

# Yonkers Rising

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## Valedictorian, Salutatorian from Lincoln High School Celebrated



LHS Valedictorian Racheal Peter, right, and Salutatorian Efstathios Plakas.

By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to the 2023 Valedictorian and Salutatorian from Lincoln High School: Valedictorian, Racheal Peter and Salutatorian Efstathios Plakas. Valedictorian Racheal Peter will graduate with a 98.99 weighted GPA.

Her favorite teachers at LHS are:  
Mrs. Westcott—Physics. “I never really wanted to take Physics but she really encouraged me. She made me enjoy the class with a lot of labs and hands on topics.  
Mr. Wilson -Economics and Government. “He makes sure you understand the importance of the topics he is teaching, and also talks about the struggles of having a small business. He is very honest.”  
Ms. Cameron-AP Biology. This was one of the toughest and most challenging courses. She ran it like a college class, which is good for me. I will be majoring in science and medicine.

Science Research was Peter’s favorite class at Lincoln. “I was able to pick a research project that I was interested in and try to solve some of the world’s issues.”

Who helped you accomplish this achievement? “My mom and dad have high expectations and I wanted to do my best. They pushed me to always do the best.” Peter also said that LHS Research Teacher Dr. Saghafi, “Always told me that I can do better and that I wasn’t reaching my potential. I said that I wanted to be a nurse, but he wanted me to push myself and become a doctor. My mom is a nurse. I’m glad that I learned not to limit myself.”

When did you know you were in contention for Valedictorian? “After my sophomore year. My sister graduated from Lincoln and was #10.”

An internship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, in Manhattan, helped Peter decide on a future career in medicine. “I was able to conduct my own pancreatic cancer research. I went down to the city every two weeks.”

She will attend Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education, in New York City. And plans major in Biochemistry, with the hopes to become an OBGYN. “I wanted to go to Sophie for a long time. They have an accelerated 7-year program. Three years are undergrad and then straight to medical school. I can also stay home for now. I’m excited about the challenge of becoming a doctor. I want to be an OBGYN because of my mom. She had complications when she gave birth. I want to serve women of color in underserved communities, who don’t have access to health care.”

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## Yonkers Breaks Ground on First Regulation Size Soccer Field in Northwest Part of City



rendering of new soccer field above, and current parking lot off north Broadway below



On May 8, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano joined representatives from the Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation, City Engineering, Yonkers Board of Education and students from William Boyce Thompson School to break ground on the City’s new soccer and lacrosse field at North Broadway and Odell Avenue.

The new field is the first of its kind in northwest Yonkers and the third regulation-sized soccer field in Yonkers. The 70,000 sq. ft. multi-use artificial turf

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## Catholic Charities Dedication of Day Labor Center in Yonkers



Cardinal Timothy Dolan is joined by Mayor Mike Spano of Yonkers in cutting the ribbon. Photo from Catholic Charities New York

On Monday, May 1st Catholic Charities of New York celebrated the official opening and ribbon cutting of the Day Laborers Center in Yonkers. This center offers services to help newcomers to this country who want to work to support their families, and it provides education to individuals on workplace safety, fair pay, English classes and more.

More than 10 years in the making, the Obreros Unidos (Workers United) Day Labor Center in Yonkers was dedicated May 1 in ceremonies that included remarks from Timothy Cardinal Dolan; Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, and performances from karaoke singers and a mariachi band, in a celebration of a Catholic Charities project which provides support and education for day laborers.

“Obreros Unidos is standing up for us,” said Jose Antonio Galdamaz, a member of the organization’s board and a factory worker. “You are saving our lives,” he told the assembled dignitaries and workers, as he praised the agency for providing life-saving OSHA training for construction workers and for standing up for immigrant workers who suffer wage theft.

Located in a strip mall adjacent to the Saw Mill River Parkway frequented by day workers seeking employment and contractors needing help, the new Catholic Charities Day Labor Center serves as an education and resource center.

The group is active in all kinds of issues affecting Latino immigrants in Westchester County, from food assistance during the Covid pandemic to forging improved relations with the local police, said Jose.

“We are working with the local police to keep our community united and strong. We are not afraid of the police in Yonkers anymore. We work together,” he said, noting a renewed spirit of cooperation that now exists which he credited to the work of Obreros Unidos and the center’s team.

Cardinal Dolan praised the forward-thinking vision of Catholic Charities. “Catholic Charities has a unique ability to be proactive in seeing challenges,” noted the cardinal, who said he noticed day laborers on street corners in Yonkers while visiting St. Joseph’s Seminary after being named archbishop of New York in 2009.

The Center features a kitchen for social occasions as well as rooms for day laborers connecting with employers. Classes are offered in varied topics, including workplace safety, English, nanny care, and guitar.

Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, noted that the Center is the result of a coalition that Catholic Charities’ has been able to forge among union, church, business and community leaders. One of those leaders is Mayor Mike Spano of Yonkers, who noted that immigrants in Yonkers, through Catholic Charities, “have someone who will stick up for you.”

Visit [catholiccharitiesny.org](http://catholiccharitiesny.org) for more information.

## President Obama Gives “Shoutout” to Yonkers MBK Program



Former President Barack Obama listens to YPS Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada, left, speak about the success of Obama’s My Brother’s Keeper initiative in Yonkers, in 2020

Today, the My Brother’s Keeper Alliance, a program of the Obama Foundation, announced that Yonkers, New York is one of four MBK Model Communities, a new initiative that seeks to expand the implementation of evidence-based practices and impact for communities across the country. Yonkers was selected from a network of hundreds of cities that have an evidence-based track record of success in positively shifting outcomes for boys and young men of color. Each MBK Model Community represents a tangible example of the systems-level impact that communities can have when working to achieve the MBK Milestones. The MBK Milestones are six key life milestones that research shows are especially predictive of later success, and where interventions can have the greatest impact. Yonkers Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Quezada joined President Obama onstage at an MBK Impact in Action convening to share the city’s efforts to improve high school graduation rates for students of color.

*continued on pg 7-*

## Two Stepinac Students from Yonkers Recipients of Xavier E. Flores Memorial Scholarship



Photo Credit: (Back Row, L to R) – Michael Letto, Rev. Thomas Collins, Xavier Flores Jr., Jessica Letto (Front Row, L to R) – Evelyn Flores, Elise Flores, Donal Connaughton, Eric Welwin

Two Stepinac High School seniors—Donal Connaughton and Eric Welwin, both of Yonkers, were honored recently as recipients of the annual Xavier E. Flores Memorial Scholarship Award, established in memory of the esteemed Stepinac alumnus who tragically passed away from COVID-19 in April 2020 at the age of 49.

