

# Yonkers Rising

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## Yonkers Student Excellence: Meet Riverside's Valedictorian & Salutatorian



Riverside HS Valedictorian Onoriode Obaro-Best, left and Salutatorian Evelyn Evelyn Yahaira Rios

By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to this year's Valedictorian, Onoriode O. Obaro-Best, and Salutatorian Evelyn Yahaira Rios, from Riverside High School.

Onoriode Obaro-Best has a weighted grade point average of 95.73. Her school activities include National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, National English Honor Society, Yearbook Club, Junior Achievement, Senior Committee, Varsity Volleyball Setter, Mu Alpha Theta President

Awards, Honors and Scholarships include University of Vermont Trustees Scholarship, SUNY University at Buffalo Pride of New York Scholarship, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Honor Roll, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2017-2021.

Onoriode's favorite teacher is Riverside Math Teacher, Mr. Esposito. "I had him for 2 years, and I really liked the way he bonded and helped me. We had some deep conversations during lunch which I couldn't have with others, and he helped me with opportunities available this summer."

Obaro-Best has also helped tutor other students during COVID. "They come to my house and it worked out great. My parents are older, so I was able to stay home with them but help others."

Accepted to several colleges, Onoriode will be attending Lehigh College in Pennsylvania. "I got a great financial aid package and they help students become successful before we arrive. I have already made friendships with students who will also be going to Lehigh and it's a prestigious college."

She will be studying an integrated degree in Arts and Sciences with the goal of becoming an industrial engineer, and later get her Masters

Onoriode continued her senior year online and said that the past year learning with COVID "Was an adjustment but a quick one. I got used to it and just needed the device. I also took breaks and got away from my computer and took walks outside to clear my head."

Obaro-Best got a device from YPIE to help her with her online studies. She thanked Mr. Esposito and her family for helping her achieve academic greatness. "I'm the youngest and my older siblings helped me and have been my go to for help."

She didn't know her class ranking under after her sophomore year. "Everyone was asking about it, but I just kept to getting my work done. But I'm real excited that I ended up #1."

Riverside Salutatorian Evelyn Yahaira Rios will graduate with a 95.05 GPA. School Activities include YPIE Entrepreneurship Summer Program, YPIE Regeneration Science Research, YPIE Envirothon, Girls Who Code Summer Immersion Program, Junior and Senior Committee, Junior Varsity Soccer Team, Junior Varsity Track Team Awards, Honors and Scholarships Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, Honor Roll and High Honor Roll 2017-2021

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## All YPS Educators Named "Teacher of the Year" and Thanked for Dedication During COVID



Every year, the Yonkers Public Schools hold a "Teacher of the Year" ceremony in the spring, in partnership with the Yonkers Kiwanis Club, that recognized two outstanding educators. This year, after a school year of educating more than 28,000 YPS students during a pandemic, the decision was made to redefine the Teachers of the Year awards. This year, the honor is presented to all Yonkers Public Schools teachers. The Kiwanis Club of Yonkers presented banners to every school celebrating the dedication and service of all Yonkers teachers.

Board of Education President Rev. Steve Lopez stated, "This school year and since March 2020, all of our outstanding teachers demonstrated their commitment to our students and families by going above and beyond

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## Yonkers Native, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, Talks Tough on China



US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken

By Dan Murphy

United States Secretary of State Anthony Blinken spent his early childhood here in Westchester, and Yonkers. Very few details are available about Blinken's time in Yonkers, other than that he was born in Yonkers on April 16, 1962, to Judith and Donald Blinken and shortly thereafter moved to New York City, then to Paris, and the rest is history.

Recently, on an appearance on 60 Minutes, Blinken expressed a tougher message on behalf of President Joe Biden concerning China.

Norah O'Donnell: Let's talk about human rights. Describe what you see is happening in Xinjiang that maybe the rest of the world doesn't.

Blinken: "We've made clear that we see a genocide having taken place against the Uyghurs in Xinjiang. More than a million people have been put into, choose your term, concentration camps, reeducation camps, internment camps. When Beijing says, "Oh, there's a terrorism threat," which we don't see. It's not coming from a million people."

O'Donnell: "The Chinese have stolen hundreds of billions, if not trillions, of dollars of trade secrets and intellectual property from the United States. That sounds like the actions of an enemy."

Blinken. It "certainly sounds like the actions of— of— of someone who's trying to compete unfairly— and increasingly in adversarial ways. But we're much more effective and stronger when we're bringing like-minded and similarly aggrieved countries together to say to— Beijing, "This can't stand, and it won't stand."

And on May 7, Secretary of State Blinken, said that the United States would "push back forcefully" against China and Russia if they continued to break the rules of international law at a recent UN Meeting. And at a May 4 meeting with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson at 10 Downing Street, Blinken stressed the importance of the US, and its allies to "defend democratic values and open societies," referencing Human Rights violations in both China and Russia.

Blinken has also been able to acknowledge the continuing challenges that the US faces on race, which is the true difference between the US and China. An editorial on Bloomberg best lays out this point.

"At issue was America's right to criticize Chinese repression. Said top Chinese diplomat Yang Jiechi: "Many people within the United States actually have little confidence in the democracy of the United States." His message was clear: Don't criticize us about Uyghur genocide or mass arrests in Hong Kong.

"The U.S. will approach China with confidence, Blinken said, "even as we have the humility to know that we are a country eternally striving to become a more perfect union." He added that the U.S. had a long history of confronting its demons, "not trying to ignore them, not trying to pretend they don't exist, trying to sweep them under the rug."

"In these impromptu remarks, Blinken captured the essence of American exceptionalism. Its greatness is defined not by strength alone, but by humility — and the determination to confront past sins and strive to be more perfect. There is no such impulse within the Chinese Communist Party. To this day, journalists and activists who seek to keep the memory of the Tiananmen Square massacre alive are disappeared. Social media is monitored and censored by the state, forcing citizens to project public obedience to the party," writes the Editorial Board at Bloomberg.

Editor's Note: Blinken added that the troubles between the US and China are with the Chinese Communist Party, CCP, and not the Chinese people or any Asian Americans. More on Blinken's Yonkers connection next week.

