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Friday March 3, 2023

Spano Gets Unanimous Support from Yonkers Dem. Exec. Committee for Reelection

Shanae Williams Also Nominated Over Chris Johson for BOL

SLC & Beczak Duke it Out

Bob Walters and Ken Jenks Agree to Disagree

By Dan Murphy

So this story broke late as we were going to press, but we wanted to begin our coverage and discussion. The Journal News, and longtime reporter David MacKay Wilson wrote a story about a dispute between the Beczak Environmental Center and Sarah Lawrence College. Several years ago Sarah Lawrence began a partnership with Beczak for use of their environmental center, located on the banks of the Hudson River in downtown Yonkers. Both the property and the building are owned by Westchester County and leased to Beczak, for another 5 years. Deputy County Executive Ken Jenks has proposed an idea to use earmarked Westchester County Capital funds to make repairs to the building, which would eventually lead to Sarah Lawrence College taking control of the center. Bob Walters, the President of Beczak, opposes the idea and says that most of the repairs are not needed. Walters, the former Captian of the Science Barge, also had an analysis of the improvements needed by Architect Steve Tilly, who found that the repairs needed did not come close to the \$1.9 Million in repairs that were estimated to be urgently needed. Another interesting part of this story is that County Legislator Christopher Johnson, and City Councilwoman Shanae Williams, both said that the proposal was poorly discussed and planned, and both lent their support to Beczak. Johnson and Williams are facing off in a democratic primary for Johnson's county board seat in a democratic primary in June. Johnson's comments in the LoHud story are against the views of the Deputy County Executive. Some see a possible split between the two, but others says it ain't so. Things are getting so hot on both sides that Bob Walters called Jenkins "a liar" in the JN story, based on the belief that the center needs close to \$2 Million in repairs. "This is unjust and both Jenkins and Sarah Lawrence College are presenting bad information to the public. This is doing a disservice to the community. Sarah Lawrence College is absolutely not involved in the community to the extend that Beczak is. We have been here since 1992. Sarah Lawrence wants control of this building, they want it for themselves, and they are using a lie to get control of it. There are no health and safety issues with this building. More on this story next week.



By Dan Murphy

The Yonkers Democratic Party's Executive Committee met last week and made news with two of its endorsements. Mayor Mike Spano was unanimously nominated to be the Democratic Party's candidate for Mayor this November. Spano is expected to have at least one opponent in the democratic primary in June, so the fact that neither one of his opponents tossed their hat into the ring of consideration by the Yonkers Democratic Executive Committee came as a surprise to some. Yonkers Democratic Chair Tom Meier confirmed that Spano was the only name placed in nomination for Mayor. "I think that the other candidates didn't want to put their name up when they realized that Mayor Spano was going to win. It shows that Mayor Spano remains strong in the democratic party," said Meier. But he is also well liked and supported by all parts of the City and the successes under his leadership. I'm glad that the democratic party nominated him to continue his leadership," said Meier. So far, other announced candidates including City Councilwoman Corazon Pineda-Isaac, educator Margaret Fountain-Coleman and comedian Prince Robinson. With petitions now out, democrats are waiting to see which candidates get on the ballot for Mayor. The other major takeaway from the Yonkers Dems. Exec. Committee was their endorsements of Councilwoman Shanae Williams for the Westchester County Board-District 16. Williams was the choice over the incumbent county legislator, Christopher Johnson. Williams received about 60% of the vote of the Ward Leaders in the Yonkers Democratic Party, with Johnson getting 40%. Chairman Meier said that he was not surprised that Williams won this first step in the process. "I had heard Shanae was making calls and working hard. I also heard that Legislator Johnson was making calls but too late. I think the result shows that democrats in Shanae's council district appreci-

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Animal-Free Flip Circus Kicks Off US Tour in Yonkers



Ringmaster Arthur Figueroa opens Flip Circus' U.S. Tour in Yonkers March 3

Flip Circus is returning to Yonkers, and the Cross County Center for a 17-day stay starting March 3-20. Last year, the response to Flip Circus in Yonkers was so great that the owners, the Vazquez family, who has brought their circus to families for more than 50 years, decided to start their 2023 National tour here! The acts in the Flip Circus include the traditional offerings of a ringmaster, clowns, trapeze artists, contortionists, daredevils and jugglers. No animals appear in the show. Performers this year include: Ukraine's high-energy Bingo Troupe (a completely different group from last year's show). This Troupe was a big hit with Yonkers Rich Ukrainian community. Ringmaster Arthur Figueroa who overcame the fact that he is a little person and began his career as a Ringling Bros. clown. The magnificent Bello Sisters, finalists on America's Got Talent. Fourth-generation performer Carolina Vazquez. The daring Duo Vanegas who defy gravity on the 30-foot Wheel of Steel. Italy's "siblings of silliness" – audience favorites Stiv & Roni Bello and more! Ringmaster Figueroa is originally from Monterrey, Mexico. He has more than 40 years in the circus and live entertainment business. He has played many roles including as a clown, comedian, actor, and now Ringmaster. He is very passionate about traveling and discovering new horizons. He is a veteran of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, where he performed as a clown for many years. This is his second year as Ringmaster of Flip Circus. We asked Figueroa- What is it like to be a Ringmaster? Being Ringmaster of Flip Circus is a privilege and I love getting to present these incredible artists to our audiences. Plus I get to enjoy their great talents up close.