In a ceremony, which was attended by Evelyn Flores—the widow of Xavier E. Flores—and other members of Xavier’s family, the students each received \$2,500 in recognition of their extraordinary community service contributions.

Stepinac President Fr. Thomas Collins (Class of ’79), congratulated the outstanding students for achieving this honor and wished them “continued success at college and in their future careers,” adding: “They have been inspired by Xavier Flores’ legacy of giving back to the community in ways that make a tangible difference in the lives of people who most need it.”

Xavier Flores, who graduated from Stepinac in 1988, was actively involved in his alma mater, helping to raise funds for school programs and serving as co-president of the Crusader Men’s Club. He was also honored with the Block S Award bestowed on individuals whose contributions had a meaningful impact on Stepinac. His son, Xavier M. Flores, graduated from Stepinac as a member of the Class of 2020.

In essays that were submitted with their applications for the scholarship, Connaughton and Welwin shared their community service experiences and reflected on the deeper meaning of community service in their lives.

For Connaughton, his experience at Stepinac allowed him to grow “exponentially” in self-confidence, taking advantage of opportunities that strengthened his leadership skills which will help in his post-secondary pursuits. As a result of what Stepinac has given him, he has felt “obliged to give back in any way that I can.” Among the activities that have fulfilled his need are volunteering for Campus Ministry and Rotary Club projects to support underprivileged communities such as food pantry at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and BOX City to raise money for the homeless in Westchester.

He is also looking forward to his most significant service project to date: a seminar on May 16 for Stepinac students on the dangers of vaping and opioid abuse that will be hosted by the school’s inaugural Foroige Club, of which he is a member. Last summer, when he participated in the renowned international Foroige Leadership for Life Conference, he learned an invaluable lesson: “That as important as each individual is to the community, the community is also responsible for uplifting and bettering the individual. “He noted: “This gave me a new, fresh perspective on community service, which is why we decided to launch this initiative to combat the prevalence of vaping and opioid-related illnesses.”

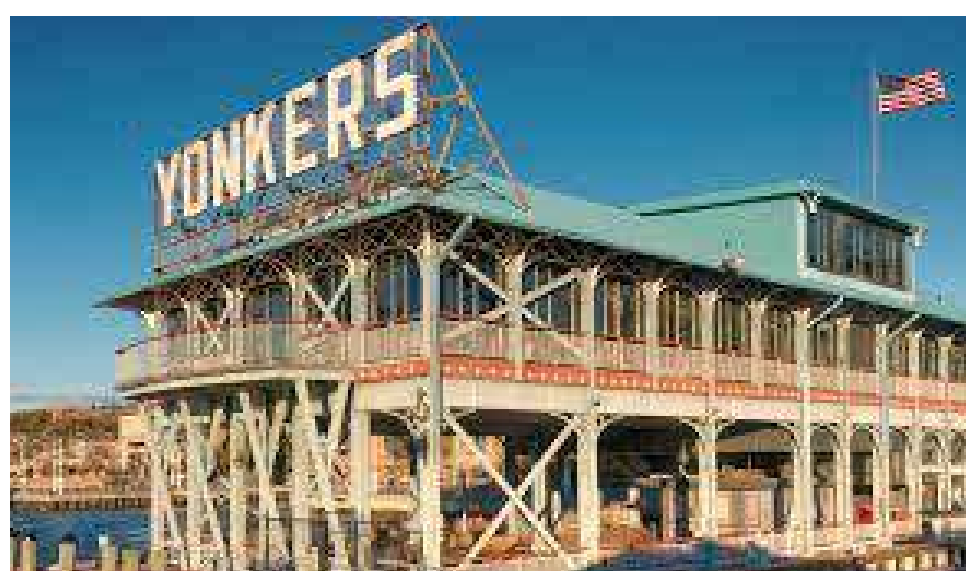
Welwin, who sees service “as an action that allows you to humble yourself and let you embark on the purest form of support you can ever offer to another life,” has been engaged in a wide range of service projects as a youth leader at his church where he helped create fundraisers for the devastated flood victims in Kerala, India and the earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey.

At Stepinac, he takes pride in having collaborated with another student in developing new ways for Stepinac’s A Helping Hand Club to contribute to the well-being of our community. “We created a snack bag drive for the homeless that has become an annual event for our club, allowing us to connect our entire school community to come together and focus on the greater good for our society.” For more information, visit [www.Stepinac.org](http://www.Stepinac.org).

## Graffiti and Gang Platforms with Ken Davis Sat. May 13 at Beczak



## X20 Restaurant Remains Open, with Tax Troubles and Bankruptcy Looming



Peter Kelly’s legendary downtown Yonkers restaurant, X20 Xaviars on the Hudson remains open despite a significant tax issue with the NYS Department of Finance. A one-day closure had rumors claiming that Yonkers best combination of dining and scenery had closed for good.

Not true says Kelly, who filed for Bankruptcy protection. Kelly and the restaurant have had tax and financial challenges in the past.

The restaurant is still open and taking reservations. Anyone who has not had the chance to visit and dine at X20, now is the time.

We respect Kelly’s privacy, or what is left of it. He issued a statement which he called the NYS Tax Department’s actions, “aggressive” and vowed to “continue to be an integral part of the communities we serve.” Kelly also owns Bully Boy in Congers.

*LHS Val, Sal, continued from pg 1-*

Salutatorian Efstathios Plakas will graduate with a 98.36 weighted GPA. His favorite teacher is Mr. Gojani. “He cares about his students and cares about our future.”

His favorite class is Academy of Finance. “The entire magnet finance program prepares us for the future and the teachers are the best in the school.”

When did he know his ranking? “I didn’t know about my ranking until someone brought it up sophomore year. I was shocked.”

Who helped you achieve this? “My brother Kleanthis and my parents. They had a requirement that all grades are 85 or above. They pushed me.

Efstathios will be attending Manhattanville College in Westchester this fall. He has two brothers currently attending Manhattanville. “It’s close to home and a nice campus. I see a lot of opportunity for success. I hope to get a bachelor’s degree in computer science and become a full stack web developer.”

