

# Yonkers Rising

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Friday May 21, 2021

## Yonkers Student Excellence: YMHS Valedictorian & Salutatorian



YMHS Valedictorian Alice Wong, left and Salutatorian Gabrielle Schnorbus

By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to this year's Valedictorian Alice Wong, and Salutatorian Gabrielle Schnorbus, from Yonkers Middle High School. Valedictorian Alice Wong will graduate with a GPA of 104.3, tops among all Yonkers High School graduates in 2021. Alice's School Activities include Science National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Robotics Team Director of Motion, Science Olympiad Vice-Captain, Film Club Director, Audio Visual, Club, International Gala, HOSA Club, CASE Club, Coding Club.

Awards, Honors and Scholarships for Wong include the Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award, Superintendent's Honor Society Club 90, High Honor Roll and Principal's List 2017-2021.

Community Service for Alice include teaching science to elementary students, AP Chemistry tutor, Robotics events volunteer, Julie Kupersmith, M.D. P.C. volunteer.

Alice also enjoys competitive horseback riding at the national level, piano, singing, song writing, Kung Fu, R statistical programming, Filipino and Indian dance, creative writing, theater, video games, fluent in Fujianese. Her favorite composers to play are Liszt and Chopin.

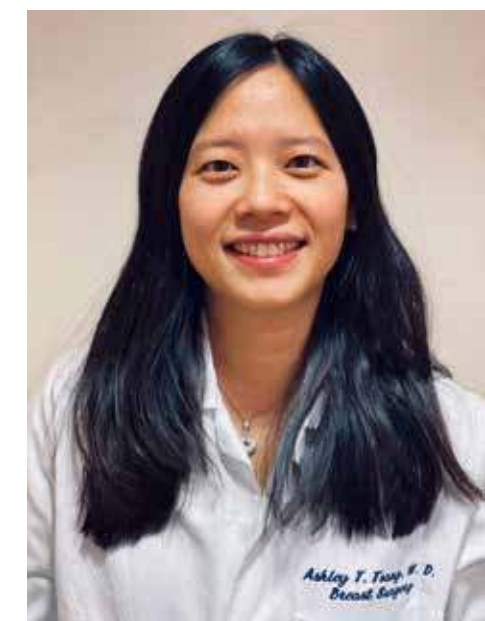
Alice's favorite teacher at YMHS was Dr. Lesia Kaszczak, IB Biology. "I love all the sciences! AP Chemistry and IB Biology are my favorite classes."

Wong was accepted to SUNY Stony Brook Honors, SUNY Binghamton Honors, University of Rochester, Northeastern University Honors, Cornell University, New York University, Dartmouth College, and Barnard College. She will be attending Dartmouth and plan to major in Bio-Chemistry.

"I do plan to study the social determinants of health from the microscopic to macroscopic levels. I want to address the prominent health disparities that result from sociocultural and socioeconomic circumstances because different levels of access to healthcare and healthcare education is a problem across communities varied in sociocultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. From research and personal experiences, I have discovered that this global issue is prominent and requires proper intervention."

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## Dr. Ashley Tsang, Mount Sinai Breast Surgeon, Discusses Breast Health & the COVID Vaccine



*"I think that the protection from the vaccine outweighs the risk of developing swollen lymph nodes and having to delay screening mammogram."*

-Dr. Ashley Tsang

Dr. Ashley Tsang

By Dan Murphy

Should women continue to get their screening mammogram before or after they receive the COVID vaccine? And if patients have already received the vaccine, can they still go for a mammogram or other imaging?

We asked these questions to Dr. Ashley Tsang, a Breast Surgeon and Assistant Professor of Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai from Mount Sinai Doctors, Westchester. "A lot of patients have asked me about the timing of their mammograms because they heard that the COVID vaccine can cause lymphadenopathy, or a swelling of the lymph nodes. What radiologists have seen on breast imaging, including mammogram, ultrasound, MRI and CT scans is that there can be a swelling of the lymph nodes on the same side of the body where they received the vaccine," said Dr. Tsang.

"Other vaccinations can have this side effect, but now that everyone is getting vaccinated for COVID-19, we are seeing it more often now. If you had a COVID-19 vaccine, and regardless of whether there is swelling or not, you should wait 4 to 6 weeks until after the 2nd dose to get your screening mammogram," said Dr. Tsang.

Because radiologists have seen this trend, Dr. Tsang said that the Society of Breast Imaging has come up with guidelines for best timing of screening mammogram, ultrasound, MRI and PET-CT scan.

"For women undergoing routine screening, the recommendation is to get the imaging prior to getting vaccinated. However, if they have already received their first dose of the vaccine, they should wait until 4 to 6 weeks after the 2nd dose before scheduling their screening mammogram," said Dr. Tsang.

Dr. Tsang explained that imaging centers have created protocols to ask if patients have been vaccinated recently, and will correlate any imaging findings with recent vaccination. If there are findings of lymph node swelling or thickening in the arm in which a patient has received the vaccine,

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## Six Councilmembers Sign Letter Asking IG to Investigate Allegations Against CCP Khader

*"Recognizing the importance of these allegations, we urge you to take every step necessary to ensure that a thorough, efficient, and transparent inquiry is conducted, which addresses both real and perceived conflicts, so that the public may have good faith in your office's findings on these matters,"*

Letter signed by Council Majority Leader Corazon Pineda-Isaac, Minority Leader Mike Breen, and Councilmembers Shanae Williams, Tasha Diaz, John Rubbo and Anthony Merante.

By Dan Murphy

In a letter dated May 18 to Yonkers Inspector General Liam McLaughlin, six members of the Yonkers City Council requested an investigation into recent allegations made against Council President Mike Khader.

