

Yonkers Rising

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Friday May 28, 2021

Six Yonkers Democrats Challenge for City Council in 2nd, 4th, & 6th Districts



L: 6th District Council candidate Stella Schwuchow, right 4th Council candidate Carlos Burgos



L: 6th District Council candidate Tim Hodges and 2nd Council candidate Cristal Suazo

By Dan Murphy

The countdown to the democratic primary on June 22 has begun, and six Yonkers democrats are on the ballot, looking to beat councilman John Rubbo in the 4th council district, and Corazon Pineda-Issac, council majority leader in the 2nd district. And in the 6th district two democrats are looking to become the nominee against republican councilmember Anthony Merante.

In the 2nd Council District, in Southwest Yonkers, three challengers and Councilwoman Corazon Pineda-Issac will be on the ballot June 22. The challengers are Cristal Suazo, Annette Yarber and Jose Roman.

Christal Suazo is running as the progressive, outsider. "It's time for new leadership in our community! My opponent has been there 8 years too long. I'm the candidate that can bring progressive leadership for our City. I will work hard for you."

Suazo also posted about the importance of small businesses, and her parents. "Our economy couldn't run without small mom and pop businesses. They create economic growth and provide almost 70% of all new jobs in the country. That's why every year on March 29 we acknowledge the more than 27 million small businesses in this country by celebrating National Mom and Pop Business Owners Day. My parents are also a small business owners, My Dad has tractor trailers and delivers everyday general merchandise to all North East areas, I am so proud of the dedication and all they have done to make our family happy."

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Yonkers Student Excellence: Roosevelt HS Valedictorian & Salutatorian



Roosevelt HS Valedictorian Jaylene Anderson, left, and Salutatorian Salem Murshed

By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to the 2021 Roosevelt High School Valedictorian, Jaylene Anderson, and Salutatorian Salem Murshed.

Jaylene Anderson will graduate with a 101.38 GPA. Her favorite teachers at Roosevelt are Sebastian Smith, who teaches Spanish Cp B2, because "she is a supportive individual who allows us to relax and makes learning fun and engaging"; Frank Meade, who teaches CL Public Speaking and CL Comp Lit II, "because I love to write short stories, and his classes makes me get out of my comfort zone"; and Marisa Signore, who teaches CL Pre-Calculus, "is another favorite teacher of mine because her explanations makes complex math problems so simple, and she's able to have personal relationships with students."

Jaylene's favorite subjects are "CL Comp & Lit II because I get to write short stories, read books and have meaningful discussions with my peers. My favorite books I read this year was The Murder of Roger Ackroyd and

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Ridge Hill Kicks Off "Mural Mile" A Fresh Take on Mall Walking!



Get your sneakers on and check out this mural of Ella Fitzgerald at Ridge Hill and their Mural Mile.

For anyone looking to get outdoors and find a new place to get their walking in, checking out Ridge Hill's "Mural Mile" is a must! Ridge Hill has transformed the well-known mall walking concept with the launch of their Mural Mile.

Over the last year, Ridge Hill revived their public art program with five new murals by local artists as they reopened from the pandemic closure. With a total of seven beautiful murals located throughout the shopping center, Ridge Hill has truly incorporated contemporary art into the area.

Now, Ridge Hill has outlined a one mile loop around and through the shopping center that is named, "Ridge Hill's Mural Mile".

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Council President Khader Cites Independence, Will Cooperate With Any Council Investigation Picks Up Another Union Endorsement



Yonkers City Council President Mike Khader

On May 20, City Council President Mike Khader issued the following statement concerning the call by the six other members of the City Council for an investigation into allegations made by a former employee about his office's work environment in City Hall, claims about the his private, law office space.

"The council has every right to investigate as they deem necessary and I fully intend to cooperate. Unfortunately, this is the par for the course for anyone who is politically independent in Yonkers. As for me, and my team, I'm focused on increasing affordable housing, helping our city recover from the pandemic, and making Yonkers a better place to live and work for all."

Khader picked up another endorsement this week, from the NYS Nurses Association. "Mike Khader has dedicated his career to fighting for working people, and we are proud to support his re-election campaign," said Jayne Cammisa, RN, NYSNA Board of Directors. "This pandemic has uncovered the stark inequalities in our healthcare system and beyond, and more than ever we need experienced leaders fighting for protections for our healthcare workers, investing in our healthcare system, and building toward a more equitable future for all. Mike Khader is that leader for Yonkers, and we're ready to keep fighting alongside him."

"Nurses have been on the frontlines throughout this pandemic, risking their lives to fight for our families, and I'm so grateful for all they have sacrificed," said Khader. "As we recover, we need strong, progressive leadership to win stronger workplace protections for our healthcare workers, funding for our hospitals, and safe staffing guarantees. I'm proud to have the support of NYSNA and the hardworking members it represents, and look forward to continuing our fight for worker protections and access to high-quality healthcare for all."

Since the councilmembers call for an investigation by the Yonkers Inspector General, there has been little or no dialogue between Khader and the other members of the City Council, according to more than one councilmember.

Which raises the question about being independent. Council President Khader has, indeed, been the most independent member of the council. He has stood opposed to certain initiatives and City budgets that he did not believe best served the interests of the people of Yonkers. And for the most part, the people of Yonkers support that type of analysis, and ability to offer alternative proposals and perspectives.

But now, based on the recent allegations, and on all six members of the City Council questioning his actions, the question that democratic voters will now make on June 22 is, can Council President Khader serve the needs of the people of Yonkers without working with the other six members of the City Council, and is his "independence" now hurting and not helping the city.

Khader received the endorsement of the Yonkers Democratic Party earlier this year. Yonkers Democrats tell us that rumors that the party may take the

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Latimer Delivers Strong, Post COVID, State of the County Address



Westchester County Executive George Latimer in the BOL Chambers for SOTC

“I am here to tell you the State of our County – Westchester County – is strong and getting stronger.”

-Westchester County Executive George Latimer

Westchester County Executive George Latimer delivered his fourth State of the County Address in the Legislative Chambers of the Board of Legislators on

Latimer acknowledged that COVID-19 has taken a toll on the County, but promised through good government, to restore and rebuild Westchester back better than it was before.

Latimer said: “Look at us – look at us vaccinated and fighting back. We have a long way to go my friends, we still aren’t all the way back, but ladies and gentlemen we are getting there, and we are united to move forward.”