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ArtsWestchester Honors Yonkers Artist Haifa Bint-Kadi



Haifa Bint-Kadi
For Advancing Equity & Social Justice

ArtsWestchester announced that it will recognize one artist and one organization with an Advancing Equity Award this spring. The Advancing Equity Award is a cornerstone program in ArtsWestchester's commitment to social justice and recognizes a nonprofit organization and artist for their leadership in advancing social justice, equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility through and in the arts. Haifa Bint-Kadi of Yonkers has been selected as the 2023 Advancing Equity artist recipient and The LOFT LGBTQ+ Community Center of White Plains has been selected as the winner of the Advancing Equity Organization Award. To support Bint-Kadi's ongoing work and commitment to service, the artist award comes with a \$5,000 prize. The Advancing Equity Organization Award comes with a \$25,000 recognition prize. Janet T. Langsam, CEO of ArtsWestchester explains, "ArtsWestchester seeks to amplify the diverse voices of our multi-cultural and multi-ethnic communities through the arts. The Advancing Equity Award recognizes those organizations and artists who have been leaders in creating systemic change towards a more just, diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible society. Their work in Westchester can serve as a model and inspiration for all." More About the 2023 Advancing Equity Award Winners: Haifa Bint-Kadi holds an M.F.A. from Istituto d'Arte per il mosaico in Ravenna, Italy and has been designing and fabricating public art mosaics since 1993. Haifa's most recent commission is from the Children's Museum of Manhattan to design and create an installation for their 2014 Muslim Cultures exhibit. She explains, "I was born and raised in New Jersey, but my Arab heritage has influenced the construction of my identity and often in relation to the concept of Other...My work explores issues of gender equality, identity, cultural scrutiny and socio-political scenarios that construct representations of the Other. I intensely

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Girl Scouts Visit City Hall



Mayor Mike Spano recently welcomed members of Girl Scout Troop 1582 from Yonkers, to City Hall, above. The Girl Scouts learned about the Mayor's duties before heading up to the City Council chambers, where they were welcomed by City Council Majority Leader Tahsa Diaz, right.

Girl Scouts everywhere are embarking on a fun, skill-building adventure through the Girl Scout Cookie Program! Using a hybrid model of online ordering and the return of in-person selling, cookie entrepreneurs in your community are ready to get you your favorites while earning money for activities with their troops.

So, if you know a Girl Scout, let her know you're ready to support her. If you don't, here's another way to get delicious cookies and support local Girl Scouts.



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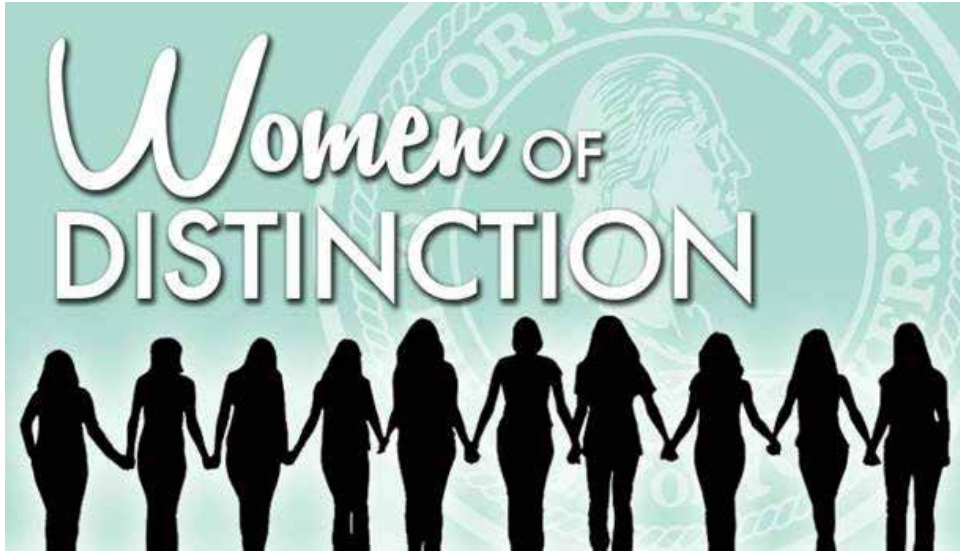
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City of Yonkers Accepting “Women of Distinction” Award Nominations



In Celebration of Women’s History Month, Annual Awards Ceremony Celebrates the Yonkers Women Who Positively Impact the Community

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano today announced the City of Yonkers vpting nominations for the city’s annual “Women of Distinction” Award, presented each year during March to celebrate Women’s History Month. The annual “Women of Distinction” Award recognizes Yonkers women who have served their local community and positively impacted the lives of Yonkers residents. Nominations for Women of Distinction are to be submitted at www.YonkersNY.gov.

“Many of our women in Yonkers are our community leaders, educators and agents of social change,” said Mayor Mike Spano. “I encourage our Yonkers residents to nominate the heroes in their lives for our Women of Distinction Award.”

The deadline to submit a nomination is Wednesday, March 15; the award ceremony will be held on Wednesday, March 22 at 6:00 pm at Yonkers City Hall (Ceremonial Courtroom, 4th Floor). In collaboration with the Mayor, winners will be selected by the Mayor’s Women’s Advisory Board and will be notified on Friday, March 17th.

About Women’s History Month

Women’s History Month originated in 1981 when Congress passed a resolution requesting President Reagan to commemorate “Women’s History Week.” The President proclaimed the week beginning on March 7, 1982 as the first Women’s History Week and the nation continued to designate a week in March as Women’s History Week until 1987 when the month of March was officially declared “Women’s History Month.” Learn more at www.womenshistorymonth.gov.

Circus, continued from pg 1-

What are some of the new things families can expect to see in the new edition of Flip Circus? The expectations are very high because last year’s show was so well-received and we are determined to present a new show that is as exciting or even more exciting than last year’s. For our new show, we’ve brought together many new acts. Audiences will definitely enjoy the experience of being so close to the performances in our intimate big top tent.

What is your favorite part of being a Ringmaster? As a Ringmaster, I really enjoy working with so many talented artists from around the world and seeing the joy on the faces of the children and adults when they watch our show. The circus is a magical place where amazing things take place and as Ringmaster, I get to be the audience’s guide through it all.

How did you get involved in the circus business? I was around 14 years old when I started working in a circus in Mexico. A year later, I took a break to continue with my academic studies. When I was 18, I focused once again on my career as a performer and over the years, I have worked as a clown, a physical comedian and now as Ringmaster.

