# Yonkers Rising

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The Yonkers Hispanic

As an influential orga-

# Yonkers Hispanic Democrats Endorse Mayor Mike Spano for June 27 Primary



**County Legislator Christopher Johnson's** Residence Challenged; Williams Wants Inquiry



**Yonkers County Legislator Christopher Johnson** 

By Dan Murphy

LoHud.com investigative reporter David Mackay Wilson's recently uncovered the fact that County Legislator Christopher Johnson lives in a \$770,000 home that is outside the 16th District that he represents in Northwest Yonkers.

Wilson also reported that Johnson maintains ownership in a subsidized condo that he purchased on North Broadway under the Yonkers Affordable Housing Program 10 years ago. While Johnson maintains that he resides in both residences, Wilson was able to uncover the fact that he is living most of the time in the home on Rose Hill Terrace with his wife Tai and son.

Johnson's opponent for county board, City Councilwoman Shanae Williams, sent letters to the US Attorney and NYS Attorney General calling for an investigation to determine if Johnson committed fraud when he signed mortgage documents for the new home, while maintaining ownership of the affordable condo that is currently occupied by his brother and law and girlfriend.

Mr. Johnson's condo at 421 North Broadway is a unit that was purchased by him under the City of Yonkers' Affordable Housing Program, which was funded by Federal dollars, in 2010. Each year he is required to sign an occupancy declaration swearing that he is the primary residence of the unit. On May 31, 2022 he signed that declaration and subsequently closed on his new house in District 15 on June 10, 2022. To purchase the new home at 34 Rosehill Terrace using a Federal Housing Administration loan, he signed a document stating that his primary residence will be 34 Rosehill Terrace in order to qualify for the loan with favorable financing conditions.

"While there is a housing shortage and affordable housing crisis facing our nation, it is troubling to see County Legislator Johnson allege two residences to try to fool Federal Housing programs. He lied on official documents when he alleged both 421 North Broadway and 34 Rosehill Terrace to be his primary residence," states Candidate Shanae Williams. "We need to have faith in our elected officials to have integrity and it is evidently clear that Johnson's fraudulent activities warrant a full investigation."

If and when Johnson sells the condo, it would be offered to a list of affordable housing applicants in Yonkers.

Johnson also has issues with his Board of Legislators post. The County continued on pg 5-

### Rough Riders to the Rescue!



See story on pg 2-

it is clear that Mayor Mike Spano possesses the vision and experience necessary to address our community's needs and work towards a better future for all Yonkers residents.

"I am deeply honored to receive the endorsement of the Yonkers Hispanic Democrats," Mayor Spano said. "Their support is a testament to our shared values and the progress we have made together in building a more vibrant and inclusive Yonkers. I am committed to continuing our work in empowering all residents and ensuring that Yonkers remains a place where everyone has the opportunity to

Mayor Spano's track record of achievements speaks for itself. Under his leadership, Yonkers has experienced significant progress in areas such as education, economic development, and community engagement. He has consistently advocated for equitable access to quality education, providing resources and opportunities for all students, including those from Hispanic backgrounds. Mayor Spano has also spearheaded initiatives that foster economic growth, attracting new businesses and creating job opportunities for Yonkers residents.

Chairperson Piedad Abreu stated, "Before Mayor Spano, Yonkers was a ghost town. A high unemployment rate, abandoned buildings, empty storefronts and a lack of safety in our community. Since 2012, Yonkers has transformed into an ideal place to raise a family. We now have the highest graduation rate among all New York State cities, a low 3% unemployment rate, and we're one of the safest cities of its size in America. Endorsing Mike Spano was a no brainer for our com-

Mayor Spano's commitment to community empowerment and collaboration is truly commendable. He has worked tirelessly to bridge gaps and ensure that all voices are heard, promoting diversity and inclusivity throughout the city. By actively engaging with various community organizations, including the Yonkers Hispanic Democrats, Mayor Spano has demonstrated his dedication to understanding and addressing the concerns of our community.

The Yonkers Hispanic Democrats firmly believe that Mayor Mike Spano's leadership and vision will continue to make a positive impact on Yonkers and its Hispanic residents. His steadfast commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion aligns closely with the values held by our organization and the Yonkers Hispanic community as a whole.

The endorsement of Mayor Mike Spano by the Yonkers Hispanic Democrats is a testament to his proven ability to effectively lead, support, and uplift our community. We encourage all Yonkers residents, particularly our fellow Hispanic community members, to support Mayor Spano in the June 27th Primary.

### YMA Valedictorian & Salutatorian **Graduate With 101 GPA!**



YMA Valedictorian Tara Doran, and Salutatorian Jessica Hegarty

By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to the 2023 Valedictorian Tara Doran, and Salutatorian Jessica Hegarty, from Yonkers Montessori Academy, YMA. Both Doran and Hegarty will graduate with a weighted GPA of 101, (101.94 for Doran, 101.22 for Hegarty).

Like many Val's and Sal's, Doran and Hegarty have known each other since the 4th grade and are close friends. Both have attended YMA from K-12, and are glad that they were able to experience the Montessori learning experience in the Yonkers Public Schools.

Valedictorian Tara Doran's favorite teachers at YMA are Richard Harman: Math (Calculus) and Irina Morgunova: Math (Algebra II), and her favorite subjects

## Ana Ndoci Commits to Play Basketball at Mount Saint Mary's College



Yonkers Montessori Academy's Ana Ndoci commits to Mount Saint Mary College to play Basketball! After a stellar five year Varsity Basketball career, Ana Ndoci is headed to Mount Saint Mary College in the fall. She will play basketball for coach Colleen Ames. Ana had an incredible career at YMA. The All-Conference Center stood at a towering 6'3 and was a force in the middle defensively. She finished with 683 points, 1,220 rebounds, 654 blocks, and she lead her team to a whopping 37 wins, and just 12 loses in the last three seasons.

She was voted all league all five years, and All conference the last three years. Ana's recruitment blew up last year, where at one point she was averaging 20 points, 18 rebounds, and 11 blocks a game. She had over 30 offers, and interests including from schools such as Mount Saint Mary College, Mount Saint Vincent, Umass Dartmouth, Columbia University, Monroe College, Robert's Wesleyan college, Monroe College, and Bethesda University. What's most impressive about Ana isn't the basketball, or the offers, it's how amazing she is as a student. She had a 4.0 GPA and is graduating near the top of her class at YMA, while playing two varsity sports. Good luck to Ana at the next level!

YMA's coach Elie Moise has done an excellent job sending kids to the next level to play basketball. Last year, the senior class featured three seniors, all of whom had offers to play in college. This year, YMA has two seniors including Ana. YMA's other senior Sinead Mcgourty, who is undecided holds several offers also!

