Committee to continue investigating while keeping the public aware of the "sinister influences threatening our democratic way of life." It passed the Yonkers Council unanimously.

March 29, 1956: While speaking to the Yonkers Public Library Staff Association, free lance writer, author and Yonkers resident Walter Daniels were told staff could fight book censorship and should "stand up for their choice" if they had backing from their fellow librarians and the Library Director.

Wednesday, March 30th

March 30, 1935: Yonkers rising baseball umpire Bill Grieve signed a new contract and changed his league! He had worked with the Northeastern League; he now would officiate in the Class A New York-Penn League. A career advancement, Grieve was assigned to work with the two leading teams of the eight-team circuit, Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. The other teams in the league were Binghamton, Elmira, Harrisburg, Hazleton, Reading and Williamsport.

March 30, 1946: Stephen Lee Senigo, the first British war bride baby born in Yonkers, was delivered at Yonkers General Hospital. Proud papa was Mark Senigo, sports editor for the London edition of Stars and Stripes, and, in civilian life, was a rewrite man for the Religious News Service in New York City.

March 30, 1955: Mayor Kris Kristensen officially dedicated the new Cross County Hospital and Medical Center at Central Park Avenue and the Cross County Parkway.

Thursday, March 31st

March 31, 1926: Pioneer merchant Charles Culver of 249 North Broadway passed away. He was the owner of the first big store in Yonkers, Culver's Department Store. And built and owned the building at 5-7 Main Street, while operating a Peekskill clothing factory. When he retired in 1906, the site became the Marshall-Matheson Company. He "turned his attention" to his warehouse, converting it to the Westchester Storage Warehouse on Nepperhan Street.

March 31, 1925: Health Commissioner Clarence Buckmaster ordered contractors to use only hard coal instead of soft coal in their stationary engines. He hoped this not only would eliminate pollution and a whole lot of the complaints people called into his office.

Friday April 1st

April 1, 1911: Workers began restoring the exterior of Manor Hall to return the Hall to its original pre-Revolutionary appearance. Work on the interior could not begin until the City Clerk's office was moved out of Manor Hall to the new City Hall.

April 1, 1943: Twenty-two year old Staff Sergeant Albert DePew of Yonkers, USA Air Forces, wrote to The Herald Statesman. Stationed at Greenville Army Air Base with a bombardment group, he shared proof of our city's active part in the country's war effort. A crew chief commanding a ground detachment, DePew found a plaque

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Sadness In Ukraine***A Poem by David P. Carroll***

My heart aches today And it's just war and
 Sadness all day and Nobody knows it's painful
 But me oh yes me And sadness in our eye's
 As our little children cry
 All through the cold dark lonely
 Night and snow is falling tonight
 And a bitter chill in the air and the
 And the worst pain is yet to come
 And I want to cry tonight
 I'm holding my baby so tight
 And there's no longer any more
 Tears to roll down my sad
 Lonely old face and I'm in a horrible blown up
 Place and it's just war and
 Destruction disaster and hate
 And I've sat and cried and I'm
 Holding my baby so tight as my
 Loved ones died tonight And Lord Jesus Christ
 I want to break Free and move on
 But sadness lives on
 And we are drowning in a River of blood and we
 Can't catch our breath
 And a lonely tear rolls down My baby's face
 We are already dead
 In this blown up sad lonely place.

Notice of formation of Love Jones 360 Experience LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 9/23/21 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : C/O Love Jones 360 Experience LLC , 41 Ridgeview Terrace Elmsford, NY 10523 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Jovanna Realty LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 5/14/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Jovanna Realty LLC, 100 Riverdale Ave., Apt. 8C., Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Will On Wheels Transport Services LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 02/18/2022 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : C/O Will on Wheels Transport Services LLC, 519 Locust Street 1B Mount Vernon, NY 10552 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Aiyana's Creations LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/20/2021. Office: Westchester County. United States Corporation Agents Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY, 11228 designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. US Corporation Agents Inc shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 127 Ramsey Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

edged 'her conduct was stupid because I never took the forms (she was required to submit) seriously!' Then she went on to say now she does. 4 members of the committee voted for her expulsion. Hooray for them. So the judge doesn't have to follow the laws but we do! Laughable!