The letter states, "We, the undersigned members of, and majority of the City Council, write to you today under § C7-2(A) of the City Charter (entitled "Powers and Duties"). Pursuant to this section, we formally request that your office open an inquiry into two matters that have recently come to our attention and to that of the public regarding the conduct of the City Council President, Michael Khader."

"The first matter concerns whether the relationship between Mr. Khader and his legal counsel, Jeffrey Buss, as well as that of Mr. Buss's firm, Smith Buss & Jacobs LLP, complies with the Ethics Code of the City of Yonkers, as well as any and all applicable City and State laws.

"The second matter is in regard to an ex-employee's comments to Mr. Khader, regarding whether a hostile work environment existed and/or continues to exist in the Office of the City Council President.

"Recognizing the importance of these allegations, we urge you to take every step necessary to ensure that a thorough, efficient, and transparent inquiry is conducted, which addresses both real and perceived conflicts, so that the public may have good faith in your office's findings on these matters," states the letter signed by Council Majority Leader Corazon Pineda-Isaac, Minority Leader Mike Breen, and Councilmembers Shanae Williams, Tasha Diaz, John Rubbo and Anthony Merante.

The allegations concerning Khader and the law firm of Smith, Buss & Jacobs, concern the fact that Khader uses the same address for his law practice and that once taking office as Council President, Khader appointed Jeff Buss to serve as counsel to the City Council. Other allegations are made online regarding this relationship, but nothing with facts have been presented yet.

The second allegation concerns a former employee of Council President Khader, Karen Schullere, who serves as the Chief of the Yonkers Police Auxiliary. Schullere served as community outreach liaison in the Council President Khader's office.

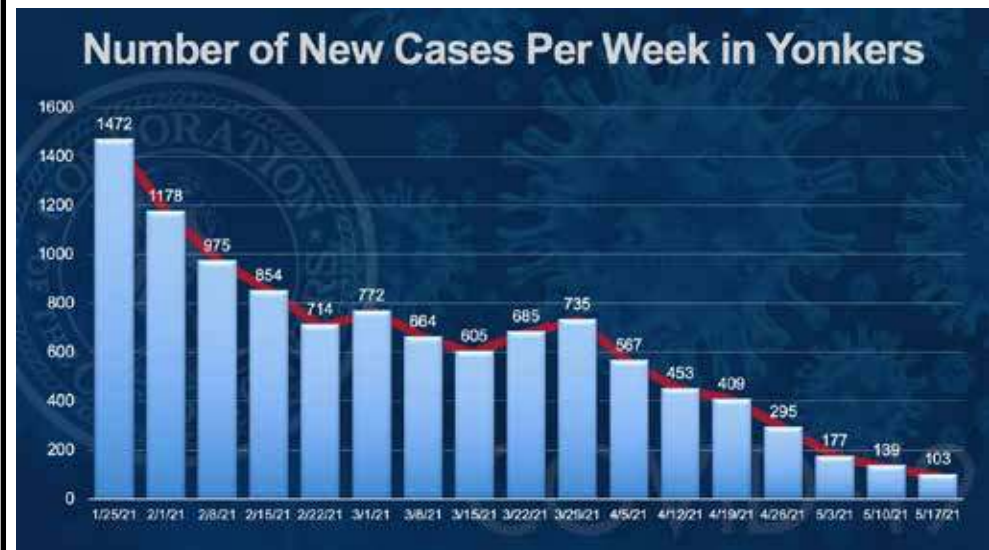
According to a published report in the Yonkers Tribune, when asked to complete an employee evaluation questionnaire, Schullere did so. She writes, "I truly enjoyed fulfilling my role as community outreach liaison. That being said, you asked for my feedback and here it is, as requested."

"The main takeaway should be that actions speak louder than words: You favor men over women. Overall, you do not hold women in high regard. Less than a month after I began working with you, I realized that men held high favor and this was something that you don't hide. From day one, you constantly treated David Broadway as though he were more important than your ... female Aides. This was cemented when he left and was not only allowed to return but I also realized that the only reason that I was getting a raise was because you wanted to give him a raise. You followed up with treating every man that arrived in the office as if they can do no wrong from Anand to David and now Joe. You protected them and favored them; until you didn't. It should be noted that about three months into your first year, this subject came up in the front office and everyone had already come to this conclusion separately.

"You like your employees until you don't. You don't realize that as Aides, working together, we talk. It should come as no surprise that it is unprofessional

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## Hey Yonkers, You Can Lose Your Masks, If You are Vaccinated



The number of COVID cases per week in Yonkers has dropped dramatically

Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that beginning May 19, New York State will adopt the CDC's "Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People" for most business and public settings. Consistent with the CDC guidance, Pre-K to 12 schools, public transit, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, nursing homes, and healthcare settings will continue to follow State's existing COVID-19 health guidelines until more New Yorkers are fully vaccinated. "All the arrows are now pointed in the right direction, so let's get back to life," Cuomo said.

To implement the CDC's guidance, New York State will be revising the following reopening guidelines: In most settings, vaccinated individuals will not be required to wear a mask. Unvaccinated individuals, under both

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## Rally Outside City Hall in Support of Palestinian People



City Council President Mike Khader, at a rally in support of Palestinian people

The bottom steps of Yonkers City Hall was filled with several hundred protestors chanting, "Freedom for Palestine" in support of the Palestinian people in their current struggle with Israel and the recent bombing of Gaza and the actions of Israeli police.