Latimer stressed the importance of keeping his promise to cut County property taxes for the second year in a row, even in the midst of a crippling pandemic. He signed the 2021 budget maintaining all County services, cutting expenditure by \$15.7 million dollars, and increasing the County’s fund balance to over \$200 million dollars – the largest fund balance in the County’s history.

Latimer said: “I want to be clear – this is how government is supposed to work. This is good government. We have worked every day for you, and I mean that. I know what it is like to struggle, I know what it is like to have mom and dad worried at the kitchen table about bills. I know because I have lived it.”

The address included a series of videos detailing Westchester County’s continuous fight to the other side of the pandemic, including a compilation of public service announcements aimed at achieving greater vaccination numbers, a moving tribute to those who have passed from 9-11 related illness with a new memorial to be unveiled on the 20th anniversary this September, an acknowledgement of Vice Chairwoman and trailblazer Alfreda Williams who is retiring after decades of public service, a recognition of the first ever Women of Westchester (WOW) Awards, and a plan to move Westchester County forward.

The speech also highlighted several initiatives the Latimer Administration accomplished including:

- A 2020 Budget that closed with no layoffs, no furloughs, no service cuts or borrowing for pension costs
- A \$16M increase in the County’s General Fund Balance to over \$200M by the end of 2021- the largest in the County’s history
- The #SpeakUpWestchester Campaign launched together with District Attorney Mimi Rocah, designed to encourage those who are the victim or witness a hate crime, bias or hate incident to report it
- A strengthening of the Westchester County Human Rights Commission
- The restoration of several Westchester County Youth Bureaus
- The County’s new Compost & Education Center, to compliment Westchester residents recycling at unprecedented rates
- New appointments in leadership to several County departments, to ensure a diverse workforce for a diverse County
- Dozens of completed, in-progress or approved infrastructure projects throughout the County

Latimer commended Dr. Sherlita Amler and the Westchester County Department of Health, the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Emergency Services, who rose to the task from the onset of COVID-19, putting the health and safety of Westchester County’s residents at the forefront of their efforts.

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COMPUTER PROBLEMS?



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Early Voting & Absentee Ballots for All are Back for 2021



By Dan Murphy

Last year, because of the pandemic, voters in Westchester and NY State were permitted to request and vote by absentee ballot after state lawmakers and Governor Cuomo passed a law that gave any voter the right because of COVID-19 to vote by mail. This year, for the 2021 elections that begin with the democratic primaries in Westchester, any voter can again request an absentee ballot and vote by mail or by dropping their ballot off due to COVID.

Specifically, the Qualifications to vote by Absentee Ballot are:

If you are absent from your county on Election Day. If you are unable to appear at the polls due to temporary or permanent illness or disability. Temporary illness includes being unable to appear due to risk of contracting or spreading a communicable disease like COVID-19.

Unable to appear because you are the primary care giver of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled. A resident or patient of a Veterans Health Administration Hospital. Detained in jail awaiting Grand Jury action or confined in prison after conviction for an offense other than a felony.

You must apply online, postmark, e-mail, or fax a completed application or letter request for the Primary Election Absentee Ballot no later than seven days, June 15, 2021, before the election. You may apply in-person up to the day before the election, June 21, 2021.

You may file an application at any time before the deadlines. Please be aware that despite the above deadlines the post office has advised that they cannot guarantee timely delivery of ballots applied for less than 15 days before an election.

You may apply for an absentee ballot in any of the following ways: Electronically through the New York State Absentee Ballot Application Portal

By sending an email request to BOE-WestAbsentee@westchestergov.com. By sending a fax request to (914) 995-7753 or (914) 995-3190. By going in-person to the Westchester County Board of Elections, 25 Quarropas St., White Plains, NY 10601. By mailing a paper application to the Westchester County Board of Elections, 25 Quarropas St., White Plains, NY 10601

Make sure your absentee ballot is counted by putting it in the mail ensuring it receives a postmark no later than Tuesday, June 22. Bringing it to the Westchester County Board of Elections’ Office no later than Tuesday, June 22. Bringing it to an early voting poll site within the county between Saturday, June 12 and Sunday, June 20. Bringing it to any Primary election day poll site within the county on Tuesday, June 22.

When mailing your completed ballot, the USPS recommends that voters allow enough time for ballots to be returned to the Board, which is generally seven days ahead of the Primary election. New York State requires your ballot to be both postmarked by June 22, 2021 and received by our Board by June 29, 2021.

Early Voting will also occur again this year. Early Voting for the June 22, 2021 Primary will begin on Saturday, June 12th and end on Sunday, June 20th.

Hours will be as follows:
 Saturday, June 12 from 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday, June 13 from 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Monday, June 14 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, June 15 from 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 Wednesday, June 16 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Thursday, June 17 from 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 Friday, June 18 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Saturday, June 19 from 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday, June 20 from 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Registered voters in Yonkers can go to one of three locations in the City:

Will Library -1500 Central Park Avenue

Riverfront Library -1 Larkin Center

Nodine Hill Community Center-140 Filmore Street

yonkerstimes.com

FINALLY
 The only place to read
 news that matters to
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YONKERS TIMES
 News in Yonkers and around Westchester

**Unity In Our Community, Yonkers:
Hand Up Paid Forward (HUPF)-Meeting May 29**



We live in a world where we find it acceptable and justified to be angry at one another. Some people react with violence while others are living in fear. As leaders within the community, it is important we step up and speak out to give a voice to those who are voiceless, while helping those who feel helpless and hopeless.

I am asking the Yonkers clergy to join me in putting our differences aside and come together to focus on the concerns, pressing and overlooked needs of our community. This meeting will give the opportunity for each represented group and their culture to have a voice and be heard. It will also give the opportunity for us to touch and find common ground on current issues within our community, city, state country and world issues as well.

After this event we would like to take the recorded issues to our local government, such as the city councilman, the mayor and our senator to help us fulfill our needs and purpose. We would also propose that we plan a biannual event where we can all come together as one community to bond, build and celebrate life.

With the talk of a possible satellite program, I would like to give each clergy the opportunity to voice their issues concerns or even just their presence within our community. I would like to host this meeting one every quarter and invite the same clergy to appear on my weekly radio show.