Advice to future students? “Socialize more make more friends be more optimistic and to find something to improve on always. In 9th and 10 grade I was not socially active. That was also during COVID. These last two years I have made good friends and gotten good advice from them. It is much healthier and can change your life.”



## Yonkers Rising

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## In Home Personal Training

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## State Budget Passes: Next Up City of Yonkers Budget

Yonkers State Senator and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins provided a summary of the recently passed NYS Budget. She writes: "In negotiating the New York State 2023-2024 Budget, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins stood firm in her priorities to fund education, childcare, and mental health at historic levels. She also fought for an expansion of the Child Care Tax Credit to help all families.

"The Senate sees itself as the Education Conference for a reason," said Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins. "Two years ago, we set out to create a cradle to college pipeline that supports our children's excellence at every stage of development. Now, for the first time ever, and after a long and persistent fight, we will fully fund Foundation Aid and ensure that each public school is equally provided for throughout New York."

Foundation Aid is vital for school districts who need additional resources to be sure that all students, especially those that require extra help for various reasons, are not left behind. Districts with high populations of students in poverty, students with disabilities, and English Language Learners will see a significant increase in aid. The final budget also secured the largest annual School Aid allocation of \$34.5 billion.

In another groundbreaking victory, the budget provides \$135 million for free breakfast and lunch to 300,000 new students across the State. This Universal Free School Meals Program helps to ensure students' ability to learn will not be affected by hunger.

At the same time, the final budget ensures that there will be no tuition increase for in-state students who attend SUNY and CUNY. SUNY will receive an additional \$103 million in operating aid and CUNY will receive \$53 million.

"The education of our children begins at the earliest stages of their lives and it needs to be affordable," said the Majority Leader, "So it was vital to add \$25 million for Universal Pre-K. We also championed expanding the Child Care Tax Credit to include kids aged 0-4 instead of starting at age 5 as it is now."

"I am also very proud that this \$229 billion budget now includes an historic investment of \$1 billion in mental health. It's clear that the Covid-19 pandemic had a long lasting impact on the mental health of adults as well as young people.

This vitally needed funding will strengthen mental health resources and crisis care, and will be used to create a task force to evaluate how interventions can be improved," said Leader Stewart-Cousins.

The budget spurs economic development and sets the lowest middle-class personal income tax rate in over 70 years. It increases the minimum wage for New Yorkers and further invests in housing for renters and homeowners. It adds to our nation-leading efforts to combat climate change and enhances public safety," stated Stewart-Cousins.

Now the Yonkers City Council will review Mayor Mike Spano's budget plan. Assemblyman Nader Sayegh commented on the state funding for the Yonkers Public Schools. "The spending plan funds our Yonkers Public Schools providing additional funding. \$374 million dollars in State School Aid is a new record and I am proud to support the district where I served as a Teacher, Principal and School Board President.

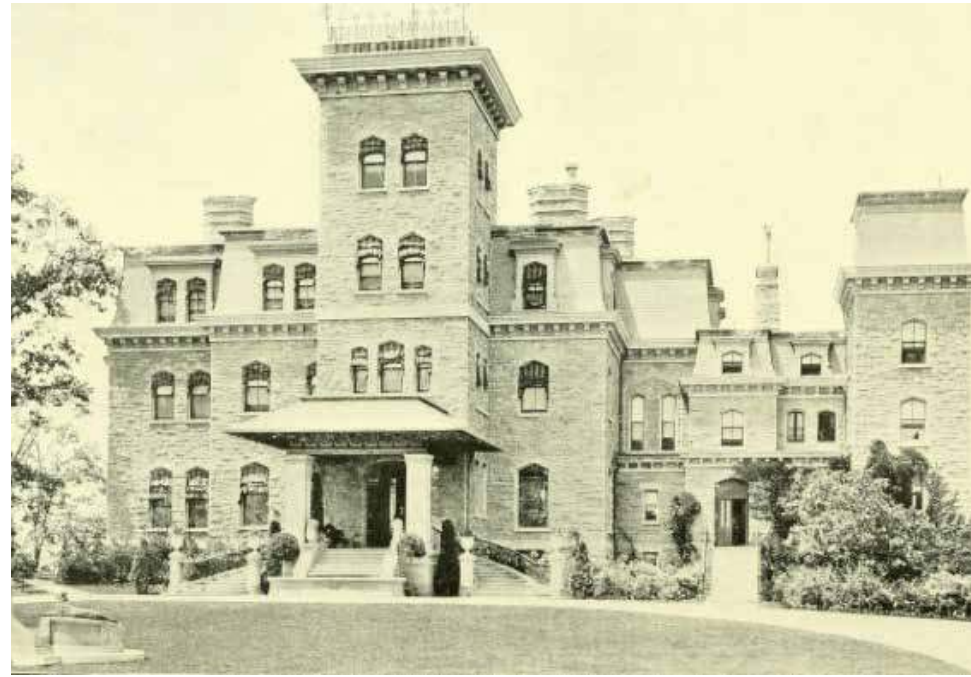
"For New York State to thrive now and in the future, we must invest in the education of our children and young adults, and that is why I voted to increase Pre-K funding for Yonkers Schools to \$18 million, and voted to block tuition increases at our State and City Colleges (SUNY CUNY)."

More details on the budget, and the recent City Council public hearing next week.

### Fourth Precinct Community Council

The Fourth Precinct's Community Council will hold its monthly meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, May 18, 2023, in the meeting room at the Fourth Police Precinct, at 53 Shonnard Terrace. Anyone who lives or works in the area served by the fourth police precinct is welcome to attend. All elected officials are also welcome. Captain Michael Messar, Precinct Commander, and Lieutenant Patrick Curtis will be available to discuss your issues and matters of interest.

## On This Day in Yonkers History...



The mansion at Greystone on North Broadway. Originally built by John Warwing post Civil War, it later was the home of Samuel Tilden; Samuel and Minnie Untermyer purchased the estate in 1899 and further transformed it.

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, May 15th

May 15, 1940: The first day of the auction of the late Samuel Untermyer's estate began at 2 p.m. at his Greystone estate on North Broadway. French and English furniture, tapestries, Oriental rugs, porcelains and jades, Indian miniatures, silver, china, and other items were sold over three days.