The protestors also called for the U.S. to stop aiding Israel and the military. Council President Mike Khader also attended the rally and posted the following. "This weekend, I was proud to join fellow community members on the steps of city call to gather in solidarity with the Palestinian people. For more than 70 years now, Palestinians have been forced from their homes, subjected to occupation, and criticized for calling for equality, freedom, and justice. The good news is that the international community, and people like me who believe in those values everywhere, are increasingly hearing their call.

"Everyone has a right to safety, including Palestinians and their families. We will be able to have peace in the region when that right is respected, and in order for that to happen, it is on us to take a stand and demand justice and safety for all. No exceptions. Solidarity with the Palestinian people means standing against all forms of racism, because none of us will be free until all of us are free. You can count me to stand up for all of our communities, whether they are Black, Arab, undocumented, Jewish, Asian, LGBTQ, or others. Praying for peace and justice in the region," said Khader, who said in a video at the rally, "This is bigger than religion. This is bigger than land. This is genocide, and our country is staying quiet."

## Yonkers Rising

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## Warblers on Warburton: Tree Plantings Along the Avenue and No Reservations Needed for Gardens



The Untermyer Gardens Conservancy announces a new initiative called Warblers on Warburton in Northwest Yonkers. Focused primarily on Warburton Avenue, the Conservancy will supply and plant trees at no cost to homeowners which will transform a largely treeless, harsh urban landscape into one characterized by cooling greenery, similar to the way it looked a hundred years ago.

Stephen F. Byrns, president of the Conservancy, said that "the neighbors have welcomed this improvement to their neighborhood and will be responsible for keeping the trees watered until they have established a strong root system." It is intended to continue this initiative for several years along the avenue, which will not only beautify the neighborhood, but increase property values.

Studies have shown that areas with few trees were historically red-lined, so this greening of the streetscape will help rectify a sad period of history. All trees will be ones that will be native and grow to large scale, which will help supply a natural habitat that will attract birds, hence the name of the program: Warblers on Warburton.

The initiative will be kicked off at a ceremony at Philipse Manor Hall on May 18, where two red oaks planted by the Conservancy will be dedicated in honor of Senator Nicholas Spano and Nancy Little, who were instrumental in leading a major community effort in the 1990's to prevent Philipse Manor Hall from being closed down by New York State.

Untermyer Gardens also announced that no reservations are needed to visit one of the best outdoor attractions in Yonkers, Westchester and NY State. Masks are optional for vaccinated visitors but mandatory if you are not vaccinated. Visit UntermyerGardens.org for more information.

### Letter to the Editor:

Every senator who protects the filibuster is guilty of protecting a Jim Crow relic that was used to block civil rights legislation for decades. There's simply no way to get around its sinister legacy. In the 20th century, the filibuster was used to block over 200 anti-lynching bills and held up the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act for 60 days. Over and over again, it's been a weapon wielded by segregationists and white supremacists. We can't let the filibuster continue to block the voting and civil rights of Black and Brown Americans in the year 2021 -- which it's currently poised to do unless we get rid of it. I hope senators like Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema are acutely aware of this history as they continue to express support for the filibuster. I am urging them and the rest of the Senate to have courage and get rid of the filibuster as soon as possible. A minority of senators shouldn't be allowed to stop the progress the majority of Americans voted for.-----Regards, Greg Rieves, Mt. Vernon

# LISTENING. CARING.

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FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:  
LOUIS ANDRONE, MD; ANDREW FADER, MD  
ANA ANDRONE, MD; ROLANDO CHUMACEIRO, MD;  
THOMAS APUZZO, MD; ROBERT DeMATTEO, MD



"They treat me with respect."

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## Video Recording Captured Puppy Beaten- Yonkers Man Arrested



The SPCA of Westchester announced today that their Humane Law Enforcement Unit (HLE), under the direction of Ernest Lungaro in a joint investigation with the Yonkers Police Department, arrested James Lucas III, of 697 Bronx River Road, Yonkers. Lucas has been charged with animal cruelty.

The SPCA of Westchester's HLE Unit received a call by the Yonkers Police Department on April 12th after a pit bull was violently beaten by his owner on the top level of a parking garage at 8 Buena Vista Avenue, Yonkers. A two-minute video recording of the incident shows Lucas violently punching the eight-month-old pit bull mix named Zeus. He was immediately rushed to a local veterinary hospital for medical attention.

"By some miracle, Zeus didn't sustain any serious injuries, but this is still a serious and horrific act of animal cruelty" said Shannon Laukhuf, Executive Director of the SPCA of Westchester. "We're very thankful to those individuals who reported the incident so that the SPCA's Humane Law Enforcement officers could respond quickly, ensuring Zeus's rescue and the subsequent arrest of his owner."

If you suspect animal cruelty or neglect, call the Police or the SPCA of Westchester's Confidential Animal Cruelty Hotline at 914-941-7797.

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/sf0tjJqK04>

## Halloween Over? Can We Safely Unmask?



By Eric W. Schoen

I walked into TJ Maxx at Ridge Hill on Monday to return something that I had purchased that did not fit. It was a time of day and a day of the week that the store was not busy, so I didn't have to wait on line that long.

I noticed that before the number flashed on the screening telling me which cashier to go to, Cashier number 8 had just finished cleaning off her counter where customers would place goods for purchase or return with an antiseptic wipe. She did the same for the keypad customers would use to approve their charge or enter in their PIN number for the purchase if they were using a debit card.

I had just heard that Governor Cuomo was lifting the mask ban in New York State. However, those who had not yet been vaccinated were still required to wear their masks indoors when they were shopping. Enforcement of the mask policy was going to be left up to the stores themselves, and that there was no specific protocol in place requiring verification of vaccination by the customer, nor any requirement that the the customer even be asked if he or she had the Covid vaccination and 2 weeks had gone by to allow the vaccine to hit full effectiveness.

