

# Yonkers Rising

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Friday May 27, 2022

## Plan for Migrant Teens to Use St. Ann's School Rejected



St. Ann's School, on Brewster Ave., will remain vacant for the time being

By Dan Murphy

A plan to use the vacant St. Ann's School on 40 Brewster Avenue for migrant teens during weekday hours has been rejected, by St. Ann's Pastor Stephen Norton, and the Archdiocese of New York. The school, which has been closed since 2019, due to budget cuts in the Archdiocese, was said to preparing for a staff of 100 and for 200 mostly male migrant children to attend the school during the week arriving by bus in the morning and leaving at the end of the day.

"For many reasons, and after speaking with the Archdioceses, we have decided not to go in that direction," said Father Norton, who had the primary authority to make the decision. "We are looking for a buyer or another renter for the school, but at this point, Rising Ground is not an option."

Rising Ground would have been the operator of the program for the Federal Government. Migrant teens would have been at the school for 90 days and then reunited with their families in the US.

Several meetings were held at St. Ann's with the community to discuss the proposal. Most of the parishioners attending the meetings opposed the plan, despite the \$500,000 in rent that the parish was to receive and is in need of.

"There were so many factors in addition to the opposition from the community. It just wasn't viable at this juncture, and for so many reasons we just had to step away," said Father Norton. The school is located several blocks away from St. Ann's Parish on Midland Avenue.

City Council Minority Leader Mike Breen, who is also running for Assembly in the 90th District, said, "I think this was the right decision for the community. I understand that this was a difficult decision for Father Norton to make, but after sitting through one of the discussions with the community, it was clear that they did not want the school to be used for this purpose. We will find another use for the school."

Father Norton made a compelling case for using the school for this purpose in a letter to Councilman Anthony Merante, who had asked questions and had also opposed the proposed use. "A parish must do more than simply meet the religious worship needs of parishioners; it has an obligation to utilize its resources to meet the charitable, educational needs of its people whenever possible, and the surrounding

*continued on pg 4-*

## Yonkers Valedictorians, Salutatorians Class of 2022: Lincoln High School



LHS Valedictorian Annly John, right, and Salutatorian Daniel Pereira

By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to Lincoln High Schools Valedictorian, Annly John, and Salutatorian, Daniel Pereira. Annly John will graduate with a 97.8 GPA. She moved to Yonkers, and the United States, in 2017 from India.

Her favorite teachers are Dr Sagafhai, Science Research, and Mr. Yohannan, Living Environment, and her favorite subjects are Science research, Biology, Living environment. "Both teachers and science classes, helped me with my goal to work in the medical field," said John.

Annly completed five honors courses, four AP courses, and seven Westchester Community college Jumpstart program: courses. She also was active in many extracurricular activities including the LHS Purple Guardian Mental Health Awareness Club, and was a YPIE Scholar.

"I was glad to be a part of the Mental Health Awareness Club. I ran their social media account. It helped me and others."

"I applied to 45 colleges and my parents are immigrants and couldn't help me. YPIE has been a big help and made sure I completed my applications and essays."

Activities outside of school included volunteering at her church, St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church in Yonkers, and a summer internship at The Sarah Lawrence College Center for the Urban River at Bezzak.

Annly is also a singer, (Soprano). "I grew up in India singing with my grandmother, and I kept it up at Lincoln and sang in a concert."

John applied to 45 colleges as part of a free program for National Honors Society program which waives the application fees. "I wanted to take advantage of it and look for the best school and the best scholarship."

She will be attending Lehigh University, Pennsylvania this fall, and will be majoring in Biology, with plans to be a Physician assistant. "I visited the campus

*continued on pg 4-*

## City Council Passes Budget with 1.25% Tax Increase

\$1.3 Billion spending plan for Fiscal Year 2023 an increase of \$119 million or 9.32%.

\$683 Million for the Yonkers Public Schools

Property Tax Increase of 1.25%, Under Propert Tax Cap

Maintains city services and municipal positions, adds 10 new police officers.

Permanently funds Juneteenth as a City holiday

By Dan Murphy

The Yonkers City Council held a special meeting on May 25 to vote on a \$1.3 Billion spending plan for City operations and the Yonkers Public Schools. The Council made several changes to Mayor Mike Spano's budget proposal before adopting it by a vote of 6-1, with Councilmember Corazon Pineda-Isaac voting no.

The Council reduced the proposed tax increase from just under 3% to 1.25%, and also increased funding to the Yonkers Public Schools by an additional \$3 Million. Mayor Spano had already proposed record funding of \$680 Million for the YPS, including an additional \$20 Million coming from NY State.

City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, after completing her first City budget as Council President and as Budget Chair, said the spending plan strikes a balance between increased education funding and helping out taxpayers struggling to pay for higher gas and food prices due to inflation. "This was an arduous task but this is what we were all elected to do."

"We all have our priorities and education is paramount and one of the most important tasks. However it is unconscionable to put an additional burden on the taxpayers. We gave them (YPS) everything they wanted and more."

"This budget meets our commitment that our children have the best and that families move to Yonkers for our great schools. I'm also glad that we were able to lower the tax increase, for taxpayer facing inflation and gas prices. To add another burden to them did not sit well with me. In the end, we got all that we needed for the residents."

Councilmember Corazon Pineda-Isaac voted no on the budget and on several other spending items related to the City's fiscal 2022-23 spending plan that starts July 1. "There are items that I wanted to see in the budget. This budget doesn't do enough for my first priority, which is the Yonkers Public Schools. We know the struggles that public schools have had and the YPS suffers from years of mismanagement and underfunding."

"I wanted the 32 additional positions that are included in this budget, but I wanted more because the need is so large. The Superintendent doesn't have the ideal amount of surplus in case of an emergency. The Mayor's budget would have provided additional revenue that could have gone to the schools. It would have cost the taxpayers an additional \$19 per month."

Council Majority Leader Tasha Diaz criticized Pineda-Isaac for her no vote. "I'm a product of the YPS and a lifelong resident of Yonkers. And now I'm the Education Chair. This is a budget that is sustainable and works for the city. We

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## Westchester Formula Finders Seek to Collect, Trade, Sell and Donate to Moms in Need



By Dan Murphy

When Westchester mom Ali Curran saw a major shortage of baby formula across the county, she took action. The result is a Facebook page Westchester Formula Finders, that helps moms find baby formula and has 1,300 members in less than 10 days of activity.