Metro NYC dates for Flip Circus include: Yonkers (March 3-20), Staten Island (March 24-April 10) and Long Island (April 14-24). For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <https://tickets.flipcircus.com/>

A Robbery Too Close for Comfort

By Eric Wolf Schoen



The company has been in business since the 1964. They started out selling hot coffee broadening their selection to the 10 or so varieties they offer every day today. No matter what time of day you are guaranteed a fresh cup of coffee or the coffee is free. I like the hazelnut coffee, three sweet and low, a touch of hazelnut creamer and fat free 1/2 and 1/2. 2% milk will work if they don’t have fat free half and half.

This month’s special is buy any size coffee and you get a free muffin. And oh boy, are the muffins good. Fresh baked daily, your selection includes corn, blueberry and French toast added last week. My diet precludes me from eating the high calorie muffin, so I will take it and give it to a friend, neighbor or someone who crosses my path. Once in a while if there is a person begging for money outside the store, I will give it to him or her. Better that they eat the muffin than I give them money which they could spend on drugs, liquor or beer available right in the store.

They have an OK selection of prepared foods with a hot roller machine featuring everything from hot dogs to cheeseburger big bites. The latter is a cheeseburger in the shape of a hot dog with cheese swirls coming out of it. Chicken is very much featured whether it be strips fried to golden goodness and various types of wings bone in and boneless. Breakfast egg sandwiches are warmed in the microwave. This is no WAWA with their made to order sandwiches and ‘Hoagie Fest’ where each 12 inch hoagie is a mere \$5.

They do have cold sandwiches which are quite tasty including tuna, egg, turkey, cold cuts and cheese as well as pre made hoagies, wedges, hero sandwiches whatever you want to call them. That’s a tough question when you live in Yonkers. The American Hoagie features all American cold cuts. The Italian sandwich has red peppers and is dressed in a vinaigrette. It’s all what they call grab and go, and you are welcome to put chili or cheese on your frankfurter as preferred.

Most communities have several of these stores. Yonkers had 2 but is now down to 1. Yes, Yonkers has many bodegas, small grocery stores like my father use to own, but if you want a slurpee you need a WAWA Or this particular store (slurpees are \$1 for a large one right now).

Lately a lot of the work done by employees in these stores involves packing orders people have sent in electronically. These order are picked up ‘by the next person on the list’ and delivered to the consumers home. Employees also make whole pizzas and slices.

These stores are run by hard working immigrants who put in 12 hour days at least 4 days a week supplemented by neighborhood people, adults and kids. These folks run the register, pack out merchandise and foods in refrigerated cases, keep the store clean and help you find what you want. Once they get their foot in the door they will bring people in from their respective countries to work 12 hour days.

My particular store has a husband and wife who had a baby maybe 18 months ago. The wife works days, 7 am to 7 pm 4 days a week. Her husband works overnights 4 days a week, 7pm to 7 am. They are very nice to their customers when the customers are nice to them. The staff for the most part is friendly and helpful. 12 hour days are not easy. Their English is not too good but they have learned a lot since they came to America.

Unfortunately, not everyone is like us, and many kids come in and help themselves to food or drink consuming it in store and not visiting the register. The chicken wings come 6 for \$5, and I have seen people take wings from one box adding extra to the box they are buying. I’ve also seen people consume their hot foods online waiting to get rung up and not paying for what they ate. Drinking their slurpee in a corner of the store so they can’t be viewed. I am convinced people are pigs.

Despite being called 7 Eleven, the store is open 24 hour a day 7 days a week. Someone probably threw away the key. I usually go to pick up milk, bread, a power drink and bottled water during the day. Sometimes when I get the urge for a snack, I’ll show up at 2 am or 3 am to fulfill my needs. It’s a good thing I wasn’t there at 3:09 last Sunday morning.

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Yonkers Police Stop Robbery at Car Dealership, Connecticut Chase

On Wednesday, February 15th, 2023, at approximately 4:18 AM, members of the Yonkers Police Department responded to the Central Avenue Chrysler dealership located at 1839 Central Park Avenue for a burglar alarm activation. Upon arrival officers observed a suspicious running vehicle parked in front – a white 2022 Dodge Durango – occupied by two masked suspects; upon seeing the police, the vehicle jumped the curb and fled southbound for a distance before executing a U-turn and pickup up a third suspect running from the dealership. The suspect vehicle continued to flee with Yonkers Police in pursuit.

Yonkers Police officers pursued the suspect vehicle on local streets and parkways in Yonkers and the Bronx, eventually following them on the Hutchinson River Parkway to the Cross Westchester Parkway and Interstate 95 into the City of Stamford, Connecticut. Thereat the suspects bailed from the Dodge Durango in the area of Houston Terrace and fled on foot. Members of the Yonkers Police Department and Stamford Police Department canvassed the area, and officers located all three suspects hiding in another vehicle; they were placed into custody without incident.

Investigation by the Yonkers Police and Stamford Police yielded that the three suspects, all males aged 17, 18, and 19 and Connecticut residents, are suspected of stealing the Dodge Durango in the Town of New Milford, CT on February 13th; then, in the early morning hours of February 15th, they allegedly burglarized a liquor store in the City of Stamford, CT before heading to Yonkers and making entry into the Chrysler dealership where they allegedly stole assorted key FOBs and several hundred dollars in cash and triggered the burglar alarm.

Commissioner Chris Sapienza stated, “Burglars, thieves, and all perpetrators of crime beware – the Yonkers Police will never tolerate the victimization of people or places in our City – we will track you down, arrest you, and deliver you into the criminal justice system and ensure that you will be held accountable for your actions. I applaud the outstanding efforts by our 1st Precinct Police Officers in denying their escape, and thank the Stamford Police Department for their assistance and collaboration in keeping both our communities safe.”

All three suspects are facing felony charges in both jurisdictions, with initial arraignments taking place in the City of Stamford, CT. The Yonkers Police Department anticipates filing burglary arrest warrant applications for the two adult suspects and execute arrest processing upon their return; until that time, their identities are being temporarily withheld. The 17-year-old juvenile suspect was arrested and arraigned locally last night on charges including Burglary 3 and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property 2 in the Youth Part of Criminal Court. The case is being prosecuted locally by the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office. Additional information may be released as it becomes available.