May 15, 1953: The pay scale survey conducted by the Westchester County Police Department found Yonkers was the second lowest paid in the entire metropolitan area; Yonkers had the lowest starting salary of \$2900. Other municipalities not only paid more, Officers also were provided uniform allowances. Six communities paid probationary officers more than our maximum salary of \$3,900. Twenty-one communities paid their patrolmen more than Yonkers paid their sergeants.

Tuesday, May 16th

May 16, 1922: Jazz trombonist Eddie Bert was born to engineer Edward Bertolatus and Elizabeth Futica of Crescent Place in Yonkers. Bert's versatility allowed him to fit comfortably in a wide range of musical styles, from the infectious swing of Benny Goodman to the wild experimentation of Charles Mingus. A member of the pit orchestras for "Bye Bye Birdie," "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," "Ain't Misbehavin'" and other hit Broadway musicals, he played on countless television commercials and was in Dick Cavett's television show house band on from 1968 to 1972.

May 16, 1945: Nineteen-year-old Albert Curcio of Glover Avenue was seriously wounded in Germany. He caught a Nazi grenade to prevent it from injuring fellow servicemen, but the device exploded in his hands and blew them off. He received the Purple Heart Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation with an Oak Leaf Cluster. He also wore the Good Conduct Medal and three battle stars for action at Leipzig, the Rhine and the Ruhr. Before enlisting, he was a shipfitter for Consolidated Ship Building Company of New York.

Wednesday, May 17th

May 17, 1931: The Putnam Division of the New York Central Railroad moved into its new station in the First National Bank Building. While its new home was under construction, it's temporary station was at 116 New Main Street. The new terminal was in the same location as when the Putnam Division began December 1888.

May 17, 1932: Dr. William Crocker, Director of the Boyce Thompson Institute, suggested Yonkers' unemployed turn farmer to feed their families from plots in community gardens, similar to the victory gardens of the World War.

Thursday, May 18th

May 18, 1953: John Dempsey, Placement Officer in the Army's Office of Civilian Personnel, occupied the State Employment Service on Main Street as part of an intensive recruiting drive. He offered Yonkers residents 200 overseas civilian jobs in Alaska, Germany, France, Japan and Korea. These two-year positions varied from labor economists to hydroponic agriculturist to librarians to clerk-typists; clerk-typist positions were only in Japan. He warned family members would not be able to join the workers, as "accommodations for dependents were very scarce," according to Dempsey. Applicants had to be US Citizens, at least 21 years of age, and pass "rigid physical examinations." In addition, "loyalty and character" would be investigated.

Friday, May 19th

May 19, 1938: Yonkers Schools Superintendent W. W. Ankebrand presented a districting plan requiring students to attend junior high schools "within a reasonable distance of their homes." Although not yet officially presented, the Joint Committee on Education, parents opposed to the new plan, passed out mimeographed letters all over Yonkers attacking the program. Approximately one hundred parents especially objected to the Longfellow reorganization plan, moving Longfellow Junior High School from North Broadway, (now Barak Obama School for Social Justice) to School 20 in the Hollow.

May 19, 1943: The family of US Army Air Forces fighter pilot Lieutenant Lawrence Ritter of Glen Road learned he shot down a Messerschmitt-109 German fighter plane over the Mediterranean. Assigned to the North African fighting zone for more than four months. A Roosevelt HS grad, Ritter attended Dartmouth until he was drafted during his senior year. A member of the 325th Fighter Group, 319 Fighter Squadron. Ritter was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with multiple oak leaf clusters.

continued on pg 7-

*"Your wings were ready but my heart was not"*

### Light The Sky Butterfly Release Ceremony

Saturday, May 13th, 2023 at 11:00 A.M.

Live-Streamed from Yonkers City Hall Plaza  
Unity Fountain on Facebook.com/TheMothers2016

Hosted by The Mothers  
The Mothers are a group of women who are living with the impact, effect and aftermath of the unnatural life occurrence of losing a child under various circumstances. We are here to support, embrace and encourage one another and others who have endured this life changing experience.

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**NYAG James Warns New Yorkers About Thieves Targeting Hyundai and Kia Vehicles**



New York Attorney General Letitia James today issued a consumer alert to warn New Yorkers about recent thefts targeting vehicles made by Hyundai and Kia and provided critical tips to protect consumers. Attorney General James also urged Hyundai and Kia to immediately fix safety flaws, such as faulty ignition switches and a lack of engine immobilizers, that have made their vehicles manufactured between 2011 and 2022 vulnerable to thefts. Attorney General James also called on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to recall these unsafe vehicles. Today's alert comes in light of a surge in Hyundai and Kia car thefts caused by a dangerous viral video trend on the social media platform TikTok, where people have uploaded videos showing how to hotwire these cars and challenging others to steal them.

"When we learn about scams and design flaws that harm New York consumers and car owners, it is important that we slam the brakes on these problems," said Attorney General James. "Manufacturers have a responsibility to address safety flaws in their vehicles, which is why I am calling on Hyundai and Kia to immediately install anti-theft devices and other safety measures to better protect New York car owners and lessees. I urge all New Yorkers, especially those with impacted Hyundai and Kia vehicles, to remain vigilant and follow our important tips to help keep themselves safe."

Kia and Hyundai vehicles manufactured between 2011 and 2022 are vulnerable to theft because their ignition switches can be easily bypassed and they lack engine immobilizers, which has allowed thieves to hotwire the vehicles within minutes. Exploitation of these vulnerabilities were made public through TikTok videos of people showing how to steal Hyundai and Kia cars using simple tools like a USB cable and screwdriver. As these vulnerabilities spread virally through challenge videos on the internet, thefts of Hyundai and Kia vehicles has surged, creating significant public safety hazards and property loss. For instance, in Rochester, nearly 75 percent of cars stolen this year were manufactured by Hyundai and Kia. Similarly, in New York City, the New York City Police Department has indicated alarming concerns, in which there were more than 100 Hyundai and Kia car thefts in the month of December alone. Theft of Hyundai and Kia vehicles have led to millions of dollars in lost and damaged property and have diverted emergency and police resources from other pressing issues.

"So far this year, Rochester has seen 403 Kias and 386 Hyundais stolen from our residents," said U.S. Representative Joe Morelle. "Not only do these thefts pose a danger to our children, families, and businesses, they place an undue strain on our law enforcement — tying up their resources and making it more difficult in a time when they're already overburdened. I'm grateful to Attorney General James for taking steps to end this crisis, and remain committed to a collaborative, all-hands-on-deck approach by government to strengthen public safety."