Curran from Valhalla, and the mother of an 8 month old said that the feeling for most moms not knowing if they can find formula for their newborn, "feels extremely scary. For me I feel OK, because I have friends and family who can help. I feel badly for people who don't have that social network. It's scary and it makes you nervous as a mom to feel like you won't be able to have what your kid needs."

So far, the response has been positive, and helpful, to mothers in need. "We have had a number of exchanges and good information from our members, with many donating or offering what they paid for formula," said Curran.

The Facebook group is moderated by Curran and Jennifer Lynch, a neonatal nurse practitioner at NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital. Lynch, who brings a wealth of healthcare experience, and knowledge of the current shortage, reminded members to check and make sure that products are samples are not outdated or part of a recall.

"The challenge has been getting the actual product in the hands of people that need it, especially the people who don't have the resources to be driving around all day looking at different stores for what they need," Curran said. "It's been heartwarming, really lovely to see how people have stepped up for each other and gone out of their way and taken their time to say they have it or people are dropping formula at each others' houses. It's lovely, but it's really sad that there's a need. We're just trying to help fill that gap."

NY State Attorney General Letitia James has issued a warning to stores overcharging for formula, and Curran said the members of Westchester Formula Finders are also on the lookout for price gouging. "Our group is very active, and will be reporting any violations." She added that the price of formula depends on the size of the powder or liquid, so even a powder can with a \$64 may be in the

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## Mayor Spano Launches Electric Powered Leaf Blower Incentive Program

*Rebate Applications Available at [YonkersNY.gov](http://YonkersNY.gov)*



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano today announced the launch of the city’s new electric leaf blower rebate program for Yonkers residents and landscapers. To assist residents and lawn care professionals with converting their equipment to a quieter, healthier, and lower maintenance electric alternative, Yonkers residents now can receive a \$50 rebate from the City for purchasing an electric leaf blower. Yonkers-based landscaping companies can apply for up to five rebates of \$75 each per electric leaf blower purchased.

“We are doubling down on our efforts to reduce air and noise pollution in our City by encouraging residents and landscapers to use electric powered leaf blowers,” said Mayor Spano. “With this incentive plan, switching to cleaner, quieter lawn care equipment not only protects us from the health hazards of gas-powered blowers, but also can provide us a little extra savings. I encourage all to make the switch and help us in creating a greener, cleaner Yonkers.”

Yonkers city code bans the use of gas-powered leaf blowers, June 1- September 30. Gas-powered leaf blowers, along with other types of gas-powered maintenance equipment, pose significant environmental and health hazards to our communities and those who use them regularly. Operating a gas-powered leaf blower for one hour has been reported to create as much smog-forming pollution as driving a car 1,100 miles, or from New York City to Tampa, FL. Gas-powered leaf blowers also present quality of life impacts resulting from the high-intensity sound levels they produce, which may also pose an increased risk of hearing loss to regular users. Sound levels at distances of 100 to 400 feet have been found to be 22 decibels louder for gas-powered leaf blowers than their battery-electric equivalents.

Jason Baker, Chair of the Yonkers Green City Advisory Committee/Director of Sustainability, commented, “While leaves that fall on our lawns do not pose an environmental or public health risk to our communities, the use of gas-powered leaf blowers contributes to air pollution and excessive levels of noise. This program takes a consumer-friendly approach toward reducing these hazards by making environmentally preferable electric alternatives more accessible for outdoor maintenance.”

Funded through the Yonkers Industrial Development Agency (YIDA), rebate applications are available at [www.yonkersny.gov/leafblowerrebate](http://www.yonkersny.gov/leafblowerrebate). Rebates are limited and available until funds are exhausted. Residents or landscapers can recycle gas-powered leaf blowers by dropping them off (empty of gas) at the Yonkers Recycling Center located at 735 Saw Mill Road, Yonkers, NY. To report a violation to the City’s prohibition on the use of gas-powered leaf blowers, please call Yonkers Code Enforcement (during regular business hours) at (914) 377-6669 or Yonkers Police Department at (914) 377-7900.

## Lohrfink Park Improvements Completed in Time for Summer



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano joined the Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation on May 20 at Lohrfink Park (Bolmer Avenue) to unveil the park’s new renovations.

Improvements to the park include new playground equipment and rubber matting, new benches and additional landscaping. Lohrfink Park is one of the dozens of neighborhood parks the city is transforming and renovating in the next five years.

“As we approach the summer season, we are ensuring our Parks will be ready in time for families to enjoy. Today we unveiled the improvements made to Lohrfink Park (689 Valley Avenue), featuring new benches, a state-of-the-art playground with upgraded swings, slides, climbers, rubber matting, and an incredible green space for all to enjoy. It was an over \$350,000 investment – it shows our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for our residents,” said Mayor Spano.

[Read it All Online at YonkersTimes.com](http://YonkersTimes.com)

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# Yonkers Memorial Day Parade Monday May 30

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By Eric W. Schoen

Gas prices out of control with no sign they will stop going up. Everyone you talk to knows someone in isolation with Covid even though thankfully people are not getting as sick as they did before. Possible rationing of supplies and vaccines for Covid as funds across the country run low. Baby formula crisis. Monkey pox? What's next.

With all that is going on, Memorial Day Weekend, the official start of summer is here. So gas up the grill or get some charcoal and throw those hamburgers, hot dogs and steak on it. Wait, have you seen the prices of hamburger, hot dogs and steak? Food prices are sky high with basic items unavailable as the items are stuck on a ship some place in the world. Or there are no workers to harvest goods or ring them up at your local market.

But hey, it's Summertime! Beaches will open up Memorial Day and pools shortly thereafter. Did you check to make sure the lifeguards are on duty and the places you want to go to are open? Did you brush up on your swim techniques and water safety? Stew Leonard's offers free water safety videos online as does the American Red Cross.

Don't go out farther in the ocean than you should. But water temps are still cold so it will be a few weeks until you can go for a dip in to cool off even though temps were 90 degrees last weekend.

Something very important to know. All WESTCHESTER BEE LINE BUSES ARE FREE from June 1 to Labor Day. Yes, that includes the popular buses that take you to Manhattan and back. If the bus says Westchester Bee Line on it it's free. Thank you County Executive George Latimer and County Legislators for making this perk available to us. It allows you to travel throughout the county in air conditioned comfort at no cost and ride right into Manhattan.

