

## YMA Lady Eagles Make History Win State Championship!



### 1st State Title for Yonkers Since 1932

By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to the Yonkers Montessori Academy girls basketball team, who went up to Albany for the Final Four and came out with the NYS Class B Championship!

The YMA Lady Eagles are the first Girls Varsity Basketball team EVER to win a state championship, and they are the first high school team from Yonkers to win a state title since 1932.

The first final four game for the Lady Eagles was on March 20 against Mechanicville High School. All facets of their game were on as YMA rolled to a 67-38 win, a very unusual score for a final four game, with the Lady

*continued on pg 11-*

### Mayor Mike Spano Endorses Frank Jereis for State Assembly

**MAYOR MIKE SPANO**  
Strongly Endorses

“AS SOMEONE WHO REPRESENTED YONKERS IN THE STATE ASSEMBLY, I KNOW WHAT IT TAKES TO BE AN EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE FOR OUR CITY IN ALBANY. FRANK JEREIS HAS THE QUALIFICATIONS, THE JUDGMENT, AND THE DEDICATION TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WELL. HIS EXPERIENCE IN LAW AND AS A CHIEF OF STAFF IN THE ASSEMBLY GIVES HIM A STRONG COMMAND OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, WHICH IS CRITICAL IN A JOB LIKE THIS. FRANK KNOWS HOW TO FIGHT FOR WHAT MATTERS, HOW TO NAVIGATE GOVERNMENT, AND HOW TO STAND UP FOR THE PEOPLE OF YONKERS. ABOVE ALL, HE KNOWS THIS CITY, LOVES THIS CITY, AND IS COMMITTED TO ITS FUTURE. I AM PROUD TO SUPPORT FRANK JEREIS FOR STATE ASSEMBLY, AND I WILL BE WITH HIM EVERY STEP OF THE WAY IN THIS CAMPAIGN.”

-YONKERS MAYOR MIKE SPANO

**FRANK JEREIS**  
for NYS Assembly

See Story on Page 4

### Former Councilmember Merante to Challenge Stewart-Cousins in State Senate Run



Former Yonkers Councilmember Anthony Merante, left, is jumping into the race for New York State Senate in the 35th District, taking direct aim at Albany Democrats and longtime State Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins. A Republican and eight-year City Council veteran, Merante says he is ready to challenge what he calls a broken system dominated by one party and bring accountability back to state government.

“People told me this race would not be easy,” Merante said. “Nothing worth fighting for ever is. And right now, New Yorkers need someone willing to fight.” Running in a heavily Democratic district, Merante

Anthony Merante

*continued on pg 9--*

Read it all Online at

[Yonkerstimes.com](http://Yonkerstimes.com)

### Yonkers Women of Distinction Honored

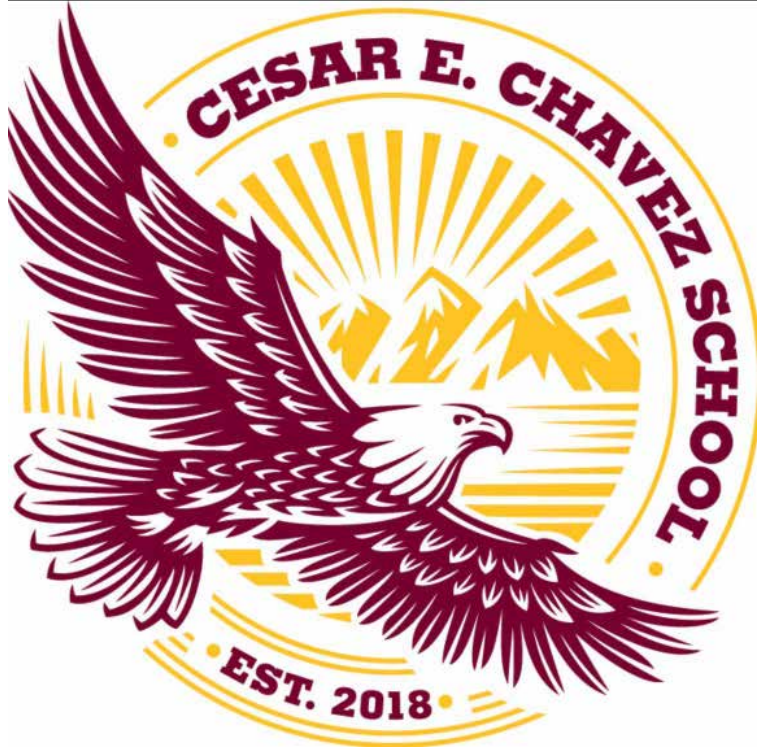


L-R:  
2026 Women of Distinction Honorees:  
Katori Walker, Eileen Torres, JoAnn Rich Tamarazzo and Karla Diaz

See Story on Page 4

Yonkers Public Schools Reviewing Renaming Cesar Chavez School

Four Yonkers Residents Say: Please Don't Tax My Nicotine Pouches!



By Dan Murphy

“Heavily taxing safer alternatives to cigarettes keeps smokers from switching to better substitutes.” These words of wisdom come from Guy Bentley from the Reason Foundation, who wrote about how New York Governor Kathy Hochul’s proposed 75% tax on nicotine pouches is bad for public health.

Bentley writes, “Commenting on the planned tax increase, New York State Budget Director Blake Washington said the Hochul administration views nicotine pouches and cigarettes as a ‘distinction without a difference.’” But nothing could be further from the truth.

“Nicotine pouches contain no tobacco and produce no smoke. Users place a small pouch between their lip and gum, getting the nicotine they want without the tar and carcinogens that make cigarettes deadly. Nicotine is addictive, but it’s not what kills smokers; the combustion is. That’s partly why Sweden, where the oral tobacco product snus has been popular for decades, has the lowest smoking and lung cancer rates in Europe.

“Last year, the Food and Drug Administration authorized ZYN and on! PLUS nicotine pouches because they’ve proven to be safer than cigarettes, help smokers quit smoking, and aren’t appealing to kids,” writes Bentley (<https://reason.org/commentary/new-york-gov-hochuls-nicotine-pouch-tax-would-be-bad-for-public-health>).

Four Yonkers residents wrote us letters opposing Hochul’s tax on pouches. They write, “Gov. Kathy Hochul’s proposed budget includes a 75% tax on nicotine pouches. As consumers of pouches, for several reasons, including our own finances, we hope the legislature rejects this proposal and that Gov. Hochul reverses course.

“Legislators may not know that under President Biden’s administration, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which vets the safety of a range of products including nicotine-delivery systems, determined that nicotine pouches are less harmful than conventional, combustible cigarettes.

“In other words, if we want to bring down public health costs and minimize human suffering from smoking-related illnesses, we want nicotine pouches to be cheaper than cigarettes so smokers will switch to the less-harmful product. But the draft budget would tax them exactly the same as deadly, combustible cigarettes, making cigarettes just as attractive for nicotine users.

“That category, of course, includes kids who will have more access, not less, to pouches if the 75% tax has the same effect high cigarette taxes have, where the product is smuggled into New York from nearby lower tax states along the I-95 corridor.

Retailers who charge sales taxes on nicotine products rigorously check IDs before selling them. Bootleggers hawking their wares out of the back of a van or over the Internet do not. Several recent studies from experts at NYU, Yale, and Rutgers show that when you make it harder to buy non-cigarette nicotine products, people—including underage kids—switch to smoking. No one wants that result.