## Lady Eagles Softball Dominate First Game With a 24-2 Win Over Woodlands



Congratulations to the YMA Lady Eagles, and Coach Ann, pictured above, for opening their 2021 season with a dominating 24-2 win over Woodlands. Starting pitcher Andy Hegarty w her 1st Varsity win striking out 13, allowing only 2 hits and 1 walk. At bat she went 4 for 5 w a HR and 6 RBIs. Emily Moccia 3 hits 4 RBIs, MacKenzie Moccia 4 hits 3 RBIs. Gianna Pappalardo had a great offensive and defensive game w a triple and 4 RBIs. Great all-around team victory.

With this big a victory, there are high hopes for the rest of the year. Go Lady Eagles! They are all spelling W for the win, looks like there will be more W's to come.

## Two Stepinac HS Football Stars to Play in National Football League



Two Yonkers natives who attended Stepinac High School had their dreams of playing in the NFL come a little closer to reality. TJ Morrison and Trill Williams, both defensive backs, were signed by the Las Vegas Raiders and New Orleans Saints. While neither was selected in the NFL draft, every pro football team is always looking for another defensive back to help cover wide receivers in today's pass happy NFL.

Morrison, a 2016 graduate of Stepinac, played four years for SUNY Stony Brook. Williams, a 2018 Stepinac grad, played three years for Syracuse University. Both players could have returned for more college football but both decided it was time to move on and try to make it on an NFL team.

Longtime Stepinac Football Coach and athletic director Mike O'Donnell said, "This is a historic moment for Stepinac to have three of our recent outstanding football alumni to be either drafted by or signed with NFL teams. The fact that only a very select number of players earn NFL standing makes Stepinac's representation in those ranks a singularly impressive achievement by these extraordinary student athletes. The entire Stepinac family congratulates and wishes Malcolm, T.J. and Trill great success as they follow in Stepinac's path to greater fame as professional football players."

The third Stepinac player O'Donnell referenced was Peekskill native Malcolm Koonce, who played at SUNY Buffalo as a defensive end and who was drafted by the LA Raiders in the 3rd round. Koonce and Morrison will now be together at the Raiders training camp this summer hoping to make the squad.

Koonce graduated in March of 2021 from Buffalo, Morrison graduated from Stony Brook where he was working on his MBA when the Raiders called. Williams plans on completing his degree at SU in the future.

Another Yonkers -Stepinac student, Gavin Heslop will be playing for the Seattle Seahawks this fall after playing one game last year while a member of their practice squad.

"There are not too many schools, especially in New York State, that can claim this record. Right now, there are a total of 56 Stepinac alumni playing college football. When you add it all up, this record reflects a unique culture that Stepinac has created that consistently shapes very successful student athletes," said O'Donnell, also referencing the Stepinac HS basketball players that are being recruited by college hoops powerhouses.



Trill Williams

## Fordham Offers Mt. Vernon & Yonkers Students "Neighbors" Financial Assistance



The Fordham School of Professional and Continuing Studies (PCS) is pleased to announce the launch of its Good Neighbor Initiative for the Fall 2021 term. This unique program for adult learners provides an automatic 30 percent off of tuition for undergraduate-seeking PCS students at the University's Rose Hill Campus in the Bronx who live within certain "neighbor" zip codes.

Selected zip codes cover neighborhoods in the Bronx, lower Westchester County (Mount Vernon, Yonkers) and the very northern part of Manhattan. For a full list of zip codes, visit [www.fordham.edu/goodneighbor](http://www.fordham.edu/goodneighbor).

"As a result of the turbulence of the last year, Universities have been under tremendous pressure to keep tuition the same or even increase it to help the bottom line. However, Fordham PCS is committed to supporting the communities we serve, and that serve us in return," said Dr. Anthony Davidson, dean, Fordham PCS. "Over the years we have offered similar tuition assistance for public servants, such as members of the FDNY and NYPD and Westchester County employees, and we are proud to expand this offering to the communities directly surrounding our Rose Hill Campus. These individuals live and work in our neighborhood and we are thrilled to be able to give back to them and provide the opportunity for a best-in-class education right in their own backyard."

Students who participate in the Good Neighbor Initiative may also qualify for additional financial aid, such as merit aid, Pell grants, support from the New York State Tuition Assistance Program, and institutional aid. If a student qualifies for more than one discount (e.g., NYPD, FDNY, NYC Ballet Dancers, etc.), the student will receive the higher of the two awards.

Fordham PCS will host a virtual information session on June 2 at 6:30 p.m. where they will explain the Good Neighbor Initiative and Fordham's undergraduate degree programs for adult learners. Those who attend will have their application fees waived. For more information, visit <https://www.fordham.edu/goodneighbor>.

## Suez Invested Over \$87 Million in Water System Improvements Across New York in 2020

In a year that shined a light on what it truly means to be essential, SUEZ invested over \$87 million in infrastructure projects to improve its water and wastewater systems across New York in 2020.

"SUEZ truly kept its commitment to its customers," said Nadine Leslie, CEO, SUEZ North America. "Whether we are providing safe, reliable drinking water services or ensuring that wastewater is being safely treated to return to the environment, our customers are at the forefront of what we do. Last year presented numerous challenges, yet our employees stood by that commitment, embraced new health and safety regulations and continued delivering for the communities we serve."

Thirty nine projects were completed in 18 municipalities in 2020 to ensure water quality and reliability to the 525,000 residents and businesses SUEZ serves in Rockland, Westchester, Orange, Tioga and Putnam counties.

"Our investments will benefit our communities for generations to come," said Chris Graziano, Vice President and General Manager of SUEZ Utility Operations in New York. "From New Rochelle to Owego, our customers in New York depend on us to provide water and wastewater services to their homes and businesses every day. That is why we continue to make long-term, essential investments that improve water quality and reliability."

**Delivering the Essentials of Life During a Pandemic:**

The COVID-19 pandemic presented unprecedented challenges for the world and at the same time reminded people how essential water is to hand-washing and good hygiene. With much of the state shut down, SUEZ crews embraced new health and safety standards designed to protect themselves and their customers as they continued their essential work.

"During this challenging time, SUEZ has been with our communities every step of the way," Graziano said. "Our teams have worked tirelessly in the field, in the lab and in our treatment plants to ensure our customers have the clean water and reliable service they need to remain safe. It has been an honor to serve our communities and to know our infrastructure investments are helping to strengthen New York."

### Investment Highlights:

#### Water Main Replacements

\$28 million was invested in water mains that will safeguard and enhance reliable water service and ensure resiliency throughout SUEZ's New York service territory. Approximately 82,000 feet of water main were replaced in 2020, including the first stage of a project to replace water mains on Main Street in New Rochelle, as part of the city's historic downtown revitalization project.