So much to explore. A good way to know that is going on around town from WESTCHESTER County festivals to free kayaking in the Hudson in Yonkers is to get on the email lists of the Mayor or leader of your city, town, village or hamlet. Get on the email list of your County Legislator and local officials. Most institutions you would want to go to have mailing lists. And don't forget the programs offered in person and virtually by our wonderful public libraries.

Let's take a minute to discuss our libraries. Many people like the feel of an old fashioned book in their hands. Yes you will find plenty of them on the shelves of your library. But with your computer or iPhone you can see what books are available, what books are not at your library but at another library and put a reserve on for particular book which can be sent to your local library. Let's not forget electronic or ebooks which you can read on your iPad or other compatible device. The latest titles there for you to read as soon as they come out.

These remote library features allow people who are afraid to go out to public places due to Covid or other health concerns to take advantage of all the library has to offer. All you need is a library card.

If you are in and around Yonkers two programs sponsored by Friends of the Yonkers Public Library of which I am President are coming up on Sundays in June. June 5 the wonderful students of the Pelham Piano School offer an afternoon of Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Chopin for free at the Grinton Will Library at 2:00 p.m. Guests are mesmerized by the talents of the young students from throughout Westchester. And on June 12 the Library Jazz Band is at the Will Library at 2 p.m. A brand new 17-piece jazz band has its public debut! Count on hearing works by Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Thad Jones/Mel Lewis and more. Members include professional musicians and experienced amateurs from Yonkers and surrounding towns. Founders of the group include award-winning jazz pianist Sarah Jane Cion, Nancy Maron and William Schaeffer with Dave Levitt as conductor.

Facebook is a good place to find listings of events in your area and beyond. You should join even if you have no desire to communicate with friends from 50 years ago or see your neighbors children covered with mud. And of course these newspapers tell you what's going on in your community and so much more.

Have you visited the High Line, the wonderful park on the old railroad beds on the West Side of Manhattan. When was the last time you saw the Statue of Liberty. As I always tell friends the best way for you to get pictures of the Statue with your loves ones in the picture is to take a free ride on the Staten Island Ferry.

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Dear Mr. Murphy,

I have been a regular reader of Yonkers Rising for years and enjoy your coverage of virtually everything happening in my home city of Yonkers.

I hope your May 27 edition will include coverage of the City of Yonkers Memorial Day Parade. It is scheduled for Monday, May 30 at 6:00 pm. It will start with a brief ceremony at Stillwell Park (McLean Avenue at St. Barnabas Place) followed by the parade along McLean Avenue to the Charles N. Bajart American Legion Post at 840 McLean, where there will be a closing ceremony. Music will be provided by the Yonkers Military Band and the Yonkers Fire Department Pipes and Drums. It would be ideal if a photographer can join us.

Thank you in advance for your coverage.

Frank Cardone, Yonkers Military Band

Editor's Note: Frank, Happy to do it, and Happy Memorial Day and thanks to all who have served and who gave the ultimate sacrifice. My great grandfather fought in WWI and is buried in France. God Bless America.

## Formula Finders, continued from pg 1-

normal price range.

Some of the photos on the Facebook page, which can be found at, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/406479904681788>, include cases of formula at the Costco in Yonkers, and at other pharmacies. If you keep a watchful eye on the page, you can find available formula.

Lynch, a lifelong Yonkers resident, told us that "some people are trying to take advantage of this crisis. That's why we started this group, to try and mitigate the problem of price gouging and people buying up all the supply."

"I have two older children, but I can't imagine the stress that parents with young children are going through. When you have a baby its hard to get out of the house and add to that having to search for formula."

Lynch said that her experience as a nurse in Manhattan has shown her, "we have enough formula in the hospital, but its when they leave that the problems exist. For some babies who need a specialized formula, its even harder to find the right kind, and if they can't find any, they have to come back to the hospital for IV treatment. They need fortified breast milk. Those are the babies that need the most support. If your baby is on regular formula, there are options and you can switch between brands."

Lynch said that it may take a while to get enough formula back on the shelves to alleviate the problem. "That's why we started the group, and it has renewed my faith in humanity, and people who just want to help each other. This is all about helping babies."

Editor's Note: We have already had contacts regarding some stores in Yonkers overcharging for Baby Formula. We have not identified you yet but beware. Stop ripping people off!

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# Westchester County Beaches to Open for Memorial Day Weekend



Pools to Open June 24

Put on your bathing suits and grab your SPF as beach season arrives in Westchester County Memorial Day Weekend! Croton Point Beach in Croton-on-Hudson and Glen Island Beach in New Rochelle are scheduled to open on a pre-season basis beginning Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 28, 29 and 30.

After Memorial Day, the two beaches will remain open weekends only, through Sunday, June 26, when the full summer schedule begins as the four County-owned pools open Friday, June 24. County pools are located at Saxon Woods Park in White Plains, Sprain Ridge Park and Tibbetts Brook Park in Yonkers and Willson's Woods Park in Mount Vernon.

Glen Island and all four pools will be open daily through Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 5. Due to ongoing capital projects, Croton Point Beach will be open weekends only for the season, with the exception of Mondays July 4 and Sept. 5. Hours for all facilities during the season are 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; last entry at 6 p.m.

Commissioner of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Kathy O'Connor said, "Our pools and beaches are the perfect destination to spend summer days. I'm excited for the season to kick-off and welcome residents back!"

Westchester County residency is required at Glen Island Park and all pools. Proof of residency must be shown with either a Westchester County Park Pass or a New York State driver's license showing a valid Westchester County address. Admission fees apply at all of the beach and pool facilities and parking fees apply at Tibbetts Brook Park, Croton Point and Glen Island. Park Passes also offer discounted admission and parking and are available at a variety of locations. Go to parks.westchestergov.com for more information.

There's even more fun-in-the-sun to be had at our pools and beaches this season as Family Fun Days and DJ Days return along with the Sand Art Contest at Glen Island. Full schedule is available here. Participation is free; admission and parking rules apply.

## St. Ann's plan rejected, continued from pg 1-

communities. Our service to those in need is an important tenant of what makes our faith so strong... Most of the children are from Central America and most are Catholic," wrote Father Norton in March.

Father Norton told Yonkers Rising, I hope any person of faith understands the need to help those regardless of race, creed or color. That's our challenge as a Catholic, Christian people."