“A 75% tax will also hurt small retailers, many of them owned by Black and Brown New Yorkers. Whatever one’s politics, we should all be able to agree that it is not progressive, which may help explain why polling shows that, even among voters in last year’s New York City mayoral race, the most liberal voters in the state, the 75% tax proposal does not even attain majority support. The idea doesn’t sell

*continued on pg 10--*

**YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

STATEMENT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AS SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE DEEPLY TROUBLING ALLEGATIONS THAT HAVE RECENTLY SURFACED REGARDING CÉSAR CHÁVEZ, A HISTORIC FIGURE WHOSE NAME IS CARRIED BY ONE OF OUR SCHOOLS.

LIKE MANY OTHERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, WE ARE AWARE OF REPORTS DETAILING SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE INVOLVING WOMEN AND MINORS LINKED TO HIS PAST LEADERSHIP IN THE UNITED FARM WORKERS MOVEMENT. THESE REVELATIONS ARE PAINFUL AND HAVE PROMPTED REFLECTION WITHIN COMMUNITIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND INSTITUTIONS NATIONWIDE.

FIRST AND FOREMOST, WE SUPPORT AND HONOR THE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE COME FORWARD. IT TAKES EXTRAORDINARY COURAGE TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT EXPERIENCES OF HARM, ESPECIALLY WHEN THOSE EXPERIENCES INVOLVE PEOPLE IN POSITIONS OF POWER. WE RECOGNIZE THE STRENGTH OF SURVIVORS AND REAFFIRM OUR UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO CREATING SAFE, SUPPORTIVE, AND RESPECTFUL ENVIRONMENTS FOR EVERYONE.

WITHIN YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS, OUR PRIORITY REMAINS CLEAR: THE WELL-BEING, DIGNITY, AND SAFETY OF EVERY STUDENT, STAFF MEMBER, AND FAMILY WE SERVE.

WE ARE CURRENTLY REVIEWING OUR BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 7500, WHICH GUIDES OUR PROCESS FOR NAMING AND DEDICATING SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY. THIS REVIEW IS PART OF OUR ONGOING EFFORT TO ENSURE OUR POLICIES REFLECT OUR VALUES AND MEET THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF CARE AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS REMAINS FIRMLY DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE, ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, ETHICAL LEADERSHIP, AND A CULTURE GROUNDED IN RESPECT, EQUITY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY. WE WILL CONTINUE TO COMMUNICATE OPENLY WITH OUR COMMUNITY AS WE MOVE FORWARD WITH OUR REVIEW AND NEXT STEPS REGARDING THE SCHOOL’S NAME AND IDENTITY.

IN MOMENTS LIKE THIS, OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS NOT ONLY TO INFORM BUT ALSO TO LEAD WITH EMPATHY, INTEGRITY, AND PURPOSE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED TRUST AND PARTNERSHIP.

ANÍBAL SOLER, JR.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## Yonkers YMCA Director Honored with Westchester County Sheros Award



In observance of Women’s History Month, the Westchester County Youth Bureau and Youth Board hosted their annual Sheros Awards ceremony, recognizing three outstanding community leaders who are positively impacting the lives of children, youth and families in Westchester County.

This year’s award recipients were Sade Gilcrest, Director of Operations and Community Engagement, YMCA of Yonkers, Kerry Whelan-Megley, Executive Director, Family Ties of Westchester and Tiffany S.W. Hamilton, Chief Executive Officer, YWCA of White Plains and Central Westchester. The March 26 event was held in the Rotunda of the Michaelian Office Building and was well attended by family, friends and colleagues of the honorees.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: “The Youth Bureau’s annual Sheros Awards celebrate the amazing women whose dedication and leadership transform our communities. By honoring those who champion our youth, we do more than recognize excellence—we inspire future generations, raise awareness for critical family issues, and strengthen the advocacy networks that drive lasting progress.”

Youth Bureau Executive Director Ernest McFadden said: “As we gather in March when we observe Women’s History Month, we take time to honor extraordinary women who have shaped, inspired and empowered countless young people through their work and service. I join our Youth Board to celebrate and recognize three amazing women in our community who collaborate with the Westchester County Youth Bureau and are making a difference and impacting the lives of children, youth, and families here in Westchester County.”

Youth Board Chair Dr. Alexandria Connally said: “The Sheros award is a celebration of more than achievement—we celebrate courage, resilience and the power of women who refuse to be defined by limits. The Sheros we honor are not just leaders of today, but trailblazers shaping the future of Westchester County and beyond. On behalf of the Westchester County Youth Board, I am proud to stand with these remarkable women who remind us all that leadership begins with lifting others as we rise.”

## On This Day in Yonkers History...



*The Eiffel Tower under construction in 1888.*

*Otis Elevator Company, still operating in Yonkers, was the only company that could build the elevator for the World’s Fair in Paris.*

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

Monday, March 30th

March 30, 1889: Salley Reid and John Upham won the first golf mixed foursome in the United States against her husband John Reid and Carrie Law. Many consider her husband John to be the Father of American Golf; John and friends started St. Andrews, the first Golf Club in the United States... still in existence!

March 30, 1928: A mystery ship was seized off our Yonkers coast by custom officials after it passed through a network of Coast Guards ships. The ship had a liquor cargo valued at \$300,000, in today’s dollars... \$5,733,070!

Tuesday, March 31st

March 31, 1889: The Eiffel Tower opened, equipped with Otis elevators! France wanted French manufactured elevators in the entrance to their 1889 World’s Fair, but Otis was the only company in the world that could do the job. Because of this delay, the tower opened several weeks after the start of the Fair.

March 31, 1930: After she constantly rebuffed him, 40-year-old Peregrina Nunez of 245 New Main Street was shot in the head by 26-year-old Thomas Alonzo because she refused to elope with him. Alonzo lost his job at the restaurant and home in the Nunez rooming house because of his persistent unwanted attentions.

Hearing the gunshots, Patrolman Thomas Gleason ran into the restaurant and found Mrs. Nunez on the floor. Alonzo was in another room slashing his throat with an eight-inch knife. After a battle, Gleason managed to grab Alonzo’s knife.

Mrs. Nunez was expected to recover; Alonzo was rushed to St. John’s Hospital. He had lost so much blood, the doctors held no hope for his survival.

Wednesday, April 1st:

April 1, 1905: Not content with owning the best American bred collies, Samuel Untermyer imported six of England’s most valuable collies for his Greystone kennels, including eleven-month old puppy Southport Sculptor. Untermyer paid \$3,000 for him, equivalent to \$111,000 today! This young collie, voted one of the most valuable in England, already had won awards at his young age.

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

April 1, 1930: County Medical Examiner Amos Squire, MD, went to St. John’s Hospital to question Thomas Alonzo, unconscious and fighting off death. He had received 100 stitches to close the self-inflicted wound in his neck.

*continued on pg 11-*

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## Yonkers Women of Distinction Honored

— In honor of Women’s History Month, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano recognized his “Women of Distinction” awardees —Yonkers women whose distinct achievements have improved the lives of others in the community and whose impact has helped shape a better Yonkers.

“Women’s History Month is a time to honor the extraordinary achievements of women, and here in Yonkers we are especially proud to celebrate Katori Walker, Eileen Torres, JoAnn Rich Tamarazzo, and Karla Diaz—leaders who strengthen our community every single day,” said Mayor Mike Spano. “Their dedication enriches our city, uplifts our families, and inspires the next generation to lead with purpose. Whether they are advocating for our youth, expanding access to the arts, supporting our seniors, or championing equity and social change, each of these women embodies the very best of Yonkers.”