# Ruff Ryders photo on pg 1-

Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting | Ruff Ryders 2the Rescue 33 South Broadway (2nd Floor), Yonkers, NY 10701

Mayor Mike Spano joins with President/CEO of Ruff Ryders Joaquin "Waah" Dean to cut the ribbon on their new downtown Yonkers locations.

Ruff Ryders to Rescue's mission is to create a safe, sustainable and economically viable environment for the youth by providing tangible skills and opportunities through mentoring and training.

Ruff Ryders to the Rescue aims to foster partnerships with like-minded organizations, community leaders, and passionate individuals to maximize its impact.

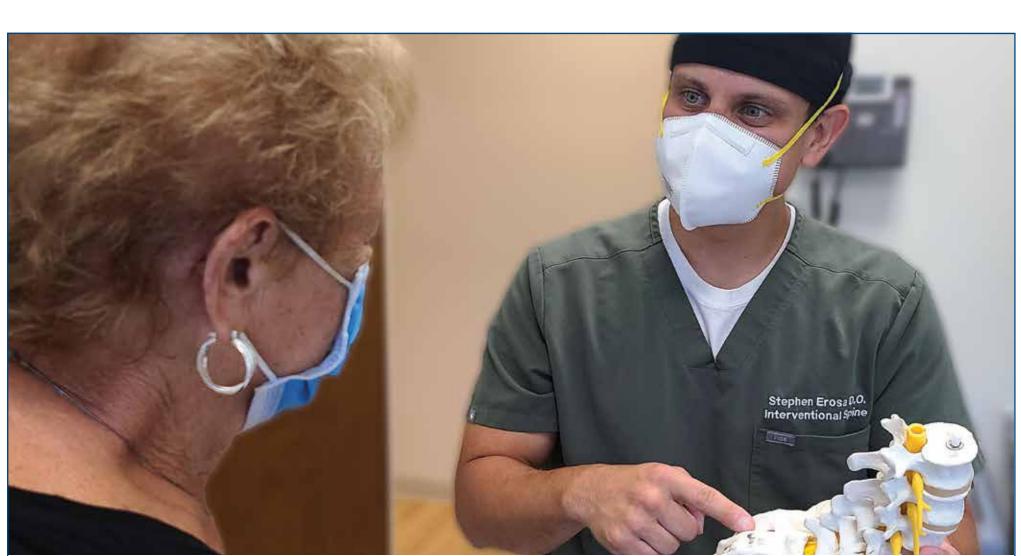
They will be adopting one city at a time.

Also attending the ribbon cutting were City Council Majority Leader Tasha Diaz, Councilwoman Shanae Williams and Councilwoman and Mayoral candidate Corazon Pineda-Isaac.

#### Coyote Warning

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) issued guidance to help prevent conflicts between people and coyotes. Coyote sightings are likely to increase in the coming months and DEC encourages New Yorkers to be aware of the potential for conflicts and follow DEC guidelines to prevent negative encounters. Coyotes inhabit a variety of habitats throughout the state, For the most part, coyotes will avoid human-contact. However, conflicts with people and pets may occur, particularly during the spring denning and pupping period when coyotes tend to be more territorial and protective.

# Read it all online at Yonkerstimes.com



# Are you suffering from pain?



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Interventional Spine & Pain Center
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Is chronic pain holding you back from living your best life? Pain is complicated, and we have a solution.

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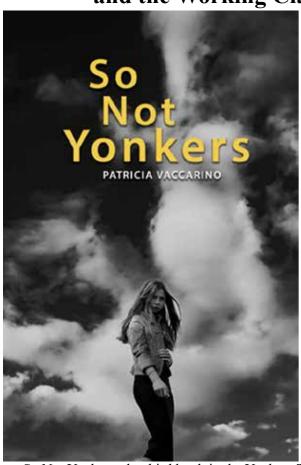
community STRONG





Dr. Erosa speaks about Peripheral Nerve Stimulation

# The Trust Between the Mainstream Media and the Working Class is Broken



So Not Yonkers is Realistic Fiction About the Working Class

So Not Yonkers, the third book in the Yonkers Trilogy by Patricia Vaccarino, is realistic fiction that examines a grim reality—the world is rigged against everyone who is either poor or from the working class. Although the Yonkers Trilogy covers the time from 1969 to 1973, the issues prevalent then are the same issues that we grapple with today.

America's working class is struggling with real life issues, including, but not limited to, economic disparity, racism, sexual harassment, abortion, child abuse, homophobia, mental illness, violence, death, lost love and lost friendship. Yet today's mainstream media does not reflect this reality. The working class is consistently portrayed by mainstream media as narrow minded, rigid conformists to alt-right conservative family values. This is a fundamental disconnect from reality.

Any time there is a fundamental disconnect between what is real and what is not, there is a breakdown of trust. The trust between the working class and the mainstream media has long been broken.

In the article Through the Working Class in the Columbia Journalism Review (Winter 2019), Steven Greenhouse asserted that after the 2016 election, "there was a sense of panic in many newsrooms—journalists had missed a huge part of the Trump story because, ensconced on the coasts, they hadn't been adequately covering working-class Americans' hardships, worries, and resentments." Mr. Greenhouse further asserts "that over the past two years, the media has worked hard to restore the working class to its rightful place in the nation's political narrative."

The mainstream media has yet to earn the trust of the working class. The May 10, 2023, CNN Town Hall meeting featuring Donald Trump is a powerful example of how the mainstream media treats the working class with fear, loathing, and ridicule. In the media industry, members of televised audiences are always carefully vetted. The CNN town hall meeting deliberately staged an audience whose members were intentionally meant to appear as crass and stupid, loudly cheering in response to Trump's every lie and indiscretion.

The media holds the working class responsible for the rise of Donald Trump. The working class is aware that it is the mainstream media who created Mr. Trump and continues to push him to the top of the daily news cycle. The latest media trends sourced on criticalmention.com indicate that a fierce debate is taking place about how journalists ought to cover the former President as he seeks another term. Author and columnist Joe Klein said the media has not figured out how to cover Trump.

Instead, journalists ought to think about how they are covering the working class. Start by asking, "Who is the working class?" Working class adults are stereotypically defined as those lacking a college degree. Yet in today's economy, a UPS delivery driver, a Starbucks barista, and an uber driver who all have college degrees would still be defined as working class. According to Patricia Vaccarino, "The media has lost touch with the working class who want to read about people they can relate to or about people they can realistically aspire to become. Instead of realistically portraying working-class people in the media or in literature, Kyle Rittenhouse is cast as the poster child for working-class alienation. Both the mainstream media and the publishing industry have intentionally diffused the power of the working class by portraying them as small-minded, stupid and weak, thereby diminishing their worth."