The issue of flights coming into Westchester Airport late in the night continues to be a politically hot issue. Many Westchester residents have expressed concern about where the migrants getting off the planes are going.

The proposal from Rising Ground to St. Ann's was one answer to that question.

# Letter to the Editor:

Mr. Murphy--thanks for publishing Yonkers Rising every week. It is a positive look at all the good things going on in the City. Unfortunately we read too many negative views of Yonkers online, from people who are a bunch of "Debbie Downers," in my view.

My question to them, and I won't mention their names and give them some free publicity, is, what is there suggestion or proposals for an alternative?

Specifically, who is it that can lead the city any better than Mayor Spano, and the current members of the City Council has.

A glass can be viewed as half-full or half-empty. I'm glad to be able to read coverage, about the City of Yonkers, and the glass being half-full. Especially in today's negative media climate.

*Sincerely, Dorris Baker, 55 Year resident of Yonkers*

To the Editor:

According to recent polling, 84% of voters—Republicans and Democrats alike—agree that no president, regardless of party, should be able to obstruct and undermine the will of the American people or exploit weaknesses in our political system for their personal gain. In our polarized politics, that bipartisan support is a huge deal.

So what can we do to protect our democracy from presidential corruption? Pass bold legislation like the Protecting Our Democracy Act. If passed, it would prevent future abuse of presidential power and corruption, increase transparency, and ensure presidents of either party can be held accountable.

If the average person used their public office for personal gain, they'd go to jail. So why should the president be allowed to act with impunity?

That's why I'm urging Congress to pass the Protecting Our Democracy Act. We must prevent future presidents of any party from abusing the power of their office.

*Sincerely, Robert Stauf, Yonkers*

## LHS Val Sal, continued from pg 1-

and everyone was so nice. And they have a pre-health program and gave me a great scholarship."

Annly enjoyed her time at Lincoln High School. "I love how the teachers, staff, and administration are very supportive and caring. Each one of them brings amazing opportunities for the students here. They provide us with resources and create a positive environment to uplift the students."

Annly and her parents came to America to give her a chance at the American Dream. "I was the lead student in my class in India. I worked hard and listened to my teachers. My parents supported me in India and came here so that I can have a change at a better future. I'm motivated to do good. When I came here I hardly knew English. I don't want to let my parents down."

Her Favorite quote for young students, "It's not too late to make this life everything you have always wanted it to be".

LHS Salutatorian Daniel Pereira has a similar life story. His family came from the Dominican Republic, where his mom was a dentist. When she came to Yonkers, she had to start at the bottom and work her up to become a licensed Dentist here.

Daniel will graduate with a 97.1 GPA. His favorite subjects are Math and Science and his favorite teachers are AP Chemistry teacher Dr. Kumari Johal and Science Research teacher Dr. Dean Saghafi.

Daniel finished in 5th place in a statewide Science Symposium, which gave him confidence that he can achieve academically. He also is proud of a fund raiser for students in his home country of the Dominican Republic. "My family is from the rural part of the DR and on a visit, I saw that they didn't have enough supplies. I was able to collect 250 bookbags filled with school supplies and \$3,000. It was fun but difficult and good to give back to my community."

Daniel's mother is both a role model and helped his achieve. "It's her work ethic that has inspired me." He will be attending the Sophie Davis Bs/Md program at City College/CUNY School of medicine.

Daniel has plans to become a Doctor and serving in his community. "My community is underserved with healthcare. Latino's make up less than 6% of all Doctors. We need more Doctors that look like me and speak spanish. I want to serve my community and I know that access to healthcare can transform peoples lives."

Where the future Dr. Pereira will land is still up in the air. Maybe the Bronx, maybe Houston Texas. But he is thankful for his time at Lincoln High School. "I like the community of high achievers that exists at my school, and the support system that comes with it."

"My advice to future Vals and Sals is to never doubt yourself, because you are capable of more than you think."

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**25TH ANNUAL ASIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JUNE 4; ALBANIAN FESTIVAL JUNE 5**

The 25th Annual Asian-American Heritage Festival will take place on Saturday, June 4 from Noon until 6 p.m. at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla. This cultural festival will showcase Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Indian, Thai and Vietnamese cultures with live songs, dances, musical performances, Asian arts and cultural exhibits, Chinese paper cutting and origami, and ethnic foods. It will also include, children's entertainment, balloon sculptures, games and face painting. Free medical and dental screenings will be available to attendees.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "May is Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. The fabric of our community is strengthened by our diversity and these festivals are a great way for Westchester families and friends to experience a wonderful cultural exchange."

Westchester County Parks Commissioner Kathy O'Connor said, "Celebrate the rich Asian-American culture and traditions through music, dance, food and activities for all ages right here in Westchester's own Central Park."

The festival will be held rain or shine. Seating is informal; bring blankets or folding chairs for seating on the lawn. No coolers will be allowed. Admission and parking are free.

Albanian Heritage Day will take place on Sunday, June 5 from Noon until 6 p.m. at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla. This cultural festival will include Albanian cuisine, beverages, dancing and a variety of sports. The festival will feature live performances by Gerona Hyska, Edmond Nikolla, Orchestra by Dritan Papa and DJ Edi will perform traditional Albanian music from all regions.

The other heritage festivals in the series are:

Irish-American, Saturday, June 25, Noon to 6 p.m., Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale (Admission: \$5 adults; free for ages 14 and under)

African-American, Sunday, June 26, Noon to 6 p.m., Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

Hispanic, Sunday, July 10, Noon to 6 p.m., Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

Italian, Sunday, July 24, Noon to 6 p.m., Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

India, Sunday, Aug. 7, Noon to 6 p.m., Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

Jewish, Sunday, Aug. 21, Noon to 6 p.m., Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

Muslim Heritage, Sunday, Aug. 28, Noon to 6 p.m., Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

Kensico Dam Plaza is located at the north end of the Bronx River Parkway in Valhalla.

### Classifieds

Attorney: DIVORCE \$389 - Uncontested divorce papers prepared. Only one signature required. Poor person Application included if applicable. Separation agreements. Custody and support petitions. 518-274-0380

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## On This Day in Yonkers History...