Four hours of testimony by Senators on the Judicial Committee of the United States Senate before the candidate for the Supreme Court they are considering can receive an honest and fair hearing. Who the hell cares what these Senators are thinking. We want a fair, honest. Intelligent discussion of her background and why she wants to sit on the court, not blabbering words from Senators that their high paid staff writers have written and they can, in many cases barely read.

Governor Hochul announces a 10 point plan to deal with the bail reform crisis and crime in New York State and members of the legislature are fighting with her over it. On what planet do they live. I hope and pray none of their family members become victims of crime.

Subway fare invasion, bus fare invasion are no longer prosecuted as crimes in New York City. You know in a way I can understand that though it shouldn't be happening. The subways and many city buses are not places where you want to be. The quickest most efficient way to get to Barclays Center in Brooklyn from Westchester and Rockland is via Metro North and subway or Long Island Railroad. People are scared about the subway and the fact they have to transfer in Penn Station.

Some say, 'People deserve a real shot at a second chance. The Clean Slate Act will increase public safety, bolster the workforce and improve our economy by automatically clearing old conviction records and unlocking opportunity for more than 2.3 million New Yorkers.' Will they ever do anything for those of us who never broke the law?

State Attorney General Letitia James is calling on Governor Hochul to stop blocking nursing home reforms that are designed to prevent understaffing; Hochul has been postponing enforcement, citing a health care workforce shortage. All I can say is try to keep your relatives out of nursing homes as long as possible. There are many good ones with hard working staffs, but many with money hungry owners who only care about the mighty dollar.

I could go on and on but at this point you get my drift.

Send in the Clowns? As the revered Sondheim said, 'Don't bother they're here.'

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

Notice of formation of JGS Notary Services LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 10/28/21 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : C/O JGS Notary Services LLC , 588 Warburton Apt 2 Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of LOREDANA VICARI PHOTOGRAPHY LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 10/6/21 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : C/O LOREDANA VICARI PHOTOGRAPHY LLC , 125 Dunwoodie Street Yonkers, NY 10704 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice is hereby given that a license , # pending has been applied for by Dazzles Restaurant & Lounge, Inc to sell liquor at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 130 132 S. 4th Ave. Mt Vernon NY for on premises consumption.

Notice of Formation of HSKickz Company LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/09/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 3 Bainton Street, Yonkers, New York 10704. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of BARK BARK BROTHAS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State (SSNY) on 02/09/2022. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 50 Riverdale Avenue, 2H, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Molcan Management LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/9/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 34 Wickes Ave Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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2022 Yonkers Saint Patrick's Day Parade on McLean Quickly Becoming One of the Best in the Country

By Dan Murphy

10 years ago, the Yonkers Saint Patrick's Day Parade moved to McLean Avenue. Ten years later, the Yonkers Saint Patrick's Day Parade on McLean is one of the best in the country.

This year, the committee named Pat McCrudden as the Grand Marshal. Pat and husband Larry did great work with the old Yonkers Parade along Broadway, and it is a worthy honor that Pat had to wait three years for.

The pipers and dancers were back, as well as the large crowds. In addition to the usual Irish flags, a lot of Ukrainian flags were flown in support of the people of Ukraine.

This seamless transition, into one of the United States great parades, cannot be overstated. Parade co-chair Deirdre O'Mara posted, "10 years ago today we held the 1st ever St Patrick's day on McLean Ave. It was also on March 19th, St Joseph's day. It was one of my proudest days in this country. Walking up the Emerald Mile was the result of the work of so many people in MAMA led by none other than RJ Puma. Now it is the 65th Yonkers parade, it's 67th year but we all know what we have been through these past 2 years. Today we are back, changed in so many ways over both the 10 and the past 2 years, but still proud of what we have accomplished."