Vaccarino will be featured in a Yonkers Public Library's Author's Chat on June 22. She is also the author of *The Death of a Library: An American Tragedy*, about the circumstances that led to the demolition of the Yonkers Carnegie Library in 1982





# In Your Face



by Eric Wolf Schoen

In my first government class at Pace University in Pleasantville, the teacher put up three letters on the chalkboard. CYA. COVER YOUR ASS! She reminded us that not only did C stand for cover, it also stood for compromise. She said if we grasped those two concepts we would make it in government.

So I see our Congressman Jamal Bowman on the steps of the Capitol screaming at Representative Marjorie Taylor Green. Now I totally disagree with Green philosophically, but to have a rather tall man going after this petite short woman I thought was unacceptable. I guess I wasn't the only one to find it unacceptable. AOC pulled Jamal away and said it wasn't worth him getting in a spat with her.

The sensational aspects of the occasion were picked up by the New York Times and other media, that being the goal of Congressman Jamal.

Was there any need for a shouting match. Did Bowman have to be in Green's face? Maybe if he was trying to show off looking for publicity for his run for Mayor of New York City as the gossip has it. Personally I think he has a long way to go.

But as a constituent of Bowman's I was embarrassed by the episode. And I thought of compromise, or at least conversation which would have accomplished more than the 'In Your Face' match-off which was embarrassing to one of Bowman's colleague that, even though she said Green wasn't worth the tussle.

I also read as you did the letter in these papers a letter from numerous Rabbis criticizing Bowman's Anti-Israel positions. I thought we were passed that. No matter what the issue is, you can't become Mayor of New York City if you are anti Israel. A word to the wise Brother Jamal.

What did we see Tuesday at the White House? A truck crashed into a sur-

rounding gate intentionally. And what was in that truck? A Nazi flag. Anti Israel sentiment just feed into these crazies driving into the White House gates. I guarantee the majority of Americans support Israel and the Jewish people.

And now as we head into Memorial Day Weekend some lighter notes of the day:

-Ever dream to be a lifeguard? New York and surrounding counties need you now more than ever. Lifeguard shortages are all over, and with the area pools opening in a month you still have time, however short to brush up on those swimming skills to patrol an area pool. You don't have to have a perfect body you can cover up with a long T-shirt!

-Did you know that the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City ballroom, where migrants are being welcomed into New York once was the home of Guy Lombardo's televised New Year's celebration. My have things come a long way!

If you were at the Taylor Swift concert held in the pouring rain in Massachusetts last week and collected some rainwater that water apparently is worth some money. It has been sold in little jars as a collectible for the water logged occasion.

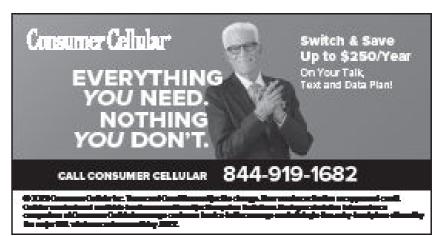
People won't go on the subway in New York as it is for fear of crime. Now the MTA is talking about raising the subway fairs 15 cents to \$2.95. What they should be doing is lowering the fairs not increasing them. How about putting more police officers on the subways. You don't attract people to the subways they are afraid to go on to begin with by increasing fares. What could the MTA be thinking? On top of this they have introduced new gates that are harder for fare beaters to jump. This is a way to increase fares, but the gates will take a long while to put in. So subway riders for the time being will have an increase of fares come Labor Day.

The campaign to save AM radio in new and used cars is alive and well. Car manufactures claim that AM radio interferes with the cars systems. Pressure has been put on manufactures by listeners of the radio and it seems to be working. WABC AM radio collected 7500 signatures and as we go to press got one manufacturer to agree to not eliminate AM radio. AM radio is a major source of emergency communication. At this point your best bet is to contact your Congressman to encourage the continuance of this important method of communication. Text AM TO 52886. Or check out the web pages for your favorite AM station to see if they are collecting electronic signatures to stop the end of AM radio.

What does this tell you. Most Americans want another candidate other the two major contenders to run for President. Where is this candidate coming from? None of the candidates announced so far have shown the spark we are looking for. One thing for sure, the Republican debate stage will be full!

Cryotherapy is the hottest thing now for losing weight and freezing off that extra fat.

continued on pg 6-





## Costco Wants to Replace Your Neighborhood Wine & Liquor Store

OP ED By Tony Russo & Michael Correra

All across the country, multi-billion dollar big box and warehouse companies have been planning and seeking a complete takeover of states' retail wine and liquor industries. New York state's local wine and liquor merchants must start preparing now for a big fight ahead.

As recently as 2019, Costco announced an expansion of Instacart same-day alcohol deliveries to 200 of its stores in 11 states and Washington DC. While mega big box retailers like Costco offering alcohol might sound convenient for some, the stark reality is that it would devastate an entire industry responsible for creating some 35,000 jobs and generating nearly \$4.5 billion in tax revenue across all corners of New York State in 2020. This is a scenario local mom-and-pop retailers across other business sectors have seen before. As giant, well-funded corporations move into an industry, they squeeze out locally based familyowned shops that have served a community for generations—similar to the way pharmacy giants like CVS or Walgreens have all but eradicated neighborhood pharmacies.

There was a time when every neighborhood across Westchester and the Hudson Valley had specialty stores, but that is sadly evaporating with the homogenization of retail at the feet of Wall Street funded investors. To add perspective about the economic might of a local business killing a company like Costco, each and every warehouse location sells an average of \$192 million in goods annually. The company boasts 19 locations within New York, with a half a million dollars of daily revenue at each store. In 2022, Costco reported an annual revenue of \$226 billion, a 15 percent increase from 2021. Not only does Costco have substantial buying power, but because each of Costco's 123 million members pays between \$60 and \$120 annually for the right to shop in its stores, the company is able to sell wine and alcohol at or below anyone else's cost.

For any small merchant, Costco's prices and tentacles are impossible to match. Its ability to squeeze suppliers to sell in bulk at bare bones costs would destroy any competitors in the same or even neighboring counties. If the New York State Legislature enacts changes to our alcohol sales laws – intended to protect consumers and minors from accessing this controlled substance – simply to give a pass to yet another big box store takeover, that wound will cut deep into many communities.

Their business model is to swallow up small businesses and make them extinct. Granting this big box behemoth a green light to take over New York won't just negatively impact the fabric of a few communities but rather create a ripple effect that will leave the consumer landscape of our towns, villages, and cities in further desolation. This sudden rush to "reform" New York's alcohol control laws – supposedly because of needs recognized during the pandemic – is not only misguided, but it inches us closer to a frightening scene from the 2006 sci-fi comedy, "Idiocracy."