An early 20th Century postcard of the Yonkers Pier

By Mary Hoar, President Emerita Yonkers Historical Society, and President Untermyer Performing Arts Council

Monday, May 30th

May 30, 1872: Thomas Ludlow led opposition to incorporating Yonkers as a city, presenting a strong protest signed by Yonkers residents to NYS Governor John Hoffman. According to Ludlow, the majority of the people who lived outside the Village of Yonkers were opposed to incorporation. Outside the village, Yonkers was mostly farmland with very few buildings.

They resented the lack of consultation, believing this was "against the spirit of our institutions that any portion of the people of this State shall be subjected to an entire change in the form of their municipal government without some authorized expression of the will of the people to be affected thereby on that subject."

Others signing the petition were Richard Lawrence, H. M. Schefflen, John Taylor, Thomas Radford, Thomas Knowlton, B. T. Weeks, G. A. Rollins and Henry Williams. Also expressing displeasure were the well-known names of Shonnard and Saunders, who claimed incorporation was a scheme of just 3 men and did not reflect the opinion of the majority of Yonkers people.

Tuesday, May 31st

May 31, 1949: Ninety-one year old Christina Rein, widow of Civil War veteran John Rein, was honored at a dinner party held at Fanshaw Restaurant on South Broadway.

May 31, 1995: After Beczak Environmental Center, Ferry Sloops, Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, Hudson Communities Coalition, Ludlow Park Homeowners Association, Tuc-Loc Civic Association, Untermyer Performing Arts Council, Yonkers Audubon Society, Yonkers Cub Scout Pack 32, Yonkers Boy Scout Troop 42 and the Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation joined together to "spruce up" Untermyer Park, the group was treated to a lecture by Landscape Architect Ralph Crosby, a tour of the Untermyer Park, light music and refreshments!

Wednesday, June 1st

June 1, 1946: After carefully reviewing his exam, the Yonkers Civil Service Commission determined Fire Lieutenant Thomas Barden, instead of failing the exam for Captain, actually scored third in the exam. Barden, failed by an unidentified examiner, someone who had prepared, conducted and marked "previous official examinations." The Commission had to answer City Manager Montgomery's request for clarification. Member Bernard Silverman, Commissioner Horace Gray and Director Joseph Crowley explained to Montgomery the Examiner, after marking the tests, gave an answer key to the examination. After Barden appeared before the Commission to appeal, the group carefully reviewed his test answers and came to the conclusion Barden had been incorrectly rated; he actually placed third. The examiner's poor rating cost Barden the captaincy as the position was given to someone else. Instead, two men who scored lower were promoted. Barden refused to comment, but his friends said the Lieutenant got a "raw deal."

Once a nationally ranked track star, Barden qualified for the 1916 US Olympic Team but couldn't attend; the games were canceled because of the war in Europe.

Thursday, June 2nd

June 2, 1943: "The Wind That Swept Mexico," by Caryl Avenue author Anita Brenner, was published. An interpretation of the Mexican revolution from 1910 to 1942, it was the first English language book to present an overview of the phases of the revolution, and was called "one of the most powerful and discerning pictorial histories ever published." Written in collaboration with photographer George Leighton, the book brought a whirlwind of interviews for Brenner, including by Mary Margaret McBride and news commentator Johannes Steel. A paperback version was published in 1971, and a second edition in 1984. It remains in print today, thanks to the University of Texas Press.

Born on a ranch in Mexico, Brenner and her family were forced to flee to Texas because of the revolution as a child. After she completed her PhD at Columbia in Anthropology, she became a foreign correspondent for the NY Times and covered the Spanish Civil War and later returned to Mexico. During the 1920s and 1930s, she was part of a group of intellectuals and artists such as Diego Rivera, Jose Clemente Orozco and Frida Kahlo; as an anthropologist, reporter and cultural promoter, she become an important bridge to both worlds.

Brenner was the wife of Major David Glusker, MD, serving overseas with the Army at the time of publication, and the mother of two young children.

Friday, June 3rd

June 3, 1912: A couple of Common Council members discussed purchasing the Pocantico watershed at North Tarrytown to supplement the Yonkers Waterworks.

June 3, 1935: Several hundred dignitaries and Polish-American residents dedicated a pin-oak tree and bronze tablet in Washington Park in memory of Madame Marie Sklodowska-Curie, the Polish scientist who conducted pioneering research

continued on pg. 6-

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*Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-*

*Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-*

on radioactivity Mme. Curie was born in Warsaw. She shared the 1903 Nobel Prize in Physics with her husband Pierre, and received a second Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1911.

Saturday, June 4th

June 4, 1931: John Van Deventer of Philipse Place was granted a patent for his invention of a walking toy. The wooden toy consisted of a pair of swinging legs attached to a body and propelled by a stick.

June 4, 1945: Councilman Thomas Sheridan introduced an ordinance to the Yonkers Common Council to create a wide riverfront highway, beginning south of Trevor Park and ending at the Yonkers northern border.

Sunday, June 5th

June 5, 1907: Elevation of the tracks of the New York Central Railroad from Ludlow Station to Glenwood Station was stopped because of property owners refused to sell the land at the railroad's offered price. The company wanted to eliminate all potentially dangerous grade crossings that impeded street traffic by raising the tracks 15 feet at its highest level between Main Street and Ashburton Avenue.

June 5, 1943: City Manager William Walsh banned fishing from the front of the Yonkers Recreation Pier... but fishing was permitted from the sides of the dock.

**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).**

Notice of formation of SECOND STAR WELLNESS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY 03/03/2022. Allison Susan Courtenay designated as registered agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. Allison Susan Courtenay shall mail process to the LLC, 200 Beacon Hill Dr Apt 12E1, Dobbs Ferry NY 10522. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of J Troncoso Construction LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/29/2022. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, P.O. Box 1434 Yonkers, NY 10702. Purpose: General Construction

Notice of formation of Color It Black, LLC. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/28/2022. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the Color It Black LLC, 33 Cliffside Drive, Yonkers, NY 10710 Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Allure Property Pursuits, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/03/2022. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 465 Tuckahoe Road #1104, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

CCLC Trucking LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/06/2022. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 440 N Broadway 20, Yonkers, NY, 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of LaceMafia LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/20/2022. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228 . Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Articles of Organization (DOM-PROF.LLC). Komosinski Law, PLLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) 4/19/2022. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of DOM-PROF.LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail copy of process to Richard F. Komosinski, Esquire, 30 Emmett Pl., Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: The practice of Law.