"Over the past five months, more than 1,400 Kias and Hyundais have been stolen in Monroe County, partly due to TikTok's promotion of how-to guides for car theft," said Monroe County Executive Adam Bello. "This puts people and businesses at risk and drains law enforcement resources. Kia and Hyundai must also take responsibility for vulnerabilities in their vehicles that allow easy theft. I support Attorney General James' call for a national recall of these unsafe vehicles, provision of anti-theft devices, and faster software updates to prevent future thefts."

As part of her ongoing efforts to combat theft and protect New Yorkers, Attorney General James and a coalition of 17 other attorneys general called for a national recall of these unsafe vehicles. Additionally, Attorney General James and the coalition urged Hyundai and Kia to speed up their efforts to install software patches that would prevent vehicles from being easily stolen and provide free anti-theft steering wheel devices to all impacted owners whose vehicles are not eligible for the software patch.

Attorney General James also recommends New Yorkers who own Hyundai and Kia vehicles manufactured between 2011 and 2022 to immediately take the following steps to protect themselves against theft:

If you're a Kia owner or lessee, you should check Kia's website or call Kia directly to check the status of your vehicle's eligibility for a software upgrade or free steering wheel lock. You can contact Kia's Customer Care team toll-free at 1-800-333-4542 or online via its Owners Portal.

If you're a Hyundai owner or lessee, you should check Hyundai's website or call Hyundai directly to check the status of your vehicle's eligibility for a software upgrade or free steering wheel lock. You can call Hyundai's customer care agents toll-free at 1-888-498-0390 or visit its website for more information. Immediately contact your Hyundai/Kia dealer to ask about having the software on your vehicle upgraded to repair the vulnerabilities that make the vehicles uniquely prone to car theft.

Request an anti-theft steering wheel device from Hyundai or Kia if your vehicle is not immediately eligible for a software patch that would repair its vulnerabilities.

Check your mail regularly and be aware of any notices from Hyundai, Kia, or government agencies regarding any mandatory or voluntary recalls of vehicles or additional safety measures that may become available for your vehicle.

If your vehicle has been stolen or you believe someone has attempted to steal your vehicle, contact your local police precinct to report the incident.

**11 Westchester Rabbi's Sign Letter Opposing Congressman Bowman's "Anti-Israel Rhetoric"**



Westchester Congressman Jamaal Bowman, left, and Westchester native, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, both voted against a resolution in support of Israel

By Dan Murphy

A letter signed by more than a dozen New York Rabbi's, including 11 from Westchester, have asked Westchester Congressman Jamaal Bowman to, "change course" on his "anti-Israel rhetoric in Congress."

"Regrettably, Rep. Bowman's anti-Israel views continue this extremist trend and only stoke further tension and conflict," states part of the letter, signed by Rabbi Jonathan Blake, Senior Rabbi, Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale and 10 other Westchester Rabbi's.

Last year, Rep. Bowman removed his support for a bill to expand the Abraham Accords peace accords. More recently, Bowman signed a letter with Senator Bernie Sanders and Rep. Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez which called on the Biden administration to "to undertake a shift in U.S. policy" toward Israel.

And last week, Bowman, AOC and 16 other House democrats voted against a resolution honoring the U.S.-Israeli relationship and the 75th anniversary of the founding of Israel. The resolution passed 400-19.

"While many community leaders in the Congressman's district (N.Y.-16) — including each author of this piece — have sought to engage him in constructive conversations about the damaging positions he has taken with regard to the U.S.-Israel relationship, Rep. Bowman has chosen to dig in deeper and align himself with the most caustic anti-Israel voices in Washington," write The Forward, <https://forward.com/opinion/542245/rabbi-jamaal-bowman-anti-israel-congress-policy-us-blinken-biden/>. "Congressman Bowman is no longer merely an accessory to anti-Israel rhetoric in Washington. He is now leading the effort to erode support for Israel on Capitol Hill and within the Democratic Party."

The letter from the NY-Westchester Rabbi's continues, "We do not condone efforts to undermine the pillars of a robust and longstanding democracy in Israel. Americans and Israelis have each seen firsthand how political extremism can divide a nation. We need to bridge divides to help achieve peace, not inflame tensions with baseless attacks and one-sided policy prescriptions. If Congressman Bowman truly cares about advancing peace, he will abandon his damaging and counterproductive agenda. Those of us who care deeply about the U.S.-Israel relationship call on Rep. Bowman to change course."

**Signed,**  
**Rabbi Jonathan Blake, Rabbi Adam Baldachin, Rabbi Jeffrey Brown, Rabbi Menachem Creditor, Rabbi Leora Frankel, Rabbi Howard Goldsmith, Rabbi Daniel Gropper, Rabbi Shmuel Hain, Rabbi Binyamin Krauss, Rabbi Chaim Marder, Rabbi David Schuck, Rabbi Jay M. Stein, Rabbi Annie Tucker**

**Letter to the Editor:**

WHERE DID WE GO WRONG WITH THE SOUTHERN BORDER?

Our beacon of "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses ..." is going dim.

Mayor Eric Adams did the equivalent of yelling at the Biden administration in April for lack of financial support stating, "the national government has turned its back on New York." He called it an "asylum-seeking crisis." Other big city mayors are also feeling the pain. DC's Mayor Muriel Bowser claimed her city, the nation's capital, was at a "tipping point." And outgoing Chicago Mayor, Lori Lightfoot, expressing similar frustration, focused her ire at Texas Governor Abbott, asking him to "stop busing migrants to Chicago." These are compassionate "sanctuary" cities that are typically accommodative but are now pushing back.

Mayor Adams has now taken it further. To alleviate the burden, he has announced that he will begin busing those "asylum seekers" to neighboring counties. In response, Rockland County has enacted a state of emergency to ensure no asylum seekers find refuge in his county.

Making bad matters worse, is Title 42, a rule which allows border patrol agents to expel immigrants to their home country is set to expire in a few days - May 11. The federal government is estimating a surge of as many as 13,000 migrants per day into the U.S.

This is a crisis. What is lost in this debacle is the recognition that the strength of our country is in its diversity, that the revitalization of America comes from our immigrant population.

Coincidentally, or because of big cities' harsh admonishments, President Biden recently responded by sending 1,500 troops to provide aid (essentially to facilitate entry) at the southern border.

I'm just asking, "Where did we go wrong?"

Written by Derickson K. Lawrence, A resident of Mount Vernon.

