

Yonkers Rising

YonkersTimes.com

Friday November 15, 2024

City Clerk Vincent Spano Invites Yonkers HS Students to Participate in Design Contest for U.S. Passport Office at City Hall

Graphic Design Contest
sponsored by
Vincent E. Spano
Yonkers City Clerk

WHO: Yonkers HS Students Skilled in Graphic Design
Theme: Safe Travels Start Here
WHAT: Invited to design a sign to be displayed in the Yonkers City Clerk's Passport Office
Size: 30 inches x 40 inches
WHEN: Submit digitally by November 26, 2024

SUBMIT TO:
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/3TTCTYWE](https://tinyurl.com/3ttctywe)
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WITH QUESTIONS



See Story on Page -4

Yonkers HS Students Attend Council Meeting to Debate Mask Ban Proposal



American Irish Association of Westchester Celebrates 50th Anniversary at Dinner Dance



L-R-Honorees Denise and John Donaghy, Rev. Paul Mooney MHM and Keith Murphy
photo by Donna Davis
See Story on pg 10-

Jenkins Announces Run for County Executive; Spano Declines to Run for County Exec.



Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins endorsing Mayor Mike Spano for reelection last year

By Dan Murphy

So far, the race for Westchester County Executive has run through Yonkers, with Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins announcing his plan for run for CE, and Mayor Mike Spano announcing that he would not be seeking the post.

Jenkins said: "As Deputy County Executive, I have been privileged to work on behalf of our communities, lowering property taxes, expanding affordable housing, and securing investments that make Westchester safer, healthier, and more equitable. Westchester is a place of limitless potential, and I am ready to lead us forward with a vision rooted in opportunity, safety, and sustainability."

Jenkins made his announcement surrounded by prominent Westchester democrats, including the current County Executive George Latimer. County Executive George Latimer said: "Ken Jenkins has been an invaluable partner in advancing Westchester County's progress the past few years. His experience, integrity, and commitment to our county make him the ideal leader to take on the role of County

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Assemblyman Nader Sayegh Considers A Run for Westchester County Clerk



By Dan Murphy

Sources have told Yonkers Times that Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, fresh off a decisive reelection victory on November 5, is considering a run for Westchester County Clerk. The current County Clerk, Tim Idoni, is not seeking reelection after serving for 18 years.

"Nader was just reelected by a large margin during a Red Wave of republican support and the election of Donald Trump. He has served the public in so many capacities. He has the experience and the knowledge, and as an attorney, can continue to serve in another capacity," said one Yonkers democrat.

Yonkers Democratic Chair Tom Meier confirmed to Yonkers Times that Sayegh is under consideration, and that he has submitted a letter to the Westchester County Democratic Committee asking to be among the democratic nominees for County Clerk next year.

Majority Leader John Rubbo wrote, "At our November 4th Legislation and Codes meeting, we were honored to have high school students from across our city join us in a debate over legislation Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy sponsored. The legislation the Council President sponsored would ban full masks, hoods, and face coverings on public property. It was inspiring to see such well researched and well-spoken arguments brought in front of the City Council. We applaud these future leaders and hope they remain engaged in local government," said Rubbo.

The students voted in favor of the mask ban by a 60%-40% vote. YPS Superintendent Anibal Soler, Jr. also attended the meeting.

More coverage on this issue on pg 3.

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YPS Launches New Curriculum to Empower Students of Color in My Brother's Keeper Program



Yonkers Public Schools has launched a new curriculum to support students in My Brother's Keeper Yonkers (MBK Yonkers), a national initiative established by President Obama to address opportunity gaps faced by young men of color. This initiative aims to provide a comprehensive support system for students of color by fostering growth, resilience, and a positive school climate.

"This curriculum represents our district's commitment to nurturing every student's potential and fostering a supportive environment that uplifts and empowers young men of color," said Superintendent Anibal Soler, Jr. "By focusing on their strengths and equipping our educators with the tools to build meaningful relationships, we are laying the foundation for our students' academic and personal success. This is not just about curriculum; it's about inspiring growth and resilience in our future leaders."

The curriculum was introduced in response to requests from educators who wanted more support in their MBK Yonkers programs, which are dedicated to improving educational outcomes for boys and young men of color. They were seeking a framework that provided themes, activities, and tasks to engage students in meaningful discussions. In partnership with the One Circle Foundation, the curriculum includes a series of activities that focus on social and emotional themes, such as understanding emotions, managing relationships, and cultivating self-worth. It uses a strength-based approach that emphasizes students' strengths over their deficits.

Empowering Chapter Leaders to Foster Student Success

MBK Yonkers chapter leaders, including educators, counselors, and other school staff, have received and will continue to receive training in One Circle Foundation's strength-based approach. This training equips chapter leaders with the tools they need to guide students through multiple core activities, which cover topics like emotional awareness, decision-making, and building healthy relationships. These activities are designed to support students' academic and personal growth.

"We had a lot of discussions about how we often focus on students' deficits," said Dr. Jason Baez, MBK Yonkers' Executive Director. "But with this approach, we're focusing on their strengths instead. A water half full approach."

The curriculum is designed to align with several of the MBK Alliance's six key milestones, particularly Milestone Three, which focuses on graduating from high school, and Milestone Six, which aims to keep students safe from violent crime. By fostering a sense of belonging and acceptance in schools, and creating safe spaces, the curriculum contributes to a supportive environment that helps students stay engaged and successful.

Positive Early Feedback and Commitment to Ongoing Impact

Educators and administrators involved in the initial training sessions have provided positive feedback. One participant shared, "In over 20 years, this is the best professional development I have ever attended. I wish more administrators could learn from them." This feedback reflects the enthusiasm and renewed commitment to the MBK Alliance's mission across the district. While the curriculum and resources are essential, relationship-building remains at the heart of the MBK initiative. "At the end of the day, if you're not building authentic relationships with people, this is not going to work. It all comes down to building strong relationships with students," Baez explained.

As one of only four cities nationally recognized as an MBK Model Community by the Obama Foundation, Yonkers Public Schools chapter leaders will share stories, student work, helping to ensure the program's long-term success.

Latimer Presents Sixth County Budget in a Row with 0% Tax Levy Increase



L-R—Deputy County Exec. Ken Jenkins, County Exec George Latimer, Chairman of the Board Vedat Gashi, Legis. Jewel Williams-Johnson, Legis. Terry Clements

Westchester County Executive George Latimer presented his seventh budget proposal to the Westchester County Board of Legislators, unveiling a \$2.5 billion plan that prioritizes vital services for County residents, while upholding fiscal responsibility. The 2025 Proposed County Operating Budget maintains the same tax levy as 2024 for the County General Fund, marking the sixth consecutive year without an increase.

Latimer said: "The proposed 2025 budget reflects our dedication to responsible financial management while maintaining freezing tax rates for the last six budgets. This budget prioritizes key areas such as public safety, emergency preparedness, housing, health and mental health services, as well as environmental and economic development programs."

Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "This budget underscores this administration's commitment to meeting community needs through robust funding for essential programs and services. Key initiatives will continue to receive support, reflecting a balanced approach that safeguards resident services without adding to the tax burden."

This budget comes on the heels of Westchester County being recognized by Fitch Ratings with a prestigious "AAA" credit rating, S&P Global Ratings revising its outlook on the County from stable to positive and affirming its "AA+" long-term rating on the County's existing general obligation bonds, and Moody's Investors Service affirming the County's credit position as "Aa1 stable."

Other key measures supporting the County's fiscal health include adequately preparing for labor contracts, avoiding borrowing for operating expenses, refraining from using the fund balance and maintaining cash flow without borrowing.

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WESTCHESTER COUNTY URGES RESIDENTS TO CONSERVE WATER AS DROUGHT WATCH CONTINUES

Westchester County Encourages Voluntary Water Conservation From Residents as Drought Watch Continues

New York City issued a Drought Watch that affects Westchester County water supplies. As part of the Drought Watch, Westchester County residents are asked by the County's Department of Environmental Facilities to practice water conservation measures. Additional notifications will be made should the Drought Watch escalate to a Drought Warning or Drought Emergency.

To support water conservation, the County recommends that residents:

- Limit lawn and garden watering to early morning or evening hours to minimize evaporation
- Check and fix leaks in plumbing, faucets, and hoses
- Run dishwashers and laundry machines only with full loads
- Avoid washing vehicles or hosing down sidewalks

Residents can visit the following sites for drought conservation measures:

Water Saving Tips - DEP

WaterSense | US EPA

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Nassau County Has Adopted Mask Ban that Yonkers City Council is Considering

The Yonkers City Council is reviewing a proposed law which would amend the City Code to restrict "WEARING A MASK, HOOD, OR OTHER DEVICE ON PUBLIC PROPERTY"

The Council has not yet voted on this item. It is currently in the Legislation & Codes Committee Chaired by Majority Whip John Rubbo.

The proposed law reads, "No person or persons shall within the City of Yonkers, while wearing any mask, hood or device whereby any portion of the face is so hidden, concealed, or covered as to conceal the identity of the wearer, enter upon, or be, or appear upon or within the public property of the City.