Notice of Formation of INNER THEIA LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 03/01/2022. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Inner Theia LLC at 5 Aspen Road, Scarsdale NY 10581. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Have you visited the wonderful Governor's Island for concerts, a stroll through the park or to rent or borrow a bicycle for some exercise in this majestic facility with so much history.

The great museums in New York City. Most have admission fees which are suggested but you can pay what you can afford to see fabulous art. You should not be denied admission if you can't afford the fee. Ask to see a supervisor if there are any issues. These museums receive state and city tax dollars so you are paying already for the care and upkeep of these institutions.

Have you been on the Yonkers Waterfront for an open air concert. The Yonkers Pride Festival takes place June 11 in downtown Yonkers. Music, entertainment and fun for all. Have you been to a free concert or performance at Untermyer Park? Farmers markets are plentiful throughout the area where on all days of the week you can pick up fresh produce, baked goods, jams, jellies and other delicacies for your enjoyment.

There are so many things you can do without breaking the bank or using the last drops of gas in your tank. We have lived through 2 difficult summers. Now it's time to get back to enjoying life as it use to be. Just be careful, wash your hands, stay home if you are sick, and if you are feeling depressed get the help that you need.

Westchester County this week has announced 7 Mobile Crisis Response Teams for mobile crisis health coverage if you need it. The State of New York offers free mental health programs as do many institutions in every community. We have been through a lot for over 2 years and with gas and food prices so high many people will feel pain compounded by the health crises we continue to face. There is help out there for you don't ever forget that.

And remember a walk through a beautiful park like Tibbetts Brook Park in Yonkers or the many Westchester parks you can reach through the Free Bee Line Bus service this summer will bring a smile to your face.

Hydrate with plenty of water or a delicious energy drink like the one I found at 7 Eleven called Replenish Zero calories Fruit Punch. Tastes so much better then the energy drinks so many people carry around. I like Body Armour Lyte low calorie energy drinks also. Often on sale for a buck each. Don't forget the fresh delicious tap water residents in Yonkers get by turning on the faucet and filling up the ice tray and water bottle to bring along on your trek.

**Enjoy summer 2022!**

**Reach Eric Schoen at [thistooisonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistooisonkers@aol.com). Follow him on Twitter @eric-sonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen on the Westchester Rising Radio Show alternating Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, WVOX.com click listen or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.**

**Notice of Public Real Estate Auction**  
City of Yonkers, New York

Notice is hereby given by the City of Yonkers (the "City") of the public auction of the surplus City properties listed below (the "Properties"). All Properties are located in Yonkers, NY.

The public auction will be held Friday, June 24th, 2022 beginning at 10:00 am in Auditorium of the Yonkers Riverfront Library located at One Larkin Center, 1st Floor, Yonkers, NY.

The auction and sale of the Properties will be conducted in accordance with certain terms and conditions (the "Terms and Conditions"); by participating in the auction, participants agree to be bound to the Terms and Conditions. The Properties may be offered for sale subject to certain express terms, conditions or restrictions imposed by the City, which will be disclosed prior to the auction. The Terms and Conditions, as well as adjustments to the auction based on applicable COVID-19 guidelines, will be available prior to the auction at [www.williamsauction.com/Yonkers](http://www.williamsauction.com/Yonkers).

**THE PROPERTIES**

SECTION	BLOCK	LOT	ADDRESS
1	451	10	70 YONKERS AVE
1	459	34	56 POPLAR ST
1	459	35	58 POPLAR ST
1	459	36	60 POPLAR ST
1	459	37	62 POPLAR ST
1	510	37	149 BUENA VISTA AVE
2	2089	2	43 ST. JOSEPHS AVE
2	2117	24	335 WARBURTON AVE
2	2379	37	19 RICHMOND PLACE
3	3116	20	49 RUNYON AVE
3	3190	182	824 SAW MILL RIVER RD
3	3210	31	2 SHELBURNE RD
3	3210	33	6 SHELBURNE RD
3	3215	23	21 SUFFOLK TRL
3	3215	25	17 SUFFOLK TRL
3	3215	27	13 SUFFOLK TRL
4	4827	40	79 CAMBRIDGE AVE

For online bidding, the Terms and Conditions, and more information, please visit: [williamsauction.com/Yonkers](http://williamsauction.com/Yonkers) or call 800.801.8003. Philip R. Heiliger RE Lic 10301207074  
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**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Westchester County Selected to Benefit in The Stop & Shop Community Bag Program**

Reduce single-use plastic in the environment and give back to those in need in the local community, all while running routine weekly errands at the local Stop & Shop. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Westchester County, Inc. (BBBS) has been selected by local Stop & Shop store leadership as the benefiting non-profit in the Stop & Shop Community Bag for the month of June.

The Stop & Shop Community Bag Program is an easy way for shoppers to give back to the local community and the environment as part of the regular shopping routine. Every \$2.50 reusable Community Bag sends a \$1 donation to a non-profit local to the Stop & Shop in which it was purchased.

As part of this ongoing program, every month at every Stop & Shop location, a different local non-profit is selected to benefit from the sale of the reusable community bag. BBBS of Westchester was selected as the June beneficiary by local store leadership at its two stores located at 154 Westchester Avenue in White Plains and 25 Waterfront Place in Port Chester. BBBS of Westchester will receive a \$1 donation for every \$2.50 reusable community bag purchased at this location in June.

"It's more important than ever to help reduce single-use plastic in the environment," said Valerie Brown, Executive Director of BBBS of Westchester. "Non-profits at the local level, like us, are in need of community awareness and support. This program offers the perfect solution to multiple issues of the world today. We hope you'll support us in June by purchasing one or two community bags at our local Stop and Shop!"

For more information about the Stop & Shop Community Bag please visit [www.stopandshop.bags4mycause.com](http://www.stopandshop.bags4mycause.com).

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**Yard Sale, Saturday June 4**  
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**Gailmore Drive**  
**Rain Date: June 5**

*It's Official: The Signs are Up--Yonkers is #3 in NY State*



*The City of Yonkers has placed signs celebrating the recent Census data which found Yonkers to now be the 3rd most populous City in New York State.*

**City Budget continued from pg 1-**

gave the YPS everything they wanted and more. How can you say you want more? I have spoken to Superintendent Quezada and he is ok with the budget. This is a budget that my colleagues have come together to support. I find it to be selfish and unjust to say that what we gave them was not enough. Also \$19 a month more in taxes means a lot to some people when milk is \$6 per gallon. We did provide for the children and I support this budget."