This year’s honorees range in talent and service. They include:

**Katori Walker** – is a creative artist and painter known for transforming urban spaces with bold, colorful murals that celebrate community, culture, and storytelling. Her artwork appears in public and cultural spaces throughout Yonkers and the surrounding region, including the Hudson River Museum, Will Library, Rye Art Gallery, and the Yonkers Riverfront Library, as well as on buildings across the Bronx and Harlem. One of Katori’s most notable projects is the 2017 exhibit 100 Words of Wisdom, which featured 142 elderly participants from diverse backgrounds. Each participant had meaningful words painted on their body that reflected how they saw themselves, creating a powerful visual tribute to identity, experience, and the wisdom of age. Through her murals, spoken word, and playwriting, Katori continues to inspire connection, celebrate diversity, and leave a lasting artistic legacy in the communities she serves.

**Eileen Torres** – is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Bilingual Counselor, Mental Health Counselor, and Licensed Teacher who devoted 38 years to serving students in Yonkers Public Schools as a School Social Worker before retiring in June 2025. She now works part-time mentoring and training future School Social Workers in the district. Beyond education, Eileen has a long history of supporting youth through athletics, coaching basketball, and softball from 1987 to 2012 in Yonkers and Mamaroneck—including at Roosevelt High School—and contributing to Special Olympics programs. She also serves as Youth Service Director for Lifting Up Westchester, leading initiatives for youth experiencing homelessness, including a summer camp at the Coachman Center and mentoring students in their academic and life journeys.

**JoAnn Rich Tamarazzo** – is a lifelong Yonkers resident who has dedicated her life to public service and education. Raised in the Park Hill neighborhood, she began working for the City of Yonkers at age 19 and later served for decades with the Yonkers Board of Education, where she became affectionately known as “Miss JoAnn.” Beloved by students, staff, and families, she was recognized for her kindness, dedication, and unwavering commitment to supporting generations of children. After battling uterine cancer and later being diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia, she retired early due to her health. Honored by the Paideia School 15 Class of 2023 with a yearbook dedication, JoAnn continues to inspire her community with her resilience, compassion, and lifelong service as she seeks a bone marrow donor for a lifesaving transplant.

**Karla Diaz** – is a proud lifelong resident of the City of Yonkers whose work and leadership have strengthened families and communities across Westchester County. For the past decade, she has served at the Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD) as a Resource and Referral Specialist with the NYSED Office of Special Education Educational Partnership, Mid-Hudson Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Center, and as a Family and Community Educator with the Community Support Network. In these roles, Karla works closely with families, educators, and community partners to provide training, guidance, and access to critical resources for children with exceptionalities, with a special focus on empowering Hispanic and Latino families navigating the special education system. With more than 20 years of advocacy and community leadership, Karla also serves on the Westchester County Women’s Advisory Board and as a Board Member of The Association of Hispanic Professionals, Inc., supporting scholarship opportunities for Yonkers students. Through her dedication, compassion, and commitment to equity, Karla continues to uplift families and inspire positive change throughout the Yonkers community.

The four distinguished Yonkers women received their “Women of Distinction” Awards at a ceremony held at Yonkers City Hall on March 18.

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## Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano Endorses Frank Jereis for Assembly

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano has endorsed Frank Jereis for State Assembly in the 90th District. Spano said, “As someone who represented Yonkers in the State Assembly, I know what it takes to be an effective advocate for our city in Albany. Frank Jereis has the qualifications, the judgment, and the dedication to serve our community well.

“His experience in law and as a Chief of Staff in the Assembly gives him a strong command of the legislative process, which is critical in a job like this. Frank knows how to fight for what matters, how to navigate government, and how to stand up for the people of Yonkers. Above all, he knows this city, loves this city, and is committed to its future.

I am proud to support Frank Jereis for State Assembly, and I will be with him every step of the way in this campaign,” said Spano,

Jereis received the endorsement from the Yonkers Democratic Committee last month. Jereis will face Jeannette Garcia in a Democratic primary on June 23. The current Assemblyman, Nader Sayegh, is not seeking reelection.

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## Saint Joseph's Medical Center Hosts Women's Wellness Forum Held at Family Health Center



From left, Agnes Biggs and Kebrah Ivey, Family Resource Specialists, Healthy Families Westchester; Jennifer Andre, SJMC SCN; Michelle Robotham, Qualified Nutritionist, Joann Valentin-Alvarez, Program Specialist, and, Ricardo Diaz, Staff Nutritionist WIC Program; Sarah Darwin and Helen McCullagh, La Leche League; Liz Joglar, Director Ambulatory Services & School Based Health Program Saint Joseph's Family Health Center; Susan Olivera, Senior Program Manager, United Hospital Fund; Frances Morel, Affinity by Molina Healthcare; Dr. Cynthia Palmer-Heredia, The Basics Yonkers; and Cami Ortiz, SJMC SCN

More than 20 women and their babies were on hand for the Women's Wellness Forum held March 18 at Saint Joseph's Medical Center's Family Health Center in Yonkers

The program was an opportunity to provide community resources along with the staff of the Family Health Center to meet with mothers and their newborn babies. The Women's Wellness Forum was held in collaboration with Healthy Families of Westchester, WIC, La Leche League, Affinity by Molina Health Care; The Basics Yonkers and the Saint Joseph's Medical Center's Social Care Network (SJMC SCN).

The program was supported by funding from United Hospital Fund which supports efforts to address maternal mental health during a pediatric visit. Saint Joseph's Medical Center received a second round of funding to expand community partnerships and referrals.

"This was the first year for this program and we were delighted at the tremendous response from the community," said Liz Joglar, MSW, Director Ambulatory Services & School Based Health Program Saint Joseph's Family Health Center.

Located at 81 South Broadway, the Saint Joseph's Family Health Center provides high-quality primary care medical services for patients by personalizing health care that meets their needs. The Family Health Center is proud to be recognized by the National Committee on Quality Assurance as a Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH). PCMH is an approach to primary care that puts you at the center of your care.

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## Stated Council Meeting Decisions

City Council Meeting March 24, 2026

1. LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 43 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS TITLED "ZONING" BY AMENDING ARTICLE XV IN RELATION TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING. THIS LAW UPDATES THE CITY OF YONKERS AFFORDABLE HOUSING ORDINANCE TO STRENGTHEN AND CLARIFY RULES REQUIRING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN NEW MULTIFAMILY DEVELOPMENTS AND TO ESTABLISH CLEARER PROVISIONS FOR AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP UNITS. THE GOAL OF THE LAW IS TO INCREASE AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CITY. ADOPTED 7 -0 (AMENDED

2. GENERAL ORDINANCE - AMENDING CHAPTER 65 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS ENTITLED "ANIMALS AND DOGS" WITH REGARD TO AMENDING PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO KEEP SIDEWALKS CLEAR. (NO FISCAL IMPACT.) (ALL COUNCILMEMBERS.) THE CITY COUNCIL IS UPDATING THE PENALTIES SECTION OF THE CITY'S ANIMAL AND DOG LAWS. DANGEROUS ANIMALS AND INJURIES CAUSED BY VIOLATIONS ARE CLASS I OFFENSES, AND OTHER VIOLATIONS ARE TREATED AS CLASS II. ADOPTED 7 -0

3. SPECIAL ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF NEW YORK STATE GRANT FUNDING FROM THE EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT'S REGIONAL CAPITAL FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,000,000 AND AMENDING THE CITY OF YONKERS GRANT BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026. (POSITIVE FISCAL IMPACT.) (ALL COUNCILMEMBERS.) THE ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT TO PARTIALLY FUND PREPARATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE FERNBROOK PARK RESTORATION PROPOSED, ALONG WITH A 10% LOCAL MATCH. ADOPTED 7 -0