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to persons:

- Wearing a traditional holiday costume on the occasion of the holiday;
- Wearing a face covering for a religious purpose;
- Lawfully engaging in trade and employment or in a sporting activity where a mask is worn for the purpose of ensuring the physical safety of the wearer or because of the nature of the occupation, trade, profession, or sporting activity;
- Using a mask in a theatrical production, including use in Mardi gras celebrations and masquerade balls;
- Wearing a face covering to protect the wearer from the elements while participating in a weather affected activity, including a winter sporting event;
- Wearing a gas mask prescribed in emergency management drills and exercises or emergencies;
- Wearing a mask for the purpose of complying with the guidance of any health care agency or health care provider or to otherwise protect against the spread of infectious diseases; or Lawfully engaged in First Amendment activities.

The purpose of the proposed law would be to address safety concerns related to the wearing of face covers that cause the face to be so hidden, concealed, or covered as to conceal the identity of the wearer, and to address safety concerns related to the wearing of face covers that cause the face to be so hidden, concealed, or covered as to conceal the identity of the wearer.

Violators would face fines of \$250.

Nassau County has passed a similar mask ban. Nassau County's "Mask Transparency Act" was signed into law on August 14, 2024 and is in effect. The upstate village of Ballston Spa has also passed a mask ban.

"This is not an abridgment of anybody's rights. Nobody has a constitutional right to hide their identity in public," said Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman. "This is a broad public safety measure. What we've seen is people using masks to shoplift, to carjack, to rob banks, and this is activity we want to stop."

Exceptions in Nassau include:

"...shall not apply to facial coverings worn to protect the health or safety of the wearer, for religious or cultural purposes, or for the peaceful celebration of a holiday or similar religious or cultural event for which the wearing of masks or facial coverings are customarily worn."

The NY Civil Liberties Union opposes the ban. "This comes as COVID-19 continues to surge and anti-war protestors face increased doxxing and targeted surveillance. New York rightly repealed its prior mask ban at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Implementing a new ban will inevitably be used to disproportionately target, surveil, and criminalize protestors with controversial views, ostracize people with disabilities and their loved ones, and hurt Black, Brown, and Muslim New Yorkers.

Any mask ban will inevitably be selectively enforced and weaponized against New Yorkers who are Muslim, Black, and other people of color – all of whom already face disproportionate targeting, surveillance, and abuse by police. Police should not have legal authority to arrest or ticket people who are engaged in cultural, religious, or political expression, and wearing a mask should not be a crime.

Mask bans will undermine public health and push people with disabilities and those who are immunocompromised further into society's margins.

All New Yorkers should be assured of our right to wear a mask, and no one should have to fear harassment, intimidation, or arrest for trying to protect ourselves or our loved ones.

People should not be criminalized for what they wear. Laws that criminalize

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Donald: Kill Congestion Pricing as YOU Promised



By Eric Wolf Schoen

So what we predicted in these pages came true. Governor Hochul paused congestion pricing in New York City so that the topic would not hurt her candidates for New York State and Assembly in this month's election.

The pause was supposed to lessen the impact on taxpayers and truckers traveling in New York City below 60th Street and all Westchesterites to avoid paying an exorbitant fee for a night on the town or a little sightseeing.

SO,SURPRISE! Congestion pricing is alive and well in New York City 2 days after the election of Donald Trump to be President of these United States. Good 'ol Governor Kathy Hochul has put it back on the table as motorists say they do not want it. Her little game here to get it up and running before she took off her Christmas pajamas calls for some changes in the program but no elimination of it.

Unacceptable! New Yorkers, whether you live in Yonkers to the north or commute to the city in a car from upstate New York don't want another tax going to the enormous taxes we already pay to the M.T.A. For service for lousy service. We pay enough taxes without seeing where our money is going, and the funds from Congestion Pricing Plan are not going to fix our roads but to improve Mass transit (subways, buses, trains) under the administration of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

So none of this money will be used to Repair our shady roads and bridges, you know the ones that cause our tires to go flat and the undersides of our cars to corrode and fall off causing accidents. You have a small group of environmentalists that push the Legislature to put congestion pricing in effect.

Now it's our turn to tell our state officials that **WE DO NOT WANT CONGESTION PRICING IN ANY FORM.** But before I tell you who to call, let me remind you we have a new ally in our work to stop congestion pricing. Yes, he is the man who will become President in January of 2025. Yes, his name is Donald Trump.

DONALD TRUMP has made no secret of his thoughts about New York's congestion pricing program. In a social media post in May, the Republican presidential candidate promised that he would "terminate Congestion Pricing in my first week back in Office!!"

There are at least three ways that he could kill the program or hold it up for years:

1. REFUSE TO SIGN THE DOCUMENT AUTHORIZING THE PROGRAM.

For congestion pricing to take effect, a final approval document must be signed by the federal Department of Transportation, state Department of Transportation, the MTA and New York City. Hochul ordered the state transportation commissioner, Marie Therese Dominguez, not to sign this document, and the feds have said that they won't take action before New York does.

If the status quo was still in place when Trump took office, it's likely that his Department of Transportation would refuse to sign the document, killing the program at least until 2029, when a new president would take office.

2. DEMANDING A MORE DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY — AND DELAYING IT.

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Westchester County Department of Correction Holds Culinary Graduation Ceremony



The Westchester County Department of Correction and Aramark Food Service recognized four residents who graduated from a culinary training program at the Westchester County Jail. In partnership with Aramark, this 'IN-2-WORK' culinary certificate program requires eight weeks of vocational training, incorporating both in-class lectures and hands-on culinary training, totaling 40 hours of formal instruction. In addition to the hands-on culinary training, this program focuses on kitchen safety in food storage, preparation and serving. Students who successfully completed this formal training received a ServSafe certificate that's recognized as the national standard in the food service industry. Through coordination with Aramark Food Service, graduating students will have access to a web portal of available employment opportunities, assistance with writing resumes and the availability of scholarships for further study.

In addressing the five graduates, Correction Commissioner Joseph K. Spano stated firmly: "At our agency, we don't judge incarcerated individuals. From the moment someone is remanded into our care, we focus on assessment, treatment and the rehabilitation process. I thank and commend you for volunteering to participate in this program and many others offered at WDOC. Doing so demonstrates your commitment and desire to get on a better life path, and should greatly aid your transition when you return back to your family and community."

Aramark District Manager Robert Love said: "Aramark Correctional Services is proud to continue its partnership with Westchester County in offering our IN-2-WORK programming to the residents of Westchester County Correction. For many years, this program has received tremendous support from Commissioner Spano and designated members of his team, including First Deputy Commissioner Nory Padilla and Assistant Warden Jeremiah Tejada. Working together, we have enhanced culinary aspects to the program, and feel that our graduates will have that much more to offer prospective employers when they re-enter the workforce. A special thanks to our local IN-2-WORK facilitator Chef Darnel Pierre and on-site Director Sharron Watkins for being instrumental in building and supporting the new program curriculum."

Program participant Dominick Labarta said: "I look forward to using what I have learned in the future to meal prep and possibly get a job in a restaurant kitchen."

Program participant Omar Green said: "The program was a wonderful experience full of knowledge, our instructor did a great job of teaching culinary skills. I love the fact that I can apply for a scholarship and that I can get my family involved in the program upon release."

Program participant Lyle Long: "I really enjoyed the class and I think it helps inmates stay on a successful path upon re-entry."

At the conclusion of the graduation ceremony, the twenty-five attendees from WDOC, Aramark and 914 United enjoyed meals prepared by the students.

City Clerk Vincent Spano Invites Yonkers HS Students to Participate in Design Contest for U.S. Passport Office at City Hall

Yonkers City Clerk Vincent E. Spano is excited to announce a unique opportunity for all Yonkers High School students to showcase their artistic and graphic design talents. The Office of the City Clerk is holding a contest for students to create a sign that will be displayed in the U.S. Passport Office, located at City Hall.

The theme for the contest is "Safe Travel Starts Here", encouraging students to emphasize the importance of travel safety while showcasing their creativity. The winning design will be prominently featured in the Passport Office, welcoming visitors and highlighting the talent of our local student population.

Design Specifications:

- Theme of the sign is to be "Safe Travel Starts Here"
- The sign dimensions will need to be 30 inches x 40 inches
- Design is to be submitted digitally
- All designs must be submitted to the Office of the City Clerk no later than November 26, 2024.

Following the submission deadline, a ceremony will be held to announce the winner and unveil the chosen design. The ceremony is expected to take place in the weeks following the deadline in Yonkers City Hall's historic Chambers.

"Our Yonkers students are extremely talented, and it's important that we give them opportunities to show off their skills. This contest is a chance for them to contribute to a project that will be seen by the thousands of people who annually visit our Passport Office, and we want to encourage their creativity and confidence in their abilities," said City Clerk Spano.

This contest is an excellent opportunity for students to display their graphic design skills and contribute to a meaningful project. City Clerk Vincent Spano encourages all high school students with a passion for graphic design to participate.

Different Views on the Westchester Immigrant Protection Act, IPA

By Dan Murphy

In the final days of Election 2024, Fernando Jimenez, 40, was arrested and charged with the murder of 15-year-old Michael Raimondi in Somers. Jimenez shot Michael, Matthew (13), and Christina Raimondi, his former girlfriend, in their apartment.

According to ICE, Jimenez was an illegal immigrant in the country. "Fernando Andres Jimenez Meza is a 40-year-old unlawfully present citizen of Chile who entered the United States on an unknown date and location without inspection, admission, or parole by an immigration official. U.S. Border Patrol encountered him at or near Tecate, Calif., on Aug. 11, 2004. During this encounter, he claimed to be Erik Melendez-Arellano from Mexico, after which he was voluntarily returned to Mexico. Jimenez unlawfully reentered the United States at some point after that encounter.