Petitions for 2023 Elections Are Out, Including Referendum to “Roll Back” Term Limits

By Dan Murphy

A new group called Yonkers Voters for Term Limits, announced that on February 28, the group is launching a citizens’ petition drive to place a referendum on the ballot in General Election in November, to restore reasonable term limits for the Mayor and Members of the City Council.

In a letter to the Yonkers community, give Yonkers residents explained that if successful, our referendum will roll back term limits to three consecutive terms for a total of 12 years in office, which is consistent with the County of Westchester term limit provision. An elected official, who exceeded the reimposed three term limit would be required to leave office.

All registered Yonkers voters will be able to sign the petition. A minimum of 5,000 signatures are required to be submitted to the City Clerk by early April, and to be placed on the ballot in November.

“We will be collecting signatures on our petition, and encourage all registered Yonkers voters, regardless of party, who support a three term limits to sign the petition. We need to deliver a minimum of 5,000 signatures to the City Clerk by early April. In the 1990s and 2000s, Yonkers voters approved and then reaffirmed a City Charter provision instituting term limits for our elected officials,” wrote Philip Zisman, John Murtagh, Caroline Stern, Susan McAnanama and Eileen O’Connor.

Zisman served as the Yonkers Inspector General from 1998-2010. Murtagh served on the City Council from 2004-2011 and ran for Mayor in 2011, losing to Mayor Mike Spano. O’Connor is a member of Indivisible CD16.

In 2018 and 2022, the City Council extended term limits to permit a third term (2018), and then a fourth term last year.

Candidates for Mayor will be circulating petitions this week. 1,000 valid signatures are needed to get on the democratic primary ballot for Mayor in June. Announced candidates for Mayor including Margaret Fountain-Coleman, Prince Robinson and Corazon Pineda-Isaac. In order to be safely on the ballot, democratic mayoral candidates will need close to 2,000 signatures on their petitions, which is a significant hurdle.

Candidates for City Council, Judge and County Board of Legislators will also be circulating petitions in March.

Letter to the Editor YONKERS RISING

We are awestruck and deeply grateful for the eloquent, poignant article, Animals are People too by Eric Wolf Schoen.

The internet and particularly Youtube has shown the world the sentience, the true depth of emotion and intelligence of animals...and also the horrifying, mindboggling cruelty we casually bestow upon them in the name of greed and ignorance, because its so easy to hide and no one’s checking: In horse racing, puppy mills, zoos, rodeos, factory farms, laboratories, sport hunting and even to their own homes and habitats, which we destroy by the second; avoiding also the fact that animals and nature are proven to be beneficial to human health - much less the fact that they have a right to live on this earth too. The animals and nature are part of our life, not something alien; indeed they were here before anyone else.

Along with children and the elderly, animals are the most victimized in society. But there is room in our hearts for the care of both human and non-human animals. Animal advocacy is one of the most agonizing and spirit-crushing...perhaps the most difficult such effort in the world. We see nightmare images that seem unstoppable; then the thoughtful, considerate words of Mr Schoen remind us that in 2023 there is hope.

Kiley Blackman, founder, Animal Defenders of Westchester, www.ADOW.org

Yonkers Police Investigating Smash & Grab at 7-Eleven

On Feb. 26, the Yonkers Police Department stated that Detectives are presently investigating a felony larceny incident that occurred early this morning at the 7-Eleven convenience store located at 471 McLean Avenue.

At approximately 3:09 AM, two unknown male suspects entered the store and went behind the counter; they smashed the register on the floor and removed an undisclosed amount of USC; they then fled the area in a vehicle. No weapons were displayed and there were no reported injuries.

Police have recovered the vehicle near the Bronx border; it was reported stolen out of NYC. Detectives are actively working the case in an effort to identify and apprehend the perpetrators. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call Yonkers Police Detectives at (914) 377-7725.

Enroll in TSA PreCheck at Westchester County Airport March 27-31

Save Time and Stress the Next Time You’re Flying by getting TSA PreCheck® Enroll from March 27-31 at Local White Plains Airport

TSA PreCheck® is the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) expedited security screening program for airline passengers who are considered low-risk and who qualify for the program. From Monday, March 27 through Friday, March 31, Westchester County Airport (HPN) will be working with the TSA in collaboration with IDEMIA to offer travelers the opportunity to enroll in the TSA PreCheck® program here in Westchester. This special five-day enrollment period will be available daily at Westchester County Airport at 240 Airport Road in White Plains from 9 AM–Noon and 1-5 PM in the terminal arrivals area near the baggage claim carousel.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: “Bringing the PreCheck enrollment process up here to local residents is a benefit to all Westchester travelers who don’t have the time or extra resources to go down to JFK and back just to go through the enrollment process. I encourage all residents to consider taking advantage of this great limited-time opportunity to save time and stress.”

The TSA PreCheck® program helps travelers save time through a smarter travel experience that expedites the checkpoint screening process and cuts down on the stress of travel. Those enrolled do not need to remove their shoes, laptops, 3-1-1 liquids, belts and light jackets when going through designated TSA PreCheck® security lanes. In January 2023, 92% of the nation’s TSA PreCheck® passengers waited less than five minutes waiting to be screened.

Westchester County Airport Manager April Gasparri said: “Westchester County Airport is excited to work with the TSA to expand enrollment of its TSA PreCheck program right here in Westchester. This is a win for local travelers and community members whether they fly through White Plains or elsewhere.”

Enrollment Process

The enrollment process is quick, convenient and even faster when the application is completed online beforehand. The in-person enrollment requires that applicants provide proof of identity, proof of citizenship, fingerprints and a photo. IDEMIA offers TSA PreCheck® enrollment for \$78 and if approved, travelers get a five-year membership with the program.

Following the in-person enrollment appointment, most applicants receive their Known Traveler Number (KTN) in about three to five days. The KTN number must be added to flight reservations to enjoy TSA PreCheck® benefits.

For more information or to apply online and schedule a 10-minute in-person enrollment appointment at Westchester County Airport from March 27 to March 31 visit: www.tsa.gov/precheck.