The other positive that we see every year at the Yonkers Saint Patrick's Day Parade on McLean Ave. is that there are few if any incidents that warrant intervention from the Yonkers Police. Despite thousands of spectators and many of those spectators enjoying a beverage at one of the pubs that line McLean, it is one of the safest places to be.

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

on a new North American B-25 medium bomber inscribed with dozens of names of people who paid for the plane by purchasing War Bonds. On closer inspection, he found names of five Yonkers residents on the plate: Harry Lacey, Mr. and Mrs. M. Walsh, Sidonie Howard and Mary LaBelle. He gave his thanks for their contribution, and said he hoped to find many more names of Yonkers people, "carried with these ships into combat."

Saturday, April 2nd

April 2, 1926: Health Commissioner Clarence Buckmaster announced Yonkers did not need to fear milk; milk inspector Chris Sheridan and assistant George Gillespie were working day and night to prevent "bootleg milk" or improper milk, from coming into Yonkers.

April 2, 1936: Close to one thousand High School of Commerce students attending classes at Yonkers High School in the afternoon, again asked the Board of Education to switch their schedule with the regular Yonkers High School students. The students attended on a split session; the academic or Yonkers High School students attended from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm, while the Commerce students attended from 1 to 5:30 pm. The petition stated the afternoon sessions "deprived them of valuable employment opportunities."

Sunday, April 3rd

April 3, 1911: Justice Joseph Morschauer announced if the Board of Supervisors did not give him a White Plains court to hold a Special Term of Supreme Court, he would hold it in the courtroom at the new City Hall at Yonkers.

April 3, 1917: More than two hundred men and women from the Grey Oaks, Nepperhan Heights and Bryn Mawr sections formally organized a Home Guard for their area of Yonkers; Norman McDonald was elected President.

Questions or comments? Email YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com.

For information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and upcoming events, please visit our website www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org, call 914-961-8940 or email yhsociety@aol.com.

Anti-Abortion Trespass, continued from pg 5-

minutes, making a strong statement against the terrorists who invaded All Women's Health in White Plains on November 27, 2021 --- the worst assault on a reproductive healthcare facility in NYS in decades."

The defendants were members of a group Red Rose Rescue, who posted their view of the trial proceedings. "On the Solemnity of St. Patrick in the Archdiocese of New York, rescuers Fr. Fidelis Moscinski, CFR, Matthew Connelly, and Will Goodman were all three convicted of helping mothers and preborn babies in mortal danger.

"The morning began with Mr. Goodman on the witness stand enduring an aggressive assault of biased questions by the prosecutor. While she sought to represent the peaceful patient advocates in the most negative and unjust way possible, Will explained the nature of their effort to defend the defenseless, offer aid to those feeling trapped, and be the voice of the babies in order to move the consciences of those involved in killing God's little ones.

"During closing arguments, our defense attorney Steve Anduze was rudely interrupted by the prosecutor as he attempted to shape his narrative of the case facts within an historical context.

"In particular, he mentioned the Underground Railroad which courageously helped people forced into slavery to be free. He was seeking to show how these great American rescuers were perceived as "criminals" by those committing the atrocities of slavery.

"Judge Collins called for an immediate sidebar to speak with both attorneys. After about five minutes of discussion, the lawyers returned to their posts and Steve continued.

"Just as he began to speak of the nonviolence practiced in the Civil Rights Movement, the prosecutor interrupted him again. Then most surprisingly, the judge silenced him with regard to his contextual narrative! This was unprecedented and wholly unwarranted!

"Especially in light of the fact that the prosecutor in her closing summation had free reign to offer her own narrative without interference from the court. Such poor judicial behavior is but one example of how prolife advocates are treated as second class citizens by proabortion states.

"Mr. Anduze briefly continued his closing statements by encouraging the jury to recognize that the rescuers were acting in conscience, and this case revolves around the rescuers' sincere and peaceful acts of conscience.

"The defendants did not deny that they were on the premises," he stated, "but they were moved by conscience to save the lives of the endangered unborn babies."