"ERO New York City lodged an immigration detainer with Westchester County Jail, Oct. 30, where Jimenez is currently being held on local charges. Regardless of nationality, ICE makes custody determinations on a case-by-

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Letter to the Editor: Violence in the United States

Criminal Aliens Released in the U.S. “Committing Crimes Against Americans at an Alarming Rate.” “This is part of The House Judiciary Report on the Consequence of the Biden-Harris Administration’s Open Border Policies.”

Additionally, a well-known government watch-dog periodical stated; “Of the millions of illegal immigrants who have entered the United States under the Biden Administration’s radical open border policies, over 617,000 have criminal records, and they are victimizing Americans and terrorizing communities throughout the nation.”

“When you see a rattlesnake poised to strike you, do not wait until he has struck, before you crush him.” (President Franklin D. Roosevelt)

Source-Judicial Watch-Verdict pg.15- November 2024 issue

Joe Pettit, Yorktown

Mask Ban, continued from pg 3-

someone’s attire fly in the face of free expression principles target vulnerable communities and threaten the foundation of our civil liberties

Law enforcement must respect the religious practices of everyone they come into contact with. If you wear a niqab or burqua, you should not be required to remove your religious garb unless absolutely necessary – for instance, should you be arrested, law enforcement can mandate your face is unencumbered if your photograph must be taken.

The ban, which has exemptions for health and religious reasons, is touted as a public safety measure meant to target those who commit crimes while wearing face coverings.

Howard Kopel, a member of the Nassau County Legislature, or county council, said the measure was introduced in response to “antisemitic incidents, often perpetrated by those in masks,” since the start of the Israel-Hamas war on Oct. 7.

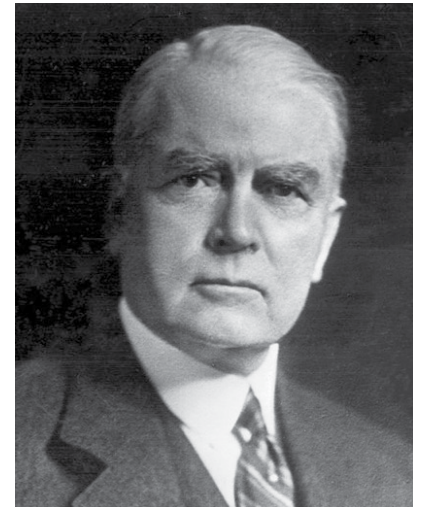
New York Governor, Kathy Hochul said in June that she was considering a mask ban in the NYC subways.

In Nassau the vote for the mask ban was along political lines, with 12 republicans voting yes and 7 democrats voting no.

In Yonkers, the mask ban has been proposed by the democratic majority on the council, but also appears to have republican support.

Media reports have already begun to highlight the threats of lawsuits to the Nassau mask ban.

On This Day in Yonkers History...



Two Nobel Prize winners from Yonkers. John Howard Winthrop left, in Chemistry, and Dr. John Mott, right was an evangelist and long-serving leader of the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA), winner of the 1946 Nobel Peace Prize.

By Mary Hoar, City of Yonkers Historian, President Emerita Yonkers Historical Society, recipient of the 2004 Key to History, Member of the Yonkers Landmarks Preservation Board, Chair of Revolutionary Yonkers 250 and President Untermeyer Performing Arts Council

Monday, November 18th

November 18, 1777: British Lieutenant-General William Tryon sent Hessians troops to pillage and burn homes in Philipse Manor. They allegedly stripped women and children of clothing, then turned them out into the cold. Old men and boys were led back to the enemy lines wearing very little but the halter the Hessians had put around their necks to lead them. Patriot newspapers condemned Tryon for making war on women and children.

November 18, 1943: Thirty-four Alexander Smith Carpet Company employees received framed certificates for their suggestions to improve war production. Elizabeth Brennan, who passed away before the ceremony, suggested a method to smooth needle heads on looms. Her husband, who also worked for Smith, accepted her certificate. Stanley Karpinski died the night before the ceremony; Smith adopted his suggestion to post his morale-building slogans around its plants. A third employee also did not attend; Harold Zulauf, Jr., was serving in the Marine Corps!

Tuesday, November 19th

November 19, 1776: British troops embarked from the mouth of the Nepperhan River to successfully attack Fort Constitution (Fort Lee).

November 19, 1946: Nobel prizes were awarded to two former Yonkers residents. Dr. John Mott, internationally known religious leader and long-term head of the YMCA, received the Nobel Peace Prize. Dr. John Northrop received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work in preparing enzymes and virus proteins in a pure form. Northrop was a Yonkers High School graduate.

Dr. Mott lived in Yonkers for many years and received his award for the creation of a peace-promoting brotherhood across national boundaries.

Wednesday, November 20th:

November 20, 1932: The two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the Manor House was marked with a reception chaired by former Mayor William J. Wallin; the event was attended by many local notables.

November 20, 1947: Former Warburton Avenue resident Major Edwin Armstrong, inventor of FM radio, appeared before the Federal Communications Commission in Washington to urge the return of FM to a lower radio band. Armstrong contended that testing conclusively showed FM transmitted better in the lower ranges on the radio spectrum, and asked allocation of radio band 44 to 50 megacycles for broadcasting. It had been moved to a higher frequency two years earlier because of faulty data.

Thursday, November 21st:

November 21, 1923: Mayor Walter Taussig was found shot in his garage behind his Park Avenue home; he was found on the floor with a gun in his hand. Mrs.

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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST,

-against-

OMOWUMI LONGE, ET AL.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Westchester on June 20, 2024, wherein U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST is the Plaintiff and OMOWUMI LONGE, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the WESTCHESTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE,,LOBBY, 111 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD., WHITE PLAINS, NY 10601, on December 2, 2024 at 9:30AM, premises known as 437 SOUTH 5TH AVENUE, MOUNT VERNON, NY 10550; and the following tax map identification, 169.39-3091-37.

ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER AND STATE OF NEW YORK

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No.: 68185/2022. Robert Huffjay, Esq. - Referee. Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. All foreclosure sales will be conducted in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines including, but not limited to, social distancing and mask wearing. *LOCATION OF SALE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAY OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH COURT/CLERK DIRECTIVES.

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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, November 26 at 7:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York on the following ordinance to inform the public and review the public purpose, pursuant to Eminent Domain Procedure Law, of the proposed acquisition of the leasehold held by All County Bus ,LLC, located at 76 Fernbrook Street, also known as a portion of Section 1, Block 615, Lot 1 designated on the Official Tax Map of the City of Yonkers, for the development of a waterfront park, to wit:

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

A SPECIAL ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE ACQUISITION OF THE FOLLOWING LEASEHOLD INTEREST AT 76 FERNBROOK STREET REQUIRED IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WATERFRONT PARK AT FERNBROOK STREET

All persons having an interest in the leasehold, which acquisition is required for the development of the waterfront park, are invited to attend the hearing to give oral or written statements concerning the proposed acquisition,

Further information may be obtained at the City Clerk's office, City Hall, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York and on the City's Website.

VINCENT SPANO
City Clerk
November 6, 2024

Notice of formation of Hampton Estate Care LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/17/2024. 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, 35 Greenacres Avenue, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

OnPoint Home Designs LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 8/28/2024. 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, 14 Crosby Court, Cortlandt Manor NY 10567. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Schmoose Pack Projects LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/20/2024. 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 Bruce Wong 10 Station Square Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of 130 FRANKLIN AVE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 10/15/2024. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Brian Caldwell at 68 North Steet, Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

TOWN OF EASTCHESTER

LEGAL NOTICE OF HEARING ON

2025 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Please take notice that the Town Board of the Town of Eastchester shall hold its annual budget hearing on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024 to consider the adoption of the Town of Eastchester's 2025 calendar year budget. Said hearing on this Preliminary Budget shall be held at the Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York at 7:30 p.m.

The salaries of Elected Officials incorporated in said preliminary budget are as follows:

		Each	Total
Supervisor	(1)	\$98,093	\$ 98,093
Council Members	(4)	\$22,000	\$ 88,000
Judges	(2)	\$50,000	\$100,000
Receiver of Taxes	(1)	\$70,000	\$ 70,000
Town Clerk	(1)	\$87,605	\$ 87,605

All residents of the community may present written or oral comments at the above-described place, date and time.

BY THE ORDER OF THE SUPERVISOR AND
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF
EASTCHESTER, NEW YORK
JOSEPH D. DOOLEY
TOWN CLERK

LEGAL NOTICE

The ordinance, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on November 12, 2024, and approved by the Mayor on November 13, 2024, 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 56-2024

BOND ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, NEW YORK AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION OF DESIGN PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN PURSUANT TO THE YONKERS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT JOINT SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTION AND MODERNIZATION ACT; STATING THE ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST THEREOF IS \$3,000,000; APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OF SAID CITY IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$3,000,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

The bonds are authorized to finance the cost of the preparation of design plans and specifications for capital projects to be undertaken pursuant to the Yonkers City School District Joint Schools Construction and Modernization Act.

The maximum amount of obligations to be issued is \$3,000,000.