But the government was encouraging stores to check the vaccine status of their customers. And who do think was going to be charged with doing this? Not Tim Cook from Apple at their stores but the staff in the store. So this poor cashier who because she was working in Yonkers and not working a couple a blocks away in the Bronx would be earning \$13.50 an hour in Yonkers vs. \$15 in the Bronx, serving as the cleaning woman scrubbing the sales counter before and after each transaction could now be getting the title of 'Vaccine Enforcement Police' not requiring documentation of vaccination but just accepting the customers words coming from his or her mouth?

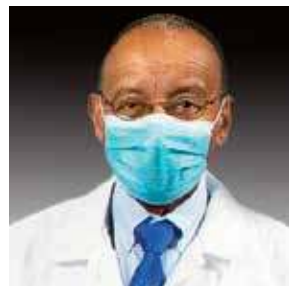
And you wonder why so many retailers have 'Help Wanted' signs in their windows. And if he or she was selected to check vaccine status, chances are they would be charged with at the same time sanitizing the shopping carts. All the while only being protected with a mask and maybe flimsy plastic gloves. Not worth it if you can sit home and collect unemployment from the previous job you had.

Don't get me wrong. No one dislikes masks and not being able to see people's smiling faces more then me. I was wearing the blue hospital masks until I got so fed up with their color reminding me as if I was in a hospital that I went out and bought a box of black masks. The masks affected me when I went to the movie theater for the first time since the pandemic and

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## 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>.

## City of Yonkers Launches New Online Property Tax Info Portal

<https://yonkers.municipaltaxpayments.com>

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano today announced the launch of the City's new free online property tax information portal allowing residents to view their property tax information and continue to pay their property tax bills online. The website is available at <https://yonkers.municipaltaxpayments.com>.

"In the new age of technology amid a global pandemic, we want to eliminate as much travel as possible, making it easier for residents to view their property tax bills while encouraging them to pay it online," said Mayor Mike Spano. "The new online property tax information portal reaffirms Yonkers' commitment to finding innovative ways to better serve all who live and work in our city."

Mayor Spano added, "The portal allows for even more accessibility, making information readily available at your fingertips. While residents are always welcomed to City Hall, the new platform gives property owners the option to view their tax information, pay their bills, and answers many of their questions, saving them time and making the trip to City Hall."

### Online Property Tax Portal Benefits:

- FREE, no cost looks up from anywhere.
  - Eliminate travel to City Hall for property lookups (account number(s), block/lot, etc.), property tax inquires, and payment information.
  - Real-time payment information for all current and past due cycles, including up to date interest due on an outstanding balance.
  - All liens are included on the parcel for a complete overview of what is owed.
- (NOTE: No calculations or payments of liens will be available. Please contact the City of Yonkers Tax Office at 914-377-6138).
- Access to print property tax bills.

### Options For Tax Payments:

- Pay online at <https://paydirect.link2gov.com/YonkersTaxPay/ItemSearch> using an E-Check providing your checking account information. This option is FREE.
- Pay online at <https://paydirect.link2gov.com/YonkersTaxPay/ItemSearch> using a credit card. Paying with a credit card has a 2.5% convenience fee collected by a third-party vendor that provides the City of Yonkers' online payment service.
- Mail a check or money order directly to City of Yonkers - Tax Office Room: 108 40 South Broadway Yonkers, NY
- Make an appointment, email [yonkerstaxoffice@yonkersNY.gov](mailto:yonkerstaxoffice@yonkersNY.gov) or call 914-377-6137.

Note: Property tax payments for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 can be paid online at <https://paydirect.link2gov.com/YonkersTaxPay/ItemSearch>. Property owners owing property taxes beyond the last two years can look up their past due balances but must pay in person at Yonkers City Hall or mail a check to the City of Yonkers Tax Department. For more information on the online property tax portal contact the City of Yonkers Tax Department at [yonkerstaxoffice@yonkersNY.gov](mailto:yonkerstaxoffice@yonkersNY.gov) or 914-377-6137, 914-377-6138, 914-377-6141 or 914-377-6146.

## Mask Mandate Lifted, continued from page 1-

CDC and state guidance must wear masks in all public settings.

The Department of Health strongly recommends masks in indoor settings where vaccination status of individuals is unknown. Mask requirements by businesses must adhere to all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

This recommendation will apply across commercial settings, including retail, food services, offices, gyms and fitness centers, amusement and family entertainment, hair salons, barber shops and other personal care services, among other settings. As previously announced, most business capacities — which are currently based upon percentage of maximum occupancy — will be removed on May 19. Businesses will only be limited by the space available for patrons or parties of patrons to maintain the required social distance of 6 feet.

However, given that the CDC has advised that fully vaccinated individuals do not need to maintain social distance, businesses may eliminate the 6 feet of required social distancing, and therefore increase capacity, only if all patrons within the establishment -- or a separate designated part of the establishment -- present proof of full vaccination status. Proof of full vaccination status can be provided by patrons through paper form, digital application, or the State's Excelsior Pass.

## Yonkers BOE Re-Elects Rev. Lopez President & Dr. Del Vecchio VP



Yonkers BOE President Rev. Steve Lopez, left and Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio, VP

At the 140th Annual Meeting of the Yonkers Board of Education, May 11, 2021, the Trustees unanimously re-elected Rev. Steve Lopez and Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio to serve as president and vice-president respectively for the 2021-2022 school year. Both will serve one-year terms in their leadership posts.