#### Water Quality Improvements

Work was started on a multi-year upgrade at SUEZ's Lake DeForest Treatment Plant to address water quality issues, including taste and odor which emerged in 2019 due to a significant algae bloom in the reservoir. Ozone and powdered activated carbon are the treatments that are planned. The plant treats water from Lake DeForest, a 6-billion gallon reservoir that serves approximately 100,000 customers in Rockland County.

#### System Improvements

Completed safety improvements at numerous facilities, including an upgrade of cameras and access systems, replacement of fencing, lighting improvements and the installation of catwalks.

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## Spano to de Blasio: Don't 'Cancel' Columbus Day



## Let's Responsibly Save the Environment and Economy



By Eric W. Schoen

New York's unenforced plastic bag law. Congestion Pricing costs. Does anyone remember the Recycling rules? We will try to responsibly save the environment and economy this week. Let's start with plastic bags.

I don't know about where you live but in Yonkers plastic bags don't grow on trees. They are not blown by the wind and getting caught on tree limbs either. Those in favor of banning single use plastic bags make this outrageous claim that they end up in trees. Send me an email (and pictures) if you are seeing plastic bags in trees in your neighborhood.

So New York bans single use plastic bags. In my world there is no such thing as a single use plastic bag. After I tote my groceries home in a plastic bag I use that bag for garbage. I leave the plastic bag filled with garbage outside my door in the morning for the maintenance man in my complex to pick up.

Yes, I could use one of those thick Glad or other brand bags to put out my garbage. But it seems to me that those thick, heavy, one use bags would do more to damage the environment than the flimsy plastic bags that I am reusing from the grocery store.

Now some folks use those flimsy grocery store bags to pick up after their dogs when the dogs are walked and nature calls. They are the perfect size and allow one to pick up the animal excrement and neatly dispose of it. Should you go out and buy a box of bags with the sole purpose of using them to clean up from your dog or other animal you walk such as a horse or turtle? Those bags you buy exclusively for cleaning up after Fido or Myrtle the Turtle or Mister Ed are truly single use plastic bags.

As you know, we are in the middle of a pandemic. Our homes are filled with bottles of Clorox, bleach wipes and other products to clean and sanitize and get rid of germs and all those other nasty little things that can make us sick. New York intelligently put off the plastic bag ban enforcement during the early days of the pandemic.

Do we really want bags from peoples homes that we didn't know if they were properly sanitized to be brought into grocery stores? As we are schmearing our hands with Purell and other hand sanitizing chemicals pumped out of big plastic bottles. Cashiers loading groceries into these possibly germ filed bags?

Stores like Stop and Shop posted signs that their cashiers would not pack groceries into customer brought in reusable bags. Most cashiers I interact with (most times I use the self scanning grocery line) still refuse to put their hands inside of reusable shopping bags customers bring in. The current rule for cashiers isn't keep 6 feet away, wear a mask, wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and then put your hands in a reusable bag a customer who you don't know brought in from home.

So last week, a newspaper called The City asked the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation how many fines have been issued since the ban on plastic bags took effect in October 2020. The answer was zero. 64 written warnings were given to stores, but no violations with fines were issued.

So last week I'm in 7-Eleven and the customer 6 feet in from of me is buying slices of pizza, hot dogs, other items from the rolling heat grill and the cashier refused to give him a bag to put the items in. What was he supposed to do? Juggle the items? These items he was purchasing do qualify for an exemption from the ban titled 'unwrapped food.' The pizza comes in half of a box with no top, the greasy roller items plucked off the grill and frankfurters (which he covered with mustard, ketchup, relish) are in a flimsy bag that is open. And they won't give him a bag? Or he should bring a reusable bag from home to get covered with grease and used the next day to buy groceries in the supermarket?

This episode and many similar ones make no sense. Merchants don't understand the law, common sense is not being used and the law makes no sense in our current climate. After the article appeared in The City about lack of enforcement, DEC announced that 12 violation notices were issued, 9 going to small businesses and 3 to corporate entities, including Gristedes.

Gristedes is a chain of grocery stores owned by John Catsimatidis, father of the head of the New York Republican Party and outspoken critic of the plastic bag ban. He also bought radio station WABC 770 AM in New York to keep it local like WVOX, 1460 on the AM dial, owned by WILLIAM O'SHAUGHNESSY on which you can hear this columnist. Could it be a coincidence that the New York Democratic Governor is issuing a violation and fine to the father of the head of the New York Republican Party's father?

So I'm willing to compromise. Let stores use paper bags, sturdy ones with handles to allow customers to tote their food purchases. They are more environmentally friendly than plastic bags. No charge to the customer and the merchant doesn't have to pay the state for using paper bags. Let's do this at least until this pandemic is over. And encourage people to reuse their strong heavy paper bags. And none of this charging of 50 cents by some unscrupulous merchants for bags who give the consumer no other options. I've encountered the 50 cent bag offer way too many times. That's simply highway robbery!

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Mayor Mike Spano recently called on New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio "to direct his New York City Department of Education to reverse their thoughtless and insensitive decision to eliminate Columbus Day from the school calendar.

"Taking Columbus Day away and replacing it with Italian Heritage and Indigenous Peoples' Day is an outright insult. I agree there should be an Indigenous Peoples' Day, but not the same day when Americans celebrates Italian heritage.

The City of Yonkers holds one of the biggest and most popular Columbus Day Parade's in New York State.

On May 3, the NYC Department of Education released their school calendar for the upcoming 2021-22 school year. On October 11, NYC schools were to be closed for Indigenous People's Day, replacing Columbus Day. After an outcry, NYC Mayor Bill deBlasio came up with a compromise that satisfied nobody, with the new school holiday to be called "Italian Heritage Day/Indigenous People's Day."

Italian Americans across New York State were pissed off. Long Island Congressman Tom Suozzi said, "It's absolutely outrageous that the Department of Education did this, and I'm going to try to build a coalition to fight this. Columbus Day has been in place for a long, long period of time, and it's important to Italian Americans who faced tremendous discrimination in this country."