The period of probable usefulness associated with the project is five (5) years.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 17 of the Special Local Finance and Budget Act of the City of Yonkers, constituting Chapters 488 and 489 of the Laws of 1976 of the State of New York (herein called the "Act"), the City is authorized and directed to include the pledge and agreement of the State of New York (herein called the "State") contained in said Section 17 of the Act, in the ordinance, and the Act provides that upon payment for the bonds or notes by the original and all subsequent holders thereof the inclusion of such pledge and agreement shall be deemed conclusive evidence of valuable consideration received by the State and City for such pledge and agreement and of reliance upon such pledge and agreement by any holder and that any action by the State contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of such pledge and agreement shall be void.

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: November 13, 2024
Yonkers, New York

Yonkers Rising

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

Remembering Former Yonkers Mayor Gerald Loehr



Gerald Loehr

GERALD LOEHR Obituary

LOEHR--Hon. Gerald E. The Hon. Gerald E. Loehr was born into a Yonkers family with a longstanding tradition of politics and public service on May 19, 1943. His great-grandfather, John J. Loehr, was a Yonkers Alderman (Councilman), his grandfather, Joseph F. Loehr, was the Mayor of Yonkers from 1932 to 1939, his mother Gertrude Sweetman was a civil servant and his father John F. Loehr was an attorney and an Administrative Law Judge. Gerald E. Loehr proudly followed the family tradition and served with passion, principle and distinction as a public servant. He graduated from Manhattan College in 1965 and Fordham Law School in 1969. He served as a New York City Assistant District Attorney under the legendary Frank Hogan from 1969 to 1973, and then in private practice at the firm of Nobile and Magarian from 1973-1975. Loehr returned to public service in Yonkers, serving two terms as the Third Ward Councilman from 1975-1979 and one term as the Mayor from 1979-1981. Upon leaving the Mayor's office, Loehr returned to private practice as a founding partner of the law firm Ecker, Loehr, & Ecker, LLP where he worked until 2004. In 2005, he was elected as Judge in the Westchester County Court. In 2006, he was appointed as an Acting State Supreme Court Justice. In 2012, he was elected to serve as a Supreme Court Justice in the 9th Judicial District. Gerry was an avid sailor, was a licensed New York State Coast Guard Captain, and raced sailboats out of Huguenot Yacht Club, where he served as Commodore and longtime Club Counsel, ultimately becoming the club's most senior member with 54 years of active membership. His greatest sailing achievements included sailing to Bermuda in 1989, and crossing the Atlantic in 2020. Loehr was a devoted husband and father and is survived by his beloved wife Susan Newman Loehr, a retired Westchester County Commissioner of Jurors. He is also survived by his older brother John Loehr and six children from two marriages: Peter, Janine (Barbanell), Melissa, Jonathan (Newman), Cariana (Bulman) and Gerald E. II. He also leaves behind 15 grandchildren, who will miss him dearly. His memorial service will take place on November 16, 2024 at 1:30pm at Sacred Heart Church, 110 Shonnard Pl., Yonkers, NY.

Mayor Mike Spano said "I want to express my heartfelt condolences to the Loehr family on the passing of former Mayor Gerald Loehr, the 35th Mayor of this City. Mayor Loehr came from a long line of dedicated public servants – his grandfather Joseph Loehr served as the 25th Mayor of Yonkers and his great-great grandfather was a member of the City's Common Council in the early 20th century.

"A graduate of Gorton High School and former City Council member, who represented Northwest Yonkers, Mayor Loehr was instrumental in televising public meetings during the early days of Yonkers City Hall TV. He was also recognized for overhauling the Community Development Agency.

Mayor Loehr will always be a part of this City's history. Thank you for your commitment to Yonkers, rest in peace."

Taussig later stated that if her husband had taken his own life, it was because he was so disappointed at his recent defeat by Ulrich Weisendanger.

Common Council President Albert Watson took over as Mayor, serving until January 1st when Weisendanger was inaugurated.

November 21, 1944: Yonkers school children mounted a "Schools at War" campaign to put schools in the thick of the war our school children wanted to purchase war vehicles by selling War Bonds and Stamps! Prices ranged from \$1,950 for ambulances to \$8,275 for amphibian "ducks" to \$15,000 for primary training planes. Any school selling enough bonds to cover the price of a vehicle had its name inscribed on it. Yonkers children worked to "finish the job," to bring home their beloved fathers, brothers, uncles and friends.

Friday, November 22nd:

November 22, 1919: The Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII and Duke of Windsor, decorated three Yonkers men in the 27th Division overseas with British Military Medals. The ceremony took place on the HMS Renown, lying in the Hudson River off Manhattan.

Besides the British Military Medal, Sergeant Angus Robertson of Van Cortlandt Park Avenue also held the Distinguished Service Cross awarded for heroism in action before the Hindenburg Line.

Before receiving the British Military Medal, Thomas Dean of Elinor Place received the Distinguished Service Medal from General Pershing and the Croix de Guerre.

Sergeant William Spencer of Cliff Street was awarded the decoration from the Prince of Wales for his "conspicuous services" during the great war, for his extraordinary bravery under fire in silencing a machine gun nest and killing four Germans. He also held the Distinguished Service Medal and the French Croix de Guerre.

Saturday, November 23rd:

November 23, 1923: In a special arrangement with the Yonkers Trust Company, the Warburton Theatre gave \$1 checks to the first 7,000 people buying a ticket for "Spite Corner," the comedy playing at the Warburton during Thanksgiving week. The check only could be used to open a new account of \$10 or more at Yonkers Trust.

November 23, 1943: Otis Elevator was notified our Yonkers plant won the Army-Navy production award for the third time, for its "high achievement in the production of war material." Notification included a tribute from Under Secretary of War Robert Patterson, commending the men and women employees; he wrote they "set an inspiring example for your fellow Americans on the production front." The plant was entitled to fly an "Army-Navy E flag" with two white stars.

Sunday, November 24th:

November 24, 1920: Sensational lightweight Seamus O'Brien of Yonkers defeated Benny Cohen of NJ in a 12-round bout at Olympic Park in Newark. Considered one of the most sensational bouts ever staged in Newark, O'Brien was the aggressor throughout the fight. Consensus of the ringside fans was the Yonkers battler won nine rounds and tied in a tenth.

November 24, 1931: Revolvers and other weapons taken from prisoners by officers at the Central Avenue Police Station were dumped into the Hudson River by Patrolman Thomas Cunningham. Cunningham boarded a ferry and dropped them in the middle of the river!

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

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Yonkers Veterans-Thanks for Your Service



The Yonkers Public Library celebrated and honored the sacrifices of our veterans, including one of our hometown heroes, Liborio “Lee” Giordano of Crestwood! Born on August 6, 1932, Lee served in the Korean War from ‘52 to ‘54. Lee shared his feelings of pride for having served in the military, “It’s an honor to serve our fellow Americans and our country.” Lee also values his service time for having exposed him to many different cultures and the camaraderie of his fellow servicemen. These days, Lee can be found most afternoons at Crestwood Library reading the newspaper, helping solve our community jigsaw puzzle, or participating in our Senior Chat program on Thursday mornings. Thank you to Lee and all our veterans for their service!



Council President Collins-Bellamy Hosts Veterans Brunch

Yonkers City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy partnered with WJCS Family Services of Westchester and University of Mount Saint Vincent, to host some American heroes for a Veterans Brunch at the Homefield House on Nov. 6.

Veteran Stanley Levine, above was honored with Proclamations from the Council President and Mayor Mike Spano.



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Eric Spencer, MD; Mario Voloshin, DPM, FACFAS



It's a Wild, Wildlife: Saving Endangered Animals Through Art



Artist Amanda Lynne with two pieces from the Wildlife series, Marbled Prairie Dogs and Marbled Monarch

By M. Trommer

Over the past two years, Blue Door Art Center artist, Amanda Lynne has completed a series of nineteen mixed media pieces entitled “Wildlife.” The pieces depict endangered species of animals. The artist pledged to donate twenty-five percent of sales to wildlife conservation, specific to the animals depicted.

The works in the “Wildlife” series were created with the artist’s own hand-marbled papers. Using her own photographs as reference, these papers were cut and collaged to form the animal images, which were then placed in upcycled hand painted frames.

“Amanda’s work is charming and whimsical however, on closer inspection, the craftsmanship and attention to detail are incredible. We admire her commitment to animals and the environment.” said Blue Door Gallery Director, Michele Amaro.

To date, eight of the nineteen pieces in the series have been sold, resulting in the artist’s donation of \$800 to wildlife conservation, with half of these pieces being sold through Blue Door Art Center at 13 Riverdale, Ave in Yonkers, NY.

You can view this amazing “Wildlife” artwork and more at amandalynnestudio.com.

left: Marbled Okapi, mixed media, photos by Amanda Lynne

American Irish Association of Westchester Celebrates 50th Anniversary at Dinner Dance



L-R-Ron Matten, Mary Hoar, State Senator Shelley Mayer, Catherine Marshall



Brigid Flynn with students from the Flynn Irish dance studio. Photos by Donna Davis

On October 27, the American-Irish Association of Westchester celebrated their 50th anniversary with a dinner dance at the Fairways at Dunwoodie. The annual Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated and recently deceased members and deceased former presidents and board chairpersons were remembered at Mass.

This year’s honorees were: Irish Man of the Year was John Donaghy, Irish Woman of the Year Denise Donaghy who are a husband and wife team.