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Harckham & Levenberg Submit Bill to Stop Holtec from Dumping Nuclear Waste into Hudson

By Dan Murphy

Thanks to New York State Senator Pete Harckham and Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg, who announced on Feb. 24 that they have introduced legislation (S.5181) that will prohibit the discharge of any radiological agent into the waters of the state. The new legislation was galvanized when plans were announced by Holtec to release radioactive waste water from the decommissioned Indian Point nuclear power plant into the Hudson River.

Past owners of the Indian Point Energy Center, which opened in 1962, had been releasing radioactive waste water into the Hudson for decades. Through federal, state and local investments and actions, the Hudson River is much cleaner today than it once was, and the river now provides increased and significant economic strength to the communities that line its shore and the state as a whole.

"After decades of tremendous efforts to clean up the Hudson River, the idea of anyone dumping radioactive water into this estuary, the economic lifeblood of our region, is simply outrageous," said Harckham. "No person, corporation or government has the right to recklessly pollute New York State's waters, and the mere idea that this is being contemplated is troubling. While the decommissioning of a nuclear power plant is a complex issue, there can be no rationale for releasing radioactive waste into the Hudson."

"Too much is still unknown about the possible impacts of discharging radioactive waste into our waterways," said Levenberg. "We wouldn't want people to feel inhibited in their recreation or in moving to our communities because of the stigma of radioactive wastewater. And ultimately, the State of New York should have control over what is released into our waterways."

The legislation, which was developed in consultation with environmental advocates, including Riverkeeper, includes a stipulation that violations would be met with fines of \$25,000 per day, then \$50,000 per day for a second violation and \$150,000 per day per violation thereafter.

Holtec Indian Point LLC and Holtec Decommissioning International LLC preside over the Indian Point nuclear facility in Westchester while continuing the decommissioning process. The potential release of radioactive contaminants to our state's largest river is an urgent matter to the residents of Peekskill and all other communities along the tidal estuary.

Existing regulations represent the minimum protections the state is required to provide, and state laws must be more protective of the Hudson River and all of New York's waterways, as existing state regulations do not address the discharge of radiological materials. Harckham and Levenberg added that New York's abundant clean water sources will serve as a competitive economic edge in the years to come, as the effects of climate change continue to threaten the country and the world.

"Holtec International's reckless plan to discharge tritiated wastewater from the Indian Point Energy Center's decommissioning site into the Hudson River in the coming months must not go forward as planned. The state has a clear role to play in protecting the health and economic interests of its citizens and natural resources and this legislation introduced by Senator Pete Harckham and Assemblymember Dana Levenberg does just that," said Riverkeeper President Tracy Brown. "Riverkeeper strongly supports this legislation to prohibit discharges of radiological agents into the state's waters. We urge the Senate and Assembly to expedite its passage and, ultimately, are counting on Governor Hochul's support to turn this bill into law."

Haifa, continued from pg 1-

examine how image language can resist and also create representations while transcending boundaries and oversimplified understandings of what it means to be "western" vs "eastern." I do this by constructing alternatives to typical Middle Eastern iconography." In addition to Bint-Kadi's outstanding body of work, much of which is in public spaces, Haifa has been a mentor to many emerging artists. As a curator, she has worked tirelessly to create safe spaces and professional development opportunities for artists from backgrounds historically underrepresented in arts institutions.

The LOFT LGBTQ+ Community Center is a non-profit institution that provides a range of services for the LGBTQ+ Community in Westchester County, NY, and the Lower Hudson Valley Region. The LOFT offers both in-person, virtual, and hybrid services, support groups, social activities, arts and culture programming, and special events, including Westchester Pride and the Hudson Valley TransForum. Motivated by the core values of respect, inclusivity, opportunity and integrity, The LOFT is committed to providing a safe space in which everyone is respected, supported and valued and to creating an inclusive and affirming environment which reflects our diverse identities. Their mission also includes being a forceful advocate for justice and positive change for all LGBTQ+ people, broadening knowledge about and for LGBTQ+ community, and celebrating the past, present and future of LGBTQ+ culture and contributions to society.

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

Yonkers Dems, Exec. Committee nominates Spano, Williams, continued from pg 1

ate the job she has done representing them on the city council, and their vote of confidence in her to deliver for them on the county board. I also think this vote shows that Legislator Johnson has a lot of work to do in his own party.

Other nominations by the Yonkers Democratic Party Exec. Committee include: Ruth Walter, County Board D-15, Tasha Diaz-City Council Third District; Judges Arthur Doran III and Karen Beltran.

County Legislator David Tubiolo, D-14
Shatika Parker-City Council First District
Jose Alvarado-County Legislator D-17

Next week we will preview the candidates from the Yonkers GOP.

On This Day in Yonkers History...



Henrietta Livermore, Yonkers and New York State's leading suffragist

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

Monday, March 6th

March 6, 1932: On his way to the Wells Avenue Police Station to go on duty, Motorcycle Officer Raymond Connolly chased men driving erratically at Nepperhan and Old Nepperhan Avenues. He fired shots in the air, then cornered and captured them at gunpoint after they abandoned the car. Turned out they had stolen a car from in front of the Armory; the theft was just being discovered about the time Connolly was arresting them!

March 6, 1935: Although the work on the Yonkers Avenue bridge over the Saw Mill River Parkway was not finished, the Yonkers Railroad Company began running its trolleys over the bridge! Officials estimated this state and county project would be finished in a few weeks.

Tuesday, March 7th

March 7, 1932: Our Corporation Counsel Office was chastised when First Assistant Counsel Morris Rosenwasser asked for an adjournment of the New York Central commutation rate case; he stated Corporation Counsel McAneny's who was ill was the only person qualified to conduct the cross-examinations.

Public Service Commission Chairman Milo Maltbie stated, "Further adjournments of this case will be entirely out of the question... if other members of the Corporation Counsel's staff cannot acquaint yourselves sufficiently with the facts to conduct it... you will have to let your engineers and accountants conduct the case. In fact, the engineers and accountants might do a better job than has been done so far." The Central wanted a 40% increase in the commutation fares.