4. RESOLUTION -- APPROVING AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT (IMA) BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF YONKERS AND THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER RELATED TO THE EXPANDED IN-HOME SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY PROGRAM (EISEP) CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICE GRANT, PROGRAM YEAR 2025-26 (POSITIVE FISCAL IMPACT) (ALL COUNCILMEMBERS) THE CITY IS AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT FUNDING OF \$110,534 FROM THE COUNTY WITH A REQUIRED CITY MATCH OF \$47,372, AND THAT CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES IS AUTHORIZED FOR A (1) ONE-YEAR TERM. ADOPTED 7 -0

5. RESOLUTION - SEQRA - TO DECLARE THE CITY COUNCIL'S INTENTION TO SEEK LEAD AGENCY STATUS FOR THE PURPOSES OF SEQRA REVIEW FOR THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO WASHINGTON PARK (NO FISCAL IMPACT) (ALL COUNCILMEMBERS) THE CITY WILL REVIEW POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS BEFORE IMPLEMENTING THE IMPROVEMENTS ON THE FORMER YONKERS HEALTH CENTER AT 87 NEPPERHAN WITH A NEW GREEN SPACE. ADOPTED 7 -0

6. RESOLUTION - REQUESTING NEW YORK STATE PASS LEGISLATION ALLOWING NECESSARY NON-PEDAGOGICAL SPACES TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR STATE AID FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS (NO FISCAL IMPACT.) (ALL COUNCILMEMBERS) THIS IS A REQUEST FOR THE GOVERNOR AND NY LEGISLATURE TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH BUILDING AID UNITS OR TO ALLOW REIMBURSEMENT ELIGIBILITY FOR STRUCTURED OR UNDERGROUND PARKING ASSOCIATED WITH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN URBAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS. ADOPTED 7 -0

7. RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF YONKERS PROCLAIMING AND RECOGNIZING APRIL 2026 AS "ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH" THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF YONKERS. THE HISTORY OF ARAB AMERICANS IN THE US. REMAINS NEGLECTED OR DEFACED BY MISCONCEPTIONS, BIGOTRY, AND ANTI-ARAB HATE IN THE FORMS OF CRIMES AND SPEECH. THIS MONTH ALLOWS US TO RECOGNIZE ALL THE INCREDIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS AND HERITAGE OF ARAB AMERICANS AND HOW THEY HAVE HELPED US BUILD A BETTER NATION. ADOPTED 7 -0

8. RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF YONKERS DECLARING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2026 "AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH" AND DECLARING APRIL 2, 2026 AS "AUTISM AWARENESS DAY" THIS MONTH AND DAY ARE TO BRING AWARENESS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE GLOBAL HEALTH CRISIS OF AUTISM DISORDERS, AND TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND EARLY INTERVENTION, AND TO CELEBRATE THE

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## Jews Learn Situational Awareness and Practice Self-Defense



(L-R) Steve Sachs, second from right, taught self defense to Chabad of Yonkers Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz and others, using sticks, shovels and other materials. Photos (c) Robert Kalfus



By Robert Kalfus

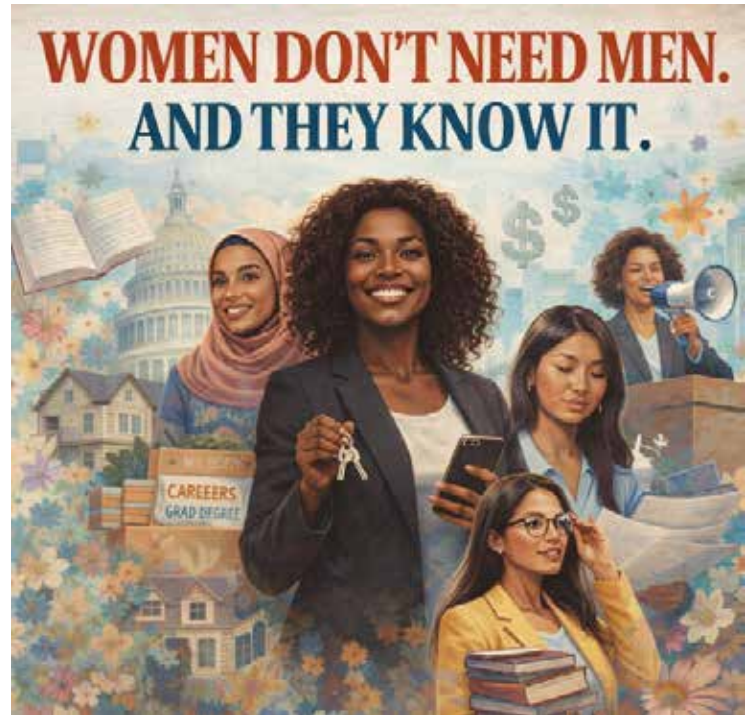
An awareness of situations and events here in America and events worldwide led synagogue members to want to start learning basic self-defense tactics. Synagogue member Steve Sachs, who has learned, practiced and taught self-defense for the past 26 years, volunteered to teach situational awareness and practical self-defense.

Mr. Sachs described how to avoid or prevent situations in which one might be trapped, and injured, recognizing and finding common items readily at hand to use for self-defense, and how “verbal ju-jitsu” could de-escalate a situation and avoid the possibility of danger. When walking along the street, be aware of reflections in store windows to see if you are being followed; if you have a tingly sense of danger, listen to your senses; use your wide peripheral vision without moving your eyes or head, and more.

Jews must love themselves, and all others, defend themselves with strength while doing mitzvot. Classes will continue at the Chabad of Yonkers, giving participants additional knowledge, training, experience and practical self-defense skills.

*continued on pg 9-*

## Women Don't “Need” Men and They Know It



By: Dennis Richmond, Jr.

For most of American history, women were told their future depended on men — a husband, a father, a boss, or a provider. In 2026, that idea is down the drain. Across America, women are graduating from college in record high numbers, earning their own money, buying their own homes, and building lives that no longer require male permission. From New York to Alabama, from Black women to white women, from Christian churches to Muslim mosques, the message is becoming clear: women don't need men the way they once did — and everyone knows it.

According to data from the Pew Research Center, women now earn more college degrees than men at every level of higher education in the United States. Based on recent national education statistics, nearly half of women ages 25 to 34 have a bachelor's degree, compared with roughly one-third of men in the same age group. Researchers also report that women have earned most bachelor's degrees in America for more than 40 years, and the gap continues to grow.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, women make up most students on college campuses across the country, with millions more women enrolled than men. Based on enrollment trends over the last decade, this difference is expected to continue, meaning the next generation of profes

*continued on pg 11-*

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## DA Cacace and Homeland Security Intercept 12 Kilos of Cocaine Headed for White Plains Street Value of \$1 Million



Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) New York Acting Special Agent in Charge Michael Alfonso announced today the interception of a package containing 12 kilograms of cocaine, with a street value of approximately \$1 million, that was en route to a White Plains address.

Reported overdoses are up in Westchester County, rising from 639 in 2024 to 652 in 2025. While overdose fatalities have decreased during this time period, this is largely attributable to the increased adoption of naloxone, commonly known as Narcan.

Increasingly, new, synthetic drugs, such as K2, are being distributed which threaten to undo the downward trend in fatalities.

DA Cacace said: "Westchester has managed to bring down the number of overdose fatalities, even with the number of overdoses rising overall. Nevertheless, interceptions like the one announced today offer a glimpse at how persistent this problem remains. Investigators in our office work around the clock with our federal partners to detect and intercept illicit substances bound for Westchester. These anti-trafficking partnerships are essential in helping to drive overdose numbers back down."