Father Paul Mooney a Mill Hill Missioner Priest received the Saint Patrick Spirit Award. Keith Murphy was the recipient of our Irish American Community Service award.

Entertainment was provided by the New York Studio of Irish Adult Dancers, and harpist students and students of the popular Brigid Flynn Dance School.

The association each year provides scholarships, sponsors the annual Heritage Day co-sponsored with the Westchester County Parks and Recreation Department and the annual dinner Dance and Mass. We aim to preserve the foundation of our Irish heritage to keep the “tradition alive” and to ensure the continuation and celebration of our cultural identity. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanIrishAssociationOfWestchester> to learn more.

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Not Goodbye: An Open Letter from John Isaac to Yonkers

To my friends and neighbors in the 90th Assembly District, and throughout Yonkers and Westchester, I write this note to close out the election season. First and foremost, if the love of family can make a man rich, you can call me Elon Musk!

My lovely wife, daughter and son, along with my extended family, gave me the strength to carry on an exhausting campaign every day. Similarly, my sisters and brothers in the Indian community and Asian American Republican Committee were with me and carried my campaign every step of the way with their love, their financial support, their hard work and their understanding of the issues and how they affect our community.

To Nader Sayegh, I say congratulations on winning yet another term in Albany. I pray that when he is sworn in again, he will be mindful of who he serves. He was re-elected by a majority of voters in the 90th district. Nader Sayegh is responsible to do the right thing not for himself or Governor Hochul or Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

He is not there to be of service to New York City politicians, special interest lobbyists, or his fellow democrats in the supermajority. He is beholden to you: Yonkers families, to Yonkers first responders, Yonkers veterans, Yonkers teachers, Yonkers seniors Yonkers legal immigrants and first generation Americans, and the Yonkers disabled community.

Of course I am very disappointed in the outcome of the election, but I am energized and so very grateful for the amazing support I received from a record number of voters who believed in our platform of lower taxes, safer streets, common sense immigration laws and funding Yonkers schools. I remain proud of our campaign that did not fear or engage in drama or hyperbole, but rather stuck to the facts of my opponent's record and the needs of the greater Yonkers community.

Now, I will return to my work and my family and friends, with an eye to the blessed occasion of my daughter's wedding next spring. In the meantime, if you see me at the store or in church, please say hi. I promise not to hand you a palm card.

Sincerely, John Isaac

Local Medical Students Launch Teddy Bear Hospit

Medical students from New York Institute of Technology recently helped to launch the Teddy Bear Hospital at the 2024 Long Island Fall Festival.

The Teddy Bear Hospital introduces elementary and middle school students to the medical field, helping to ease anxiety about doctor visits while teaching exam skills on stuffed animals. Local medical students who volunteered included:

- Christine Kurien from Yonkers (10710)
- Isabelle Shi from Eastchester (10709)
- Kathleen Granitto from Yorktown Heights (10598)
- Kripa Kurien from Yonkers (10710)

New York Institute of Technology's six schools and colleges offer undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and other professional degree programs in in-demand disciplines including computer science, data science, and cybersecurity; biology, health professions, and medicine; architecture and design; engineering; IT and digital technologies; management; and energy and sustainability. A nonprofit, independent, private, and nonsectarian institute of higher education founded in 1955, it welcomes nearly 8,000 students worldwide. The university has campuses in New York City and Long Island, New York; Jonesboro, Arkansas; and Vancouver, British Columbia, as well as programs around the world. More than 116,000 alumni are part of an engaged network of physicians, architects, scientists, engineers, business leaders, digital artists, and healthcare professionals. Together, the university's community of doers, makers, healers, and innovators empowers graduates to change the world, solve 21st-century challenges, and reinvent the future. For more information, visit nyit.edu.

Transgender Day of Remembrance: Selena Gonzalez Speaks Truth



Selena Gonzalez

By Dennis Richmond Jr.

As we approach November 20th, Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR), I am reminded of the immense challenges facing the LGBTQ+ community—challenges that extend far beyond our own disagreements. From heated debates about identity and appearance to the growing threats from a broader society, it is clear: trans lives are under attack.

In the past year alone, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has recorded alarming numbers of trans women, particularly Black and Latina trans women, murdered across the country. As of this article, at least 29 trans or gender non-conforming people have been violently killed in 2024, while at least 38 lost their lives in 2023. These statistics are not just numbers; they represent human beings—siblings, children, and friends—whose lives were brutally cut short simply because of who they were.

The violence targeting trans folx often goes unacknowledged, obscured by societal biases and hateful rhetoric from those in power. It is not only “straight” men who are responsible for this epidemic of violence; it is men from all walks of life—bisexual, gay, and those who are DL—who are complicit in this horrific trend. It is shameful, and it must end.

In conversation with Selena Gonzalez, a trans artist, activist, and agency worker, she shared: “As a trans woman, I know what it feels like to have your existence threatened daily. The mortality rate for transgender people is shockingly disproportionate compared to cisgender individuals. It’s a painful reminder that, in this country, our lives are considered disposable.”

Selena’s words resonate deeply. The political landscape is worsening, with laws actively seeking to strip away the humanity of the LGBTQ+ community. States are banning gender-affirming care and attacking LGBTQ+ education, disregarding the fact that these resources save lives. “Representation and education are our lifelines,” Selena emphasized. “When we speak up, we fight against the silence that endangers us.”

As allies, folx must do more. People need to advocate for policies that protect trans people, donate to organizations that provide support and safety, and educate themselves about the issues they face. This Transgender Day of Remembrance, let’s not only mourn the lives lost but commit ourselves to the fight for equality and justice. We must acknowledge our role in perpetuating systemic violence and actively work to dismantle it.

This is more than a call for remembrance; it’s a call for change.

Dennis Richmond, Jr., an educator, historian, and writer, illuminates the experiences of Black, Latinx, and LGBTQ+ communities in Yonkers and NYC through his journalism. Stay connected with him by following @NewYorkStakz on social media.

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Domestic Violence Murder in Yorktown 2nd in Area in Three weeks

Immigrant Protection Act, continued from pg 4-



Geraldine Krecmer, left, was killed by Salvatore Ciniglio



A second domestic violence murder in Northern Westchester has the Yorktown-Somers communities wondering why.

On Nov. 9, Yorktown Police received a call of a shooting at the Coach n Four Apartments on East Main Street, Jefferson Valley. Residents heard gunshots at 930PM.

Upon arrival, Yorktown Police found 63-year-old Geraldine Krecmer dead from a gunshot wound. The shooter fled the scene before the police arrived. A shelter-in-place order was issued for the communities near the apartment complex, located near the DeCicco's shopping plaza in Jefferson Valley.

Police were quickly able to identify the shooter as Salvatore Ciniglio, 51, with no address (homeless).

Ciniglio was involved in an estranged relationship with Krecmer's daughter, and the two have a child.

Police departments across Westchester, and the NYPD, searched for the vehicle that Ciniglio was said to be driving.

Thanks to video surveillance on most major roadways, the vehicle was found in the Bronx, and just over two hours after the shooting, Ciniglio was pulled over by NYPD and shot himself as officers approached the car.

Yorktown Police Chief Robert Noble said in a statement, "We need to thank all of our local, county, state, city, federal and district attorney law enforcement partners, who assisted us this evening. We thank the public for their patience, support, and understanding. Our thoughts, prayers and support are with the family of the victim of this violent crime."

On Oct. 28, less than three miles away from the shooting at Coach n Four, Fernando Jimenez shot his estranged girlfriend, Chistina Raimondi, and her two sons, Michael, 15, and Matthew, 13. Michael Raimondi, a sophomore at Somers High School, died as a result of his injuries.

Another police search ensued until Jimenez was found hiding in Putnam Valley one day after the shooting. He is charged with second-degree murder and two charges of attempted murder.

The obituary for Geraldine Krecmer reads

Geraldine "Geri" Krecmer of Jefferson Valley, NY passed away unexpectedly on November 9, 2024. Born on August 26, 1961, in the Bronx, NY to Patrick and Rose (Stirpe) Monaghan, Geri's infectious smile and boundless energy brought light into the lives of all who knew her.

Geri's life was a testament to her unwavering dedication to her family and her work. She was a Senior Coordinator for Cablevision, now known as Altice. However, Geri's professional achievements paled in comparison to the love and care she poured into her family.

Geri had an enduring love for the beach, trips to Cape May and the Jersey Shore held a special place in her heart. It was there that she found solace in the rhythm of the waves and the warmth of the sun. Her love for the shore was a reflection of her spirit—free, joyful, and full of wonder.

Those who knew Geri would describe her as thoughtful and loving, words that only begin to capture her character. She had a gift for making others feel seen and heard, and her presence was a source of comfort and strength.

Geri is survived by her sons Thomas "TJ" Wilkinson, Dylan Wilkinson, Anthony Sales, and her daughter Jessica Sales. She is also survived by her brother, Patrick Monaghan, and her joy multiplied with the arrival of her grandchildren Gianna, Angelina, and Valentina. She embraced her role as a grandmother with the same passion and enthusiasm she brought to every aspect of her life.

Geri's journey through life was a beautiful illustration of what it means to care deeply for others. She will be profoundly missed, but the impact of her love will continue to resonate.