Current Discussion topics:

- 1) Asian hate crimes
- 2) Transgender attacks
- 3) Police and community bonding and building
- 4) 2021 Yonkers honors event
- 5) Cops and kid's camp

Let us come together as clergy and discuss concerns, differences and needs within our community. Join us on May 29, 2021 From: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm. 110 New Main St Yonkers, NY 10701 Contact: 914-476-2284 Rstauf1@aol.com

Time to Make Up for a Lost Year



By Eric Schoen

The big news on Tuesday morning? Sales of personal care items are on the increase. We are taking off our masks and buying cosmetics, perfumes, colognes, deodorants, toothbrushes, whitening strips for our teeth, shaving creams and gels, products for our hair and things to make us look good again. The report I heard said even condom sales are on the rise.

Maybe this year and a half nightmare we have been going through is finally if not coming to an end getting pretty close! Gas prices are up but with the pipeline affair over should be coming down pretty soon. Gas and charcoal grills which were in short supply last summer as people were staying home are plentiful though anyone who goes to the grocery stores will tell you prices are higher.

When I pass someone on the street or when exercising in the park they are not quickly reaching for their mask to put it on even if we may be 20 feet away. Of anything during this pandemic that was the most troubling thing for me on a personal level. Were they afraid even at a twenty foot distance that they were going to catch something from me? We weren't communicating even though I might gaze and smile or say a quick hello.

People seeing other people and throwing on their masks like The person they were seeing was some kind of leper. Walking in the other direction even though they would never come close. Walking a dog and having its owner pull the dog away before it got close to you. If you tried to pet someone's dog they would pull it away in fear that you would make the dog sick.

What's more comforting then petting a dog or having a cat curl up with you in bed? One of the only good things about the pandemic (though really nothing can be good) is that it emptied out our overfilled animal shelters. People wanted dogs and cats to keep them company at home as they stayed in the house hibernating or working from home or Zooming with others. Though some people dislike busy offices with people walking around and not minding their business, the sudden isolation in an apartment or a big house was quite disconcerting.

Taking care of a dog or a cat entails a lot of responsibility. As more and more people leave the house to go outside or return to work don't forget the responsibility you took on when you adopted Fido or whiskers. The animals have become members of the family and just like you wouldn't neglect your children, don't neglect your pooch or pussycat!

Speaking about children, they belong in classrooms surrounded by Teachers and Principals and Aides and custodians and civil service workers including the secretaries in the office who often act as surrogate mothers when they are not feeling up to par waiting to be picked up by their parents. Let's give a big shout out to the custodians in our schools who kept buildings sparkling clean and germ free. And the nurses who suddenly were thrust into the position of keeping everyone healthy and sane instead of just putting bandaids on fingers or taking temperatures. The custodians and nurses are definitely the heroes of what went on in school buildings the last year and a half.

Let's not forget our school cafeteria staff who provided food for school children through grab and go programs even when they weren't learning in the classroom. For many students these meals were the only nourishment they would have during the day or until their parents, often nurses and hospital aides finished up long shifts to prepare dinner.

Our great school technology people who scoured the planet trying to find devices for students to stay in touch with their teachers and fellow students. And keeping those devices up and running when touched by hands hardly familiar with how they worked. Bus Drivers and Monitors charged with socially distancing students making sure even our littlest ones were masked up and scrubbing their tiny fingers with soap and water topped off with Purrell.

It's good to hear that in many of our school districts there will be no distance learning options in September. Study after study has shown that our schools are the safest places for our students. Even the heads of the two largest teachers unions agree that all children should be back in classrooms come September.

How did students learn looking at a computer screen over the last year? I'm not just talking about grade school students. For College students it was a difficult proposition too. And the affect of a year with no socialization for grade school students and their college counterparts will be measured by psychologists and other professionals for years to come.

I truly hope that the plexiglass 'cages' built around classroom desks will disappear come September. Can you imagine when you were a child learning in such an environment. Hopefully the worse that we will need are masks on

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**UTILITY LOCATING
TECHNICIAN**

Position Summary: Perform work that involves visual inspection of predefined construction areas and reading and interpretation of utility maps to determine the presence of underground utilities, while using special electronic equipment to detect and locate said utilities. The utilities will include gas & electric within the predefined construction area.

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WESTCHESTER BLACK WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS - YONKERS CHAPTER

2021 CANDIDATES

VIRTUAL



FORUM

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY CLERK
THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021**

**YONKERS CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021**

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY LEGISLATOR DISTRICTS 16 & 17
TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021**

**YONKERS CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS 2 & 6
THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2021**

ALL FORUMS 6:30PM — 8:00PM

REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88024808316?pwd=K2k3VmhHVElwd283cVc3QU5HMDVlUT09>

OR EMAIL: YONKERSWBWPC@GMAIL.COM

OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY



**CANDIDATE
FORUM**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT MIKE KHADER,
AND CANDIDATES LAKISHA COLLINS-BELLAMY
AND RON MATTEN WILL DISCUSS WHERE
THEY STAND ON EDUCATION AS WELL AS
ISSUES FACING THE YONKERS COMMUNITY**

**MODERATED BY
GARY STERN
EDITOR/REPORTER AT THE JOURNAL NEWS/LOHUD.COM**

TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2020 ■ 6 PM

**TUNE IN ON
CABLEVISION CHANNEL 75 & VERIZON FIOS CHANNEL 38**

YMA Girls Softball, Led by Hegarty, Off to a 4-1 Start



YMA Girls Softball Ace Pitcher Andy Hegarty

By Phil Foley

The Yonkers Montessori Academy won two more games bringing there total up four this season so far. They defeated Alexander Hamilton HS 9-2 and then defeated Gorton HS 26-7.

In the Hamilton game pitcher Andy Hegarty struck out 13 batters. She also went 2-3 at the plate! Leading the hitters for YMA were Jazlyn Aquino she had a double, triple, home run and 4 RBIs. Gianna Pappalardo had a double and 2 RBIs. Leah Calvello had a double and one RBI.

In the Gorton game YMA went on a home run tear with five on the day! Pitcher Andy Hegarty had 2 home runs and one each by the following players: Emily Moccia, MacKenzie Moccia and Gianna Pappalardo.

Andy Hegarty had 9 strike outs in the game picking up her 4th win of the season.

YMA improves to 4-1 on the season.

Westchester County Offers Early Bird Discount for Baseball Camp

Westchester County Parks is offering an out of the park deal for HEAT Baseball Camp, which will be held at V.E. Macy Park in Ardsley this summer. Those who register now through May 30 will receive the early bird registration discount, and an additional 10 percent discount if booking multiple weeks.