In the film, a U.S. Army librarian wakes up 500 years into the future, and into a world dominated by one store to get anything at all – even a law degree – that is, a gigantic city-sized Costco.

If our leaders in Albany and at the county level waive the checkered flag for yet another a big box takeover – reminiscent of what Home Depot, Barnes & Noble or Bed, Bath & Beyond did to smaller shopkeepers – it could be the nail in the coffin for our retail wine and spirits industry, and its nearly 3,500 New York liquor merchants. It's up to New York's leaders to just say no and take a stand to protect local small business owners, as well as maintain the fabric of our state economy, and our way of life, against further corporate encroachment.

Tony Russo owns Aries Wines & Spirits in White Plains. Michael Correra owns Michael-Towne Wines & Spirits in Brooklyn. He is executive director of the Metropolitan Package Store Association, representing 3,500 of New York's small business liquor stores.

#### YMA Val Sal, continued from pg 1-

are Math and Algebra. Both Mr. Harman and Ms Morgunova are really nice and have inspired me. Math is my favorite subject. I enjoy problem solving.

Extra-curricular activities for Doran include Varsity Volleyball, Softball and Basketball, and volunteering for Guiding Eyes for the Blind. During the summer, Tara works as a lifeguard at the Amackassin Club. "For Guiding Eyes, we go up to Yorktown for training, and then bring back the dog to our house for a week."

She also serves on the Project Impact Share a Smile Club. "As a senior, I mentor a freshmen, and ask if she needs help socially or academically. She is like my little sister."

Doran will be attending SUNY Binghamton in the fall, where she will major in engineering. "My sister goes there and we have nothing but positive feedback. It feels at home when I visit. It's a great campus with a prestigious engineering department. I'm not sure what I will do after four years, probably stay in the fields of Math and Science."

Tara will not be pursuing a career in law. Her father, Judge Arthur Doran III, and grandfather Judge Arthur Doran Jr., are serving and have served as Yonkers City Court Judges. "I may want to serve my community like they did, but not as a judge. It ends here."

Who helped you get to this point of achievement? "My mom and my family. They encouraged me and were supportive without being controlling. I did this for myself but its nice to have them."

When did you find out you were in the running for Valedictorian? "I found out my freshman year and it made me work harden to keep my #1 ranking.

What do you like most about your school? "I like the community aspect of my school the best. Since it is so small, I have had the opportunity to get to know everyone in my senior class, as well as develop a strong bond with my teachers."

Words of advice to future Valedictorians? "Make the most of you high school career socially, while prioritizing your grades, because time flies by."

YMA Salutatorian Jessica Hegarty found out in her junior year that she had moved up the ranks from #6 to #2. "My family helped keep me calm because jumping from #6 to #2 was a shock, but a pleasant one."

Hegarty's favorite teacher is Sharon Governali, College Link Early Childhood Development. "That class is what I want to do, become a teacher. She has always been supportive. There was a lot of coursework, but she helped me prepare for my future

After 10 years of Irish dancing, Hegarty stopped to work on academics."I was introduced at the age of 7 to Irish Dance, both my aunts own Irish dancing schools and I have performed in competitions around the world."

Who helped you achieve academic execellence? "My family and friends, they are there to support me and want what is best for me. But I put a lot of pressue on me to do my best."

Hegarty plans to attend SUNY Cortland in the fall, major in education and become a teacher. And yes, a return to the Yonkers Public Schools is a possibility. "They have a great teaching college and I got into the honors program."

Words of advice? "Always work to your full potential, and it will pay off."



## Where Else in Westchester Can Migrants Go?

Westchester County Executive George Latimer's call for compassion and acceptance of some of the 67,0000 migrants currently overflowing the shelters and hotels of New York City, has been met with opposition from republicans, and with some democrats wondering where else the migrants can go in the county.

There are currently 100 migrant families housed at the Ramada Inn on Tuckahoe Road in Yonkers. Published reports have NYC Mayor Adams and his administration looking for more locations in Westchester. Other reports have the Adams administration looking in New Rochelle, Mt. Vernon and White Plains for more locations.

We received several email letters to the editor about the migrant crisis and Westchester's response to it. "I wondered why all of our elected officials in Westchester, most of who are democrats, keep saying that this is a federal problem that demands a federal solution. While I agree with that, I also wonder why nobody asked or questioned President Biden about the impact that the migrant crisis is having on our area? asked Jean Madsen.

Another reader writes, "I just heard that the financial impact on the City of New York and their budget from the now 67,000 immigrants who have been bused into the city will be \$5 Billion. Governor Hochul gave New York City \$1 Billion to help pay the costs. "Let's do the math. If New York City is housing migrants in 30,000 hotels, as has been

reported, at \$100 per night, that would be \$3 Million per day. In the Ramada Inn Yonkers, the migrants are to stay up to one year. If you mulitply the \$3 Millon by 350 days, that cost exceeds the \$1 Billion that Hochul gave Mayor Adams. My question is what happens after one year and the money runs out?" wrote Rich Morgal.

Finally, Michelle D'Agostino writes, "I live in Eastchester but my cousins live in New

Rochelle and Mt. Vernon. I don't think its fair for all of the migrants to go to Westchester's big cities, including Yonkers and White Plains. It always seems that is where the homeless end up and now the migrants are going."

"What about some of the wealthier communities in Westchester? Can they share the

burden? As a Christian, I agree with what County Executive Latimer said about helping others, but lets take that thought to another level and ask, what about housing some of the migrants in Rye?"

NY Assembly republicans have proposed logislation requiring migrants to undergo

NY Assembly republicans have proposed legislation requiring migrants to undergo background checks, but according to the U.S. Refugee Admisson Program, security screening and background checks are already required.

"New York City, a long time ago, made a decision they wanted to be a sanctuary city and now they're struggling to deal with this issue and are trying to push it on to many of our counties," said Assembly Minority Leader Will Barclay.

Republican Assemblyman Matt Slater, from Yorktown, said, "This needs to be a wake-up call for New York state and New York City that their purely political and misguided policies are acting as a magnet that has brought the crisis at the southern border right to our front yards. Now with Homeland Security Secretary Mayorcas releasing migrants on their honor, with no court date or process in place, New York must take the necessary actions to register and track those who have crossed the border illegally to ensure our communities are protected and they do not fall through the cracks of our broken system."

"We were not prepared for this," said Republican State Senate Minority Leader Rob Ortt said in Albany Wednesday. "I call on the president and [Adams] to come up with a real plan and be honest with New Yorkers about who's going to be displaced, who's going to pay for it. What's it going to cost New Yorkers — the ones who pay the bill?"

Westchester State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said, "The federal government needs to be better partners in this situation. There has to be more interaction and more collaboration on the federal level — all of us have to be able to work together to deal with this crisis."

Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne declared a state of emergency in an effort to try to keep NYC from moving migrants into Putnam County hotels or other locations. Putnam County now joins Rockland, Orange and Sullivan counties who have declared similar emergencies.

"The purpose of these executive orders is to give the county the ability to preserve residents' rights, protect their well-being, and enforce county established laws and codes, in the wake of what has clearly become a disorganized, muddy operation by New York City officials," said Byrne. "New York City continues to rely on its poorly planned operations which set the stage to overburden and place significant hardship on communities in the Hudson Valley and further upstate," said Byrne.

Governor Kathy Hochul has ordered SUNY campuses to review their available space, and vacant colleges, like the old College of New Rochelle, are also possible migrant locations.





## **NEW YORK HOMEOWNERS:**

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#### **DiNapoli Comments on State Budget Passage**

NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli recently commented on the recently adopted NYS Budget for 2023-24.

"The \$229 billion Enacted Budget for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023-24 includes new recurring spending for schools, mental health services, and health care, as well as resources for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and for emergency rental assistance. Preliminary estimates show All Funds spending will grow nearly 4% year-over-year amid a projected drop in revenues and as temporary federal aid is spent down, according to an analysis by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli.

"Earlier in the week, DiNapoli reported that state tax collections in April totaled just over \$10.9 billion, a \$7.2 billion, or 39.9%, decrease from last April, and \$4.4 billion lower than projections in the Division of the Budget's (DOB) 2024 Updated Executive Budget Financial Plan, the most recent plan available. The decline was primarily in the Personal Income Tax (PIT).

"The Enacted State Budget funds critical services, including fully funding Foundation Aid for our schools, programs to help New Yorkers that are still struggling in our post-pandemic world and stabilizing the MTA after massive ridership declines," DiNapoli said. "It also comes at a time when revenues appear to be softening, inflation persists, and the federal government has yet to reach a deal on the debt ceiling. The state has made progress in building up reserve funds, but policymakers need to carefully monitor the economy and work to put the state on a sustainable fiscal course."

#### **Decline in Projected Revenues**

"Based upon DOB's most recent Financial Plan projections, as well as Executive and legislative estimates associated with changes included in the Enacted Budget, All Funds revenues for SFY 2023-24 are projected to be almost \$9.2 billion, or 3.9%, lower than SFY 2022-23. These declines include a forecasted reduction in tax receipts of \$3.5 billion, or 3.2%. This follows a decrease in tax revenues of 7.8% in SFY 2022-23. Lower collections were primarily concentrated in the PIT reflecting an estimated 26% decline in Wall Street bonuses, the volatility in the financial markets and its impact on estimated payments throughout the year, as well as the tax credits claimed for the first year of the Pass-Through Entity Tax."

#### Affordable Health Screenings Coming to Yonkers May 31

Residents living in and around the Yonkers, New York can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Courtyard by Marriott Yonkers will host this community event on 5/31/2023. The site is located at 5 Executive Blvd in Yonkers.

Screenings can check for:

- · The level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and overall vascular health.
- · Narrowing of the smaller arteries of your ankles and feet, called Peripheral Arterial Disease
- · HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels
- · Bone density as a risk for possible osteoporosis

Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available. Special package pricing starts at \$159, but consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for you based on your age and risk factors. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit our website at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is require

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

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

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

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

#### In Home Personal Training

In-Home Personal Training Available. NASM, EMT and Special Needs Certified. Strength Training, Fat Loss, and Muscle Building. Virtual and online coaching available. Text or call Andrew at 914-646-1718.





## On This Day in Yonkers History...



St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers

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

Monday, May 29th

May 29, 1933: After a kidnapping in Massachusetts, Superintendent of Schools Lamont Hodge issued an order to all Yonkers schools forbidding dismissal of students by telephone. In rare cases of emergency, permission only could be issued by Hodge's office.

May 29, 1953: Head of Westchester's Criminal Investigation Division Deputy Sherriff John Hoy refused to comment on the circulating report his team, intercepted a phone call warning a gambler an alleged gambling den at 117 Nepperhan Avenue was about to be raided! Men were sent as soon as Hoy heard the call, but they found the place empty. He also denied shots were fired during the arrest of the alleged gambler for having policy slips.

Tuesday, May 30th

May 30, 1893: Archbishop Corrigan invited the clergy to visit the new St. Joseph's Seminary on Valentine Hill near Yonkers; the elevated railroad agreed to provide a special train for the clergy to inspect the seminary so they would see the work already done on the construction.

May 30, 1914: The Iron Steamboat Company inaugurated two trips from the Recreation Pier! The steamer Sirius sailed the Long Island Sound to Bridgeport, stopping there for two hours, before returning to Yonkers. The second trip on the Highlander went to the "Peoples' Playground" Interstate Park, a three-hour trip 45 miles up the Hudson.

Wednesday, May 31st

May 31, 1943: For the first time, the Yonkers Memorial Day Parade took place without a Civil War Veteran participating. Ninety-seven-year-old Charles Frazee of Douglas Avenue, Yonkers only remaining GAR veteran, had a minor illness, so missed being Honorary Grand Marshall and riding at the front of the parade

Speakers at the post parade program presented a variety of messages. Lieutenant Iva Lindstrom, US Army Nurse Corp, told the crowd about the urgent need for nurses for wounded or sick servicemen overseas. YMCA General Secretary Horace Shepherd stated all were there "to honor our fellow Americans who died in the interest of human liberty, freedom and democracy." Mayor Barnes called on everyone to "preserve our way of life... To those looking down from above, we can hold our heads high and not be ashamed of what we are doing for those in the service."

Thursday, June 1st

June 1, 1933: The Yonkers National Bank and Trust Company's short-term loan of \$500,000 enabled the City of Yonkers to meet the \$929,5000 bond maturities and overcome what official thought would be the most drastic financial crisis in the city's history. Unfortunately, the city payroll was deferred until tax anticipation notes were sold to cover it.

June 1, 1959: The first section of S. Klein Department Store, soon to be the largest store in Westchester, opened; the remainder of the store would open nine weeks later, with 300,000 square feet of retail space and parking for 3,500 cars.

Friday, June 2nd

June 2, 1943: Fourth Precinct Patrolman Stephen Kaputa won his fight to be reclassified 1-A. He had tried to enlist several times, but his draft board had deferred him.

June 2, 1943: Lieutenant John Kelly, USN Reserve, and former Judgement Clerk in our City Court, was stationed at Dutch Harbor, Alaska. He came across a 1930 copy of the New York Times... and spotted a picture of people he knew attending the New York City Police Training School at Pelham Bay! Rookie John O'Hare was using ju-jitsu to throw Patrolman Stanley Swehoski while YPD officers Frank Jordan, Albert Will, and Anthony Milano looked on. Kelly cut out the picture and mailed it to the Court Staff.