After receiving instructions from Judge Collins, the jury exited to their chambers for deliberation. In approximately 30 minutes, the jury returned with their unanimous decision: "guilty." The court set a sentencing hearing for June 20th. The maximum penalty for this unjust "trespassing" verdict is six months.

A number of prolife supporters were in the courtroom to pray, witness the cross examination, and hear the delivered verdict. Some members from the young adult group "Catholic Renegades" were present to show their solidarity. The Renegades are an organization dedicated to living the truth, defending Church teaching on life issues, and standing up to unjust government overreach.

"This verdict allows us, in some small way, to be more closely aligned to our poor sisters and brothers in the womb who are being wantonly ignored by the courts and rejected by so many people in our nation." Said Goodman in reply to the jury's decision. "But in response to the jury's condemnation, we offer them only forgiveness."

From this point forward, Judge Collins alone will be deciding the fate of the Red Rose Rescuers. Pray for him to do what is right and true."

Notice of formation of Thomas Family Taste LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/20/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as the agent of the LCC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 268 Van Cortlandt Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Gelpdawg Media LLC..Articles of Organization filed with the New York Department of State on 12/01/2021. Office location: Westchester County. The New York Secretary of State is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served upon him or her to the company c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave, 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Principal business address: 428 Marlborough Rd., Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful acts.

the FBI and from economic indicators from the US Census.

In 2019 and 2020, Yonkers was named the 9th Safest City of its size, (populations between 150,000 and 500,000) by WalletHub, and AdvisorSmith.

And crime data collected by state and federal law enforcement show that Shootings and Gun related crimes have decreased in Yonkers, over five years and since 2020.

In 2020 and 2021, the City of Rochester had 516 shootings. Buffalo had 514; Syracuse 245. Yonkers has had 45-gun related incidents in the same period.

Shootings have decreased by 11% in Yonkers over the past five years, and as the data above shows, Yonkers is trending against other Cities in New York State that have seen gun crimes increase.

Development: The Big Three-MGM, Lionsgate and ?

While Yonkers has continued to see continued development of rental units, both market and affordable, three important development projects point to a realization from Wall Street and corporate American that investing in Yonkers makes good business sense.

MGM, Empire Casino awaits a decision by NY State to give them a full-scale gaming license, which would result in table games and a sports book at Yonkers Raceway. Once this decision happens, (those with knowledge say that it's a matter of when and not if), MGM is ready to make a large investment and expansion of the 90+ acres that make up the Casino-Raceway property. Jobs, tax revenues, and business for the surrounding small businesses will result.

Lionsgate Studios decision to build a new studio in Yonkers and increase their investment from \$100 Million to \$500 Million was as one Yonkers stakeholder told us, "The light switch that really put Yonkers on the map. Not only is the half billion investment huge, but coming from a respected fortune 500 company like Lionsgate, all of Wall Street and the NYC development community woke up and realized, what have we missed in Yonkers?"

The third transformational investment coming to Yonkers has not been finalized yet. But another large Movie studio is finalizing a purchase of a large piece of property, along the Hudson River, to build a TV-movie studio of their own. After the purchase is completed and the announcement is made, Yonkers can truly be called "Hollywood East," and will be another catalyst for jobs investment and small business in the surrounding community.

Another fact is that Mayor Mike Spano has led the city of Yonkers over the past 10 years. Spano, and the Spano family, have their supporters and their detractors, but the reason for this story came from a prominent Yonkers democrat who is not necessarily a supporter of Mayor Spano but admitted that the progress seen in the city under his leadership is great.

So, we decided to reach out to many in Yonkers to get their view on the City's progress and Mayor Spano. One unique Yonkers stakeholder is Rich Nightingale, CEO-of Westhab, a nonprofit that builds affordable housing, and provides social services. "When I get a cup of coffee in the morning and walk along the waterfront, from Avalon to Dominos Sugar, you can't take that walk and not appreciate how far Yonkers has come.