County Executive George Latimer said: "As a baseball fan, I'm delighted our Parks department will be hosting a baseball camp this summer. Playing and coaching little league was one of the great joys of my pre-teen years and early twenties. Share the love of the game with your children and grandchildren by signing them up for camp."

HEAT Baseball Camp will cover all areas of the game including fielding, pitching, hitting, base running, strength and conditioning, game situations and baseball IQ.

Four week-long sessions will be held in July:

- Session 1: July 5 – 9
- Session 2: July 12 – 16
- Session 3: July 19 – 23
- Session 4: July 26 – 30

Commissioner of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Kathy O'Connor said: "We can't wait for school to be out and to welcome children into our parks. I hope you'll sign up your athlete for HEAT Baseball Camp and encourage you to explore all the camp options we have to offer this summer."

The early bird registration fee is \$250 per camper, per session. Starting May 31, the registration fee increases to \$275 per camper, per session.

For more information, visit <https://parks.westchestergov.com/children-camps/baseball-camp> or call (914) 231-4673.

Letter to the Editor:

To the Editor,

Our council President Mike Khader must be doing something right if the Yonkers political machine is upset with him. When I read the May 21st article detailing the council's desire to have him investigated I laughed out loud, imagine a man who has been vetted by the CIA and the New York bar association not meeting the standards of a council that voted for their own third term during a late night session, hilarious!

I read the spurious allegations once, then twice and a third time just to be sure and they read like a group of employees who need to have their hand held and are overly sensitive-give us a break! I know I will be voting for President Khader in June and so should the readers of Yonkers Rising.

Scott Dennis, Yonkers

Returning SUNY Students Must be Vaccinated

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced the SUNY and CUNY boards will require proof of vaccination for all students attending in-person classes this fall, and encouraged all private universities and colleges to adopt the same guidelines. 112,150 doses have been administered across the state's vast distribution network in the last 24 hours, and nearly 1.1 million doses have been administered over the past seven days.

"More than 60 percent of the population here in New York has gotten at least one dose of the vaccine, but we remain aggressive in our efforts because the reality is we are seeing a decline in the vaccination rate not only here in our state but nationwide," Governor Cuomo said. "There is no factual argument against the vaccine, and there is no excuse not to get your shot. This vaccine is the weapon that will help us win the war on COVID, and so I urge everyone who still needs to take it to do so quickly at one of our many sites across the state."

All New York State mass vaccination sites are now open to eligible New Yorkers for walk-in vaccination on a first come first serve basis. The walk-in appointments are reserved for first doses only with second doses to be scheduled automatically after administration of the initial shot. In addition, all vaccine providers are encouraged to allow walk-in appointments for eligible New Yorkers. People who would prefer to schedule an appointment at a state-run mass vaccination site can do so on the Am I Eligible App or by calling 1-833-NYS-4-VAX. People may also contact their local health department, pharmacy, doctor or hospital to schedule appointments where vaccines are available, or visit vaccines.gov to find information on vaccine appointments near them.

STATEWIDE BREAKDOWN

Total doses administered - 16,826,409

Total doses administered over past 24 hours - 112,150

Total doses administered over past 7 days - 1,092,045

Percent of New Yorkers ages 18 and older with at least one vaccine dose - 60.2%

Percent of New Yorkers ages 18 and older with completed vaccine series - 48.9%

Percent of all New Yorkers with at least one vaccine dose - 48.4%

Percent of all New Yorkers with completed vaccine series - 39.1%

The COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker Dashboard is available to update New Yorkers on the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. The New York State Department of Health requires vaccinating facilities to report all COVID-19 vaccine administration data within 24 hours; the vaccine administration data on the dashboard is updated daily to reflect the most up-to-date metrics in the state's vaccination effort.

New Yorkers who suspect fraud in the vaccine distribution process can call 833-VAX-SCAM (833-829-7226) toll-free or email the state Department of Health at STOPVAXFRAUD@health.ny.gov. Hotline staff will route complaints to the appropriate investigative agencies to ensure New Yorkers are not being taken advantage of as the State works to vaccinate the entire eligible population.

Free Webinar: Advances In Breast Cancer and Cooking For Wellness

Support Connection, Inc. announces a free national educational webinar, presented in partnership with NewYork – Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital: "Advances in Breast Cancer + Cooking for Wellness: A Two-Part Webinar" will be offered on Wed., June 9, from 1 – 2:15 pm NY time.

Open to: People who have or have had breast, ovarian or gynecological cancer; People with a family member or loved one living with breast, ovarian or gynecological cancer.

Pre-registration is required. To register, call Support Connection, 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290. Must register no later than 5 pm (NY time) on Tues., June 8.

The first part of this webinar will be a presentation on Advances in Breast Cancer, by Dr. Stacy Ugras, a breast surgical oncologist with ColumbiaDoctors and NewYork-Presbyterian Medical Group Hudson Valley. Dr. Ugras will discuss the latest news and research pertaining to breast cancer diagnosis and treatments, as well as risk-assessment for high risk individuals and families.

After Dr. Ugras's presentation, Chef Emilie Berner of the Chef Peter X. Kelly Teaching Kitchen at NY-P HVH will focus on cooking techniques and nutritional strategies that can help manage fatigue often experienced by both patients and caregivers. During a live cooking demonstration, Chef Berner will talk about foods that provide energy; the role of protein and fluids for managing fatigue; and how meal planning can be a useful tool.

To learn more, visit www.supportconnection.org or call 962-6402.

BE A HERO



TAKE THE TEST

Applications Available – Friday, May 14, 2021

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

Police Officer Exam Date – Saturday, September 18, 2021

POLICE OFFICER STARTING SALARY

\$72,233 PER YEAR PLUS BENEFITS

PAY AFTER 5 YEARS \$102,258

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for more info and to download official exam announcement and application when available.

The Yonkers Police Department is an equal opportunity employer.



PRINCIPAL COBBLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (K-5)

Penfield Central School District is seeking a dynamic and collaborative instructional leader with a focus on supporting the social and emotional needs of all learners. Ideal candidates will possess teaching and leadership experience, strong background in teaching & learning, strong knowledge of student developmental levels and a passionate commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion for all learners. Interested candidates please visit www.penfield.edu, click on the Job Opportunities and follow directions to apply.