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# 300,000 Fentanyl Pills Found in Auto Gas Tank

An investigation into fentanyl trafficking in New York City resulted in the seizure of approximately 300,000 fake oxycodone pills containing fentanyl, plus five kilograms of powdered fentanyl (over 11 pounds), from a red Ford Expedition stopped in the Bronx. The fentanyl was discovered inside the gas tank of the vehicle, and carries an estimated street value of approximately \$5 million.

Bridget G. Brennan, New York City's Special Narcotics Prosecutor, Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark, and Frank A. Tarentino III, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) New York Division (NY), announced the arrest of ENRIQUE PEREZ, a resident of Columbus, Ohio, following an investigation by DEA New York Division, Group D-41. The New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force (NYOCDEF) and the New York City Police Department (NYPD) assisted with the investigation.

A criminal complaint filed by the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor (SNP) charges PEREZ with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the First and Third Degrees. PEREZ was arrested on Sunday, April 30, 2023, and arraigned the evening of Monday, May 1, 2023 in Manhattan Criminal Court, where bail was set at \$200,000 cash/bond with a 72-hour surety and geolocation monitoring.

Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan said, "At a time when our city's overdose rates are at a record high, the discovery of more than eleven pounds of powdered fentanyl and hundreds of thousands of fentanyl pills manufactured to look like prescription pills, concealed in the gas tank of a truck near the Bronx Court House, is truly alarming. We will continue to work with our partners to seize deadly drugs before they ever hit the streets."

DEA Special Agent in Charge Frank A. Tarentino III said, "This seizure demonstrates one of the many ways evil drug cartels, like the Sinaloa cartel, smuggle fentanyl from Mexico to major cities like New York for street distribution. While we hit the accelerator on our enforcement efforts, the cartels go to extremes to conceal illicit drugs in implausible spots, like the gas tank of a vehicle. I commend our law enforcement partners who are working with us to target drug traffickers and cartels who inflict the most harm to our communities."

On April 30, 2023, at approximately 1:39 p.m., members of DEA NY, Group D-41, were conducting surveillance as part of the short-term investigation when they stopped the Ford Expedition in front of 295 East 161st Street. PEREZ was allegedly driving the vehicle, which bore a Texas license plate.

An NYPD K9 alerted to the presence of narcotics in the vehicle, but agents and officers were unable to identify the precise location. An inspection of PEREZ's phone allegedly revealed photographs of bundles of cash and what appeared to be a hidden access to the Ford Expedition's gas tank from inside of the vehicle. Agents discovered the gas tank was accessible from the rear floor area. Approximately 300,000 blue fake oxycodone pills containing fentanyl and five kilograms of powdered fentanyl were contained in vacuum sealed packages, and submerged in the vehicle's gas tank.

The fentanyl seized from the Ford Expedition is believed to have originated in Mexico. The investigation revealed that the vehicle has crossed the U.S.-Mexico border multiple times.

This case fits a trafficking pattern observed in recent months: defendants who reside out-of-state transport large quantities of fentanyl pills and powder together for distribution in New York City; vehicles used bear out-of-state license plates, not necessarily from the state of residence; and loads of narcotics are worth a million dollars or more.

## Mayoral Candidate Pineda-Isaac Earns Gun Sense Candidate Distinction Indicates Strong Commitment to Gun Violence Prevention and Governance with Gun Safety in Mind

Yonkers Democratic mayoral candidate, and current City Councilmember Corazón Pineda-Isaac (D-2) today announced that her campaign has been awarded the 2023 Gun Sense Candidate distinction by Moms Demand Action. The influential recognition signals Pineda-Isaac's commitment to ending gun violence and creating common-sense gun safety measures as Mayor.

"I'm immensely humbled to receive the 2023 Gun Sense Candidate distinction," said Yonkers mayoral candidate, Corazon Pineda-Isaac. "With guns now being the leading cause of death for US children and teens, such a recognition comes with great responsibility both as a lawmaker and as a mother. In my continuing to pursue reasonable gun safety policy as Yonkers' next Mayor, this is a degree of accountability I willingly vow to uphold."

In running for Mayor, the City Councilmember has made crime, gun violence and public safety one of her top priorities. In a recent OpEd published in Yonkers Rising, Councilmember Pineda-Isaac outlined her crime policy agenda to keep communities safe and take guns off the streets. The policy package included:

- Investments to improve access to mental health services in the city
- Additional resources for violence interrupter programs such as SNUG
- Community resources such as community centers and after school programs to keep young people off the streets
- Create dedicated units within the Yonkers Police Department for domestic violence, gangs and burglary
- Ensure police officers have the training, funding, personnel and equipment they need to keep the community and themselves safe
- Foster greater cooperation and trust between the community and the Police Department

As the daughter of Dominican immigrants and mother of three, Corazon Pineda-Isaac would be both the first woman and the first person of color to be elected as Mayor of Yonkers. Pineda-Isaac has also received endorsements from the Working Families Party, former Westchester County Clerk Tim Itoni, City Council president Chuck Lesnick and Westchester County Board of Legislators Majority Leader Christopher Johnson.

# Yonkers Arts Weekend May 20



Yonkers 9th annual Yonkers Arts Weekend (YAW) festival will take place on Saturday, May 20. The one-day festival is filled with exciting new programs, workshops, exhibitions and much more.

The festival will include The Art Collectors Expo at YAW, which is dedicated to promoting affordable art, honoring artisans and emerging artists, encouraging collectors at all price points, and creating an inclusive and accessible market for both. Those interested in participating can apply at [www.yonkersartsweekend.com](http://www.yonkersartsweekend.com).

Yonkers artist Luisa Baptista said, "Yonkers Arts Weekend celebrates and honors the brilliance and diversity of the city's rising visual and performing arts community. Each year it showcases some of the most talented, prolific and upcoming stars that Yonkers has to offer."

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

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

- The 20th Annual YoHo Artist Open Studios at the historic Alexander Smith Carpet Mills, and now designated the Carpet Mills Art District
- Untermyer Gardens, music by the Untermyer Performing Arts Council

Hudson River Museum – new programs and workshops to be announced soon!  
Performances, exhibitions & art workshops in the Downtown Waterfront District.  
Visit. [Yonkersartsweekend.com](http://Yonkersartsweekend.com) for more information.

### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AGENDA PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023 AT 6:00 PM, WILL BE HELD IN YONKERS CITY HALL, 40 SOUTH BROADWAY, 4TH FLOOR (building is handicapped accessible).

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES [WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV](http://WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV) .

### OPEN CONTINUED HEARINGS

# 5790 – Area Variance – James Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of Mehranco Limited Liability Co., owner, on premises known as 1999 Central Park Avenue, Block: 4385, Lot: 42.43, Zone: BR

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

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

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

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

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

# 5812 – Use Variance – Junisa A. Fondeur, owner, on behalf of herself, on premises known as 61 Sherwood Avenue, Block: 6381, Lot: 20, Zone: MG

# 5813 – Area Variance – James G. Dibbini, Esq., on behalf of Jeffrey P. Chartier, owner, on premises known as 66 aka 62 Malvern Road, Block: 4950, Lot: 65, Zone: S-200

# 5814 – Area Variance – Steven A. Accinelli, Esq., on behalf of Point and Ravine LLC, owner, on premises known as 56 Ravine Avenue, Block: 2115, Lot: 5, Zone: MG

# 5815 – Area Variance – Steven A. Accinelli, Esq., on behalf of Point and Ravine LLC, owner, on premises known as 76 Point Street, Block: 2114, Lot: 17, Zone: A

# 5816 – Use Variance – John J. Phelan, Esq., on behalf of Croton Terrace Enterprises Inc., owner, on premises known as 14 Orchard Street, Block: 2076, Lot: 17, Zone: MG

# 5817 – Area Variance – Janet J. Giris, Esq., on behalf of MHACY, owner, on premises known as 23 Mulberry Street, Block: 2062, Lot: 25, Zone: M

### NEW HEARINGS

# 5818 – Area Variance – William Null, Esq. of Cuddy & Feder LLP, on behalf of UB Tanglewood LLC, owner, on premises known as 2248 aka 2270 Central Park Avenue, Block: 4800, Lot: 60, Zone: BR

# 5819 – Improvement & Intensification to a Non-Conforming Use & Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Leticia Narceda-Tan, owner, on premises known as 24 Greenvale Avenue, Block: 2475, Lot: 114, Zone: S-50

# 5820 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Mountain Portfolio Owner NY LLC, owner, on premises known as 380 Riverdale Avenue, Block: 130, Lot: 1, Zone: BA

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Notice of Formation of ROAD RAGE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/07/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 263 PALISADE AVENUE, APT 4R, YONKERS, NY 10701. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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

Notice of formation of Cake Bar By Charlene, LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/08/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 1 Glenwood avenue, 18E, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of R.O.S.Y. LLC. filed with the SSNY EIN on 2/22/2023. 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, 2803 Larkspur Street, Yorktown Hts, NY 10598. Purpose: Real Estate

Notice of Formation of Hatter Luxury Eyewear LLC filed with New York State Department of State on March 11, 2023, Office location: Westchester County. United States Corporation Agents, Inc. is designated as the agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of ATSOLO HOLDINGS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/13/23. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The Law Office of Adrian T. Solomon, Esq., 2585 Broadway Suite 235, New York 10027. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of THE BOSS BAR & RESTAURANT, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/13/23. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The Law Office of Adrian T. Solomon, Esq., 2585 Broadway Suite 235, New York 10027. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of LIVE LONG LIVE STRONG FITNESS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/07/22. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 33 Sherwood Ave, apt. 3w, Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Peek Holdings LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/8/2023. 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, 43 Nob Ct, New Rochelle, NY 10804. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Thornwood Books LLC. Arts. of Org filed with the SSNY on 02/25/2023. Office: Westchester County. U.S. Corp. Agents, Inc. designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to U.S. Corp. Agents, Inc, 7014 13th Ave Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Kalehoff Creative, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/30/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 520 Pelhamdale Avenue, Pelham, NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Kate Klose LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 02/21/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 27 Brook Street, Croton on Hudson, New York, 10520. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice is hereby given that a license, 1361004 for beer, wine, & liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, wine, & liquor at retail in a Catering Hall under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at the business known as Grand Encanto Event Venue at 18 Guion Street, Yonkers, NY 10701 for on premises consumption.

Notice of Formation of Lee Lux Co, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with the SSNY on 2/14/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as an agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 41 State Street, Suite 112, Albany, New York 12207. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Motives Thru Fabric LLC. Filed with Angel Luis Morales III. Office: 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 AADNYS TECHNOLOGIES LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/30/2023. 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, 6 Lewiston Ct, Briarcliff Manor NY, 10510. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

### Yonkers History, continued from pg 3-

Saturday, May 20th.

May 20, 1939: Children reported seeing a cross burned on the grounds of Father Divine's "Heaven" at 357 Park Hill Avenue, but Yonkers police and fire officials had no record of the incident. Next Mrs. Maurice Blinken, who lived next door, said her young sons Donald, Robert and Alan had seen something burning, but didn't know what it was. Mrs. Blinken stated "Of course, we don't know if it was a cross."

May 20, 1942: President of Yonkers Business and Professional Women's Club, VP of the Board of Education, and the first woman nominated to run for City Council, Edna S. Capewell enrolled in the National Defense Aviation Manufacturing School, a member of the first group of women enrolled. Women had to meet the same standards as men to enroll in the ten-week-course of intensive study. After completing the course, Capewill worked at Eastern Aircraft in Tarrytown as a Women's Counselor.

Sunday, May 21st

May 21, 1932: With the help of his service revolver, off-duty YPD Officer John Glus easily arrested two young men who had just stolen a car. The good officer, getting ready for bed when the crime was committed, was barefoot and pajama clad!

May 21, 1933: Yonkers, by a margin of 18 to 1, voted to elect delegates for the State Prohibition Repeat Convention in Albany. The vote was 26,100 for the repeal ticket and 1,424 for the dry ticket.

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.

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# As Rockland & Orange Refuse NYC Migrants, Latimer Talks Faith & Compassion as Westchester Prepares to be Next

Obama, MBK continued from pg 1-

“It’s being intentional about our work to change outcomes for young men of color,” said Dr. Edwin M. Quezada. “Graduating from high school is one of their most important milestones. Their diploma is the key that opens doors to opportunities for whatever our young people of color can dream. Success must be part of their life experience. In partnership with the MBK Alliance this is a reality in our learning community. Ninety percent (90%) of our young men of color graduate on time. We work tirelessly so that our young men know they are valued, accepted, respected, cared for, and loved. In Yonkers, we are My Brother’s Keeper.”