State Senator Pete Harckham and Assembly member Amy Paulin have announced that they are reintroducing their legislation that requires police officers to take temporary custody of firearms when responding to reports of family or domestic violence. Right now, police officers under the Safe Homes Act of 2020 merely have the option of removing firearms that are in plain sight or are discovered during a consensual or lawful search.

The legislation simply requires that the law enforcement officers responding to a report of family or domestic violence his legislation seeks to provide further protections to victims by mandating police officers seize firearms in plain sight during a domestic violence call. This includes firearms that individuals may have a license to carry and which they are in possession of when arrested on the suspicion of such family or domestic violence offense.

Additionally, this bill calls for the return of such firearms and carry licenses within one hundred and twenty hours (or five days) after removal from individuals upon arrest during family or domestic violence incidents. effecting such seizures. Such legislation is necessary to ensure that firearms do not return to dangerous hands before the courts have had sufficient time to file any necessary charges to protect victims.

case basis, in accordance with U.S. law and U.S. Department of Homeland Security policy, considering the circumstances of each case. ERO officers make decisions on associated enforcement actions and apply prosecutorial discretion in a responsible manner, informed by their experience as law enforcement professionals and in a way that best protects the communities we serve.

"Noncitizens who are apprehended by ICE have their case reviewed by an ICE officer to determine their custody status. Noncitizens subject to mandatory detention are placed in ICE detention facilities, while those who are released constitute ERO's non-detained docket. ICE officers weigh a variety of factors when making general custody determinations, including criminal record, immigration history, community ties, flight risk, and whether the individual poses a potential threat to public safety or national security," said an ICE spokesperson.

According to the Yonkers Police Department, Jimenez was arrested in 2018 for DWI but was released and fined \$500.

Republicans running for office on Nov. 5 highlighted the incident, and criticized New York State's Sanctuary status, and Westchester's passage of the Immigrant Protection Act in 2018.

"The suspect in this horrific crime... could have and should have been deported long ago after his arrest for drunk driving in Yonkers in 2018, He should have been handed over to ICE. Instead, Westchester County sanctuary status prevents law enforcement from coordinating with federal immigration authorities. As a result, a violent criminal was protected from deportation and remained in our community," said Congressman Mike Lawler.

Assemblyman Matt Slater said, "This tragedy took place three miles from my house. It should make every resident sick knowing the suspect was arrested in 2018 and released because of Westchester County's sanctuary policies that were approved earlier that year. This horrific tragedy would have never occurred if Westchester's 'sanctuary county' law had not been passed."

Last week, County Executive and Congressman-elect George Latimer held a press conference and called out Lawler and Slater for "not telling the truth."

"There is no sanctuary for Fernando Jimenez. He will face accountability for his actions. Anyone who says otherwise is not telling you the truth."

"He (Jimenez) is in the Westchester County Jail. The case will be transferred to the Westchester County Court, where it is expected that ICE will get an order from a Judge to take custody.

"He will not be released to the public. We have maintained a dialogue with ICE, and he will not be released. He was apprehended 20 years ago and he was deported and found a way back. Deporting him again is no value. He must face prosecution.

"Westchester County law allows for ICE to take possession of any individual if they obtain a federal order, which is easy to obtain. We will comply with that order."

Back in 2020, County Executive Latimer said, "This law does not make Westchester a sanctuary county. I personally will debate any individual who'd like to make that assertion. What this bill does do, it goes to the heart of protecting good, honest citizens."

In 2018, County Legislators John Testa and Margaret Cuzio, wrote an op-ed explaining their No votes on the IPA, which passed 10-3.

"Despite its name, the Immigrant Protection Act does not provide new protections for our immigrant community. In fact, the IPA, as it is written, protects criminals while putting innocent people in greater danger.

"The Act will make it more difficult to make transfers of prisoners at the county jail who are wanted on federal charges by Homeland Security. The jail provides a safe and neutral place to make such transfers. Under this act, transfers would be moved into the community which poses greater risks for innocent members of the community and Law Enforcement.

We want our immigrant community to feel safe and welcome in Westchester County. Shielding people who are accused of committing crimes from federal authorities is dangerous and irresponsible. Just to make that point clear two county executives have issued executive orders to specifically direct county police to not engage in immigration enforcement or inquire about immigration status. County Executive Spano issued his Executive Order No. 4 in 2006, and County Executive Astorino updated the directive further in September of 2017. The subject of these executive orders is exactly what the IPA is purported to address but does not.

The IPA states that "County Law Enforcement Agencies (CLEA) shall not communicate with Federal Immigration Authorities." One exception to this directive contained in an earlier version of the IPA was if the individual was a known gang member. This is a reasonable exception since we know of MS-13's growing presence on Long Island which is close proximity to Westchester. Why not include this provision since there are national databases that could be used to identify such individuals? However, it was removed and when we asked for it to remain in the law, it was denied."

With the election of President Trump, the debate will continue. And we would welcome to host a debate between Congressman-elect Latimer and Congressman Lawler, or Assemblyman Slater on the issue.

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Taking the Polar Plunge for a Good Cause



L-R: Patricia Gray, M.S Ed English Department, Moderator, The Polar Plunge; Iona Prep student Sean Dowling from Yonkers Catherine Demartino, Rye Rotary Club

The 17th Annual Westchester Polar Plunge, hosted by Special Olympics New York, returned to Playland Beach on Nov. 9 with more than 1,000 participants.

Iona Preparatory School in New Rochelle continues to give back to the community by raising over \$62,000 for the 2024 Westchester Polar Plunge that took place on November 11 at Playland Beach in Rye, NY. The Iona Prep Plungers – made up of over 100 Iona Prep students and their families/friends - raised over \$62,000 for the Special Olympics, the largest team amount representing 27% of the organization's goal. Team Co-Captain Sean Dowling from Yonkers was awarded a \$500 check toward his tuition since he was the second highest donor/fundraiser for the plunge. Catherine Demartino from the Rye Rotary Club awarded him the scholarship.

Homeotwn Hero & Olympic Gold Medalist Kate Douglass to Visit Pelham Picture House Nov. 19



Olympic medalist and hometown hero Kate Douglass will visit The Picture House Pelham on Tuesday, November 19th, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM, for an exciting evening celebrating her remarkable swimming achievements in the Paris Olympics 2024. Fans and community members are invited to join in as Douglass relives her most thrilling Olympic moments, followed by an engaging conversation, a signing session, and special giveaways. Tickets are FREE but reservations are required.

This exclusive visit comes after The Picture House hosted standing-room-only viewing parties in July and August, where the Pelham community gathered to cheer on their local legend as she competed on the Olympic stage. The energy and enthusiasm from these events highlighted the community's deep support for Douglass, making this upcoming event a heartfelt reunion. "Following our amazing viewing parties during her Olympic run, we are thrilled to welcome Kate to The Picture House and reunite her fans and supporters once again," said Clayton Bushong, Executive Director of The Picture House Regional Film Center.

Douglass also expressed her gratitude, "The support I've received from Pelham has been incredible, and I'm so thankful for it. I'm excited to stop by The Picture House to say thanks in person and share this experience with everyone who's cheered me on along the way."

The event is generously sponsored by Kristin Bischoff at Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty.

Event Details: Special highlight viewing, conversation, and signing session with Olympic Medalist Kate Douglass at The Picture House Pelham, 175 Wolfs Lane, Pelham. Tickets are FREE but limited to four per person. Reserve today at <https://www.thepicturehouse.org/movie/kate-douglass-watch-party-qa-and-signing/>

Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

19 Year Old New Rochelle Man Arrested for Rape of Intoxicated 13-Year Old Girl

From the New Rochelle Police Department

Suspect Arrested in Connection to Sexual Assault of 13-Year-Old Girl

On November 7, 2024, New Rochelle Police arrested a 19-year-old man in connection to the assault of a 13-year-old girl. The arrest follows an investigation that began when the victim, highly intoxicated, was transported to the hospital and reported that she might have been sexually assaulted.

Upon receiving the report, detectives immediately began their investigation. They were able to confirm that a crime had occurred, with the suspect, later identified as Joey Valencia, providing alcohol to the victim, who was 13 years old.

Detectives, posing as the victim, successfully made contact with the suspect and engaged in communications. During this interaction, it was reiterated to the suspect the true age of the victim. Despite this, the suspect continued to express interest in meeting up with the victim again, further implicating himself in the criminal activity. Later that evening, detectives arranged a meeting with the suspect. When the suspect arrived, he was taken into custody without incident.

The investigation is ongoing, and detectives are working to determine if there are additional victims. Valencia is currently being held for arraignment.

ARRESTED: Joey Valencia, 19 years of age, of New Rochelle, NY.

CHARGES: New York State Penal Law Sections:

130.30 Rape 2nd Degree – D Felony

110/130.30 Attempted Rape 2nd Degree – E Felony

260.10 Endangering the Welfare of a Child – A Misdemeanor

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

If congestion pricing still hasn't been implemented when Trump takes office, he could trash the 868-page environmental assessment in which the federal Department of Transportation determined that congestion pricing wouldn't harm the environment, a necessary element of getting the project approved.

Instead, he could order the department to prepare a longer and more rigorous study known as an environmental impact statement (EIP). This could delay congestion pricing by months or even years, since presidents of both parties have refused to approve environmental impact statements as a strategy to block projects they didn't like.

3. SWITCHING SIDES IN A LAWSUIT SEEKING TO KILL THE PROGRAM.

The state of New Jersey is currently suing the federal government in an attempt to delay congestion pricing. The Garden State's lawyers claim that the potential environmental harms to New Jersey weren't fully studied in the environmental report and are asking the judge to order a more rigorous review by the Department of Transportation.