EOE

Yonkers Author Honored



Tiziano Thomas Dossena

Yonkers author and editor Tiziano Thomas Dossena was recently inducted by the Marquis Who's Who in the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award.

The prestigious honor was awarded by Marquis Who's Who on the basis of career longevity, philanthropic endeavors, and lasting contributions to society.

His name will appear in A Lifetime of Achievement: Our Collection of Prestigious Listees, 2021 edition.

Dossena is the author of 9 books and editor of many other ones, besides being the editorial director of OperaMyLove and L'Idée Magazines, and he was the winner of the 2019 Sons of Italy Literary Award.

Bee-Line Alert: Route 75 Service to Playland Starts this Weekend

Route 75 will operate on the following dates:

Saturdays: May 29, June 5, June 12 and June 19, 2021.

Sundays: May 30, June 6, June 13 and June 20, 2021.

Monday: May 31, 2021 (Memorial Day).

Hourly service eastbound from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Rye RR Station to Playland Park). Hourly service westbound from 1:55 p.m. to 6:55 p.m. (Playland Park to Rye RR Station).

Playland operating hours for all days will be 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Bee-Line full service to Playland will begin the week of June 21st.

For service alerts and bus schedules visit

www.westchestergov.com/beelinebus

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

our students. But the person who advocated putting masks on 2-5 year olds really doesn't understand human behavior. Did they really think that 2-5 year olds were going to keep their masks on in school or when outdoors playing. It must have been someone sans children who came up with that brilliant idea.

People are buying personal care items as well as new clothes and bathing suits as they try feverishly to lose those pandemic pounds they gained during the last year and a half. You know what to eat to lose weight. We spend millions of dollars a year on diet programs when all we need is a high protein, low carbohydrate diet to shed those pounds. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize you are not going to lose weight eating an Entenmann's crumb cake or a pint of Ben and Jerry's ice cream.

No one is telling you to eat grass for dinner. But a balanced diet including plenty of vegetables and some fresh summer fruit will certainly assist you to fit in those new, slightly tight clothes you are out their buying.

Discounters like T.J. MAXX and Marshall's and Burlington have lines that make it look like several days before Christmas. And believe me it's not all social distancing. People went a year and a half without spending money on themselves, and now they want to look good again. I was shaving the other day, looked at my clean shaven face and I was white as a ghost. Until I get some sun I guess I will have to resort to putting on a touch of bronzer to get that glow.

Remember, you can feel like crap psychologically and physically but if you make yourself look good, no one will know what's going on inside you. And when people tell you you look good it makes you feel good. If you feel more comfortable wearing a mask and socially distancing please do so. No one should tell you not to wear a mask or how to lead your life. If you haven't gotten your Covid-19 vaccination what are you waiting for? It's readily available and will allow you to get back to normal this summer. If you haven't gotten vaccinated it is your obligation to tell those you come in contact with. Coronavirus is still out there. A friend's niece's mother went onto a ventilator last week. Haven't heard that happening in a while, but it just goes to show you for the unvaccinated the pandemic is not over.

I went to my first picnic with family and friends a week ago. Everyone was vaccinated. It was a small group, all outdoors, healthy foods with hot dogs and hamburgers on the menu. More important than the food was to shake the hands of friends who had come in from Massachusetts and Texas, not wear a mask and give a little hug to those I haven't seen in a year and a half!

Say a prayer this Memorial Day for the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for this country. And a special prayer that things will not only get better here at home but around the world!

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

On This Day in Yonkers History



**Yonkers First
'Superlawyer'
Samuel Untermyer**

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

Monday, May 31st

May 31, 1869: Mr. Andriessse, Proprietor of Messrs. Pell & Company, invited the people of the Village of Yonkers to see his shop's brand new ice room! Andriessse used a two-ton ice tank suspended from the ceiling, allowing cold air to descend to keep the chicken, meat, and perishables chilled, while the room remained cool and dry. His shop was located on the Warburton Avenue Bridge.

May 31, 1935: Jean Nesbit, father of missing Yonkers debutante Marion Ruth Nesbit, admitted to Yonkers Police she resented taking the "voluntary test" on music appreciation during the Memorial Day holiday.

Tuesday, June 1st

June 1, 1908: William Duffis, J.J. Flynn and Charles Kisby, were found not guilty of breaking the Sabbath after deliberations of five minutes! Police Chief Wolff arrested Flynn after the young man fired a pistol to start the race, and the other boys were arrested because they were running in front of a crowd of a thousand people. The six jurors recommended the boys' names be expunged from police and court records, stating running was not a public sport, and therefore could not be a Sunday violation. Defense attorney Thomas Curran stated it was "an outrage and shame upon the city that boys who are cooped up in mills and factories all week are dragged through the streets like criminals when they attempt to secure a little healthy recreation on Sunday." Unbeknownst to Wolff, Police Commissioner Hermance had given the permit for a Sunday road race; the Commissioner believed since no admission was charged, it was not a violation of the law.

June 1, 1935: Brantwood School delivered the diploma of missing debutante Marion Ruth Nesbit to her home; her family and Yonkers Police still had no idea where she was or what happened to her.

Wednesday, June 2nd

June 2, 1935: After recognizing missing Marion Nesbit's picture in a newspaper, NYC rooming house owner Eleanor Anderson called Mr. Nesbitt to let him know his daughter was staying in her rooming house. Anderson told the father Marion was calling herself Joanne Bellwood, and claimed to be an orphan from Texas who had to sell her family farm. Anderson, suspicious because Marion's accent did not fit a rural Texas girl, had confronted the girl with the girl's photo in the newspaper.

YPD Captain George Ford and Detective William Daly rushed the father down to bring the girl home. When she saw her dad, she ran back into her room, hysterical. She claimed to have had a memory lapse; the family doctor diagnosed it as a nervous collapse.

June 2, 1943: Instead of their usual one-week vacations, Otis employees received an extra two weeks' "vacation" pay in their checks. All vacations had to be canceled, as workers were needed because of the high level of production of war goods at the Yonkers' plant.

Thursday, June 3rd

June 3, 1932: Because Charities Commissioner Nicholas Ebbitt witnessed "charity beneficiaries" arriving to pick up supplies in cars, he organized a daily police check to stop the practice.