Saturday, June 3rd

June 3, 1943: Yonkers Salvage Committee block leaders made state news with this headline from the State Salvage Committee: "Block Leaders Getting Fat!" Joseph Ringwalt reported to the State Committee our block leaders had done a great job promoting the salvaging waste fats in Yonkers homes, so good our city had a 33% increase in fats collections during the month of March.

June 3, 1944: Vice Mayor Jimmy Sullivan received a tribute from 46 Marines stationed "somewhere in the Pacific." Corporal Stephen Kaputa, formerly YPD, learned Sullivan had become a member of the "Gallon Club" of the Red Cross by contributing his eighth pint of blood for the armed services. Kaputa and his fellow servicemen decided to honor the Vice Mayor, writing, "... the Marines and myself want you to know we consider it a great achievement. The fact that you and many thousands of others are contributing their life blood to this highly important cause makes us feel very grateful." Sullivan framed their accolade and wrote a personal letter of thanks to each of the 46 signers!

continued on pg 6-



Buying Comics! Looking for 1960s-1990s.

Located in Yonkers

I PAY CASH! Please call 914-646-1718.

Notice to WESTAIR REALTY, CORP., LAWRENCE MARTIN BELL, ROBIN BELL KALB, LEONARD OTIS BELL, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF HAROLD K. BELL, MICHELLE ANN SILVERMAN, WENDY JOY SILVERMAN, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF HARRY SILVERMAN, LORRAINE LINARZ, MIRIAM WOLFSON AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MINNIE FEINBERG and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LEO FEINBERG AND THE CITY OF YONKERS NEW YORK

An action has been filed in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Westchester under Index No. 55337/2023 seeking a declaration pursuant to RPAPL Article 15 that the Plaintiff The Zee Zee Goup LLC is the owner in fee simple of the strip of land described on Schodule A hereto and that any persons claiming ownership be barred from all claim to an interest in such property

A copy of the Summons and Complaint is attached hereto

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

THE ZEE ZEE GROUP LLC.

Plaintiff,

SUMMONS

ROBIN BELL KALB, LICONARD OTTS BELL, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF HAROLD K, BELL, MICHELLE ANN SILVERMAN, WENDY JOY SILVERMAN, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF HARRY SILVERMAN LORRAINE LINARZ, MIRIAM WOLFSON AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MINNIE FEINBERG and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LEO FRINBERG AND THE CITY OF YONKERS, NEW YORK,

WESTAIR REALTY CORP, LAWRENCE MARTIN BELL,

To the above-named Defendants

You are hereby summaned to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this runmons, to serve a notice of appearance, or the Plaintiff's Attorney(s) within 30 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or enswer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded herein.

Dated: January 10, 2023

MARCUS, GOULD & SUSSMAN, LLP

White Plains, NY 10605

THE ZEE ZEE GROUP LLC.

Plaintiff,

Index No. COMPLAINT

WESTAIR REALTY CORP, LAWRENCE MARTIN BELL, ROBIN BELL KALB, LEONARD OTIS BELL, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF HAROLD K. BELL, MICHELLE ANN SILVERMAN, WENDY JOY SILVERMAN, THE UNKNOWN BEIRS OF HARRY SILVERMAN, LORRAINE LINARZ, MIRIAM WOLFSON AND THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF MINNIE FEINBERG and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LEG FEINBERG AND THE CITY OF YONKERS, NEW YORK,

Plainfiff, THE ZEE ZEE GROUP LLC, by its attorneys, Marcus, Gould & Sussemen LLP, complaining of the Defendants, alleges:

Plaintiff, with offices at 3145 Albany Crescent, Brons, New York 10463, is the owner of real estate known as 189 Scott Avenue, Yonkers, New York, known on the Tax Map of the City of Yonkars, New York as Section 6, Black 6250, Let 28, and described in Exhibit "A" (ties "Premises"), having acquired it by deed from the City of Yonkers dated April 8, 2021, recorded on April 28, 2021 in the Westchester County Clerk's Office, Division of Land Records as Control No. 610953293, Exhibit "A". The Premises is also described as part of Lot 164 on \*Map No. 2 Supreme Court, Valentine v. Brady and others for partition sale of that pert of Hyatt Form and Cedar Lot near Woodlawn in the City of Youkers", made by H.H. Spindler, Surveyor, and filled in the Office of the Clerk of Westchester County, Division of Land Records on Juse 14

P.C., dated April 2, 2021 is attached at Buhibit "B."

- The City of Yunkers had acquired the Premises as the result of a real estate trac foreclosure proceeding filed in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Westchester as Index No. 3643-14 (the "Tax Foreeleasee"). A deed resulting from that proceeding dated May 3, 2018 to the City of Yorkers and recorded May 11, 2018 as Control No. 581293254, Eshibit "C", purported to vest title in The City of Youkers, which in turn conveyed the Premises to Plaintiff.
- Upon information and belief, the actual last owner of record of the Premises was Defendant WESTAIR REALTY CORP. ("Westair"), having acquired the Premises from Marianne Steffen by deed dated September 13, 1955 and recorded October 7, 1055 in Liber
- Upon information and belief, the individual Defendants are the heirs of Harold K. Buil, the heirs of Harry Silverman, the beirs of Minnie Peinberg and the heirs of Leo Feinberg who were, upon information and belief, the shereholders of Defendant Westair which corporation was dissolved at some point in the 1980's and its assets, including the Premises would have been distributed to its shareholders.
- Westsir also had owned property adjoining the Premises, known as Lots 162, 163, 188 and 189 on Map 904 and, by dood dated June 6, 1984, Harold K. Bell, Harry Silverman, Minnie Feinberg and Minnie Feinberg and John Schleimer as Trustons under the Trust under the Last Will and Testament of Leo Feinburg conveyed those lots to 77 Bronx River Road Owners Inc., a cooperative corporation in a conversion in which some or all of them were "sponsors" of the conversion.
- Upon information and belief, none of the Defendants was named or surves in use Tax Poreclosure and thus title to the Promises to The City of Yonkers in 2018 as hereinabove described may have been defective.
- The property subject to the Tax Foundature for Tax Lot Section 6, Block 6250 Lot 28 was incorrectly described therein as a 7-foot strip of land but that strip had been previously conveyed by Westair to Charles Catteneo by deed dated November 15, 1955 and recorded December 20, 1955 in Liber 5538, page 32.
- Plaintiff seeks a declaration pursuant to Real Property Actions and Proceeding Lew Article 15 that it is it fact the owner of the Premises and that the reason for its exclusion from the several deeds and from the Tax Fercelosure proceeding, including the deed to Plaintiff was a mistake or error going back to the conveyances described herein.
- Upon information and belief, Defendant Westair, the last record owner of record or its shoutholders, the heirs of the individual Defendants, have no interest in or valid claim to ownership of the Premises and no basis upon which to claim or assert ownership and they will not be damaged in any way by a judgment granting ownership of the Fremises to Plaintiff.
- No personal claim is made against any Defendant unless such Defendant shall serve an answer to this Complaint asserting a cisim adverse to the claims of Plaintiff as set forth Upon information and belief, no unknown other party has any interest in the
- Plaintiffs are entitled to a judgment and declaration pursuant to RPAPL Article 15 that they are the sec owners of the Premises and that it be decreed that Plaintiff is vested with