Acting SAC Alfonso said: "The introduction of cocaine and other illegal narcotics into our neighborhoods fuels addiction and the potential for violence and instability that places every family in Westchester County, and New York State at-large, at risk. HSI New York will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Westchester County District Attorney's Office and our local law enforcement partners to disrupt these networks and safeguard the communities we serve."

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*City Council Decisions, continued from pg 5*

UNIQUE TALENTS AND QUALITIES OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM DISORDERS. ADOPTED 7 -0

9. RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF YONKERS PROCLAIMING AND RECOGNIZING MARCH 29, 2026, AS NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY AND WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY IN THE CITY OF YONKERS. MEMBERS OF THE ARMED SERVICES FROM THE CITY OF YONKERS, WHO HONORABLY SERVED THIS STATE AND NATION, DESERVE A SPECIAL SALUTE FROM THIS LEGISLATIVE BODY. MORE THAN 58,000 MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES LOST THEIR LIVES IN VIETNAM AND MORE THAN 300,000 MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WERE WOUNDED: THIS LEGISLATIVE BODY PAUSES ITS DELIBERATIONS TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE BRAVERY, PATRIOTISM, and sacrifice of women. ADOPTED 7 -0

10. RESOLUTION URGING NEW YORK STATE TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL RELIEF AND EQUITABLE FUNDING FOR YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THE YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT IS PROJECTING A \$101 MILLION STRUCTURAL BUDGET GAP FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027, THREATENING THE CONTINUATION OF ESSENTIAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES. THIS IS A REQUEST THAT THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW YORK STATE PROVIDE IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL RELIEF AND TARGETED EDUCATION INVESTMENTS FOR THE YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS DURING THE FINAL NEGOTIATIONS OF THE FY 2027 NEW YORK STATE BUDGET. ADOPTED 7 -0

11. LOCAL LAW – AMENDING ARTICLE IX OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF YONKERS IN RELATION TO PRIVATE CONNECTION WITH WATER SUPPLY. (POSITIVE FISCAL IMPACT.) (ALL COUNCILMEMBERS.) THIS LOCAL LAW UPDATES THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATING CERTAIN WATER SYSTEM REGULATIONS IN YONKERS, UPDATING THE FINE FROM A \$250 MAXIMUM TO A \$1,000 MAXIMUM AND MAY ALSO BE JAILED FOR UP TO 15 DAYS OR BOTH A FINE AND JAIL TIME. ADOPTED 7 -0

12. LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 31 TO ADD SECTION 31-30a, TITLED “DYNAMIC PRICING PROHIBITED” OF ARTICLE III OF CHAPTER 31 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF YONKERS. THIS WOULD BAN DYNAMIC PRICING IN YONKERS’ RETAIL STORES. DYNAMIC PRICING IS WHEN PRICING IS SUDDENLY RAISED OR LOWERED DURING DAY-BASED DEMAND, WEATHER, COMPUTER-GENERATED PRICING, ETC. IF THIS LAW PASSES, PRICES IN YONKERS RETAIL STORES WOULD NEED TO STAY CONSISTENT THROUGHOUT THE DAY, INSTEAD OF FLUCTUATING. ADOPTED 7 -0

13. RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, PURSUANT TO ARTICLES VII AND IX OF THE CITY’S ZONING ORDINANCE, TO APPROVE A SITE PLAN AND SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR A PROPOSED FILM STUDIO AT BLOCK: 3182 LOT: 2 ON THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 501 HAWTHORNE AVENUE, ZONED “MG” DISTRICT. APPROVED A NEW FILM STUDIO, INCLUDING ITS LAYOUT AND SPECIAL ZONING PERMISSION.) ADOPTED 7 -0

14. RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, PURSUANT TO ARTICLES VII AND IX OF THE CITY’S ZONING ORDINANCE, TO APPROVE A SITE PLAN AND SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR SITE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EXISTING OFFICE BUILDING LOCATED AT BLOCK 6224, LOT 32 ON THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 81 CUMBERLAND DRIVE AKA 750 MCLEAN AVENUE, ZONED “BR” DISTRICT. APPROVED RENOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO AN EXISTING OFFICE BUILDING. ADOPTED 7 -0

15. RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45 OF THE CITY’S CODE, TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING BOARD AND THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION BOARD TO EXPAND THE PHILIPSE MANOR HISTORIC DISTRICT AT BLOCK: 2003 LOTS: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, AND 8 ON THE PROPERTIES KNOWN AS 6, 10, 12, 14, 16 & 20 WARBURTON AVENUE, YONKERS, NEW YORK. EXPANDED THE HISTORIC DISTRICT TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES TO PROTECT THEIR HISTORIC CHARACTER. ADOPTED 7 -0

## In Attendance:

City Council President Lakisha Collins Bellamy, Council President  
Majority Leader – John Rubbo, District 4  
Majority Whip – Deana Norman, District 1  
Minority Leader – Mike Breen, District 5  
Councilmember Corazon Pineda-Isaac, District 2  
Councilmember Tim Hodges, District 6

## Passover Pointed to the Deliverance Communion Memorializes

*Judith Niewiadomski, Yonkers*

God’s covenant with His people changed over time. The Mosaic covenant was conditional; if the people fulfilled it they would be preserved and blessed, if they broke it, disaster would follow. With 631 laws to remember, human frailties, and pagan cultures surrounding them, no ordinary man could fulfill the Mosaic law perfectly. The children of Israel, despite the guardrails and instruction of the law, often fell into idolatry. Consequently, pagan enemies prevailed and they were often enslaved and dispersed into foreign countries, or suffered under evil kings of their own nation.

The law was a teaching tool to lead people to Christ: “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.” (Galatians 3:24), not a means of salvation in itself. Logically, salvation can not be by works of the law because imperfect men cannot perfect themselves. “Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge [recognition, acknowledgment, discernment] of sin.” (Romans 3:20) The law pointed to the man, the Lamb of God, the Messiah He would send. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8, 9) “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh. “ (Romans 8:3)

Two main purposes of the law were to keep the people from becoming so corrupt that they were irredeemable, and to teach them to look for the Messiah. Since no other man could obey the law perfectly, they could not work their way to God. That required the unblemished lamb of God to fulfill the law completely and thereby fulfilling it, and making a new covenant which superceded it available.

Understanding how and why the Passover was superceded by the memorial of communion, requires an accurate understanding of when Jesus Christ was killed. “Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats. And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.” (Exodus 12:5, 6) Evening, in Hebrew ereb means the time from noon until sunset. Jesus Christ died at what would be 3:00 p.m. by our reckoning.

Biblical records show that Jesus Christ was killed on the 14th of Nisan, the preparation day for the Passover. The high Sabbath of the first day of the Passover feast begins at sundown, the 15th of Nisan. “Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.” (John 13:1) Jesus Christ also knew the spiritual significance of God’s timing: he would be the Passover lamb for all time, the perfect Lamb of God. One of the essential details indicating that the “Last Supper” was NOT the Passover meal was that Jesus Christ and his disciples were sitting down. An essential protocol of the Passover meal is that it must be eaten standing up and dressed for travel. “And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD’S passover.” (Exodus 12:11) Healing was part of the original Passover. Approximately two and a half million people left Egypt after the Passover. Yet, despite years of the most brutal slavery, with physical demands that were designed to cut down their numbers, “He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes.” (Psalm 105:37) Forgiveness of sins, originally represented by the blood on the doorposts and healing, represented by the eating of the lamb, were features of the first Passover. “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. “ (Isaiah 53:5) Because the Passover was a representation of what was to come, it was to be repeated every year, looking forward to its ultimate fulfillment. But once the Messiah had come, believers were to claim their forgiveness and healing by looking back to what Jesus Christ accomplished. “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.” (1 Peter 2:24)

Cultural differences such as when the new day started, and traditions added long after the Word of God was written down, gave rise to false assumptions about when Jesus Christ was killed. Modern Western calendars that reckon the new day from midnight have obscured the truth. At the time of Jesus Christ, the new day started at sunset, which is still the case in the Jewish calendar. Without refrigeration, the killing of the Passover lamb could not happen on one afternoon and then be cooked and eaten 24 hours or more later at the evening meal. When the new day is reckoned at sunset, killing, cleaning, and preparing and cooking the lamb occurs within a few hours.