Council Minority Leader Mike Breen said, The schools got their money and we decided not to raise taxes more than 1.25% because when they money is coming in that's not the time to do it. We raised taxes by 6% a while ago because there was no money and the union contracts were due. It had to be done, but we don't have to raise taxes now for union contracts that will be due in 3 years. Hopefully, we will have more revenues then from the casino and Lionsgate. I wasn't going to go above 1.25% and I'm proud of what we did.

Councilmember Shanae Williams voted yes on the budget but no on the capital spending plan, explaining that the process left out items she wanted to see and that it was incomplete.

Councilman John Rubbo said, "While not perfect, this is a good budget. It adds positions and the tax increase is lower. Both will benefit our residents. This budget adds 10 new police officers, invests in infrastrucute, and invests in our schools. We added another \$3.1 Million to this budget and as a parent with two kids in the YPS, we voted for the critical staff requests that Dr. Quezada asked for.

Councilman Anthony Merante said, "The city is doing well. This is my 5th budget and we never kicked the can down the road. This is a budget that I can sell to my constituents. We didn't neglect the schools or the taxpayers, and did it without any drama."

Additional positions funded in the budget for YPS include 9 Full time counselors, 4 social workers, 9 Teaching Assistants, and 10 additional public safety officers.

The budget now goes to Mayor Spano for his signature "Yonkers, now the third largest city in New York State, weathered the effects of a global pandemic better than expected largely due to the city's uniquely diverse workforce; its growing population because of its booming economic development; increased e-commerce sales; and direct federal stimulus aid to residents," said Spano.

"Thanks to the cooperative work with our City Council, we are improving quality services for our residents, relieving our taxpayers as best as we can and making the vital investments in education so we can keep moving Yonkers forward."



# TAXPAYER BEWARE: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SCHEMES, SCAMS, AND CONS

- Freedom is not being taken away from us at gunpoint. Instead it is accomplished by removing one piece of information at a time, one regulation at a time and one small silencing at a time.
- Politicians are the only people in the world who can create problems and then campaign against them.
- Have you ever wondered if both the Democrats and Republicans are against deficits, why do we have deficits?
- Have you ever wondered if all the politicians are against inflation and high taxes why do we have inflation and high taxes?
- You and I don't propose a federal budget. The President does.
- You and I don't have the constitutional authority to vote on appropriations. The House of Representatives does.
- You and I don't write the tax code, Congress does.
- You and I don't set fiscal policy, Congress does.
- You and I don't control monetary policy, the private unconstitutional Federal Reserve bank does.

100 senators, 435 congressman, one President, all elected, and nine appointed Supreme Court justices equate to 545 human beings out of 332 million are directly, legally, morally, and individually responsible for the domestic problems that plague this country.

I exclude the members of the private Federal Reserve board because that problem was created by the Congress in 1913. Congress delegated its Constitutional duty to provide a sound currency to a federally chartered, but private central bank.

I exclude the IRS as it is not a Constitutional organization within the United States department of the Treasury. After much research, the IRS appears to be a collection agency working for foreign banks and operating out of Puerto Rico under the color of the federal alcohol administration ("FAA") but the FAA was promptly declared unconstitutional inside the 50 states by the US Supreme Court in the case of U.S. v. Constantine, 287 (1935). At foot note 23 in the case of Chrysler Corp. v. Brown 441 U.S. 281 (1979), The US Supreme Court admitted that no organic act creating the IRS could be found after they searched for such an act all the way back to the Civil War, which ended in the year 1865.

I exclude all the special interests and lobbyists for a sound reason, they have no legal authority. They have no ability to coerce a senator, a congressman, or a president to do one cotton-picking thing. I don't care if they offer a politician a million in cash. The politician has the power to accept or reject it. No matter what the lobbyist promises, it is the legislator's responsibility to determine how he votes.

Those 536 elected officials spend much of their energy convincing you that what they did is not their fault. They cooperate in this common con regardless of party.

What separates a politician from a normal human being is an excessive amount of gall. No normal human being would have the gall of a speaker, who stood up and criticized the President for creating deficits (The President can only propose a budget. He cannot force the Congress to except it.)

The Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land, gives soul responsibility to the House of Representatives for originating and approving appropriations and taxes. Who is the current speaker of the house? Nancy Pelosi. She is the leader of the majority party. She and fellow house members, not the president, can approve any budget they want. If the president vetoes it, they can pass it over his veto if they agree to.

It seems inconceivable to me that a nation of 332 million cannot replace 536 people who stand convicted-by present facts-of incompetence and irresponsibility. I can't think of a single domestic problem that is not traceable directly to those 536 people. When you fully grasp the plain truth that 536 people exercise the power of the federal government then it must follow that what exist is what they want to exist.

If the tax code is unfair, unconstitutional and corrupt it's because they want it unfair, unconstitutional and corrupt.

If the budget is in the red, it's because they want it in the red.

If they do not receive Social Security but are on an elite privileged retirement plan not available to We The People, it is because they want it that way.

There are no unsolvable Government problems.

Do not let these 536 people shift the blame to bureaucrats, whom they hire and whose jobs they can abolish; to lobbyists, who's gifts and advice they can reject; to regulators to whom they give the power to regulate and from whom they can take back this power.

Above all do not let them con you into the belief of the existence of disembodied mystical forces like the "economy", "inflation", or "politics" that prevent them from doing what they take an "oath of office" to do.

These 536 elected officials and they alone, are responsible. They and they alone have the power and should be held accountable by "We The People" who are their bosses. Provided the voters have the gumption to manage their own employees... we should vote them out of office and clean up their mess!!!

An oath of office is required by the peoples state and federal constitutions upon being elected to public office. The oath of office is a contract between the person elected and "We The People" in exchange for \$ consideration. Violate your oath of office and you no longer represent or work for "We The People".