“I accepted the challenge knowing the potential our students had,” said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. “Our Yonkers School District has the highest graduation rate among New York State’s big cities. Our students are motivated and committed to this initiative and have turned it into a movement. I am so proud our great City has been chosen as an MBK Model Community because of our commitment and dedication to improving the lives of young men of color and helping them rise and become solid leaders in our community and for the next generation. We know this designation will make us a model for other urban districts and we look forward to continuing our partnership with the Obama Foundation’s My Brother’s Keeper Alliance for years to come.”

“In 2014, in the wake of Trayvon Martin’s death, I challenged every community in the country to implement strategies to help boys and young men of color,” said President Obama. “Today, I’m proud to see the incredible impact My Brother’s Keeper Alliance communities are having – helping hundreds of community leaders across the country solve problems for the next generation. Thanks to the tireless efforts of MBK communities, cities like Yonkers have changed the odds – creating opportunities for our young people to achieve their full potential. The MBK Model Communities initiative represents the next phase of the MBK Alliance’s work to help communities take on their biggest challenges – and I look forward to continuing this work alongside them for years to come.”

“As we strive to build safe and supportive communities for boys and young men of color across the country, the My Brother’s Keeper Alliance is proud to recognize Yonkers as an MBK Model Community,” said Dr. Adren Wilson, MBK Alliance Executive Director. “Yonkers has demonstrated a commitment to Milestone Three: Graduate from High School, achieving the highest high school graduation rate for young people of color in the state of New York. By providing direct coaching, peer-to-peer learning, financial resources, and evaluation support, the MBK Alliance is confident that Yonkers will continue to serve as a beacon of hope and best practices for other communities to follow. Together, we can ensure our boys and young men of color have access to the opportunities they need, including the opportunity to graduate from high school with the skills and tools needed to advance to postsecondary education or training.”

New Soccer field, continued from pg 1-

field will feature lighting, parking, bleachers and overlook the Hudson River with picturesque views of the Palisades. The Yonkers Parks department will permit the field’s use to Yonkers Public Schools and local boys and girls clubs.

“The City is taking a parcel that’s laid dormant for decades, reimagining and repurposing it for more open, green space for our community to enjoy,” said Mayor Spano. “This ideal location will be accessible for northwest Yonkers and provide for the growing demand for more soccer and recreational fields.”

In addition to the nearly two dozen parks renovated in the last decade, the new field will join the City of Yonkers’ 80+ neighborhood parks system. Construction is expected to be complete in spring 2024.

The 3.4 acre lot is located at 1061 North Broadway, formerly part of Iona College’s Elizabeth Seton Campus. The site was part of the Elizabeth Seton Campus parking lot expansion project in 1990. Fill material, consisting of construction and demolition debris, asphalt, concrete, ash were brought to the site to construct the parking lot but the project eventually halted. In 2017, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) determined the cleanup requirements needed to address any potential contamination related to the lot had been met. The site is now owned by the City of Yonkers.

The State of Texas has bused 50,000 migrants who have cross the US Border to NYC

By Dan Murphy

On May 8, Westchester County Executive George Latimer gave an impassioned speech, filled with verses from the Bible, as he prepared residents for NYC Mayor Eric Adams to send some of the 50,000 migrants now in New York City to Westchester.

Latimer stated his briefing by explaining that while Rockland and Orange Counties did receive migrants from NYC, Westchester has yet to receive any, or a request to do so. But Latimer also contrasted his views with the views of Rockland County Executive Ed Day, who has declared a state of emergency in response to migrants being sent to an empty hotel in his county, and has refused to accept them.

“The Irish immigrants who came here in the 1940’s were not welcome. We need to know how long they will be here and who will pay for it. We cannot provide federal programs to undocumented residents, and I have a fiduciary responsibility to the people of this county, and to protect their safety.

“I asked our county attorney whether I have the authority under executive order for an emergency declaration (if migrants are sent from NYC). I do not have that power.

“I am influenced by my religion, and I know that some of my fellow catholics are unhappy with some of my positions.

Latimer then read from the Bible, Book of Matthew, 25, Verses 31-40, where Jesus tells his followers.

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

and you gave me something to drink, “I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’” (NIV) End of verse.

This is what I am taught as part of my faith. I would not trade having been born in Mt. Vernon NY, and having a public education, and going to college, find work and have a better life than my parents had.

“But I can understand why someone would walk a thousand miles with their children to the border for the opportunity to have a better life. Human compassion has to be met with pragmatism. We do not have the resources to solve the problems of the world, but we cannot turn a blind eye either. It is not acceptable to say you don’t look like me go back to where you came from. That’s not acceptable either. What do we believe in and what are we willing to put behind that belief?” said Latimer.

Latimer’s comments were more suitable for a speech on the floor of the U.S. Senate. But as he pointed out, “Without a national policy we have gridlock.”

Latimer’s comments were in preparation for a likely upcoming request to house some of the NYC migrants here in Westchester, and contrasted with the views of Rockland County Executive Ed Day.

Latimer signed the Immigrant Protection Act, in 2018, which protected undocumented persons in Westchester from ICE or other Federal law enforcement seeking to deport illegals.

The other question if Westchester were asked, and accepted migrants from NYC is where would they be housed?

## A Healthy Mind is Money in the Bank: Panel Discussion on Mental Health Treatment and Resources.



Riverfront Library Community A/B Room

1 Larkin Center, Yonkers 10701

Thursday, June 1, 2023 @ 5:30pm-7:30pm

### Topics to include:

- What are some resources available to me with/without insurance?
- What are some mental health trends since COVID?
- What role does government play?
- What role can constituents play?
- What are treatment options?
- Questions from the audience.

Register:



Information:

Yonkersawarenessproject@gmail.com

### Panelists:

- Michael Orth, MSW**  
(Commissioner Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health)
- Dr William "Drew" Mullane**  
(WJCS Director of Innovation, Integration, and Community Partnerships)
- Audrey McInerney**  
(President NAMI Westchester)
- Jason Duncan, PhD**  
(President of CBTAAA & SANITY Podcast)
- Suzanne Schwartzberg**  
(Author)

### Moderator:

**Joseph Pinion**  
(CEO Pinion Media Group)

Organized & Hosted by  
Christine Peters, LCSW, BCBA

Spanish Language Interpretation  
Olga Gonzalez

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