Memorials are established by friends or family after someone has died. But Jesus Christ was the only man with the God-given authority to establish a memorial of the new covenant, a remembrance of what his death and suffering accomplished for those who believe on him. Bread and wine are metaphors for his life’s blood payment for sins and his tortured body for healing for our sin-corrupted body. The memorial reminds us that we no longer have to wait for the Messiah to come, but to bring the good news that he had come into every part of the earth; the price was paid and believers could do the works that he did and greater works. “For this is [represents] (metaphor) ] my blood of the new testament [covenant] which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” (Matthew 26:28)

God knows in His foreknowledge the technical, political, and cultural changes in life on Earth. He knew that people would move to other areas of the world, that the Temple would be destroyed, that it would not be possible for most people to sacrifice an animal. So God designed and taught Jesus Christ a memorial that could be done anywhere two or more were gathered in his name: the bread and wine of communion.

The painful work of redemption has been done, the memorial of communion is a time of thankfulness and celebration for forgiveness and healing.

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*Merante for State Senate, continued from pg 1-*

is positioning himself as a disruptor willing to take on the political establishment head on. "Albany is out of control," he said. "One party rule has created zero accountability, and everyday New Yorkers are paying the price."

Merante points to high taxes, rising costs, and an ongoing exodus of residents as proof the system is failing. "Working families are being pushed out. Seniors cannot afford to stay. Families are being split apart just to survive," he said. "That is not progress. That is failure." He also slammed state policies on housing, energy, and utilities, calling them disconnected from reality. "Albany keeps forcing top-down mandates on local communities while ignoring what those policies are actually doing to neighborhoods," Merante said. "Meanwhile, Con Edison keeps raising rates and crushing families and small businesses, and no one in power is stopping it."

Merante says his campaign will focus on restoring public safety, cutting spending, and putting taxpayers first. "This campaign is about the people who feel like nobody is fighting for them anymore," he said. "I am running to bring common sense back to government and hold Albany accountable." After nearly a decade on the Yonkers City Council, he says he is ready to take that fight statewide. "I have taken on tough fights before, and I am ready to do it again. New York has become the tax and spend capital of the country, and it is time to turn that around."

Merante has secured backing from the Yonkers Republican Party, along with support from the Greenburgh and Mt. Pleasant GOP. With petitioning underway, his campaign is focused on getting on the ballot ahead of the April 2 deadline. "We are out there every day collecting signatures," Merante said. "We will be on the ballot, and we are in this to win."

*Self defense, continued from pg 6-*

Chabad of Yonkers offers a delicious and meaningful, community Passover Seder on Wednesday April 1, at 7 pm, Passover's first night, with a three course dinner, four cups of wine or grape juice, traditional Seder food, and handmade shmurah matzah. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Contact Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz at (914) 963-8888 or JewishYonkers.com.



**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) # 2026 – 01**

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR CO-DEVELOPMENT PARTNER FOR THE MHACY HOMEOWNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE**

**The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers, NY (the Authority) is soliciting Statements of Qualifications and Proposals from development firms interested in partnering with the MHACY for a Homeownership Development Initiative for work under a single award contract with the Authority for a five (5)-year term.**

**This RFQ is the only information provided to prospective respondents and contains submission requirements, terms, conditions, and other pertinent information for submitting a responsive proposal. The RFQ will be available online starting April 7, 2026, at [www.mhacy.org](http://www.mhacy.org).**

**The deadline for questions prospective respondents may have is April 14, 2026, at 3:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST). All questions must be emailed to [procurement@mhacy.org](mailto:procurement@mhacy.org) prior to the questions deadline. No telephone calls and/or written communication sent via mail will be accepted.**

**Proposals must reach the Authority no later than 3:00 PM (EST) on April 30, 2026. Late submissions will be handled in accordance with the provisions in Form HUD-5369B.**

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

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

Wilson Kimball  
President & CEO  
Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers  
1511 Central Park Avenue  
Yonkers, New York 10710  
Project No. RFQ 2026-01

CORPORATION NOTICE

CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 5:00 pm, Mayor's Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 43 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS TITLED "ZONING" BY AMENDING ARTICLE XV IN RELATION TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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

MIKE SPANO

Mayor

Date: March 25, 2026

**Yonkers Rising**

PO Box 705, Yonkers NY 10702-914-815-1388. Proudly serving the the people of Yonkers with hyperlocal news. Member NY Press Association. Legal notice inquiries to: [risinglegalnotice@gmail.com](mailto:risinglegalnotice@gmail.com). Daniel Murphy, Publisher & Editor in Chief, [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com). Bayan Baker, Assistant to the Editor in Chief [risingmediagroup@gmail.com](mailto:risingmediagroup@gmail.com).

Notice of formation of JJ VILL, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/29/2025. 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, 64 Mountaindale Road, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity

Notice of formation of Senara & Co, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/29/2026. NY office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served is 455 Tarrytown Road, Suite 1307, White Plains, NY 10607. Purpose/character of LLC: Any lawful purpose.

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.

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## Letter to the Editor: Who Is Going to Pay for These Electric School Buses?

By Dan Murphy

Two NY Government watchdogs have written about the upcoming decision by NYS Government and Governor Kathy Hochul to scale back New York's Essential Health Plan, which provides health care to 1.9 Million New Yorkers.

One story, written by the Fiscal Policy Institute, summarizes the issue, and we agree with their call to have the Governor and the State Legislator take action, so that 470,000 current enrollees, including 17,632 in Westchester, don't lose their coverage. By Fiscal Policy Institute (<https://fiscalspolicy.org/statement-on-federal-approval-to-shrink-the-essential-plan>)

On March 20, 2026, New York received final federal approval for Governor Kathy Hochul's request to shrink the Essential Plan by lowering eligibility from 250 percent to 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Line. This proposal will allow New York to maintain Essential Plan coverage for 1.3 million New Yorkers earning less than 200 percent of the poverty line—but unless the State takes immediate action it will also strip coverage for 470,000 enrollees earning above that amount, beginning in July 2026. New York has ample resources to provide alternative coverage to this population. In her Fiscal Year 2027 executive budget proposal, Governor Hochul set aside approximately \$2.5 billion in FY27 and \$3.5 billion in future years to provide Medicaid coverage to some Essential Plan enrollees if the State did not receive federal approval for its request to maintain the Essential Plan. Now that the State has received federal approval these funds are no longer needed for that purpose. The State can and should use this newly available \$2.5 billion to protect coverage for those threatened with loss of the Essential Plan. Past work by FPI has shown that this sum is more than sufficient, and a recent report by the Community Service Society demonstrates that the State could cover all affected populations for \$2.4 billion. Previous work from FPI has shown that the impact of Essential Plan loss would be felt statewide: 233,000 New York City residents are set to lose coverage in July alongside 70,000 Long Islanders, 47,000 residents of the Hudson Valley, 26,000 people in Western New York, and tens of thousands of others across the state. Following the announcement of federal approval, Fiscal Policy Institute Health Policy Director Michael Kinnucan released the following statement: "Now that Governor Hochul's request to shrink the Essential Plan has received federal approval, half a million New Yorkers are four months away from losing their health insurance. This coverage cliff represents the largest and most rapid loss of access to healthcare in New York's history and would have catastrophic consequences for our state's healthcare system. The legislature must act to use existing financial plan resources or new revenue to protect New Yorkers' healthcare."