#### PAGE 6 - YONKERS RISING - FRIDAY MAY 26, 2023

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

Sunday, June 4th

June 4, 1920: Yonkers people who attended the Knights of Columbus field mass at St. Mary's Cemetery relived the experience at their choice of two theaters, the Hamilton and Proctor's. Filmed by Tom Griffith, chief cameraman of the Whitman-Bennett Studios, the film showed the huge crowd and close-ups of the celebrants, the Reverend Fathers Curtin, Kellly, Aylward, Mullen, O'Brien and O'Keefe.

June 4, 1931: Rumors floated around Yonkers about a plan to tear down the Hollywood Inn and the Philipsburgh Building to build a hotel... or to convert the buildings into a hotel. Both buildings were part of the estate of William Cochran. Former Mayor William Wallin, Counsel for the Hollywood Inn Board, said he hadn't heard the report.

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

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

Don't think that if you move to Florida it will be easy to get into the top high schools and colleges. The migration south from Northerners has put top Florida schools in high demand.

Another brilliant idea from Congressman Bowman. House migrants in college dorms. During the summer these dorms are prepped For the coming school year. They are empty for less than 3 months. What happens when summer is over. Do they really think they are going to have permanent housing for the migrants

by then. Doubt it. And the Yonkers Mayoral Primary Campaign has begun. Spano signs all over Yonkers. The first piece of literature from Spano features former President Barack Obama praising the Yonkers My Brother's Keeper Campaign. It's going to be interesting what support Spano gets from traditionally liberal unions. Could this be another Eliot Engel upset. My bet today is that it is not!

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

#### **Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers** Public Notice of Revised Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP)

In accordance with federal law and regulations, the Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (MHACY) is revising its Low-Income Public Housing (LIPH) Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP). The proposed revisions to the ACOP are available for review and comment from Monday, May 29, 2023 to Wednesday, June 28, 2023, on the MHACY website: www.mhacy.org. listed under DRAFT Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) 2023.

Written comments on the proposed revisions must be addressed to "Attention: Dr. Denise Wesley, Compliance Monitor, MHACY ACOP " at the MHACY Main Administrative Office, 1511 Central Park Avenue, P.O. Box 35, Yonkers, NY 10710-0035, and must be received by the close of business (4:30 p.m.) on Tuesday, June 27, 2023.

Public hearings to receive public comments on the proposed revisions to the ACOP will be held on Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The Zoom meeting information can be accessed

Join Zoom Meeting: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. https://us02web.zoom. us/j/88135208085?pwd=cmNJTlJYK0hSS2p1ZUp3ci9kdUg0dz09&from=addon

Join Zoom Meeting: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86927715368?pwd=T1c1TkNXSnc0OUhUMzc0TEZjak lnQT09&from=addon

For questions regarding the ACOP proposed revisions, please contact Denise Wesley, Ph.D., Compliance Monitor at compliancemonitor@mhacy.org.

Persons with disabilities requiring assistance or alternative formats, or wishing to submit comments in alternative formats can contact the MHACY Administrative Office, JoAnn Rodriguez at (914) 793-8400 ext. 111 and TTY is (800) 545-1833 ext

> title to the Premises in fee simple, free and clear of any liens or other interests of any other parties hereto.

12. None of the individual Defendants nor to Plaintiff's knowledge and belief, any other person or party has ever claimed ownership of the Premises.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff request judgment as follows:

That Plaintiff be declared the owner in fee simple of the Premises free of any liens, claims or interests of the Defendants and every person claiming ownership under them and any other person or party and that such persons be barred from all claim to an estate or interest in the property described herein as the Premises and with the legal meter and bounds description contained in Exhibit "D" and that this Court grant such other, further and different relief as it deems just and proper, together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

Dated: White Plains, New York January [0, 2023

> MARCUS, GOULD & SUSSMAN, LLP Attorneys for Plaintit 222 Bloomingdale Road White Plains, NY 10605 (914) 683-0090 KJGould@mgs-nylaw.com

#### SCHEDULII A DESCRIPTION Amended 4/8/21

ALL that certain plot piece or percel of land, albuste, lying and being in the City of Yorkore, County of Westchester and State of New York, and known and designated as part of Lot Number 184 on a certain map entitled, "Map Number 2 Supreme Court, Valentine V. Brody and ethors for partition sele of their part of the Hyatt Farm and Croter Lot new Woodlaws in the City of Yorker's made by H.H. Spindler, Surveyor and Stod in the Office of the Clark of Westchester County, Division of Land Records, on June 14, 1889, as Map Number 604.

SAID parcel being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point on the northerly side of Souti Avenue distant 50 feet eastedy, Deed, 57 feet easted, from the intersection of the easterly eide of New Avenue and the northerly side of Souti Avenue;

RUNNING THENCE northerly on a course North 48 degrees 43 minutes 26 seconds illust 107.06 feet to a point; THENCE contactly on a course South 43 degrees 16 minutes 34 seconds East 43 feet to a

THENCE southerly on a course South 45 degrees 43 minutes 26 seconds West 107.08 feet to the northerly side of Scott Avence; THENCE revelety along the northerly side at Scott Avenue on a course North 43 degrees 10 minutes 25 seconds West 43 feet to the point or place of BEGINNING.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Promises known as 159 Scott Avenue, Yorkers, NY.

#### Iona Prep Celebrates 104th Commencement



Gregory Johnston, left and Allesandro Adornetto

Iona Preparatory's Upper School will graduate 163 young men during its 104th Commencement Exercises on Thursday, May 25 at 11AM, at its ancestral home of Iona University.

Robert H. McCooey, Jr., Class of 1983 and a Rye, N.Y., resident, will serve as the keynote speaker and 2023 Alumni Award Winner. The 2018 Iona Prep Hall of Famer and father of three Gaels Robert was the Alumni Association president from 1997 - 1999. Two years later he was appointed to the Iona Prep Board of Directors and served our school for a remarkable 12 years. He is a former board member of the New York Stock Exchange, NYSE Foundation, the Securities Industry Automation Corporation, and the National Organization of Investment Professionals. He currently serves as a Board Member at St. Vincent's Hospital, Westchester, and for Youth INC.