The most prominent Italian-American in NY State Government, Gov. Andrew Cuomo also blasted the decision. "You ready for a shocker? I disagree with it. I know you're taken aback. Cities have certain authority and a city can declare a city holiday. When it comes to appreciating and respecting Indigenous people, I agree 100%. They deserve much more than a holiday. Columbus Day is a day where we celebrate the Italian-American contribution to this state. It's not either/or. We're not drawing lines and dividing. You don't have to exclude Italians to celebrate indigenous people."

Longtime New Yorker and Westchester resident and actor Chaz Palmineri said, "For millions of Italians across the country and world, it will always be Columbus Day. To us, it's our day. It's in our minds and in our hearts. It doesn't make sense to me."

The question now, in New York City, is what happens to the Columbus monument, located at Columbus Circle? Will the monument, now on the register of historic places, be taken down by force during the next protest? Will the NYC Council and Mayor deBlasio change the name of Columbus Circle?

One Italian-American we spoke to at Dom & Vinny's Pizza in Yonkers told us, "when is the cancel culture going to stop?"

### Fourth Precinct Community Council

Because of COVID, the Fourth Precinct Community Council will hold its monthly meeting by a ZOOM telephone meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday May 20. You can attend the meeting from home on your telephone. Please be aware this is an open meeting, and there is no agenda. If you want to say something, just find an opening, and say it.

Please note that the numbers for the ZOOM meeting have changed. To participate in the ZOOM meeting, Call 1 (929) 205-6099 and Enter Meeting ID 814 4072 2500, If asked, the passcode is 154566, and identify yourself. If the line drops, and you get disconnected during the meeting, just hang up and call again. Please don't use the "speaker phone" option as it causes "feedback." Thank you.



**Untermyer Performing Arts Council**  
Mayor Mike Spano  
Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation

*Present*



**Brian Conway**  
Liz McNicholl  
Kieran Flanagan  
Jerry O'Sullivan

in the  
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**Saturday, May 22 at 3pm**  
(Rain Date May 23)

**Untermyer Park**  
945 North Broadway, Yonkers, NY

*This concert will also be live-streamed on Facebook*

**Masks required**  
This concert is free and open to the public  
Audience size will be limited; reservations are required and allocated in the order received. Call 914-375-3435 starting at 11am Friday, May 14th for reservations. No more than four reservations per call will be accepted.

Done in cooperation with Mayor Mike Spano and the Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. Funding is received from Arts Westchester with support from Westchester County Government, The City of Yonkers, Andrea Stewart Cousins, Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, the Ira Goldman Memorial Fund, and our loyal arts patrons.



**NOTICE TO NEW YORK RESIDENTS**

Homeowner Funding is now offering homeowners a chance to make necessary energy efficient home repairs and will be offering its services to families who:

1. **ARE UNABLE TO PAY CASH FOR NECESSARY HOME REPAIRS.**
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REPAIR TO INCLUDE:  
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Money Is Now Available Through Approved Lenders to Qualified Applicants\* for Home Repairs

up to **\$25,000**



## Co-Ops Tell County Board: Bill Will Do More Harm than Good



Co-ops in Scarsdale and Bronxville are selling for more than \$500,000

By Dan Murphy

The County Board of Legislators is moving through its committee process a bill which would regulate how co-op boards review applications and how they would also be required to divulge, in writing, the reasons for any rejections of applicants.

Opposition to publicly releasing the reasons for a rejected application to purchase a co-op have many co-op associations and boards in Westchester, in opposition to the legislation because they believe it will add to their legal costs and make volunteer members of co-op board less likely to serve.

Kathleen Jensen-Graham, Vice Chair of the Cooperative and Condominium Advisory Council, a part of The Building & Realty Institute of Westchester & the Mid-Hudson Region, wrote the following OP-ED. "I am the Treasurer and member of the application screening committee for a self-managed cooperative.

"The bill proposed by the Westchester County Legislature to regulate how co-ops decide which applicants to accept into our community is not only potentially costly to existing cooperators, but could affect the chance of admission for otherwise viable candidates.

"Co-op boards are composed entirely of volunteers who dedicate our time and efforts to our board duties. Many of my fellow shareholders are either first-time homeowners or senior citizens, including those who have exhausted much of their life savings to live a modest yet comfortable life. Those of us who own shares in the cooperative corporation are both neighbors and each other's business partners, and anyone we welcome to our community has to assume both roles as well.

As a shareholder, I myself have gone through the admissions process. Questions on the written application and during the interview focused only on the financial ability to afford the proprietary lease and the willingness to adhere to the house rules which benefit the entire community. Our admissions committee and our not-for-profit board of directors have to conduct an extremely thorough check of a person's financials to ensure they can commit financially to the preservation of our complex in the long-term. Anyone who can't reliably pay the monthly maintenance charges or who will otherwise create financial liability for the co-op will impose a budgetary shortfall that will have to be made up for by the rest of us. I sincerely doubt that the County will be offering a bailout in such an instance.

"I am proud to be a shareholder in a cooperative community that respects diversification in all aspects of fair housing, but I am strongly opposed to the further encumbrance of unsubstantiated regulatory interference. In seeking to root out a few bad actors who reject applicants for unfair and biased reasons, they're also laying substantial burdens and threats of liability on my co-op, who has only rejected 2 applicants in the 16 years I've been on the board.

"Although this bill may be well-intended, it will undoubtedly do more damage than good," writes Jensen-Graham.

Tim Foley, CEO of The Builders Institute of Westchester and The Mid-Hudson Region, said that while the bill has many good parts to it, "Co-ops are concerned about the liability costs. Currently, 90% of applicants get accepted and the County Human Rights Commission receives those denials. The major reason for denials is that applicants don't complete the application or are denied for financial reasons, like bad credit or other debts. Co-op boards do perform rigorous financial reviews, but the concern is that if they have to put the reasons for their denial in writing, it will increase liability costs for the entire co-op and shareholders. One of our members had a lawsuit brought against the board because the applicant was denied a mortgage. He sued the board and the insurance company settled for \$30,000.

"We are asking someone on the BOL to submit an amendment and change this one piece of the bill," said Foley.

A public hearing on the legislation will be held on May 24. Visit [westchesterlegislators.com](http://westchesterlegislators.com) for more information.