The Federal Department of Justice is opposing this lawsuit and defending congestion pricing in court. But Trump could order the department to stop opposing New Jersey. Instead, a Trump administration could seek a settlement where it would submit to New Jersey's demand for a more thorough study, effectively putting the program on ice.

What I am worried about about is the conversations between the President Elect and Governor Hochul have taken place regarding congestion pricing in the week since Trump was elected to office.

As I write this column, the Governor has announced a 40% reduction in the Congestion Pricing Plan. We don't want a reduction, the people of New York want NO CONGESTION PRICING PLAN. I am talking about people in New York City who live around the cut off area, 60th Street and are afraid of traffic jams. I'm talking about truck drivers who will add the price to the already high prices we are paying. And yes, I am talking about the people who visit New York City to see a Broadway show, or the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree.

Friends you must call your legislators and tell them NO CONGESTION PRICING IN NY. PERIOD. This is just going to be like the Red Light Camera plan. Today New York City, TOMORROW IS YONKERS, WHITE PLAINS, and you never know where they will expand it.

Don't kid yourself they couldn't care about pollution, traffic, and all of the other reasons to promote congestion pricing. IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MONEY!

Call your elected officials from WESTCHESTER and tell them No Congestion Pricing for New York State:

Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins (914) 423-4031-

Senator Shelley Mayer 914-934-5250

Assemblyman Nader Sayegh 1-914-779-8805

Assemblyman Gary Prelow 1-914-667-0127

If you are reading this paper outside of Southern WESTCHESTER, my bet is you know how to contact the Legislators who represent you! And don't forget Governor Kathy Hochul: 518-474-8390

Hopefully our Elected Officials will stop this plan from going through. But let's not forget what our newly elected President, Donald Trump said in May. "I will terminate Congestion Pricing in my first week back in Office!!" We expect nothing less!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistoosyonkers@aol.com, or friend him on Facebook Eric Schoen...just look for him in the picture with Joan Rivers!

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Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

SATURDAY, NOV. 16

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268

The History and Highlights of Lasdon, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Tour the William and Mildred Memorial Garden, magnolia trees, lilacs, conifers and azalea garden.

Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/the-history-and-highlights-of-lasdon-2/2024-11-16/>

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720

Winter Duck Migration Observation, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Look through a tripod scope to observe the behavior and movements of these waterfowl visitors. Please bring binoculars.

Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains: (914) 428-1005

Intro to Outdoor Skills, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Learn the skills necessary to set up camp, start a fire, tie useful knots and read a map. Recommended for ages 8 and up.

Merestead Estate, Mount Kisco: (914) 864-7958

Naturalist's Choice at Merestead, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Join a County naturalist or curator on a moderate hike with some inclines to discover nature's surprises while also learning a bit about Merestead's beautiful grounds. Meet at the carriage house on the south side of Byram Lake Road. Foul weather will cancel the event.

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466

Take Out the Trash!, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Help keep our salt marsh beautiful by collecting trash left by the tides. It's a great way to have fun, get some exercise and give something back to the earth.

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268

Holiday Wreath Decorating Workshop, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Teens and adults can celebrate the holiday season by making their own holiday wreaths. \$80 per session. Register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/series/holiday-wreath-decorating-workshop/> Limited availability.

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050.

Thanksgiving Cook 'n' Share, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Join us to cook in advance some farm-fresh Thanksgiving sides to share with a neighbor, friend or someone else who may appreciate a home-cooked meal this holiday season. Free. Pre-register <https://hilltophanoverfarm.org/events/event/2024/11/16/thanksgiving-cook-n-share/502529>

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Somers: (914) 864-7282

Book Buddies, 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. Come into one of our animal enclosures and encourage your child to read in a unique atmosphere. Bring your favorite books or pick from our collection! \$10 fee for a 30-minute time slot; rain or shine, so please dress appropriately. Also: Dec. 14, 28. Pre-register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/book-buddies-program-at-muscote-farm-tickets-1010582548607?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720

Remember Fall Shelter Building, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. This popular program brings people together by working alongside each other to create a structure in less than two hours!

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851

Naturalist's Choice Hike, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Join our staff on a guided, 1.5-mile hike around the Preserve to learn about the park and the creatures living in it. Hiking shoes and a water bottle are recommended. Hike is steep and narrow in some places.

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466

History of Marshlands Hike, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Take a walk with us to learn about Marshlands' fascinating history.

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268

Lasdon Green Squad, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Every Saturday through Dec. 7. Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/lasdon-green-squad-2/2024-11-16/>

SUNDAY, NOV. 17

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268

Yoga in the Gardens, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. A gentle discovery of the amazing benefits of a yoga practice. \$25 through \$180. Also: Nov. 24. Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/yoga-in-the-gardens/2024-11-17/>

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Somers: (914) 864-7282

Farmers Market, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Today is our final 2024 farmers market, which supports farmers and sustainable efforts in our area and features more than 25 local vendors. Get details <https://www.muscotefarm.org/markets/farmers-market-information.html>

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268

Gardening Sundays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/gardening-sundays/2024-11-17/>

Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River: (914) 864-7322

Fall Ecosystems Exploration, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Join us for a guided hike through our changing environment to see how the life around us prepares for winter.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The 2025 budget places a significant emphasis on the need for fair and affordable housing. The County will be launching the Office of Housing Counsel to provide grants for legal services and eviction diversion. Also, \$50 million has been allocated for affordable housing development. Additionally, we are continuing funding for various housing subsidy and eviction prevention programs including \$500 thousand for on-call planning consultants to expedite implementation of affordable housing and flood mitigation projects.

The Building & Realty Institute of Westchester CEO Tim Foley said: "Few counties across New York State can claim the level of investment in housing affordability over the past several years that Westchester can. The proposed budget builds on strategies with a proven track record, like the New Lands Acquisition fund for affordable housing, the Housing Infrastructure Fund, and the Office of Housing Counsel, which can facilitate settlements in disputes between tenants and property owners, keeping both parties out of the morass of housing court. At a time when housing is one of the top affordability concerns nationwide, the proposed budget puts the concerns of current and future homeowners and renters front and center."

The County will also be enhancing the Fair Housing Community programming through the revitalized Human Rights Commission.

PUBLIC SAFETY & PROBATION & EMERGENCY SERVICES

The proposed 2025 budget is the fourth consecutive budget that provides record funding of \$303 million for public safety. Funding consists of:

- \$78 million for County Police
- \$161 million for Department of Correction
- \$46 million for Probation
- \$18 million for Emergency Services

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Terrance Raynor said: "This proposed budget ensures that the Department of Public Safety will continue to be fully staffed and able to provide the uniformed and investigative services that are critical to keeping Westchester safe. It enables us to fulfill our primary responsibilities and also provide vital support to municipal police departments in our County. I am grateful to the County Executive for the support he continually demonstrates for our Department and its officers."

The budget also includes funding for a new class of correction officers and 308 sworn police officers. Additionally, Westchester County continues its strong commitment to programs and services to assist victims of Domestic Violence with over \$5 million for legal, therapeutic, medical and training programs.

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Environment and climate resiliency initiatives include the Municipal EV charging grant program, Climate Action Council's planning institute technical assistance for NYS grants for municipalities, expansion of free compost giveaway days, continuation of the municipal food waste program and institution of several new recycling programs including fats, oil and grease (FOGs) recycling at the Household Material Recovery Facility.

Director of Energy Conservation and Sustainability Peter McCartt said: "The County is ever constant on adding sustainable infrastructure, programs, and initiatives for our government operations as well as for our municipal partners and the residents of Westchester. We truly are on the forefront of innovative measures that help the businesses, towns, and people here in New York State and the U.S. for the betterment of the local and global environment."

Executive Director of Sustainable Westchester, Inc. Noam Bramson said: "The proposed 2025 budget builds on Westchester County's impressive record of environmental leadership through both ongoing and new initiatives. We look forward to continuing our strong partnership in support of clean energy, green workforce development, waste reduction, and other critical objectives that improve the health, vitality, fairness, and sustainability of our region."

Additionally, 304 of the County's fleet of 325 buses are now electric-hybrid or fully electric greatly reducing our reliance on fossil fuels. The remaining 21 diesel buses will be replaced with electric-hybrid or fully electric buses in 2025. Over 600 new EV chargers are in process of being installed all across the County for public use.

CHILD CARE AND FOOD SECURITY

The 2025 Budget also addresses affordable child care and food security. The County has earmarked, \$78 million for childcare subsidies, an increase of \$22 million from the prior year. Child Care Council of Westchester, Inc. Executive Director Kathleen Halas said: "Once again, Westchester County demonstrates its leadership on child care with a continued historic investment. Recognizing that child care costs pose a serious challenge for many household budgets, Westchester County has significantly reduced the affordability barrier, enabling many more parents to enter and remain in the jobs on which we all depend such as healthcare, education, hospitality, retail and more. On behalf of the parents who can go to work confident that their children are also safe, cared for and learning, thank you!"

of County Executive. Ken understands our residents' needs and knows how to get things done."

New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said: "I've known Ken for years and I know that he has a deep understanding of Westchester's needs and a track record of delivering meaningful results. Ken will make an outstanding County Executive, and I'm proud to support him."