*Happy Memorial Day to all the brave members of our military for your courage & sacrifices especially those who died while serving in the U.S. military to defend this great country.*



**For More Info:**

**America: Freedom to Fascism**  
Full movie available on Youtube

**31 Questions & Answers about the IRS** google or go to:  
[www.supremelaw.org](http://www.supremelaw.org)

[www.GIVEMELIBERTY.org](http://www.GIVEMELIBERTY.org)

## WPF and Wayfinders on the Hudson Join Forces for Volunteer Project at Lenoir Preserve



Westchester Parks Foundation (WPF) and Wayfinders on the Hudson joined forces for a youth volunteer event at Lenoir Preserve in Yonkers on May 22, 2022. The event was a culmination of a spring pilot program with Lenoir to connect young people with nature at the 40-acre nature preserve that is comprised of woodlands and field habitats

Twenty-two youth ages 10-13 from Sleepy Hollow, Tarrytown, Irvington, Hastings, Yonkers, and Tuckahoe teamed up with WPF Volunteer Program Staff for native planting. Youth participants learned about invasive plant management, along with the threats invasive species can create in green spaces. Participants also created useful and beautiful items at workstations that they found during the day-long project.

Seth Mandelbaum, Chair of Westchester Parks Foundation remarked, "Educating young people about native plants is key to keeping our parks clean and green for future generations. We are thrilled to join forces with Wayfinders on the Hudson and look forward to creating more opportunities for youth to help make a difference in protecting our parks."

Gwen Merkin, Co-Founder of Wayfinders on the Hudson shared that, "Place-based education is a huge part of the Wayfinders experience. Kids who connect with nature locally as youth are likely to continue exploring nature connection over a lifetime. Wayfinders is grateful for this partnership with Westchester Parks Foundation that is helping us translate ideas we've been exploring with the youth into action."

As part of their commitment to caretaking the environment at Lenoir Preserve, Wayfinders on the Hudson is also raising money to purchase additional native plants for Lenoir Preserve, to honor someone or something important in the youth's lives. To donate to the cause: visit WPF and use the dedication message WAYFINDERS22

Wayfinders creates a fun and safe space for youth ages 10-13 to build awareness of interconnectedness through nature guided experiences and social & emotional mentoring. The program helps youth explore their passions, learn leadership development and community building skills, and culminates in a coming-of-age rite of passage. Wayfinders on the Hudson is sponsored by the Shames JCC. For more information visit: [www.wayfindersonthehudson.com](http://www.wayfindersonthehudson.com). And to learn more about the Westchester Park Foundation visit, [thewpf.org](http://thewpf.org)

## Yonkers Celebrates DPW Day with Pulaski Students



On May 20, National Public Works Day| Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano joined Department of Public Works (DPW) Commissioner Thomas G. Meier and #YonkersPublicSchools students of Casimir Pulaski School, where the students spent the morning learning about what the City's DPW does on a daily basis to improve the lives of Yonkers residents. They also learned about the City's recycling and sustainability efforts.

This is a good time to say thanks to the Yonkers DPW workers, who help keep the city clean. It's a tough job and we appreciate you!.

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## Tai Nail Salon Spa Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary in Yonkers



Congratulations to Tai Nail & Hair Salon for celebrating their 10 year anniversary on May 19. The salon, located at 17 Lockwood Avenue, is owned by mother Lillian (Lily) Reyes and daughter Taisha (Tai) Martinez. Lilly is from Dominican Republic and Tai was born in Bronx. Both are proud Latinas.

“Over the last 10 years, many things has happened and we have been able to stay open to provide our clients with the same or better service. When the pandemic hit us it was hard because we had to close for four months. But when we opened again we were busy. We had clients from everywhere coming here because their salons were still closed, and we were prepared for it. We remodeled the salon to fit the new requirements for reopening and still keeping in mind that we have to protect ourselves, employees, and clients. It wasn’t not easy at times but we were not going to give up that easy, we are strong Latina women,” said Tai.

“My mother has 20 years of being a hair dresser and has opened two salons in Yonkers and the first in Mt. Vernon back when I was only 18 years old. She really understands how important customer service is and the things that school didn’t teach me my mother did. I am very grateful for her and I couldn’t ask for a better person to show me. I graduated from Westchester Community College with Business Administration Associate, and graduated from SUNY Empire State College with a Bachelors in Business, Management, and Economics.

“Five years ago, I decided to return to my mother’s business (salon) to help her run it and was a little lost to be honest but I knew that working for someone else may not be what I wanted after all. I remembered how much I did not like being in the salon because all I would see is my mom had to do, and I didn’t want that for myself. So I left the business, finished my bachelor’s degree, traveled the world, and LIVED like I never did before. Today, I have become the most popular nail technician in Westchester County because I specialize in Ingrown Pedicures and have been known as the Pedicure Queen. An ingrown pedicure is focusing on removing the extra cuticle around the toenails or removing an ingrown toenail. I have clients from all over. Our salon isn’t popular because of me but of the service we provide. Every morning we all have our famous Dominican coffee that some clients make their appointments around it, we are bilingual in Spanish and English, do really good pedicures and nail service, and my mother is amazing with hair some of her clients have been with her for 15 years. But most importantly, clients leave happy and feel like family. Our clients know we are a clean, reappable, understanding, and honest Latinas that appreciate them,” said Tai.

Mayor Mike Spano, pictured above, joined Tai and Lillian for their celebration.

## Chabad of Yonkers Celebrates Lag BaOmer with Outdoor BBQ



*Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz with Chabad of Yonkers members*



*Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz spinning cotton candy*

*Story and Photos by Robert Kalfus*

Lag BaOmer, the Jewish holiday held on the 33rd night and day of counting from the second night of Passover, marks the progression of the Hebrews leaving their Exodus of slavery in Egypt, to seven weeks later, when on the 50th day, they received the Torah at the foot of Mount Sinai, celebrated with the festival of Shavuot (weeks) which this year will occur after Shabbat night, through Sunday June 4th and Monday, June 5th.

Chabad of Yonker’s Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz served up all the hamburgers, frankfurters, French fries, potato salad, pickles, potato chips and the usual BBQ foods, and cotton candy. Several dozen people enjoyed as the weather cooperated, the morning rain turned to a delightfully dry blue sky.

## YONKERS IDA A Driving Force Behind the Yonkers Renaissance.

Building on a nearly decade-long economic renaissance, the Yonkers Industrial Development Agency (YIDA) under the leadership of Mayor Mike Spano has been instrumental in providing financial incentives for development projects representing nearly \$5 billion in private investment and more than 9,100 multifamily units planned, completed, under construction and approved for development.

To learn more about the financial incentives provided by the Yonkers IDA, visit [yonkersida.com](http://yonkersida.com) or call (914) 509-8651.



## YEDC

*Yonkers Economic Development Corporation*