March 7, 1947: The Yonkers Board of Education ruled Yonkers teachers were not eligible for a \$300 cost-of-living- adjustment being given to workers earning less than \$5,000 annually, as they were not "City of Yonkers employees."

Wednesday, March 8th

March 8, 1945: The Kimball Crest Taxpayers' Civic and Beverly Crest Community Associations asked the Board of Education to take "immediate steps to fix conditions in Mark Twain's basement classrooms, or abandon them;" according to the community members, the conditions were "deplorable and indeed unsafe." Beverly Crest cited "dampness, poor ventilation and the general inadequate conditions..." that "must be corrected if the health of the children attending the school is to be maintained." Kimble Crest President Jimmy Dale added "dust and poor ventilation in the cafeteria make it impossible to keep tables and chairs free of dust."

Thursday, March 9th

March 9, 1912: Patrolman George Bruce, on New Main Street patrol, saw a white polar bear coming towards him! The patrolman ducked into a hallway to observe the bear. As it got closer, the bear was weaving and a man's head appeared out of the mass of fur. He jumped the "bear" and found the man was wrapped in a huge bearskin robe and drunk. Brought to the police station, the "bear" refused to give any information, so was held for further investigation. And yes, the bearskin was stolen.

March 9, 1922: Henrietta Livermore of Park Avenue and Bertha Ives, Park Hill Avenue, witnessed Governor Nathan Miller sign the Livermore bill, giving women representation on county political committees. The bill was authored by Assemblyman Russell Livermore, Henrietta's son.

Friday, March 10th

March 10, 1925: Preston Chapman, Society for Prevention of Cruelty of Cruelty to Children, issued a summons to Warburton Theater manager Sam Taylor for hiring two girls under 16, underage children, to perform in the chorus of the musical comedy "Going Up."

March 10, 1942: After a decade-long battle by the Library Board of Trustees, the Common Council finally approved construction of a fire staircase from the second floor of the Library to the street. Library Director Grinton Will was "extremely gratified" the Council "decided to put in the stairway, especially in light of war conditions..." Originally requested to eliminate a fire hazard, the request was put in well before the war, becoming even more important for fast evacuation of the building in case of attack. The stairway started in the southeast corner of the Children's Room, and lead to Nepperhan Avenue.

Saturday, March 11th

March 11, 1928: The Yonkers Federation of Parents and Teachers asked the Board of Education to replace old, unsanitary drinking fountains with modern fountains in all schools... and provide soap and towels so children could wash. The group wanted to prevent spread of disease and possible epidemics among Yonkers public school children.

March 11, 1932: Considered to be one of the true navigation and aviation experts in the country, Captain Lewis Yancey and wife Gertrude Civello of Yonkers, continued on their tour of the United States! A few days earlier, Yancey, received a painful injury when a propellor whacked him on the head; a mechanic started a plane when Yancey was in front. Besides deep cuts on his forehead, his face, head and shoulders were bruised. Gertrude's parents lived on Rockledge Place; the

continued on pg 6-

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Miscellaneous

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Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

At that time, 2 male suspects entered the store, smashed the cash register on the ground and took an undetermined amount of cash. They exited the store, and if you know the area you will realize how easy it is to get on either the Saw Mill Parkway or New York State Thruway.

The robbers didn't display guns, but caused enough drama in a normally sleepy neighborhood. Word gets around fast and the website for this paper had the story posted early in the day Sunday.

So here you have people working 12 hour days having to deal with this drama at 3 in the morning. That's the time when the fresh donuts, pastries and sandwiches come in so filling the showcase probably didn't happen as police did their investigation.

Most chain stores tell their employees not to fight back in situations like this or particularly when the crooks have weapons. These episodes are why we pay more for food at the grocery store.

Thank god everything turned out OK and no one was injured. But as a 3-5 day a week shopper at the store this robbery was a little bit too close for comfort!

Listen to Eric Schoen on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

Yanceys' home when in Yonkers was at One Lawrence Street.

Sunday, March 12th

March 12, 1953: J. C. Pope, Gasoline Testing Manager at the Ethyl Corporation's Yonkers Development Lab, announced their new X-ray photometer method developed here cut the time determining the tetraethyl lead content of gas from three hours to ten minutes! Tetraethyl lead was the active ingredient in Ethyl anti-knock compounds.

March 12, 1953: Yonkers commuters planning to take the 8:08 am train into New York panicked when the train sped through the Yonkers station! The mistake was realized, the train stopped down the rail and backed up to get the waiting passengers. The engineer, operating the train from the second car instead of the first, realized he should have stopped sooner as he whizzed through the station.

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

Notice of formation of Steering The Kulture LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 12/5/22 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 Steering The Kulture LLC, 227 Elm Street Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date

Notice of formation of KMCG LLC filed with the SSNY on 1/9/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 221 Devoe Ave, Yonkers NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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