Rev. Lopez was appointed in 2013. Mayor Mike Spano re-appointed Rev. Lopez to his second five-year term as Trustee in May 2018. During his tenure on the Board, Rev. Lopez served as Vice President in 2013, 2014 and 2015. In 2016, he was first elected President and re-elected to the leadership position each consecutive year — 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio was appointed by Mayor Mike Spano in 2017. Dr. Del Vecchio served as Vice President in 2021.

### Council Calls for IG to Investigate Claims Against Council President, con't from pg 1-

for you to discuss the performance of one employee with another. You should never have asked me what I thought about the job performance of my fellow employees when you were having issues with those employees. It should come as no surprise that I would also then hear from my fellow employees that you did the same about me.

You don't respect or have high regard for your employees overall.

I was a member of the Mayor's Yonkers Green City Advisory Committee until 2018. Environmental education is important to me. It was held in high importance when I was appointed and it was a membership that I enjoyed and valued. Unfortunately, not only did you take me off the committee for political gain but you didn't even bother to tell me. I was told by someone outside the office. Then, as if you didn't even remember that you replaced me, you then told me that you put Bill on because of Rona. Bill is my friend. He was appalled to eventually find out that I had been on the committee but more so, that he replaced me. He was going to leave but I asked him to let it go.

There was a storm a few years ago. If you recall, that day, it took people an average of four hours to get home. I will never forget it because it wasn't a surprise storm, we knew it was coming for days, just not to that extent but a storm is a storm. Unfortunately, the day before the storm, you told me you were coming to the office to speak to me so I should wait for you in the office.

The storm arrived. As always, Saida told us to leave when we thought we needed to because she cares for our wellbeing and wanted us to be safe. Despite her advising us to leave, I waited for you. I waited and waited. After waiting for hours, I called you to ask if you were still coming and you didn't even remember that you had told me to wait. It took me over four hours but I could have been safely home if only I had listened to Saida.

You still make appointments with us and outside people and just don't show up and no, you don't always return our calls and texts no matter how often you say that you will, much less do.

You tried to take credit for my appointment to Chief of the Auxiliary. I worked hard from the day I stepped into Peace Officer Training. Although I never would have expected to go from Sergeant to Chief, I was promoted by the Commissioner based on my abilities and the Mayor signed off on it. I will never forget the day that you came into the office and I told you that I was promoted. You said, "I wondered how long it would take you to tell me. How do you think you got it". Naturally, I don't want favors or handouts. I reached out to Deputy Chief Sapienza who is honest and respects me and asked if you had anything to do with this and he was appalled that you would have told me that. He said that I earned it on my own merit.

Early on, I had a suggestion regarding the newsletter. I brought your attention to issues with Brigitte and the newsletter. I relayed that constituents were complaining that they couldn't get items into the newsletter but also as you may recall, she even had a fight over the phone with Rona. Imagine my surprise when I heard that you had said that I didn't like Brigitte and this was all personal. No, I had your back. At the time, I cared.

You have little to no regard for Saida despite the fact that she should be the most important person in your office.

Saida is one of the smartest people that I have ever met. She knows everything about City Hall and the way this City works. She is able to get almost anything done based on her knowledge of the system and the friends that she has made over the years. We go to Saida to effectively do our jobs and again, she helps us get things done but most important is that she always knows which direction to take. She is amazing. I can tell you that I only remained in my position as long as I did, because of Saida. She is an extraordinary Chief of Staff and would do even more for you but you don't know how important she is to you. Again, I can only assume you don't value her because she is a woman. Not only does she have impeccable management skills, but she cares about your staff in ways that you never could or would.

Imagine our surprise when new employees walk into the office and we find out that she has never met them. I can guarantee that the quality of the employees in your office would have been better if Saida always had input into your new hires. You certainly would not have hired Bengis or even Lena who knows absolutely nothing about anything that has to do with Yonkers or your office.

I will never forget attending the first trade event planned in 2018 at the Riverfront Library. We, as staff, were still new. I stood watching Saida trying to get a point across to you but you became irate and pulled her across the room for a heated discussion as if she was a child. How disrespectful.

You continuously make plans with your staff and leave Saida on the outside. Quite often, you would have us working on something only to then find out, it can't be done, which Saida would have told you in the first place. Inevitably, I began to ask Saida to come out to the bullpen when you spoke to us so that she would be aware of your plans.

In the eyes of constituents, you have a reputation for being shall I say, frugal. In contrast, as employees, we can never forget Saida's generosity. A lunch here, a lunch there, but you? At this point, we have constituents reaching out to your office for donations despite the fact that they have already heard that you don't donate to the community and they have stated just that.

In the eyes of the public, you have a reputation for not following through with what you say. The list would be too long if I relayed to you every time someone said, "but he didn't do anything or he didn't finish something".

I could go on but I have to get ready for work. I think I have painted a clear picture, which is that actions speak louder than words," writes Schullere.

Ron Matten, republican candidate for council president, called on the City Council to investigate the allegations against Khader. "Another material fact not specified in the article concerns campaign donations. Smith Bus and Jacobs and their various partners have donated thousands of dollars to the Khader campaign. Use of the office for campaign activities is a "like in kind" campaign contribution.

"I am requesting that the Yonkers City Council utilize Article IV, section C-12 of the City of Yonkers Charter to conduct a formal hearing and investigation into the quid pro quo allegation. The Council President should step down and recuse himself from further legislative activities until the Council is completed their investigation.

"Quid pro quo is a breach of the public trust. This alleged violation harms the Council and the City of Yonkers as a whole. As residents and taxpayers, we require transparency and assurance that our government is acting in our interests. I suspect that Council President would welcome this investigation to clear his name and restore the trust in the Council and City of Yonkers. All individuals mentioned herein are assumed innocent," writes Matten.