### Classified- Help Wanted

IT Project Manager, New Rochelle, NY Interface w/ product managers, QA, dvlpmnt, technical operations teams to identify & dvlp IT projects; establish project stratgy & goals & translate goals into day-to-day activities; drive & monitor IT projects to make sure adherence to budget, schedule, quality standards; deploy & maintain technical documt for product functionality & requirmnts; manage app dvlpmnt projects through all phases of implmntation; dvlp & manage sys & User Acceptance Testing (UAT) for projects; track project deliverables & performance to generate perfmance feedback. Bachelor in Management Info Systems or Engineering related field + 5 years exp in job offrd or as Program Manager. Fax resume to HR Mgr, Benchmark Education, 914-813-9610.

## On This Day in Yonkers History...



Internationally known pianist Percy Grainger performed at Gorton HS

By Mary Hoar, President Emerita Yonkers Historical Society, recipient of the 2004 Key to History, President Untermeyer Performing Arts Council

Monday, May 17th

May 17, 1945: Mayor Curtiss Frank informed the Common Council "In sum and substance, the deal to have the Celanese Corporation of American erect a \$1 million research lab here is off." Protests of area residents had stymied negotiations. Although Celanese indicated Yonkers was its first choice, it went elsewhere.

May 17, 1946: Andrew Coppola, President, announced the seaplane base at 1201 Warburton Avenue reopened under its previous name, Hudson Valley Flyers. Coppola said the new company wanted to encourage men and women to experience pleasure flying, and added a new Piper Cub seaplane to its equipment. Company founder Paul Lonquish, an Army Air Force Captain still stationed overseas, operated the seaplane base for two years before the war; the base almost was destroyed by a 1944 hurricane. Three instructors gave lessons, including Joseph Achino who instructed Army cadets during the war.

Tuesday, May 18th

May 18, 1944: As part of the New York Guard's Company I, 56th Regiment and the First Signal Company recruitment drive, Staff Sergeant Carl Babiar showed outdoor movies of the company's activities at Camp Smith in Peekskill; movies were shown in Getty Square, accompanied by a display of the weapons and equipment used by both Guard companies.

May 18, 1945: City Clerk Francis Heafy received an interesting thank you note! Chairman of the Yonkers Cigarette Fund, a group that sent thousands of cigarette packages to our fighting men in all combat theaters, he received a short thank you from Marine gunnery sergeant E. V. Murray. The note read, "The cigarettes arrived and were appreciated. Regards to the girls in the office from the boys (7) in Foxhole No. 13."

Wednesday, May 19th

May 19, 1940: A Grand Jury began investigating the Yonkers relief and WPA administrations; the potential charge was WPA supplies were removed from the Yonkers projects and "converted to private use."

May 19, 1942: Unaware an APB had been issued and Yonkers Police cars were searching all over South Yonkers for him, a large deer wandered happily along South Broadway, possibly window shopping. Unfortunately, its life ended when it jumped through the glass window at 492 South Broadway.

May 19, 1945: The American Labor Party, at a public forum they called "The Future of Our Town," advocated for a coalition of "all the forces of good government" to cope with the "all time low in Politics." They held the event at the United Electrical Workers Hall at 34 North Broadway.

Thursday, May 20th

May 20, 1927: Internationally known pianist Percy Grainger made his Yonkers debut at a concert at Gorton High School.

*continued on pg 6-*

## Yonkers Historical Society On-Line Charity Auction!

Starting 5/15/21 ending 5/21/21

Raising funds for a new cedar shingle roof, exterior clapboard siding repair, and interior restoration - projected to cost \$150,000

Auctioned items donated by 3 estates & 1 renowned NYC art dealer.

Real antique furnishings, gold/silver jewelry, artisan jewelry, signed 1st edition books, large collection of art books & catalogues, antique toys, paintings, signed prints by known artists.

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Lisa Kohl, auction manager for Clearing House Estate Sales (CHES) on AuctionNinja

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### *Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-*

May 20, 1953: Former Mayor William Wallin (1918-1921) tried to start a movement for the Radford Building to keep its name. The top two floors were being torn down, and the two lower floors were being renovated. Radford Hall, the scene of many meetings and rallies, was on the upper floor in the building built in 1867. According to Wallin, the building not only was the largest but also the best office and store building in Yonkers. William Radford, the first President of the Village of Yonkers, served 1855 and 1856.

Friday, May 21st

May 21, 1907: Yonkers Civil War Veterans announced their claim to the "youngest soldier yet," with the release of the name of George Hendrickson. Hendrickson was only 14 when he enlisted in Yonkers to fight on September 3, 1862.

May 21, 1949: The parishioners of St. Anthony's Church, Willow Street, celebrated burning of their mortgage at a special banquet held at Vesuvio Restaurant. It was the first time since the parish was founded in 1900 the church was completely debt free.

May 21, 1960: Boston's Johnny Kelley won the 26-mile Yonkers Marathon, setting a course record of 2:20:13. This winning time placed him on the o US Olympic Marathon team for the second time. He also won the Boston Marathon.

Saturday May 22nd

May 22, 1932: Replaced by a Democrat in January, former Yonkers Police Department electrician Gerald Meadows started proceedings to force the Loehr Administration to reinstate him.

May 22, 1932: The NYS Temporary Emergency Relief Administration allocated \$5000 for several repairs to Manor Hall to be done under the temporary relief work program; Philipse Manor Hall was considered to be our Yonkers' historic shrine.

May 22, 1942: By strict order of the United States Army, all lighted signs in Yonkers were to be extinguished for the duration of the war. All street-lights were shaded so that light only was cast downward; the same was true for lights in store windows. Any other lighted sign had to be "snuffed out" for the duration of the war.

Sunday, May 23rd

May 23, 1930: In the first test of the new Board of Education President Leslie Sutherland, former President Richard Edie was outvoted by a margin of eight to one; the Board was voting an increase of the maximum bid to purchase land to build an addition to School Sixteen. This rescinded a previous resolution to condemn the property if the owners would not accept \$45,000.

May 23, 1937: Under a new statute approved by Governor Herbert Lehman, Yonkers residents held the right to force a referendum on any proposed changes in the City Charter, as long as they had enough voters sign the petition.

May 23, 1944: Councilman Edith Welty introduced an ordinance to prohibit smoking on trolley cars; the ordinance passed in 1943 allowed smoking at the back of the cars between May 15th and September 15th; the new ordinance followed the new regulations required by NYS Public Service Commission prohibiting all smoking on buses and trolleys.

**Questions or comments, email me at [YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com](mailto:YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com). For information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and upcoming events, please visit our website [www.yonkershistoricalsociety.com](http://www.yonkershistoricalsociety.com).**

## Legal Notices

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.

However, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and in line with the directives issued by the Mayor of Yonkers regarding public safety, there is limited access to One Larkin Center. 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 wear face coverings and see the Public Safety Officer in the library atrium, who will clock in the bid and then contact Purchasing to pick up the bid. Sealed Bids will continue to be opened and read on the dates below, however, there will not be a public opening of bids. 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 6619 -- opening date 6/11/2021: Flood and Drainage Improvements at Various Locations. The Contractor shall make good faith efforts to involve NYS Certified firms to meet the following M/WBE project goals: MBE 15%; WBE 15% (30% total). (AS)
2. Bid 6651 – opening date 6/4/2021: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to purchase various grades of motor oil and transmission fluid as needed. (AS)
3. Bid 6658 – opening date 6/4/2021: Purchase of Paratech, or equal, high and low pressure rescue air bags. (AC)
4. Bid 6659 – opening date 6/4/2021: Purchase of various Dewalt, or equal, power tools and accessories (21 items). (FB)
5. Bid 6660 – opening date 6/11/2021: Furnish and install 3M DefenseLite Pro, or equal, glazing on windows at Police Headquarters and the Third Precinct. (AC)
6. Bid 6661 – opening date 6/11/2021: Cleaning and repair of Diesel Particulate Filters at the DPW Service Center. (FB)
7. Bid 6647 – opening date 6/4/2021: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide Ferrara Fire Apparatus parts and repair services as needed. (SR)
8. Bid 6648 – opening date 6/18/2021: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to purchase bulk quantities of 36% Phosphoric Acid per Yonkers specifications as-needed. (AC)
9. Bid 6649 – opening date 6/18/2021: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide hydro excavating services as-needed. (AC)
10. Bid 6662 – opening date 6/4/2021: Purchase of 40 Malco, or equal, sheet metal starter kits and 30 Yellow Jacket, or equal, Supper Heat calculators. (DC)
11. Bid 6663 – opening date 6/4/2021: Purchase of 3 Blodgett Zephaire 200-G, or equal, double gas convection ovens and 1 Vulcan C24EA5, or equal, electric counter to convection steamer. In accordance with the Yonkers School grant from the New York State Education Department, to be eligible for award the successful bidder must be a New York State certified Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise ("M/WBE") (DC)
12. Bid 6664 – opening date 6/11/2021: Purchase of various manufacturers, or equals, and quantities of license plate readers, components, and accessories. (SR)
13. Bid 6608A – opening date 6/11/2021: Purchase of one model year 2019 or newer Ford Transit 350, or equal, van with bucket, configured per YPS specifications. (SR)
14. Bid 6624A – opening date 6/11/2021: Purchase of twenty 20' x 30' free standing, metal frame, and vinyl fabric canopy lawn tents manufactured per Yonkers specifications. (DC)

Notice of Formation of Bratdog LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/26/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, Shantell James, 11 Lanark Road, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of LIB Scholastics Sources, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/06/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as an agent of the LLC upon whom the process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: 20 Water Grant Street, Apt 324, Yonkers, NY 10701.

Notice of formation of Street Meatz, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/06/2021. 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, 28 Frazier Place, Yonkers, NY 10704 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company Bougie The Brand By Shay LLC, Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 10/22/20 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to : C/O BOUGIE THE BRAND BY SHAY LLC, 100 Riverdale Avenue Apt 7D Yonkers, New York 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

## Yonkers Rising

PO Box 705, Yonkers NY 10702--914-833-1588.

Proudly serving Yonkers as the official weekly newspaper with hyperlocal news. Member NY Press Association.

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**Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-**

Let's make merchants post signage at the register that states when plastic bags can legally be given out according to law. This way customers don't have to juggle slices of pizza, frankfurters and other grill items in their hands.

Many people are carrying items out of the store with no bags in their shopping carts. I'll bet you theft is occurring because of this. Again, merchants and customers lose with the customer paying more.

It's time for a refresher course on recycling in New York. And some consistency. Sometimes you can just recycle cans and bottles in those blue garbage bins and sometimes it's just newspapers and cardboard boxes and who knows what else?

Congestion pricing is back in the news. New York requested it under President Trump, and he sat on it during his tenure. President Biden paved the way for congestion pricing for vehicles to be back on the front burner again in New York. What this means is that if you go south of 60th Street you pay a toll because you are entering the area in New York City with the most congestion.

Just as we are encouraging workers and tourists to come back to the Manhattan we are going to hit them with another toll? Didn't we read last week that Governor Cuomo doesn't think the subways are safe? And how about the tolls New Yorkers already pay headed into Manhattan. And poor New Jersey folks with the Turnpike, Parkway and \$16 George Washington Bridge tolls.

Tell your State Legislators that enough is enough with these tolls. And if they try to put the tolls in place, watch that they don't go crazy high and that the toll you currently pay is deducted from what you will have to pay under congestion pricing. Let's not make poor Yonkersites and Westchesterites pay \$16 to go south of 60th Street in Manhattan like New Jersey makes residents and visitors pay to enter New York State!

**Reach Eric Schoen at [thistoosyonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistoosyonkers@aol.com). Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen and Dan Murphy on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to [WVOX.com](http://WVOX.com) and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.**

**Suez Water Improvements, continued from pg 2-****Water Quality Improvements**

Work was started on a multi-year upgrade at SUEZ's Lake DeForest Treatment Plant to address water quality issues, including taste and odor which emerged in 2019 due to a significant algae bloom in the reservoir. Ozone and powdered activated carbon are the treatments that are planned. The plant treats water from Lake DeForest, a 6-billion gallon reservoir that serves approximately 100,000 customers in Rockland County.

**System Improvements**

Completed safety improvements at numerous facilities, including an upgrade of cameras and access systems, replacement of fencing, lighting improvements and the installation of catwalks.

**Tank upgrades**

The painting and upgrades to storage tanks in Spring Valley and Port Chester ensure that water is available when needed in the local area and extends the life of these critical assets.

**SCADA Master Plan upgrade**

Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems at 20 sites in Rockland were upgraded to ensure continuous monitoring of water supply and quality and to provide further protections against cyber security threats.

**Safety Enhancements**

Improvements included upgrades to systems that monitor water quality and supply, increased cybersecurity measures and security enhancements to make water supplies and systems safer.