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

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

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

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

1. Bid 6908 - Opening date: 3/17/2023: Purchase of one Doosan model BC155, or equal, electric forklift (KS).
2. Bid 6903 - Opening date: 3/17/2023: Purchase of one M-B Companies model 2024 Isuzu NRR, or equal, paint truck. (NG).
3. Bid 6912 - Opening date: 3/24/2023: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide wastewater-sampling analysis for fecal coliform as needed (AC).
4. Bid 6907 - Opening date: 3/31/2023: Bryant Road sanitary sewer extension (TC).
5. Bid 6788B - Opening date: 3/24/2023: Twelve month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide plumbing services for the City's Lead Service Line Replacement Program. This project is financed, in part, by a grant from the New York State Department of Health ("DOH"). For the purposes of this contract the DOH has established a goal of 30% for Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises ("MWBE") participation and bidders are required to make good faith efforts to achieve these goals (KS).
6. Bid 6917 - Opening date: 3/17/2023: Six-month contract, with option to renew for 6-months, for the purchase of various surveillance cameras and accessories (15 items) as needed (VB).
7. Bid 6924 - Opening date: 3/24/2023: Provide bus/van transportation for clients and staff of Camps Pride and Rays for summer 2023 (KS).
8. Bid 6923 - Opening date 3/17/2023: Purchase of 5 Stryker Lucas 3, v3.1 Chest Compression Systems and accessories, or Yonkers approved equal (JH).
9. Bid 6925 - Opening date: 3/17/2023: Purchase of 7 EVOLIS Radar Speed Signs (with 14" tri-color display, EVOCOM software, Bluetooth, USB, ultra-mobile solar power option, and mounting kit), or Yonkers approved equal (KAS).
10. Bid 6927 - Opening date: 3/24/2023: Printing and mailing of 25,000 copies of the 2023 -2024 school year calendar and handbook on 30% post-consumer recycled paper (KS).
11. Bid 6905 - Opening date: 3/31/2023: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for four 12-month terms, to provide inspection, testing, and maintenance of fuel oil tanks and cathodic protective systems in the Yonkers Public School District (AC).
12. Bid 6913 - Opening date: 3/31/2023: Furnish & install new Variable Frequency Drives for Pump Nos. 1 & 3 at the Hillview Pump Station (KS).
13. Bid 6928 - Opening date: 3/24/2023: Purchase of up to 3 emergency services trucks per Yonkers Police specifications (FB).

Nonprofits receive Funding from Empire City Casino by MGM on't from pg 8

lowed Y-COP to expand after-school and summer programs for area families. Additional public education programs were funded through ArtsWestchester, Untermeyer Performing Arts Council, United Way of Westchester & Putnam, and other organizations.

Nonprofit organizations addressing food insecurity, including Feeding Westchester, New York City Food Bank, Yonkers Family YMCA, Yonkers Community Action Program, Youth Shelter Program of Westchester, and Catholic Charities, received funding to provide fresh locally-sourced food to residents in well-known food deserts in Westchester and the Bronx. Empire City's continued focus on combating food insecurity remains paramount as the number of hungry New Yorkers grows while organizations face a reduction in donations due, in large part, to inflation and rising food costs.

Greyston Foundation, ArtsWestchester, BronxWorks, Bronx Chamber of Commerce Foundation, and The Guidance Center of Westchester were among the grant recipients implementing workforce development programs. VISIONS Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired received funding to support workforce development programs that provide blind or visually impaired youth in the Bronx and Westchester with tools and resources needed to successfully enter the workforce.

Environmental sustainability has long been a priority for MGM Resorts and the company continues to uphold its role as a corporate leader supporting environmentally sustainable initiatives in the communities in which they operate. A grant from Empire City supported Groundwork Hudson Valley's Youth Leadership and Green Team initiative to nurture the next generation of environmental leaders. Their Green Team program works with Yonkers Public School students, providing extensive training and placing them in paid environmental jobs. In 2022, the team built infrastructure trenches and rain gardens at various municipal housing sites around the city in response to the vulnerable flooding in Yonkers neighborhoods.

"Empire City Casino has supported our efforts to provide green jobs for local youth and make learning about the local environment accessible to Yonkers residents and visitors," said Brigitte Griswold, Executive Director of Groundwork Hudson Valley. "There's something powerful about local establishments joining forces for the overall benefit of our community."

Organizations working in the core focus areas stated above can learn more about the company's philanthropic opportunities by visiting www.empirecitycasino.com.

Motives Thru Fabric LLC. Arts. of Org Filed with the SSNY on 12/22/22 Office location : Westchester County. Angel Luis Morales III designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. Angel Luis Morales III Shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 35 Montague Street, Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of PERIGONMED LLC. filed with the SSNY on 12/30/2022. 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, 73 Market street suite 300 Yonkers NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of JCJ Electrical LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York on 01/06/2022. 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, 15 Dexter Road, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

State Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins Welcomes Yonkers Students, Councilmembers, Superintendent to Albany



State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins welcomed a group of diverse residents of Yonkers to Albany on February 10, to lobby Governor Kathy Hochul and the State legislature for education funding and other needs of New York's Third largest City. Many Yonkers Public School students attended the trip to Albany, and were joined by YPS Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada, City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, Councilwoman Shanae Williams and Councilman John Rubbo

Margaret Fountain-Coleman Hosts Mayoral Campaign Kick-Off



On Thursday, February 23, 2023, Margaret Fountain-Coleman was joined by nearly one hundred residents in a campaign kick-off event at Off the Hook-Yonkers to join her mayoral campaign. The mayoral hopeful and venue décor was elegant in shades of blue to reflect freedom, harmony, faithfulness, and inspiration. Her speech began with a petition for warm thoughts and prayers for her husband, who was hospitalized and unable to attend in-person but attended virtually in a loving display of support. Those in attendance shouted and applauded as Fountain-Coleman referenced a quote by Dr. Anna Julia Cooper which read “The cause of freedom is not the cause of a race or sect, a party or a class- it is the cause of mankind, the very birthright of humanity.” For this reason, Margaret Fountain-Coleman is committed to being a mayor for all people.

The message of division in and around the city of Yonkers, by the current elected officials who have been in office for nearly a decade, or more, was made clear. Since the launch of her campaign, Fountain-Coleman has been touring the city, listening to constituents, and encouraging residents from around the city to unite in the cause of rebranding Yonkers from the “Tale of Two Cities” to “Yonkers One Community”. Those who are battling to remain in control for their own benefit and who continue to perpetuate the systems that have been designed to disenfranchise those of us who want better and deserve better must be defeated.”

Fountain-Coleman spoke briefly about recent legislation including the charter revision amending term limits, redistricting, and the proposed affordable housing ordinance. She exclaimed that unless “a new voice” is elected, we will not see the changes that we seek in education, public safety, infrastructure, environmental and climate justice, and housing.

While others are campaigning on the narrative of being the first person of color and/or woman elected to the office of mayor, it is important to note that while Edith P. Welty was the first and only female mayor in the city of Yonkers, it's been nearly 75 years and even then, she was said to be “ahead of her time”. Being the “first” is not as important as being the best, most qualified and most prepared while ensuring that you are not the last. Which is why it was fitting to have “It's My Time” by Kelly Price playing as the future mayor entered and exited the venue.