June 3, 1942: The Herald Statesman saluted the hard work of two Yonkers Police Detectives, John Baldwin and John Heenan, members of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation. The duo were tasked with fingerprinting all members of the Defense Council, the War Council, Auxiliary Police and Firefighters, Air Raid Wardens, members of the Red Cross Motor Corp, and other groups. Perhaps the most labor intensive was taking fingerprints of every single war factory employee at the dozens of Yonkers' companies filling war contracts! Besides fingerprinting, they kept records and pictures, and provided the data to the FBI, Navy, Army, Marines, Coast Guard and other Government offices.

Friday, June 4th

June 4, 1921: In a match held at the Amackassin Club, Vincent Richards of Yonkers defeated Japan's Ichyi Kumagae in the finals of the Easter States Championship.

June 4, 1931: Samuel Untermyer led the fight in New York State's highest court in Albany to retain the five-cent fare on the Interborough Rapid Transit Company. He made the chief argument against the increased fares on behalf of the Transit Commission.

continued on pg 6-

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NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT, WESTCHESTER COUNTY
INDEX NO.: 58848/2019
BONITA WEST LLC v. 164 ELM REALTY CORP., et al., Defendants.
Pursuant to Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, dated January 22, 2020 and entered on January 24, 2020, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction, in the Courtroom 200 of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, New York on the 25th day of June, 2021 at 11:30 A.M., the premises directed by said Judgment to be sold, being in Section 1, Block 455, Lot 6 on the Tax Map of the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester, and known by the street number 164 Elm Street, Yonkers, New York.
Approximate amount of Judgment is \$23,431.15 plus interest, costs, attorneys' fees and advances. Said premises will be sold subject to the provisions of the filed Judgment and the Terms of Sale.
FRANK APICELLA, ESQ., Referee.
SANDERS, GUTMAN & BRODIE, P.C.,
Attorneys for Plaintiff, 18 North Central Avenue, Suite 204
Hartsdale, New York 10530 (718) 522-0666

Notice of Formation of HAT Photography LLC. Art. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/18/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 6 N. Pearl St, Unit 404-F, Port Chester, NY 10573. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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

CORPORATION NOTICE
CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the City Council of the City of Yonkers, New York will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York on the following Resolution, to wit:

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION OF THE YONKERS CITY COUNCIL TO HONOR THE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY'S REQUEST TO HONORARILY RENAME THE PORTION OF MURRAY AVENUE BETWEEN MILE SQUARE ROAD AND HENDERSON AVENUE AS CHRISTOPHER "TINY" MILANO WAY.

VINCENT SPANO
City Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE

The ordinance, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on May 11, 2021, and approved by the Mayor on May 17, 2021, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such ordinance may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the CITY OF YONKERS, in the County of Westchester, New York, is not authorized to expend money or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this Notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the publication of this Notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

Vincent E. Spano
City Clerk
City of Yonkers, New York
SPECIAL ORDINANCE 15-2021

REFUNDING BOND ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, IN THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK, ADOPTED MAY 11, 2021, AUTHORIZING THE REFUNDING OF ALL OR A PORTION OF THE CITY'S OUTSTANDING \$47,355,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS-2014A, \$14,430,000 SCHOOL REFUNDING BONDS-2014B AND \$21,355,000 SCHOOL SERIAL BONDS-2014D, STATING THE PLAN OF REFUNDING, APPROPRIATING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$43,000,000 THEREFOR, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$43,000,000 REFUNDING BONDS TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION, AND MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS ALL RELATIVE THERETO

The bonds are authorized to refund of all or a portion of certain unmatured maturities of outstanding bonds of the City issued in 2014.

The periods of probable usefulness for which the Bonds to be Refunded were issued consist of various periods, commencing on the date of original issuance of the first bonds or bond anticipation notes issued for the respective purposes for which the outstanding bonds were issued.

The amount of obligations to be issued is not to exceed \$43,000,000.

A complete copy of the Bond Ordinance summarized above shall be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the office of the City Clerk, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York 10701.

DATED: May 25, 2021
Yonkers, New York

County Welcomes Kandy Davenport as Risk Management Director



Kandy Davenport

Westchester County Executive George Latimer is pleased to announce the addition of Kandy Davenport, ARM, RF, WCLS, CLMP as the County's new Director of Risk Management.

The role puts Davenport in charge of directing and managing a comprehensive risk management program for the County, including responsibility for the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies as they relate to insurance, safety and other claims.

Latimer said: "Kandy is a welcome addition to the County's team. Risk management may not be the most well-known area of County government, but thanks to her efforts, County residents can feel assured that their government is hard at work protecting their best fiscal interests."

Davenport takes on this role with a strong background in the field, including serving as the head of KPMG LLP's national insurance department for 17 years. Davenport most recently worked as a Senior Risk Analyst for Enterprise Risk Management.

Davenport has extensive risk management and corporate insurance experience in a number of complex industries and is honored to now work for the County of Westchester.

Davenport said: "Westchester County Government has so many impressive operations, goals and initiatives. I am honored to serve as its Director of Risk Management. My goal is to help the County identify, assess, and mitigate its risk exposures as it simultaneously protects and serves the needs of its residents."

County Attorney John Nonna said: "Kandy is a stellar addition coming with top notch credentials and deep experience in insurance and risk management. She will be a major asset to our department and the taxpayers of Westchester."

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

Saturday June 5th

June 5, 1924: Superintendent Cullen, leading workers from the Yonkers Bureau of Parks and Forestry, waged a "winning fight" against the host tent caterpillars that had invaded Crestwood and Colonial Heights. The workmen used an "innovative spraying machine" to cover the trees and shrubs with arsenate of lead.

June 5, 1946: The New York Central Railroad released a booklet featuring the historic significance and attraction of (Philipse) Manor Hall. Besides the history of the manor and the Hall, it mentioned the box hedge that "descended" from the original box hedge planted by Frederick Philipse, cedars brought from Washington's birthplace in Wakefield, Virginia, and an elm tree fairly close to the entrance. The elm was grown from a cutting of a tree at Wellesley College, the very tree under where Washington assumed command of the Continental Army.

Sunday, June 6th

June 6, 1923: New York City Mayor Hylan condemned Dr. David Muzzey of Van Cortlandt Park Avenue and his book, An American History. The Yonkers Statesman published an exclusive interview with the author, who defied anyone to prove his book was anti-American and pro-British. New York Commissioner David Hirshfield not only condemned the book, he criticized the New York Superintendent of Schools William Ettinger, PhD, for allowing the book in the public schools. He stated "Dr. Ettinger should have read Muzzey's history before he authorized its use in the city schools."