Many new projects – including main replacements, plant upgrades and water tank refurbishments – are already underway in 2021. These investments highlight the company's commitment to improve lives and communities across New York, Graziano said. "These projects keep communities safe and they prepare New York for the future," Graziano said. "These extensive upgrades to New York's infrastructure and treatment facilities will have long-lasting impacts on the areas we serve."

**YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester  
Launches Center for Racial Equity****WESTCHESTER  
CENTER FOR  
RACIAL  
EQUITY**

The YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester announces it has launched the Westchester Center for Racial Equity, a dedicated space for working towards advancing racial equity in the county. The Center is a further demonstration of the YWCA's commitment to racial justice, a mission it has been pursuing for more than 90 years as it worked to eliminate racism, empower women, strengthen communities and stand up for social change.

"We are delighted to create this safe place where we can provide the vision, the space and the community to sustain anti-racist work," says Maria Imperial, CEO of the YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester.

"We envision partnering with organizations committed to social change, and offering a platform for community resources, accountability and racial transformation. We also will help leaders and organizations create the necessary shift to become more anti-racist workplaces."

The Center offers training programs, learning opportunities, consulting services, leadership development and will foster important conversations and relationships. It also plans to produce a scorecard to track progress in eliminating disparities in health, education, housing and other systems.

"These efforts require honesty, intentionality and ongoing work," Imperial points out. "Our process provides the framework to understand the context, history and manifestations of racism."

The Center recently premiered a three-part, two-hour workshop Racial Equity Series that will be offered on a continuous basis. The workshops are available singularly or as a series. Information can be found here: <https://ywcaawpcw.org/events/workshops-and-programs>.

The Westchester County Board of Legislators provided some funding for the Center, and several other organizations have offered support, including Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Morgan Stanley, Pepsico and the United Way of Westchester and Putnam.

"Regeneron is proud to join with the YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester as a founding partner in the Westchester Center for Racial Equity," says Smita Pillai, chief diversity, equity & inclusion officer. "Together, we strive to help advance systemic changes needed to combat racism and address disparities that disproportionately impact communities of color. In many ways, racial equity is a crucial public health priority, and we are committed to bringing our resources, expertise and volunteers to bear to help empower communities and build a more fair and just society. We are pleased to support the Center's development of a racial equity scorecard, which will be essential to driving community accountability towards equitable outcomes and measurable change."

Christian A. Templeman, vice president, financial advisor, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, says, "Collaboration is key when addressing complex issues like racial equity. The Center for Racial Equity provides a dedicated place for important collaborative work. Morgan Stanley looks forward to continuing to be an active partner in advancing racial equity in Westchester County."

Added Kara Underwood, managing director, head of diversity, inclusion and talent, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, "Morgan Stanley is proud to be a founding partner of the Center for Racial Equity as it gives us the opportunity to play an active role in supporting programs, events and initiatives focused on creating a more equitable and inclusive society."

"At PepsiCo, we are committed to investing in the communities where we live, operate and serve. We are proud to support the YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester in the launch of the Westchester Center for Racial Equity," says Tina Bigalke, PepsiCo global chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer. "Community action that drives structural change is an important step in the journey toward creating a more united, equitable and inclusive America."

Tom Gabriel, president and CEO, United Way of Westchester and Putnam, added "Through the Center for Racial Equity, the YWCA will continue working towards advancing racial equity in Westchester at a time when it is truly needed. The United Way is proud to support this important initiative because we believe that we are stronger together, and that it is only by being United that we can change the world for the better."

"We must make this moment a turning point for real change," Imperial declared. "Let us build a new world where racial equity is the common denominator."

For more information, visit <https://ywcaawpcw.org/>.

**Riverside Val-Sal continued from pg 1-**

Her favorite teachers were "the whole Riverside staff and the YPIE staff who were so supportive. YPIE prepared me for college all four years with the College Zone and further prepared me for the Regents.

Community Service and Work included Museum School 25 teacher assistant, Junior Achievement Teacher of the Day program, Yonkers Board of Education Parent Academy volunteer, Westchester Parks Foundation volunteer, Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra volunteer, Summer Reading Buddies, coat check at local restaurants

Evelyn loves music, and enjoys reading to get away in her mind. She also enjoys debates to hear both sides of a controversial topic. A self-described environmentalist, Rios has a goal to find a solution to plastic pollution and fought to ban single-use plastic bags before New York's official ban. She also plays the flute in band and took an accounting class at Monroe College last summer. Evelyn will be attending Northeastern College in Boston in the fall. "I like their co-op program because it helps students get real job experiences. She will be studying Chemistry and hopes to become a Chemical engineer.

"Boston is a great city and I'm excited about living on campus. I wanted to get away but also have a connection with my family and its not that far away.

Rios had a difficult time continuing to excel in her studies during COVID. "I have 6 siblings in my family and I had to be a teacher for them also. But I did and I always had a device.

Her HS ranking was #2 for most of her four years, and "I wasn't competing with anyone, just getting my work done.

Best of luck in your futures!

**Teacher of the Year, continued from pg 1-**

to keep their students learning every day. Therefore, it is fitting this year for the Trustees in partnership with the Kiwanis Club and the Mayor to celebrate and give a heartfelt thanks to the outstanding work of all Yonkers Public Schools teachers."

Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Superintendent of Schools noted, "During challenging times Yonkers teachers relentlessly persevere for the sake of their students. I have had the privilege of witnessing this on so many occasions. Our teachers are compassionate for the children and families we serve and this was more apparent throughout this year and last. In every classroom and conversation with teachers, their creativity, resourcefulness and collegial support was evident. Our teachers' determination sustained Yonkers quality teaching and learning. More importantly, Yonkers teachers provided some stability for our students during very confusing times."

"Our Yonkers Public School teachers continue to rise above what they were trained to do," said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. "I applaud our teachers for continuously investing in the well-being of our students while caring about their future and happiness beyond the classroom. Thank you to our friends at Kiwanis for helping us spotlight our amazing teachers."

The Yonkers Kiwanis Club is proud of our Public School teachers. We appreciate their dedication and service to the children in our district. Our "Teacher of The Year" program began back in 1956 to honor an excellent, outstanding educator and now we honor ALL teachers during the past year. Judy Bartunek, Yonkers Kiwanis President

"When faced with the impossible reality of educating students in a virtual setting when the system was not set up for it and the digital divide was so prevalent, teachers made the impossible possible. We are so proud of our Yonkers Public School teachers," added Samantha Rosado-Ciriello, President, Yonkers Federation of Teachers. "They are superheroes!"