"It always used to be if and when, but Yonkers is happening now, and you have to look at the guy in charge. I think Mayor Spano has brought Yonkers to this position, where the city is running and operating well. Nobody is picking on Yonkers anymore. In other places, it can be hard to do business. Yonkers is creating an environment to get things done, and that's a big deal.

"Our work at Westhab is all about building affordable housing. We believe that a rising tide needs to lift all boats, and low- and moderate-income residents need to be included. Mayor Spano is a balanced person. He is Yonkers through and through. He has placed an emphasis on big investors and developers, but he is strategic and careful to bring a balanced approach and he cares about all of the residents.

"He knows that Yonkers needed a catalyst with big investors, but he hasn't given up on building a balanced and equitable city. As a CEO of a nonprofit that helps residents in need, I see that other communities are not doing their share of affordable housing, and don't provide a place to live for their workforce. Yonkers provides that balance.

"People know that Yonkers is happening, and Mayor Spano has been our biggest champion for affordable housing, while at the same time encouraging investment, Lionsgate, public art projects, and so much more. Yonkers is winning. "

City Council Majority Leader Tasha Diaz pointed to the diversity in both City government and in City Hall under Mayor Spano. "There is more diversity in City Hall because of Mayor Spano. From City Court judges, He stayed out of the council debate over Majority Leader, but since my election, he has been supportive of me and the changes that I have been making to my office.

Most people in Yonkers know that the Mayor has done a good job over the past 10 years. Some are afraid to say that. I'm not. I think Yonkers is in a better position now then it was 10 years ago. He has done so much, just look at the record."

A leader in the Yonkers Democratic Party told us, "The Mayor supports diversity in our elected officials. He helped elect the first African American female City Council President, and a majority of the City Council are now women of color. This happened under a Mayor named Spano, lets be honest and give him some credit for that. It's not all just big development and business, but that the city is represented equally."

Another Yonkers democrat said, "Mayor Spano picked up the ball and ran with it. He inherited a situation where there was nobody interested in making a major investment in our city, but never criticized the past, only looked to the future. It was like making an investment in the stock market when no one else was willing to invest

He had a vision and when he talks about the city its coming from a true believer. He wants to leave the city better off and makes decisions regardless of party affiliation.

"He balances the needs of the city and has brought attention to a part of the city that people weren't paying attention to. Now we have a transformational project that will provide a tax base and real jobs that will be here for generations. These are concrete results"

Yonkers Democratic Chair Tom Meier admitted, "I'm a fan of Mayor Spano and the work that he had done," and joked, "He has been a friend, even when he was a republican. I think his success has come from the fact that he is a moderate and has a middle of the road record and he has taken those principles to be a great mayor in so many ways.

"He has built a bridge with the city council, which has changed during his 10 years, but he has worked with everyone. He reached across the aisle and gets things done. There is no drama with Mayor Spano and the people of Yonkers like that. He loves the city and being Mayor and he is not resting on his laurels but continues to work. We are the 3rd largest City under Mayor Spano, and that fact proves that he must be doing something right. People like what they see.

"The city has become a more diverse City under his watch, and he has made sure that the leaders of the city look like what the city really is. I have seen it in his appointments and with the members of the City Council and City Court. That wouldn't have happened without him."

"Spano's ability to work with the republicans on the city council have given the City's 35% or republicans and conservative a sense that their voice is still being heard. That's important," said a Yonkers republican. "There are some that, no matter what, are never happy. But they are becoming fewer and fewer."

Yonkers PBA President Keith Olson said, "The numbers don't lie. We have had a good run in Yonkers and in the Yonkers Police Department over the past 10 years. If we took a snapshot of where the city was 10 years ago and compared it to today, we are in a better place now."

"We have a motivated police department and good leadership from City Hall and from our Police Department. Having cops with good morale and who want to go out and do their job is important. I think other neighboring communities should look to what we are doing in Yonkers."

The next part of this story, and the question coming from many in Yonkers, is what happens in two years when Mayor Spano's third term ends? Will the progress continue? Or will the city turn in another direction?

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