June 6, 1945: Yonkers learned the job of Private First Class Joseph Sabol, formerly of Ashburton Avenue, was to meet passengers and give them information at John H. Payne Field, Cairo. Hundred of passengers landed every day at Payne, the west-east air terminus for the North African Division of the US Air Transport Command. Sabol was married to Helen Lutz of Harty Street.

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 yhsociety@aol.com.

City Council Challengers, continued from pg 1-

Both Jose Roman and Annette Garber do not have an active social media or website accounts. We also could not find a current photo that we could use. Please email us to include you in the disucssion, dmurphy@risingmedia-group.com .

In the 4th district, Educator Carlos Burgos won a rather lengthy court battle to appear on the ballot, against councilman John Rubbo. Both will now appear on the ballot June 22.

Burgos told Yonkers Rising that the attempts to keep him off the ballot were “about trying to get people not to run. I’ve been talking to democrats across the city who are not happy with him so I know why they don’t want to have an opponent.”

Burgos contrasted his “progressive platform” with Councilman Rubbo. “I’m creating and evolving my platform based on information from people going door to door and on the phone. We need to be more transparent and find out how we are spending, and funding for our schools.”

The roads in Yonkers were another item that Burgos highlighted. “Our roads have been neglected and it’s the same potholes that some of us have memorized for years. We also need increased lighting in specific areas.

Burgos also said that senior’s are “a group that needs attention. At the Senior Center on McLean, we have been asking for compliance and help with the bathrooms and windows. It’s not sanitary.”

Burgos has a Masters Degree in Education and is getting his PHD at Rutgers for Higher Education. “I feel strongly that democrats will come out and vote. They want change and I have had positive reactions to my campaign. Visit Carlos4 yonkers.com, for more information.

Burgos is a first time candidate. So is Stella Schwuchow, who is running in a democratic primary in the 6th council district. Schwuchow, recently received the endorsement of the Civil Service Employees Association CSEA, Southern Regional Office Local 1000 AFSCME, AFL-CIO.

CSEA is a labor union in the state of New York that represents employees in state and local governments, as well as school districts, child care, and the private sector jobs. In Yonkers alone, there are over 1,500 civil service workers, which includes school aides, bus monitors, clerks, custodians, cafeteria workers, maintenance workers, safety officers, nurses, and technology staff. CSEA is considered the backbone of the Yonkers Public Schools.

A statement from her campaign reads, “Stella is a rising community leader who has been fighting to support the unions, especially those involved in education. She is a former middle school English teacher with her Masters Degree in Education and a Board of Director of the AAA All-Star Program, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that helps children in Yonkers express themselves through the Athletics, Academics and the Arts.

“This acknowledges Stella’s commitment to addressing the needs of all issues affecting workers and families in the Yonkers Public School system. As primary elections are approaching, the Stella Schwuchow campaign continues to build momentum as more organizations are expected to come forward with their endorsements.”

Schwuchow is running against Tim Hodges for the democratic nomination in the 6th district. Hodges, a former Yonkers Police Department Deputy Chief, is making his first run for office and is a life-long Yonkers resident, a homeowner, father, and husband. Tim Hodges grew up in very humble beginnings- growing up on Caryl Avenue with his very tight knit family. Tim Hodges has spent the last three decades as a first responder previously holding the rank of Yonkers Deputy Police Chief and now currently holding a position in St. John’s Hospital as the Head of Security.

Through his capacity as Deputy Police Chief, Hodges implemented many safety programs to keep our streets safe including the Gun Buy Back Program to keep our streets safe from guns that should not be on our streets. Tim Hodges also played in an integral role in making sure our schools have proper safety protocols in place and proper drills are completed.

Tim Hodges is also a compassionate- community activist. Hodges is ready to give a hand to anyone in the community who needs help serving in the Rotary Club and the Mexican Chamber of Commerce, just to name a few organizations.

Hodges is said to be on the campaign trail, knocking on doors as his photo shows. These are the council challengers. Next week we interview Majority Leader Pineda-Issac and Councilman Rubbo.

We will then move to the County Board races in Yonkers and the Council Presidents race. Email your letters to risingmediagroup@gmail.com. Also send us any debate information that we have not published. There are several opportunities for you to watch and learn about all of the candidates running.

And all of these races are democratic primaries, so if you are not a registered democrat, you cannot vote on June 22.

Council President Khader, continued from pg 1-

endorsement away from Khader are not true. But as one Yonkers Democratic told us, “rank and file Yonkers democrats may not be working hard and may do nothing.”

After the Memorial Day weekend, there will be three weeks left before the Democratic Primary June 22. For Khader’s two opponents in the democratic primary for Council President, Lakisha Collins-Bellamy and Peter Spano, the time is now. All three will participate in a series of debates over the next two weeks, which we will watch and report back to you on.

“Khader was waltzing to an easy primary victory as of a few weeks ago. Now, yes, things have changed, but instead of being up by 30, maybe Khader is now up by 15. It is up to Lakisha to get out there and take it from him. Yonkers Democrats still need to know who she is and why she is running, and why they should vote for her over Khader,” said one Yonkers Democrat.

Another Yonkers Democrat said, “in a democratic primary, mostly people paying attention to politics are the voters who come out and vote. The accusations against our Council President are making their way around the city. Karen (Schullere) is well respected, especially in the police department. This could definitely hurt him.”

The other unknown is what will Mayor Mike Spano do? Will Mayor Spano make an endorsement?

Another unknown is who will come out and vote, or mail in their vote by June 22. Will Yonkers democrats be energized to cast their vote, and will progressive democrats continue to come out and vote?

One wise Yonkers democrat told me, “if you are going to primary someone who is an incumbent, you better win, because it just makes them stronger if you lose.”

Khader has Red Horse Strategies running his campaign.

Get Up Close to Nature at Westchester County Parks

Now that it’s warm out it’s the perfect time to get up close to nature at Westchester County Parks’ nature centers, rent canoes at Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park in North Salem and go boating at Wampus Pond in Armonk.