For sixty-six years the Kiwanis Club of Yonkers, in cooperation with the Yonkers Board of Education, has given recognition to public school teachers who have demonstrated excellence in teaching, made significant contributions to the school community and engaged in activities that have led to student growth and development. Historically, one teacher who meets these criteria is selected each year from a slate of nominees to be inducted into the Yonkers Teacher Hall of Fame. In 2015, the Mayor of the City of Yonkers joined the tribute awarding annual recognitions to outstanding elementary and secondary Yonkers teachers.

## Gold Star Mother Margaret Horan Honored by Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Pearl Harbor, WWII Vet Chick Galella



State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins with 100 year old WWII Vet Chick Galella, left, and Galella and Horan family members at the Gold Star Mothers Memorial

State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins provided the keynote address at the May 9 unveiling of the Margaret J. Horan Gold Star Mothers' Memorial at Horan's Landing Park, 57 River Street, Sleepy Hollow, New York "I am honored to have been asked by my good friend Chick Galella to speak at this memorial event honoring Margaret J. Horan and all Gold Star Mothers. Chick has always given back to the community on causes he feels passionate about and nothing could be more meaningful than this---a tribute to Mrs. Horan and all Gold Star Mothers who have lost their sons or daughters in service to our great country," said NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. "At 100 years young, and a NYS Veteran's Hall of Fame Honoree, Chick has never wavered in Veterans causes. I thank him for initiating this project and so appreciate the efforts by the Gold Mother Memorial Committee of Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown, the Historical Society of Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown, the Village of Sleepy Hollow, and all the donors who have contributed \$100,000 to successfully create this memorial sculpture Horan's Landing Park", Stewart-Cousins continued.

The Memorial is a project initiated by Armando "Chick" Galella. Chick is a 100-year-old Sleepy Hollow, New York resident and decorated WWII veteran and Pearl Harbor survivor. The Committee charged with raising the funds necessary for the Memorial's commission announced the successful conclusion of the \$ 100,000 campaign at Chick Galella's 100th birthday celebration on January 1, 2021. The campaign was in partnership with The Historical Society of Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown.

The objective was to commission and erect a Gold Star Mother Memorial to honor Margaret J Horan, mother of John J Horan who was killed on December 7, 1941 during the attack on Pearl Harbor. In honoring Mrs. Horan, the memorial also honors all Gold Star Mothers.

Chick stated, "I couldn't think of a better day for us to unveil this memorial than Mother's Day. Words of gratitude are not enough. I want to thank the many donors who helped make this dream come true. My special thanks go to our partners the Historical Society, the Village of Sleepy Hollow and all those special friends and neighbors who donated."

Senator Pete Harkham said, "This memorial recognizes and honors the sacrifices Mrs. Horan and all Gold Star Mothers undertook when their brave military sons and daughters made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation."

The Gold Mother Memorial Committee of Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown is comprised of; Vivian Allen, President of the Gold Star Mothers of Hudson Valley. Vivian of Chester, New York lost her son 1st Lieutenant Lou Allen in 2005 while serving in Iraq; Michael Dawley, a Sleepy Hollow resident, President of Bluefin Partners, LLC, and retired Managing Director of Goldman Sachs; Ms. MaryAnn Ragusa a 1996 graduate of Sleepy Hollow High School and a veteran's advocate; Colonel Adam Subervi, USMC; Lt. Colonel (ret.) Kurt Perhach, U S Army. Other members include Chick's sons, Armando, Michael and his Michael's wife Donna Baer.

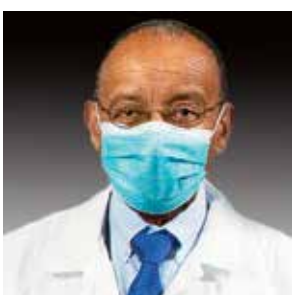
The Historical Society of Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown joined with the committee to facilitate the project. The life-size bronze is the work of distinguished sculptor, Andrew Chernak. Mr. Chernak is a decorated Vietnam War Veteran whose work is internationally acclaimed.

The American Gold Star Mothers is a private, nonprofit organization of American mothers who lost sons or daughters in service of the United States Armed Forces. It was originally formed in 1928 for mothers of those lost in World War I, and it holds a congressional charter.

Membership in the organization is open to any woman who is a U.S. citizen or legal resident that has lost a son or daughter in active service in the U.S. military regardless of the place or time of the military service, regardless of whether the circumstances of death involved hostile conflict or not, and including mothers of those missing in action.



## A Diverse Workforce for a Diverse County



Dr. Dial Hewitt and his colleagues in the Westchester County Department of Health have been on the front lines of the Covid-19 pandemic for the past year, working exhausting hours and putting their own health and safety on the line to serve others.

Despite the risks and the challenges they face, the Department's doctors, nurse practitioners, public health nurses, lab techs and support staff remain firmly committed to their mission: protecting the health and safety of the people of Westchester.

"You go into this field because you care about people and you get gratification from helping them," said Hewlett, who is board certified in Internal Medicine and in the sub specialty of Infectious Diseases.

"I am fortunate and blessed to work with such dedicated professionals," he said of his colleagues at WCDOH. Most recently, he has been helping oversee the County's vaccination clinic on Court Street in White Plains.

Hewlett noted that Westchester was ground zero for the Covid-19 pandemic, where an outbreak occurred in New Rochelle.

The virus spread through houses of worship, congregate care settings and other locations – and the Health Department staff mobilized swiftly to respond.

"They were willing to put their lives on the line when we didn't know very much about this disease," Hewlett said of the entire Health Department team. "Whatever we have asked of them, they do it."

Dr. Hewlett has also been involved in outreach to Westchester's minority communities to provide "accurate, scientific information" and encourage people of color to get vaccinated. He said he hopes to alleviate the hesitation of some Black and Latino residents to get the vaccine.

The executive team at the Health Department has been praised for its leadership during the pandemic, including: Dr. Sherlita Amler, commissioner; Renee Recchia, first deputy commissioner; Dr. Hewlett; Dr. Marisa Montecalvo, Dr. Ada Huang and Lori Smittle, PhD (doctor of nursing).

To receive notifications of all upcoming civil service exams, people can sign up to receive email notifications at <https://exams.westchestergov.com/webexam/emailSubscription/subscribe.htm>.