Inspector General McLaughlin is the former Council President, who lost his re-election bid to Khader 4 years ago. Khader has the democratic party's endorsement for his re-election. Lakisha Collins-Bellamy is also running in the democratic primary June 22. Zaida, referenced in Schullere's letter is Zaida Jereis, Khader's Chief of Staff.

# BE A HERO



## BE THE CHANGE

### TAKE THE TEST

Applications Available – Friday, May 14, 2021

Applications Deadline – Wednesday, July 14, 2021 (4:30 PM)

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## Work to Connect Westchester's North & South Trailways to Be Completed Next Spring



County Executive George Latimer, with County Legislators Ruth Walter, David Tubiolo and MaryJane Shimsky

Following the completion of the restoration of the North County Trailway in 2020, the County began the restoration of the South County Trailway. Together, these connected trailways run the entire length of Westchester. County Executive George Latimer said: "Outdoor recreation is more important than ever. In the past year, we've seen our parks become extremely popular and we're proud to be able to provide these spaces to our residents. We are thrilled to be in the final phase of this project. Upon completion – bikers, walkers and joggers will have 36.2 miles of enhanced trailway to explore."

The South County Trailway project covers approximately 6 miles, stretching from Barney Street in Yonkers to Route 119 in Elmsford. The scope of work includes the restoration of the drainage system, which will keep the trailway dry, and the reconstruction of the asphalt, which will allow for a smoother ride. Both address safety and will decrease the likelihood of accidents.

Signs, benches, traffic control gates, railing and plantings are also being installed along the path. Commissioner of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Kathy O'Connor said: "Whether you're looking to take a leisurely walk with the family or clocking miles on your bike, the North-South County Trailways are a great option. We look forward to the completion of this project."

This project is the result of multiple departments working together; including the Department of Planning, the Department of Public Works and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation.

Legislator MaryJane Shimsky said: "Westchester's parks are our most popular County facilities; and our trailways are our most popular parks. This section of the South County Trailway has been in need of repair for many years. Now we are nearing the point when the thousands of Westchester residents who enjoy this section of trailway will have a new surface on which to walk, run, cycle and skate. Thank you to County Executive Latimer and his Administration, and to the County Departments of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, Planning, and Public Works and Transportation, for their hard work and persistence in making these repairs a reality."

Legislator David Tubiolo said: "Westchester's parks have been more important than ever to the people during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the South County Trailway, which offers green space to people in some of our more densely populated communities, like Yonkers, is one of our most used parks. The County Executive's office and the Board of Legislators have been working diligently to make sure parks like this one get the investment they need to continue to serve the people, and the work we're beginning now on this park is one important example of our continued commitment."

Legislator Ruth Walter said: "The South County Trailway is a wonderful example of creative ways former industrial spaces can be reclaimed for recreational use. It's been a fabulous asset to the quality of life of the people of Southern Westchester. I'm so excited that the County is undertaking the process of maintenance and repair that will ensure that this great, much-used park, will continue to be a wonderful outdoor resource for all the people of the County."

Construction is expected to be completed by next spring.

## On This Day in Yonkers History...



Members of the 1924 US Olympic Gold Relay Medalists, including 2nd left, Alan Helffrich from Yonkers

By Mary Hoar, 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 24th

May 24, 1917: Yonkers resident Colonel Henry C. Weeks spoke to School 22 students on his personal "Remembrances of the Civil War." He spoke about his 1862 enlistment, camp experiences, and the children's favorite stories, training and drilling of his very "awkward squad." He described guarding the Harper's Ferry's bridge, the Battle of Bull Run, and the 1864 Battle of Cedar Creek that resulted in Weeks losing a leg. Weeks, past Commander of Kitching Post No. 60 GAR, died the following year.

May 24, 1920: Admiral Purnell Harrington, Rudolf Eickemeyer, and Major Azel Ames formed a committee to compile a record of Yonkers men who served in the World War; they recommended Yonkers create a memorial to men whose lives were lost in the war on South Broadway instead of City Hall.

Tuesday, May 25th

May 25, 1935: Yonkers refused to issue a permit to the Youth Section of the American League Against War and Fascism to hold a demonstration against war on Memorial Day.

May 25, 1943: Sister Stella Marie, daughter of Dr. Paluel Flagg of Alta Avenue, was released from being interned in Shanghai. She was one of eleven Maryknoll Sisters held captive there.

Wednesday, May 26th

May 26, 1916: Detective George Ford made his debut as a film actor! The Pathe film company with stars Anna Nilsen and Tom Moore, arrived at our beautiful City Hall to film scenes for "A Trial of Souls," number ten in Pathe's "Who's Guilty" movie series. They asked him play the guide to the Marriage License Bureau. Nilsen and Ford marry as her father tried to have her husband arrested; their parents, political rivals, try to annul the marriage, resulting in revelation of a family secret and death.

May 26, 1917: The Yonkers High School Track Team won the Westchester County Championship. Captain Alan Helffrich made the official presentation of the silver cup and silk banner the team received at the competition. Helffrich became one of the country's great middle distance runners, winning several NCAA championships. He won a gold medal at the 1924 Olympics in the 4 x 400 meter relay; the team set a world record. He later served many years as President of the New York Chapter of the United States Olympians.

May 26, 1928: Roads through the new \$1,000,000 plaza just east of the Yonkers New York Central train station opened for traffic. More work needed to be done, planting trees and bushes, promised to be finished by Memorial Day.