The six nature centers were closed to the public during the height of the pandemic and are now open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., then Monday through Friday beginning Monday, June 28. One household allowed in at a time and face masks must be worn. Call ahead to confirm your visit. Nature center locations:

- Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains, (914) 428-1005
- Croton Point Nature Center, Croton-on-Hudson (914) 862-5297 (Fri-Sun)
- Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye, (914) 967-8720
- Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers, (914) 968-5851
- Marshlands Conservancy, Rye, (914) 835-4466
- Trailside Nature Museum, Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River, (914) 864-7322

Canoe rentals are available at Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park in North Salem, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, call for times during the week: (914) 864-7312.

Boat rentals at Wampus Pond in Armonk will reopen for weekends and holidays beginning Saturday, May 29, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., last boat out at 4 p.m., walk-ins only.

Nature centers are free to the public. For canoe and boat rental fees visit parks.westchestergov.com.

Roosevelt HS Val, Sal, continued from pg 1-

Fahrenheit 451 because they are so engrossing and have complex characters.”

Anderson has taken 13 college link courses at Roosevelt. Extracurricular activities include YPIE’s college readiness program, “where I engaged in an array of enrichment and college-ready programs. This year, I also had the opportunity to participate in the STEM Research Institute Program, which granted me the privilege of competing in the Westchester Science and Engineering Fair where I won the Critical Behavioral Science Achievement Award, and was a teacher assistant aiding juniors and sophomores with their science research projects,” said Anderson.

“Another program I participated in was the Tech Squad Specialist Program, where I completed a course in coding, while being recognized for aiding the senior citizens in our community with tech-related issues. I am also currently participating in the Cartoon and Comic Creation Major and the Film Major, which taught me how to develop my own Zines, an artist page, and filmmaking skills alongside a group of like-minded peers.”

Jaylene was accepted into 20 colleges and universities and will be attending Sarah Lawrence College in the fall, with a full scholarship. “My future plans are to excel in writing, and hopefully become a novelist and an English professor, with the hope of being an inspiration for future generations.” She chose SLC because “it has a great English and creative writing program, and I love the campus and the comfortable atmosphere.”

Continuing her academic excellence during COVID, “Was a challenge and a huge transition but I managed. I had my own laptop and phone and I continued to attend classes fully remote this year.”

Anderson thanked God and her parents for helping her get to this point of success “Through any struggle, keep on moving forward and focus on the future at hand, because there is a light at the end of the tunnel. And I know not everyone is a believer of God, but also have faith in Christ, because He will carry you through the tribulations which will you make all the more stronger at the end,” said Anderson.

RHS Salutatorian Salem Murshed will graduate with a 100.42 GPA. Her favorite teacher is English teacher Janice Young. “I had her my Sophomore year for a double period of English 11 and Modern Drama.”

Her favorite subject is math. “It’s universal, math would be the same in any country which I think is astonishing. There’s also many aspects of math which gradually gets more complex so there is always something new to learn.”

When she graduates, Murshed will have close to 45 college credits after taking 14 college link courses. Salem worked as a page at the Will Library and was the treasurer for the Project Good Works Club. “We came up with the idea to raise money and give money to different charities through bake sales and other events. The money went to help the children of Syria and for the animal shelter and other worthy causes.”

Salem will be attending Lehman college in the fall. “It is close to home and has the education program so tha I can get my masters in education and come back to Yonkers and be an elementary school teacher. I have always wanted to come back home and teach. I’ve always had a bond with kids and I enjoy being in the company of children.”

Murshed also hopes to change the perception of Muslim women. “There’s a bunch of racism against muslim women, and there is a picture painted of us in the media that doesn’t fit us. I want to be the one to kill the prejudice, and I hope that my students will remember my face, with the Hijab and create change.”

Salem said that the first month of learning with COVID, “I didn’t like it at all. Learning from home didn’t fell like learning to me. I borrowed a laptop from my school but I jumped on the opportunity to go back to school when it re-opened. “

“My parents are very big on education and pushed me and reminded me on how important it is. I also came to this realization myself, that education is the key to open so many doors.”

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Ridge Hill Kicks Off “Mural Mile”-A Fresh Take on Mall Walking!

This fresh take on the concept invites everyone to get outside, get moving and enjoy some beautiful and selfie-worthy artwork.

This new initiative was officially kicked off on Wednesday, June 19th with a group of women from the “Bad Moms of Westchester” Facebook group who were the first to walk Ridge Hill’s Mural Mile and were celebrated with balloons at the finish line.

For more information, visit RidgeHill.com

Visitors to Ridge Hill, and the ‘Mural Mile’

Photo by Amanda Gentile



Jordanian-Americans Commemorate 75th Independence Day with City Hall Flag Raising

Jordanian-Americans gathered at Yonkers City Hall May 22 to celebrate Jordan’s 75th Independence Day. The ceremony was organized by community members and was Chaired by State Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, the first Jordanian-American elected to the New York State Legislature.

The event began with the playing of the National Anthems of the United States and Jordan and God Bless America was performed by Yonkers Police Department Captain Patrick McCormack, a piper with the Pipes and Drums of the Police Emerald Society of Westchester. Assemblyman Sayegh then called for a minute of silence to remember all who have been harmed in conflicts all across the world. Sayegh then called on all Americans to come together.

“We are a people that have more commonality than whatever divides us,” said Sayegh. “Today is a day of unity and respect for each other’s integrity and respect for the differences we have and to stand together in solidarity against any form of hate or discrimination, which has no place in our city and our nation.”

Representing Jordan’s Ambassador to the United States Dina Kawar, Senior Diplomat Mr. Mohammad al-Hassan said, “Jordan’s unique relationship with the United States has surpassed 7 decades and remains as strong as ever. The gathering today is testament to the strength and resilience of this strategic partnership and friendship.”

The President of the Washington D.C. based Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee Samar Khalaf spoke of challenges facing the Arab-American Community. “The best way to combat stereotypes about Arab-Americans is on a one-to-one basis, neighbor to neighbor, friend to friend,” said Khalaf. He added that events like the Jordanian flag raising celebrate our heritage and history and demonstrate our pride in being Americans.

Assemblyman Sayegh was joined by New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins in presenting Senior Diplomat Mr. Mohammad al-Hassan with a Proclamation commemorating Jordan’s 75th Independence Day. The ceremony concluded with the raising of the Jordanian Flag at Yonkers City Hall’s Memorial Fountain.



Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, with young celebrants of Jordan’s 75th Independence Day at Yonkers City Hall, with American and Jordanian flags.



A Diverse Workforce for a Diverse County



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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