A total of 59,254 Westchester residents are currently enrolled in the Essential Plan. We agree with the FPI that funding should be provided to help these New Yorkers keep their Essential Plan coverage and subsidy.

Do you know someone who will lose coverage? We do.

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THE CITY OF YONKERS/YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS, BUREAU OF PURCHASING, One Larkin Center, 3RD Floor, Yonkers, New York 10701 (Located in the Yonkers Riverfront Library Building across from the Metro-North train station) will receive sealed Bids and Proposals for the following projects until 2:00 PM, on the dates below.

Sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read at the address above in the 3rd Floor Finance Conference Room.

The building is open from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM for receiving packages via courier services and in person. If delivering bids in person, individuals must see the Public Safety Officer in the library atrium, who will contact Purchasing to meet the individual at the 3rd floor elevator.

Those interested in listening to the Sealed Bids opening and the reading of bids can dial Conference Call number 1-701-802-5221 and enter Access Code 1354203 when prompted.

Solicitation documents are available for downloading from the Empire State Purchasing Group website at <http://www.empirestatebidsystem.com/>. The City welcomes and encourages participation by local and minority and women owned business enterprises.

1. Bid No. IFB-7602 - Opening Date: 04/24/2026: Phase 2 of 2 - Building & Site Upgrades PS30 (AC).
2. Bid No. IFB-7604 - Opening Date: 04/01/2026: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, for the on-call Public Right-of-Way Improvements for the City and Yonkers School District (KS).
3. Bid No. RFB-7605 - Opening Date: 04/10/2026: Twenty-Four (24) Month Contract for Maintenance, Repairs and Parts for Ross Control Valves (AC).
4. Bid No. IFB-7607 - Opening Date: 04/24/2026: Hi Tech Security Gibran School 28 (TN).
5. Bid No. RFB-7610 - Opening Date: 04/17/2026: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide maintenance repairs to fire suppression systems within the City of Yonkers School District (KAS).
6. Bid No. RFB-7611 - Opening Date: 04/10/2026: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, for the purchase of Philips Hadco Roadway Luminaires and Sun-Tech Ell-123 Photo Electric Controls (or Yonkers Approved Equal) as needed (KAS).
7. Bid No. RFB-7609 - Opening Date: 04/10/2026: Twelve-month contract for On-Call Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Services at School Facilities as needed (FB).
8. Bid No. RFB-7606 - Opening Date: 04/10/2026: Twelve-month contract to provide Weed and Poison Ivy control services (FB).

I hope that you begin to report on another Green Mandate coming out of Albany. The electric bus mandate requires all school districts, starting in 2027, purchase only electric buses. Their entire fleet must transition to zero-emission electric school buses by 2035. This is already a problem because your local school districts often take an 8-year loan on something as expensive as a bus!

The Empire Center of NY claims that the electric buses are \$400,000 EACH for the larger buses that transport most students, compared to the \$160,000 price for gas-diesel buses.

We can all do the math, depending on which school district in Westchester you live in and how many buses they currently have in operation. Many school districts contract out their bus service, but those companies will pass the costs along to the school district and yes the taxpayers.

How about Yonkers, where your papers are located Mr. Murphy, what will the cost be for 250 E-Buses at \$400k a pop?

How will school districts be able to stay within the property tax cap when they are forced to purchase these E-Buses?

Also, for those areas of Westchester that are concerned about their electric bills, and the fears of blackouts, these buses will be using the same power grid that we use. And the school districts will have to pay additional millions to set up the charging stations for these buses.

For some school districts, this mandate is actually impossible, for others, it's ridiculously costly and dangerous.

I'm actually someone who believes that we need to do more for our environment, and I'm willing to pay to do it, but within reason.

With all of the national and international news occupying our attention, I hope that you will start to dig into this issue. As a senior on fixed income, it is hard enough for me to stay in my house and pay my taxes.

The Empire Center also wrote that the total bill will be \$8 billion across the state. If the Governor and the Democratic majorities in the Senate and Assembly really want to do this, they should pay for it. But in the end, I know the answer to the question in my headline. We the taxpayers will end of paying, I just wonder how much?

**Henry Woodworth, Ossining**

***Don't Tax Nicotine Pouches, continued from pg 2-***

in Long Island City. It won't sell in Lowerre, Lincoln, or Lackawanna, either.

The governor and the legislature need to drop this plan like it's hot, before the state's budget deadline rolls around."

In an interview on the Lars Larson show, Dr. Ray Niaura said.

LL: Dr. Niaura, it floors me that in the United States, they applied the same kind of vehemence to their anti-cigarette campaign that they've also applied to vaping with nicotine to all these other delivery mechanisms like pouches, like vaping, and that sort of thing. And in Great Britain, they've gone the other direction. They said, "We want to get people to stop smoking cigarettes, and that will eliminate 95% of the harm. Now I'm throwing out a number; you might disagree with it, and if so, please say so. But if we could get people to say everybody in America would stop smoking and start either vaping or using pouches or some other delivery mechanism, could we eliminate a gigantic percentage of the harm?"

RN: Yeah, I think we could, and one place to look for an example of this sort of thing happening is the country of Sweden, which now has the lowest cigarette smoking rate of all the countries in the European Union, and also has the lowest smoking-related disease rates; lung cancer is the lowest. And the reason that that is so is that the country moved over from smoking cigarettes to using Swedish snus, which is a kind of pouch-like product that delivers nicotine but without most of the toxins. And so we have, this is probably over the past 30 years or so, we've seen the epidemiology, we've seen their smoking-related disease and death rates go down. There's no reason to imagine that the same thing couldn't happen here. Except for the factors working against it.

LL: And so this vehemence that they applied to cigarettes and said first we're going to ban them, ban people from smoking in elevators, and then it's going to be public buildings, and then it's going to be private businesses, and they haven't yet gone to people's homes, at least nationwide. But when you hear that a state is saying we're going to put a gigantic tax increase, say 95% tax on tobacco pouches, is that in line with public health, or is that just about the government grabbing a bunch of money?

RN: Yeah, well, we'll leave a side to the issue of grabbing money for the moment, but yeah, I think it's misguided, and it's a missed opportunity, really. These products, and, by the way, the pouches, have recently been authorized by the FDA for protection of public health, meaning they are much safer than cigarettes. And you know if we're interested as a society in you know saving people from the you know death and disability associated with smoking cigarettes we ought to be encouraging them to move the safer products like the nicotine pouches and one way to do that would be to tax them at a lesser rate compared to cigarettes and so you know from the point of view of harm reduction again to me it's a missed opportunity." (<https://soundcloud.com/the-larslarsonshow/dr-ray-niaura-should-washington-add-a-95-tax-increase-on-tobacco-pouches-and-other-products-that-help-people-stop-smoking-1>).

After researching this topic, we learned another fact: New York is the 2nd-highest state for cigarette smuggling to avoid the large NYS Tax of \$4.35 per pack. -\$43.50 per carton.