Thursday, May 27th

May 27, 1942: Yonkers first conscientious objector, Paul Muehike who objected both to combatant and non-combatant service in World War II, was sent to the Civilian Public Service Camp in Campton, New Hampshire. After several hearings, Muelhike convinced the local Draft Board of his sincerity.

May 27, 1945: Corporal Allen Brewster of Hamilton Avenue received an award for selling War Bonds to people around Clovis Army Air Field in New Mexico. The citation recognized Brewster's "superb job" and his being "responsible for the sale of \$412,735.50 in War Bonds to the civilian population."

May 27, 1955: Health Commissioner Ralph Sikes announced the end of the

continued on pg 7-

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

by sort of blocking clear breathing encouraged my body to doze off during critical parts of the movie.

You are allowed to take off your masks when you are eating or drinking at the movie theater. So now I always keep a bottle of water with me at the theater to give the impression that I am drinking so it is permissible to keep my mask off. Heck, I'm usually one of 5 or 6 people in the theater!

I knew things were changing in the 'Mask up, Super Cautious' Covid 19 world when I got a call last week from a doctor I see that required patients to call on the phone when you arrived to make sure there were no other patients in the office. The doctor's assistant said I didn't have to call to be sure the coast was clear. Another sign of change was when Panera put the sweetener packets and the varieties of milk for your coffee on the counter for you to put in yourself versus having the barista put it in for you. I never understood the coffee rule but there are a lot of rules I don't understand that we are called upon to follow today.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) based its decision to announce that vaccinated people no longer need to wear masks indoors or outdoors on two studies that indicated that individuals who have been vaccinated with either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines are at an extremely low risk of contracting COVID-19. The rate of transmitting the virus to others, should they become infected, is also very low.

The CDC and Biden administration announcements regarding masks and social distancing were totally unexpected and gave retailers, restaurants and other places of business little time to change course. Basically it puts the onus on businesses to enforce the rules which still require the unvaccinated to mask up and distance themselves from the the vaccinated and set very little time to put systems in place.

Basically we are relying on an honor system for 50% of the population give or take a few percent who have not been vaccinated. Is that a chance our country should be taking? I know the conservatives out there are in heaven and loving Biden and the CDC as they gave them the OK to ditch the masks. Should we require some documentation before you are allowed to do this? What happened to the animalistic phrase 'herd immunity.'

So a baseball or football stadium requires you to show proof you have been vaccinated or don't have the virus but a clothing store or the local Walmart let's you in either unmasked or masked by your word of mouth. Or they might not even question you at all.

How do you as a vaccinated person feel about this? How does an unvaccinated person with a mask feel being in close proximity with people who claim they are vaccinated and are not vaccinated nor wearing a mask. Do you think we can rely on the 50% of Americans who are not vaccinated to follow the honor system? We are, as we should be sending millions of vaccine doses abroad to help countries like India that are in desperate need. We can do this as we have a little less than 50% of the population who are unvaccinated.

When someone tells me they haven't been vaccinated, don't have the time to get vaccinated or are afraid, I tell them to put the television on and watch the daily reports on the tragedy going on in India. We are fortunate in this country to have plenty of vaccine so roll up your sleeve and get the damn vaccine. If you have aches and pains or a bump on your arm, deal with. It usually goes away within 24 hours.

If we are not wearing masks open the fitting rooms and allow people to try clothes on once again in department stores. Open the bathrooms so people can wash their hands with soap and water like they were taught at 2 years of age. Adjust sinks in public bathrooms to give you 20 seconds to rinse your hands without pushing the button again. Paper towels are more sanitary than those high speed hair dryers.

Remember Masks are required on trains, buses, public schools, homeless shelters, , correctional facilities, health care settings, public transit hubs and airports. Let children get nose swabbed at school so we can pick up on any new strains of the coronavirus or catch an outbreak early on.

Public health officials and epidemiologists have also been calling this new guidance into question, considering the lack of direction provided by the CDC, the inability to adequately verify whether or not individuals have been vaccinated, vaccination rates across the country and state have yet to reach herd immunity levels and new variants are surfacing across the globe. Let's show them we know what we are doing!

And thank the young lady at TJ MAXX making \$13.50 an hour putting her life at risk so you can shop and enjoy your summer! Halloween is over til October 31 and let's hope we can safely unmask!

**Reach Eric Schoen at [thistooisyonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistooisyonkers@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.**

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

Salk vaccination program in the Yonkers schools; a total of 6,184 children had gotten their shots. Parents of 2,036 children choose not get have their children get the vaccination.

Friday, May 28th

May 28, 1937: Children at Leake & Watts Orphan House celebrated the third birthday of the Dionne Quintuplets with help from the "Princess of Song," Jessica Dragonette. Dragonette, a popular radio singer, was extremely active in the World War II effort. Not only did she frequently perform for the troops and sell a record number of war bonds, she performed so often for charities benefiting the troops, she was given an honorary commission as a Colonel.

May 28, 1945: A scroll honoring the 32 Yonkers Boy Scouts who died in the service of their country was hung in the Yonkers Scout Office.

Saturday May 29th

May 29, 1945: Acting on a request by the Yonkers Restaurant Liquor Dealers' Association, Acting City Manager Norman Henderson proclaimed Yonkers would begin "Meatless Tuesdays!"

May 29, 1947: Greenburgh Councilman Charles Costabell reported he received complaints from well over a dozen North Yonkers residents. They all complained Greenburgh dogs crossed the border, romped through gardens, destroying flowers and shrubs. They added their Yonkers dogs were not the "naughty" kinds of dogs that trampled flowerbeds and gardens. When asked his response to the complaints, he told them the people in "Greenburgh were bothered by North Yonkers dogs!"