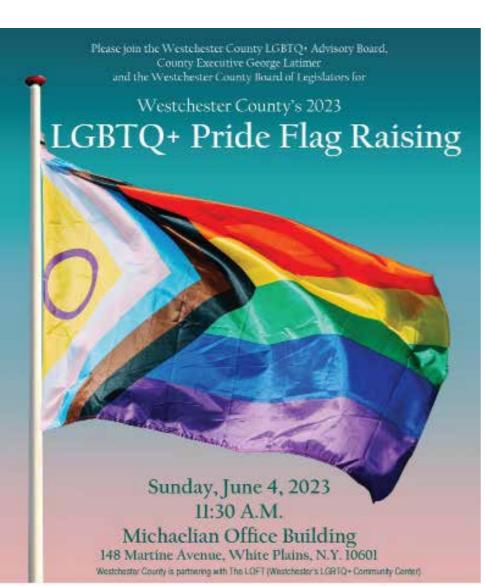
Today, Robert is Vice Chairman of Nasdaq, responsible for leading business development for new listings in both Latin America and Asia Pacific, as well as overseeing relationship management with companies throughout their corporate lifecycle. Prior to joining Nasdaq in 2006, Robert founded and served as the Chief Executive Officer of The Griswold Company brokerage firm.

The roughly 90-minute ceremony will feature valedictory and salutatory addresses from Gregory Johnston, 17, of New Rochelle, and Alessandro Caio Adornetto, 17, of Yonkers, respectively.

A Peer Minister and member of the Leadership Committee, Johnston graduates with a 100.41 GPA. He was president of the Bring Change To Mind Club, co-president of the Biology Club and a singles player on the tennis team. Gregory will be attending the University of South Carolina Honors College this fall, majoring in biological sciences on the pre-med track with plans to become a physician. Caio Adornetto has maintained a 100.21 GPA over seven Advanced Placement and eight Honors classes. He is the president of National Honor Society and a member of the National Science Honor Society and National Italian Honor Society, as well as an AP Scholar. Caio Adornetto is also the president of the Chemistry Club, vice president of the STEM Club and the Fratelli d'Italia secretary. He has authored and self-published an introductory book on theoretical physics and is a member of the three-year Science Research Program, studying Brownian particle self-assembly. Caio Adornetto will attend the University of Pennsylvania in the fall.

Collectively, the Class of 2023 has amassed more than \$35 million in academic scholarships, with more than 82 percent of the graduates receiving merit-based awards averaging \$60,000 per scholarship - meaning an Iona Preparatory education all but pays for itself. Over the last 10 years, graduating classes have earned nearly a quarter of a billion in scholarship.

Festival June 23, 24 & 25, 2023 Altamont Fairgrounds, near Albany, NY festival.oldsongs.org



Senate Leader Stewart-Cousins Honors Dr. Lucy Rockefeller Waletsky as a Woman of Distinction



Dr. Lucy Rockefeller-Waletsky, left, with Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cous-

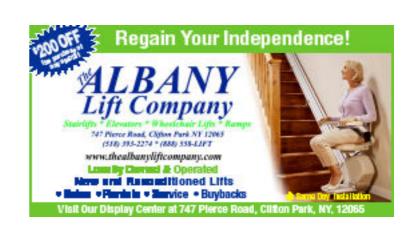
Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins honored Dr. Lucy Rockefeller Waltezky at the 2023 NYS Senate Women of Distinction Ceremony. Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins selected Dr. Waltezky for her remarkable advocacy, philanthropy, and commitment to the preservation of New York State Parks.

A resident of Pleasantville, Dr. Waltezky has been a passionate advocate for the protection and enhancement of New York State Parks. From her tenure as Chair of the Taconic Regional Parks Commission to her instrumental role as Chair of the New York State Council of Parks, she has displayed an extraordinary commitment to preserving the natural beauty and accessibility of these cherished spaces.

"Dr. Lucy Rockefeller Waltezky's tireless efforts to support and enhance New York State Parks have had an incredible impact on our community," said Senator Stewart-Cousins. "Her generosity, leadership, and dedication is truly commendable. It has been wonderful to see her many successes in preserving our natural resources, ensuring that they can be appreciated by New Yorkers for generations to

Dr. Waltezky's philanthropic endeavors have been vital to preserving and improving New York State Parks. In 2003, she donated 84 acres to the state, protecting a vital portion of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve in Westchester. Her donation of 10 acres to Westchester County expanded public parking for visitors utilizing the North County TrailWay bike path, enhancing its accessibility. Dr. Waletzky also funded the conversion of an 80-year-old historic schoolhouse into a new State Parks headquarters for the Taconic Region in 2009, ensuring the preservation of a valued piece of history.

"I am humbled by this recognition and express my sincere appreciation to Senator Stewart-Cousins, a long-time friend and park supporter. Among the greatest honors of my life was serving along with Commissioners Carol Ash, Rose Harvey, and Erik Kulleseid as chair of both the Taconic Regional Commission and the New York State Council of Parks. With their support, and that of the Open Space Institute, Parks & Trails New York, and my fellow regional park commissioners, we shed light on the poor condition of our rundown state parks and created a new constituency for these critical recreational, cultural, and natural resources. I could not be prouder of what we accomplished to upgrade our state parks and make them the world-class destinations they deserve to be," said Dr. Waltesky.



Mayor Mike Spano Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy **Yonkers City Council** Department of Veterans Services

## \* \* \* \* May Events 2023 \* \* \* \*

#### **Donna Walshin Community Center** Memorial Day Ceremony

May 25, 2023 at 6:30 PM Lennon Park Lake /wenue-Yorkers: NY

#### City of Yonkers **Memorial Day Ceremony**

May 29: 2023 at 9.AM City Hall Vieterans Memorial 40 South Broadway Yankers, NY

#### Crestwood Memorial Day Parade

May 29, 2023 at 10 AM Starting at Schultze Field 33 Eleanoras Lane Yonkers, NY.

#### Catholic Slovak Club Memorial Day Ceremony

May 29, 2023 at 12 PM Victory Park 50 Lockwood /wenue Yonkers, NY.

#### Memorial Day Ceremony

May 29, 2023 at 1 PM Ots Post 1666 574 Yorkers Avenue

#### CITY OF YONKERS CHARLES BAJART POST MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

May 30, 2023 at 6 PM Stillwell Park (McLean Avenue at 241st Street) to Charles Bajart American Legion Post 1122























yonkersny.gov



# PROGRESS FORALL



# VOTEI PRIMARY DAY JUNE 27

PAID FOR BY MAYOR MIKE SPANO COMMITTEE