A study by the Tax Foundation found that 51.8% of the cigarettes sold in New York State are smuggled in, and the state does not collect a tax on them. The Tax Foundation also determined that a total of 186 MILLION packs of cigarettes are smuggled in untaxed, resulting in a loss of \$812 MILLION in revenue. (<https://taxfoundation.org/data/all/state/cigarette-taxes-cigarette-smuggling-state/>).

A request to our Governor and State Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins. Don't tax nicotine pouches. It is helping many New Yorkers like me to quit smoking.

**Read it all Online at [Yonkerstimes.com](http://Yonkerstimes.com)**

**Yonkers History, continued from pg 3-**

Thursday, April 2nd

April 2, 1926: Pioneer merchant Charles Culver passed away; his dry goods store at 5-7 Main Street was the largest shop in Yonkers. Culver's home was at 149 North Broadway.

April 2, 1930: Spurned admirer Thomas Alonzo regained consciousness. Medical Examiner Squire announced he believed Alonzo would recover. Chief Quirk and Lieutenant George Ford Questioned him.

Mrs. Nunez in St. Joseph's Hospital was expected to fully recover.

Friday, April 3rd

April 3, 1945: The Yonkers Historical Society placed a bronze plaque near the historic Odell Tree on Odell Avenue. Believed to be close to 1000 years old, the Odell Oak was the "oldest living thing in Yonkers."

April 3, 1965: The Northwest Yonkers Civic Association sponsored a forum on riverfront development; 150 people attended the four-hour meeting.

Officials described a potential airstrip on the Hudson at the northernmost part of our Yonkers waterfront at a cost \$7.5 million, with the federal government paying half. The general aviation airfield would be for private airplanes owned by corporations.

Planes would drop off passengers, then leave; there would be no hangars or facilities, and limited "tie-down" capability. The Yonkers Chamber of Commerce championed the plan; they had worked to bring air services to Yonkers for more than ten years. The consensus? Yonkers people needed more information!

Saturday, April 4th

April 4, 1934: Cora Porter, a Director of the SPCA, rescued a pheasant in Getty Square! She spotted it wandering North Broadway after 9:00 pm, looking at the windows. When it then tried to run across the street, the bird was scared by the cars and the noise of the Square; it tried to fly but couldn't. When it finally reached the Singer Sewing Machine Company, it fell; with the assistance of a passerby, Cora captured the bird, and brought it to the SPCA shelter at the nearby police stable.

April 4, 1941: Two Yonkers companies received large contracts from Navy Supplies in Washington. Habirshaw Cable and Wire Corporation received a large order for electric cable; National Sugar Refining Corporations received a contract for more than \$150,000 of granulated sugar.

Sunday, April 5th

April 5, 1928: The life of thirty-six year old Patrick Wall of St. Joseph's Avenue was saved by the quick thinking of Elm Street coworker Marvin Oakley!

Both men were employees of Yonkers Electric Light and Power Company; Wall stepped on a 1200-volt live wire while working on a Warburton Avenue pole and knocked unconscious. Oakley grabbed Wall as he fell, holding on to him with one hand while clinging to the pole with his other arm.

Fellow workers Alvin Gibson and Edward Lewis quickly raised a ladder and grabbed Wall from Oakley.

The high voltage burned away both of Wall's shoes. He was treated at a nearby store for burns on the soles of both feet, and then taken home.

April 5, 1934: Cora Porter ran an ad in The Herald Statesman: "Pheasant—Found. Getty Square, Wednesday evening. Owner, Phone YOxxxx".

Now called Herbert, the pheasant was living the good life, safe in the SPCA shelter.

*Any questions on this column, email [yonkershistory1646@gmail.com](mailto:yonkershistory1646@gmail.com).*

*For information on the Yonkers Historical Society, the Sherwood House Museum on Tuckahoe Road or their upcoming events, please visit their website [www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org](http://www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org), call 914-961-8940 or email [info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org).*

Notice of formation of METROMEN MUSIC LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/26/2026. 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 Entity Protect Registered Agent Services LLC. 447 Broadway, 2nd Fl. - #3000, New York, NY 10013, the designated registered agent of METROMEN MUSIC LLC. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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**Lady Eagles, continued from pg 1-**

Eagles defense shutting down Mechanicville

The next day, March 21, was the Class B Championship against Chenango Forks HS. YMA had never been this far before, and Chenango was the favorite. Many speculated that it was a great season for YMA to get this far.

But the Lady Eagles stormed out to a 9-0 lead with 3, 3 pointers, and they led for most of the game.

All of the Lady Eagles starters played a great game: Liliana Toro, Emilee Doherty, Keira Peters, Grace Gleeson, and 8th grader Arsela Mustafaj coming off the bench.

Chenango came back late in the 4th quarter to tie the game, which went into overtime. Credit the Lady Eagles for never losing focus or getting nervous in the biggest game of their lives.

After the game, as their bus arrived in Yonkers, the Lady Eagles were welcomed by a Yonkers Police Department escort.

"Congrats to the Yonkers Montessori Academy girls basketball team who brought home the NYSPHSAA Class B State Championship title yesterday!

"They got back late, but YPD and YFD were there to meet them as they got off the highway and escort them back to school to the cheers of parents, fans, and neighbors! Congrats girls!" wrote the YPD.

In his state of the City Mayor Mike Spano congratulated the team, who was in attendance for his address in the Riverfront Library auditorium.

Some comments included:

Kevin Devaney-Game one day broadcaster and a big high school basketball reporter in Westchester. "I never thought I'd see the day. But a Yonkers City school has won a state basketball championship. Unbelievable what @YMA\_GirlsHoops has done with this program.

Another comment, "When you form a culture and invest in your team anything is possible." One man is responsible for building the YMA Lady Eagles into a high school basketball powerhouse! That is head coach Elie Moise.

Coach Moise has been able to bring together a group of young girls, with only one senior graduating this year, #32 Arsela Mustafaj, and win a State Championship.

Last year YMA made it into the playoffs and was on a mission to make it upstate for the Final Four. And they did it and won it all!

Coach Elie has the girls believing they can win every game they go into. And they play great defense and work together as a team. They support each other and it is truly a team effort.

And yes, let's let the Lady Eagles and Coach Elie relish their State Title, but the future is bright for YMA, with almost every player coming back, and another 8th grader coming who is also special, so I'm told.

Congratulations!

**Women Don't Need Men, continued from pg 6-**

professionals — teachers, doctors, lawyers, journalists, scientists, and business leaders — will include more women than ever before.

Education has led to massive independence, and independence has changed the way women live. According to U.S. Census Bureau data, more women than ever are living alone, delaying marriage, or choosing not to marry at all. In large cities like New York as well as smaller towns across the South, women are building careers first and deciding later whether they even want a partner. Based on labor statistics, women now make up nearly half of the American workforce and are present in almost every profession, from medicine and law to construction, politics, and technology.

This change crosses race, religion, and region. According to federal education reports, Black women are among the most educated groups in the United States. Based on college completion data, Asian American women and white women graduate at very high rates, while Latina women have also increased college attendance dramatically over the past two decades. In churches, mosques, and community centers across the country, women are working, studying, leading, and supporting themselves in ways that were rare just a generation ago.

But independence does not mean life is easier. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, women still earn less money on average than men.

For some folks the "women don't need men," reality is major progress. For others, it is confusing, stressful, and really frightening. Family dynamics, dating, and expectations are changing.

But one fact is clear. Women are winning in America.

Dennis Richmond, Jr. (@NewYorkStakz) is a journalist, historian, and educator from Yonkers, NY. He writes to uplift unheard voices, honor history, and inspire change.

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