New York State Senator Shelley Mayer said: "Ken knows how to make government work for the common good. He listens to county residents from Mt. Vernon to North Salem and will make sure county government delivers the services we want and need. Ken is committed to working with each of our cities, towns and villages to address their challenges and move Westchester forward for all its residents. That is why I am proud to endorse him for County Executive."

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said that he will not run for Westchester County Executive in 2025, and looks forward to serving Yonkers during the remaining three years of his current term as Mayor.

At the same time, said Spano, he intends to sit down with Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, who is the only announced candidate for County Executive thus far, to hear how Jenkins believes he can deliver for Yonkers should he win the position.

"Yonkers is the largest municipality in Westchester and is New York State's third largest city, making the City's support essential for any County Executive candidate to succeed," noted Spano, adding, "Ken Jenkins is from Yonkers so he knows the City's needs and challenges. I look forward to hearing his agenda to meet those needs and keep Yonkers moving in the right direction."

Spano said that how the County spends its substantial housing, infrastructure and social services budgets are critical to the people of Yonkers.

"The next County Executive is going to have to win two elections in 2025, possibly three if there is a primary," said Spano, adding, "Yonkers is ready to support those who support us."

Current County Executive George Latimer will be vacating the position to take a seat in the House of Representatives in January. The Westchester County Legislature will name an interim County Executive who will serve until a special election early in the year. The winner will have to run again in the general election taking place in November of 2025. In addition, there could be a party primary to determine the candidate for the general election.

Thomas Meier, who Chairs the Yonkers Democratic City Committee, stated, "Yonkers has made tremendous progress under Mike Spano, and I am glad to hear he wants to continue that progress. I also agree that Yonkers needs to hear from Ken Jenkins and any other candidate seeking to become County Executive and how he or she will work with our City on behalf of its residents."

Spano concluded, "Thank you to all those who reached out to me and encouraged me to run for County Executive. I am committed to Yonkers for the remainder of my term."

No republican has announced for CE.

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Unite NY Releases 2024 New York State Election Results Analysis

Unite New York, a nonprofit, nonpartisan movement focused on engaging and empowering voters on important issues of reform, released a statement on the 2024 election and detailed analysis, as well as key takeaways from Election Day.

Unite NY's Executive Director Timothy Dunn made the following statement about this year's Election Day:

"There are plenty of lessons to be learned from this year's election, and it actually started before so-called Election Day. Early voting saw an increase of nearly half a million votes compared to 2020. New Yorkers want to vote on their own time and early voting meets that need. We need our state lawmakers to recognize that to boost voter turnout and engagement, we need to make important changes to the voting process. That includes more ballot initiatives like we saw on this year's ballot. Proposal 1, along with the presidential election are two of the reasons why 64% of voters turned out to the poll. And while that number was higher than 2022, voter turnout in 2024 was actually lower than 2020. If New York wants to get serious about ending voter apathy, we need give people a reason to go to the polls and that starts with important reforms like term limits, rank choice voting, and perhaps most importantly, allowing all voters to participate in primaries. We look forward to partnering with our state lawmakers willing to embrace these reforms and improving democracy in New York."

Here are some additional key data points from this year's election and attached you will find detailed analysis of voter turnout based on publicly available information from the New York State Board of Elections.

In 2024: 800,000 fewer votes were cast for President in New York compared to 2020

Kamala Harris won New York State by a margin of 54.64-43.27 (11%), despite Democrats outnumbering Republicans by more than 2-1.

Prop 1 was approved by a margin of 56.58-34.94 (22%)

Five races were competitive:

Just 3 (of 26) House Races were decided by less than 5% of the vote. The most expensive house primary in history in June resulted in a near 40% win for the democratic nominee.

Just 2 (of 63) State Senate races were decided by less than 5% of the vote, with nearly 1/3 uncontested (19 of 63 with no opponents) and the 2/3 with competition saw an average margin of victory of 24%.

Only 11 (of 150) Assembly races were decided by less than 5% of the vote, with more than 1/3 uncontested (57 out of 150 with no opponents) and the 2/3 with competition seeing an average margin of victory of 27%

More competitive elections entice more people to cast their vote

Nearly 40% of ballots cast for President featured undervotes down the ballot, with lower participation rates in 95 of the 249 down-ballot House and State Legislature races.

Unite NY is a movement focused on engaging and empowering voters on important issues of reform that will allow for more voices and more choices and ultimately, more democracy. The membership organization seeks a more fair, open, and representative democracy that results in the voice of voters being heard by evolving the electoral system so that officials put what more voters want ahead of party interests. Learn more at UniteNY.org.

Empowered Women Empower the World
 JOIN US FOR A FREE EVENT
Women's Health Advocacy Forum
NOVEMBER 23, 2024
12:00 PM
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 AT THE RIVERFRONT
 1 LARKIN CENTER
 YONKERS, NY 10701
 (Light Refreshments served)

OUR ESTEEMED PANELISTS:
DR. SHERLITA AMLER
 The Westchester County Health Commissioner

DR. ASHANDA SAINT JEAN
 • Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Health Alliance Hospitals of the Hudson Valley
 • Associate Professor-Department of OB/GYN at New York Medical College
 • New York State and New York City Maternal Mortality Review Boards

PRESENTED BY:

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
 WOMEN'S ADVISORY BOARD

Nader Sayegh, County Clerk, continued from pg 1-

Sayegh's lengthy resume of service includes success as a Teacher and Yonkers School Principal for 30 years, College Professor and President of the Yonkers Board of Education. Along the way he also acquired a degree in International Affairs from Fairleigh Dickinson University and a Juris Doctor of Law from Pace University.

Sayegh is completing his sixth year in the NYS Assembly. He overachieved in his most recent victory, defeating John Isaac by a 56%-44% margin, impressing many democrats in Yonkers and across the county.

Yonkers City Clerk Vincent Spano, who was considering a run for County Clerk, said, "While I have carefully considered a run for County Clerk, an office that I hold dear to my heart as my father once served as County Clerk for 12 years, I have decided that I would like to remain focused on serving the people of Yonkers."

"I am proud of the progress I have made as City Clerk, continuously offering more services such as our new Passport Division, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Division, and E-ZPass Division. In addition, I have implemented a new Ai system for council meetings where residents can listen to meetings in over 57 languages to provide as much as possible to the great residents of this city. I look forward to continuing this progress," said City Clerk Spano.

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THE TOBY PROJECT
 The City of Yonkers and The Toby Project
 Are Offering
 A Free Mobile Spay and Neuter Clinic in Yonkers
 For Feral/Abandoned/Homeless Cats
Saturday, November 23rd
8:00 AM

You must be a resident of Yonkers to participate.
 Capacity is limited, spots must be reserved by calling 646-306-3738
 This free clinic in the Toby Project's mobile surgical truck is only for feral cats, no owned animals/pets.
 Cats must be in traps. No walk ins, by appointment only.
 Vaccines, snap tests, revolution etc available on the day of surgery.
 Recovery space must be provided by rescuers.
 Call to reserve your spot! Address in Yonkers will be given when booking appointment

www.tobyproject.org

MAYOR MIKE SPANO

Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy Searching for Holiday Tree Donation for Grand Illumination

Congratulations to Joe McMahon for Selection Into the Yonkers Sports Hall of Fame



Inaugurated in 2015, the Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy's Grand Holiday Illumination has quickly become a Yonkers tradition, and thousands of visitors come to enjoy the spectacle. Come for FREE and see the Walled Garden lit with more than 100,000 lights and listen to holiday music from many traditions.

The 2024 Grand Holiday Illumination opens on Saturday, December 7 at 5:30 p.m. and is then open every night through Monday, January 1, from 4:30 until 8:00 p.m., free to the public with NO RESERVATIONS required. Illumination is OPEN on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Our Grand Holiday Illumination is only three and a half weeks away, and we are on the lookout for a holiday tree to be installed in the center of the Walled Garden. Every year, we have been fortunate to receive a tree donated by a local homeowner, often because the tree has become too big for their property. We need an evergreen tree around 21-25 feet tall that will fit through the Walled Garden gate. If you have or know of a tree that might be donated, please contact Timothy Tilghman at ttilghman@untermyergardens.org or 845-642-3688; he will meet with you to evaluate the tree's suitability.

Our Illumination features more than 100,000 lights draped over the magnificent architectural and horticultural features of our Indo-Persian Walled Garden. We install them ourselves, which takes the gardeners about three full weeks, followed by their disassembly during much of January. Once again, students from Saunders High School in Yonkers will be fabricating framework for a new light display on the lower terrace. It's quite an operation!



Above: Mayor Mike Spano, Parks Commissioner Steve Sansone with Joe McMahon. Below: McMahon with some of his many student athletes who came out to congratulate him on this well deserved honor



We have a new member of the Yonkers Sports Hall of Fame! Congratulations, Coach Joseph McMahon! He's a life-long resident of Yonkers and began his distinguished coaching career with the St. Anthony's School Track Team, dedicating his time to developing young athletes until 2002. As the 66th Inductee into the Yonkers Sports Hall of Fame, he has helped the City's youth with lessons of educational value, sportsmanship, and leadership through athletics for the past 35 years.-McMahon's students wrote, An exemplary resume spanning over 35 years of coaching, stewardship and dedication to the City of Yonkers athletes, several current and former Notre Dame Track athletes were on hand to celebrate the great Coach McMahon.

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