The evening also featured a riveting speech by Yonkers' own 3rd Ward Leader Roberta Robinson-Frazier, that was followed by the inspiring and empowering remarks from Margaret Fountain-Coleman herself. Robinson-Frazier or “Just Roberta” as she called out as she was introduced, reminded everyone in the room of the importance of the representation of minorities in politics and government, particularly Black Women. She also provided an impromptu training session on the petition process and ordered supporters to “put your feet in the dirt and get to work.”

Mount Vernon Council Member Lisa Copeland, who described Fountain-Coleman as a “servant leader” who is “prepared for this moment” is also a Fountain-Coleman supporter and has endorsed her for Mayor of the City of Yonkers. Copeland had previously stated “I believe Yonkers will be well served by her.”

Attendees ranged from community leaders and activists to faith-based and religious leaders. It was amazing to see representatives from all “walks of life”, specifically parents of students that attend Yonkers Public Schools and members of parent organizations associated with our school district, as well as those employed by the district from administrators and educators to bus monitors and affiliates. There were local business owners and entrepreneurs who shared ideas for networking under the Coleman-Fountain administration. There were “baby boomers” and “millennials” present excited about the future. The room was reflective of “Yonkers One Community”.

Brenda Cardoza commented, “Tonight, I witnessed history in the making! I proudly support and endorse my friend, Margaret Fountain-Coleman for Mayor! She is the kind of leader we need in Yonkers, one who will do so with transparency, accountability, and fairness. She is guaranteed to move Yonkers in the right direction.”

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Yonkers Mayor Spano Presents School Spotlight Award to PEARLS Hawthorne School



PEARLS Hawthorne School Choir & Band Students, Mayor Spano's School Spotlight Award (Photo Credit: Maurice Mercado/City of Yonkers)

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano today joined Yonkers Board of Education President Rev. Steve Lopez and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edwin M. Quezada to present his School Spotlight Award to the deserving administration, faculty, staff, parents and students at PEARLS Hawthorne School. Under the leadership of Principal Marwan Sayegh, PEARLS Hawthorne School is being recognized for its thriving music program consisting of 250 choir and band students in grades 1-8.

"PEARLS Hawthorne School continues to place a strong focus on the overall quality of education for our students," said Mayor Spano. "I commend Principal Marwan Sayegh, as well as the administrators, teachers, staff for fostering music education and recognizing its importance to a child's intellectual development."

Over Two Dozen Nonprofits Receive Funding from Empire City Casino by MGM in 2022



Empire City Casino By MGM Resorts Team Members presenting grant award to Groundwork Hudson Valley, Executive Director Brigitte Griswold and Director of Development Karen Tumulty, photo by Mike Lizzi

Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts ("Empire City") has long been a part of the fabric of its surrounding communities with a strong commitment to supporting nonprofit organizations in the region. That philanthropic commitment has continued under the ownership of MGM Resorts which acquired the entertainment destination in January of 2019. Local charitable organizations have received hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants, cash, and in-kind donations, as well as employee volunteer hours, since the acquisition.

Philanthropic giving in 2022 included more than two dozen local nonprofit organizations which received cash grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 to address timely issues facing communities. The MGM Resorts enterprise-wide philanthropic initiative, "Focused on What Matters", guides company donations to support public educational programs that reinforce academic success, food insecurity programs that provide access to nutritious meals, workforce development programs to prepare individuals for career opportunities, as well as environmental sustainability initiatives that create local sustainable environmental changes. Empire City continues to put community and corporate social responsibility ("CSR") at the forefront of its commitment to New York.

"Social responsibility is ingrained in the MGM Resorts culture," said Ed Domingo, Senior Vice President and General Manager of Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts. "As an economic fixture of the New York ecosystem, we will continue to listen to the needs of the communities and give back to organizations that work to create a better New York for all. We are so thankful for the local nonprofit partnerships that allow us to deliver critical resources to our communities."

Through more than two dozen individual grants and cash donations in 2022, Empire City continues its influential role in supporting local Bronx and Westchester communities through numerous organizations. The Youth Community Outreach Program ("Y-COP") of Mount Vernon, a certified childcare provider which helps provide families with equitable access to much-needed childcare and educational programs, was a grant recipient. The support provided by Empire City Casino allowed Y-COP to expand after-school and summer programs for area families. Additional public education programs were funded through ArtsWestchester, Untermyer Performing Arts Council, United Way of Westchester & Putnam, and other organizations.

Nonprofit organizations addressing food insecurity, including Feeding Westchester, New York City Food Bank, Yonkers Family YMCA, Yonkers Community Action Program, Youth Shelter Program of Westchester, and Catholic Charities, received funding to provide fresh locally-sourced food to residents in well-known food deserts in Westchester and the Bronx. Empire City's continued focus on combating food insecurity remains paramount as the number of hungry New Yorkers grows while organizations face a reduction in donations due, in large part, to inflation and rising food costs.

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Environmental sustainability has long been a priority for MGM Resorts and the company continues to uphold its role as a corporate leader supporting environmentally sustainable initiatives in the communities in which they operate. A grant from Empire City supported Groundwork Hudson Valley's

continued on pg 6-

"Special thanks to the choir and band students for dedicating their time and continuously giving back to Yonkers."

PEARLS Hawthorne School music program offers its students the opportunity to showcase their emerging talent while providing music education, confidence, friendships, and volunteerism.

Since September 2022, PEARL Hawthorne's band and choir have performed at:

- Ø PEARLS Hawthorne School Open House Nights (choir), Halloween Parade (Band) and Winter Concerts (Band/Choir)

- Ø Performed for National Parent-Teacher Association President, Anna King (Choir/Band)

- Ø Westchester East Putnam Parent Teacher Association Luncheon (Choir)

- Ø City of Yonkers Veterans Day (Choir)

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edwin M. Quezada added, "Access and opportunities for music and art instruction in every school has driven my work as an educator. The benefits for students participating in visual and performing arts were documented by an analysis from the National Endowment for the Arts."

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