Sunday, May 30th

May 30, 1902: Veterans of Meagher's Irish Brigade attended a memorial service at St. Joseph's Church for late members of their brigade. Celebrated by Assistant Pastor Reverend Bernard Brady, chaplain of the brigade the mass focused on the unit's many valorous deeds in the numerous battles they fought in the Civil War. Captain Bates carrying their green flag led men carrying flags the Brigade fought under at Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, Antietam and Bull Run into the church. Each man wore a sprig of green commemorating the battle of Fredericksburg. After their color-bearer had fallen, hundreds of men broke shoots of boxwood from nearby bushes, put the sprigs in their hats, and rushed into battle. The men later were guests of St. Joseph's Young Men's Catholic Association at a picnic at Saw Mill River Park.

May 30, 1935: Pretty debutant Marion Ruth Nesbit of Pondfield Road West, disappeared without a trace on the eve of her graduation from Brantwood, a private Bronxville finishing school. After having lunch at Fred Steinmann's pharmacy and stopping at the Bronxville Tennis Club, she was last seen on her way to take a "voluntary test." Police from five states searched for her, speculating she was kidnapped, ran away or had amnesia. Her parents rejected the kidnapping theory; Mr. Nesbit, VP of the US Rubber Reclaiming Company, said the family didn't have money. Her parents believed she had a breakdown, since it was the first time she was away without permission.

**Questions or comments? Email [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.org](http://www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org), call 914-961-8940 or email [yhsociety@aol.com](mailto:yhsociety@aol.com).**

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

Wong said about YMHS, "I love how open, accepting, and diverse my school is. I have gained at least one new insight and learned at least one new perspective from everyone I have met for this reason."

Advice for future students? "You should never lose sight of what is important to you. It means to plan and pursue your future goals, and to be resilient even when life does not go according to plan. But, it also means to cherish the people you love whether it is your friends or your family, and to give back to your community with an open heart and open mind."

YMHS Valedictorian Gabrielle Schnorbus will graduate with a 103 GPA. Her favorite teachers are Christopher Rader, IB English 11 Teacher and Honors English 10 Teacher, and her favorite classes are IB Biology, IB English, and IB Math.

Gabrielle school activities include Flying Trapeze Performer, Science Olympiad Captain, Youth Climate Ambassador representing New York at the 2019 National Climate Summit, Groundworks Hudson Valley employee, Intern at Northwestern Mutual, Private Tutor in AP Chemistry, Writing and Reading Comprehension, Trigonometry, Algebra I, Geometry, Earth Science, and Living Environment/Biology. and a member of the Italian Club. GSA (Gender-Sexuality Alliance), Athlete, and the Volunteer Club.

Schnorbus was accepted to Cornell, Harvard - waitlist, Oberlin, SUNY Stony Brook Honors College, SUNY Binghamton, Manhattan College and Manhattanville College. While she waits to see if she is accepted into Harvard, she will attend Cornell if a spot at Harvard doesn't open up.

"I hope to double major in Environmental Science and Business Management/Economics, and minor in Political Science. I want to link sustainability with corporations and introduce more sustainable business practices into public policy. I would also like to research plastic-eating bacteria and other possible solutions to pollution and climate change."

Gabrielle enjoyed her high school years at YMHS, "and the student body's effort to make the most of whatever opportunities were given to us. The hard work and determination of the students showed up in the many student-run clubs I entered throughout the years, the constant student fundraising for trips, and the many times students volunteered to help teach or tutor their peers."

Her advice to a future Val or Sal? "Don't focus on your GPA or each test grade - focus on putting out your best effort at any given moment, which will get you further. If you ever need help, don't be afraid to reach out to your peers and teachers."

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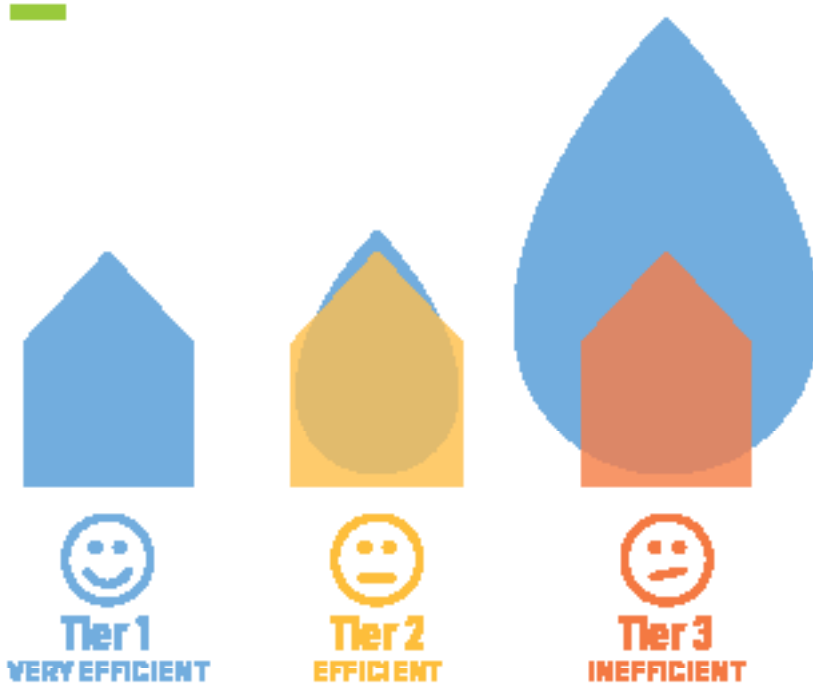
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