

# Yonkers Rising

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Friday November 17-24 2023

## Santa Sightings in Yonkers Coming Soon



above: Saint Nicholas will make his yearly visit to Philipse Manor Hall Dec. 2-see story on pg 3



Santa is expected to help light up the tree at the Cross County Center this Friday, Nov. 17-see story on pg 3

## Yonkers City Council Unanimously Reappoints Vincent Spano Yonkers City Clerk



City Clerk  
Vincent Spano

On Nov. 14, the Yonkers City Council voted unanimously to reappoint Vincent Spano as City Clerk for a five-year term. Every Councilmember took the opportunity to reflect on Mr. Spano's term in office and speak to the services that his office provides. Citing modernizations as well as expressing gratitude for his support to the Council, every member lauded City Clerk Spano on a multitude of improvements made since becoming City Clerk.

"I am humbled by the confidence that the Council has expressed by giving me the opportunity to serve the public for another five years," Mr. Spano said, "Mostly, I am proud of the bipartisan recognition for all of the hard work and improvements our team has achieved."

The Council spoke effusively about the modernizations and improvements enacted by Mr. Spano. During his tenure as City Clerk, Mr. Spano has added several services for the convenience of the public. Most notably, the City Clerk added a successful Passport Acceptance Agency that attracts individuals from the City of Yonkers and its neighboring municipalities. This agency has processed over 8,000 passport applications and doubled the revenue of the Office of the City Clerk. Other services added were EZ-Pass, extension of office hours, and online requests for vital records. Additionally, it was noted that the New York Times recognized the City Clerk and its staff for its efforts during Covid.

Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy said, "Mr. Spano has done an excellent job and continues to lead the way with various additions to the City Clerk's Office. The creation of the Passport Acceptance Agency proved City Clerk Spano is a trailblazer, and his vision for the office continues to set us apart from other municipalities."

Mr. Spano is acutely aware of the importance of every vital record, license, or permit to every person who visits the office. "The public visits us for many different reasons important to them, so we always strive to provide the most professional and friendly service possible," said Mr. Spano. "I am thankful for the work and support of my deputies and our diligent staff. I came into this job looking to make lasting improvements, and I am committed to finding more innovative ways to benefit the people of Yonkers."

## Hollywood on the Hudson -Yonkers Expands! \$100 Million Studio in NW Yonkers the Latest



Rendering of Mediapro Studios-Great Point Studio 20,000 location in NW Yonkers

By Dan Murphy

The two biggest takeaways from the announcement last week that Mediapro Studios in collaboration with Great Point Studios,broke ground on a \$100 million, 20,000 square foot studio at 1500 North Broadway are:

The new studio marks the third in Yonkers in three years, and the hope is to create an Eastern Seaboard hub for TV and Movie production.

Great Point Studio Proudtions CEO Robert Halm said at a recent event, "The No. 1 place in the United States to make film and television, that's Yonkers now. That's where people are coming from, and that's where they're going to be coming from in the future."

Great Point Studios has existing long term partnerships with Lionsgate, and Syracuse University. MediaPro North America is a provider of Spanish programming. The North Broadway campus will feature three sound stages totaling 20,000 square feet, as well as post-production facilities and other amenities to support a range of media production and entertainment options, and is set to open in the fall of 2024.

"The addition of Mediapro to Yonkers' growing film and production landscape further demonstrates our city's reimagined approach to redevelopment, creating local jobs and economic vitality," said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. "We are thankful to Mediapro at Great Point Studios for investing in Yonkers and expanding its footprint here, truly making us Hollywood on Hudson."

"This groundbreaking is a testament to our commitment to innovation and excellence in the world of media and entertainment," says Irantzu Diez-Gamboa CEO, MEDIAPRO North America. "We are excited to be part of this expansion that will not only bolster our industry but also contribute to the growth and prosperity of Yonkers and the entire region"

"We're thrilled to partner with Mediapro and expand our production facility footprint in Yonkers. Mayor Spano and the entire Yonkers community has been incredibly supportive and welcoming as they share in our vision for regional economic growth." says Robert Halmi, Founder & CEO of Great Point Studios.

continued on pg 2-

## Remembering JFK in Yonkers



By Dan Murphy

As we approach the 60th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, (Nov. 22, 1963) we remember then candidate Kennedy's visit to Yonkers on October 19, 1960. Kennedy is picture above traveling through Getty Square and later made brief comments.

"Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.I have come here today to request your help in this election. Whenever it rains, the Republicans go inside, but we stay outside and fight. (Applause)

"We are up here today in a campaign. We are up here today in Yonkers in a campaign to ask your support, to ask you to join us, to ask you to build a stronger country. I ask your help.

"Our obligation is to build a stronger country. We seek in our party today to serve the United States, to move it forward, and rain or shine, good times or bad, this country is going to move in the Sixties. Thank you."

Pictured with the President and leading his motorcade is Yonkers Police officer Joe Greco.

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Yonkers Fugitive Caught with Anonymous Tip

Yonkers Filmmakers Showcase Their Works at YoFiFest 2023

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Did you know you can submit FULLY ANONYMOUS tips to the YPD? 45-Year-Old Dwayne Rodriguez does now. Mr. Rodriguez had a Parole warrant and was hiding from the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (NYS DOCCS) upstate in Broome County, NY. That was until a tipster contacted YPD with his new location. Our team forwarded this information to DOCCS and, to Mr. Rodriguez's surprise, DOCCS swooped in the next day and safely apprehended Mr. Rodriguez to bring him to his new home- Jail.

Our TipSubmit platform is operated by Motorola Solutions and is truly 100% anonymous. We can text you back to get more information, but there is no way for us to know the identity of the tipster unless they tell us.

Anonymous tips can be texted to "YPD" + Your Tip to 274637, or by scanning the QR code shown above. Keep in mind that these anonymous tips are intended to share information about criminal incidents or ongoing investigations where the tipster would like to remain anonymous; it is not a substitute for our Police/Fire call center. Please do not submit tips for in-progress events- the fastest way for you to get help during EMERGENCIES or ACTIVE CRIMES is to CALL 9-1-1.

With that said, reporting quality-of-life issues such as parking violations or loud noise via this service may actually delay the response of a Police unit. To report a traffic violation or quality-of-life complaint, please call (914) 377-7900 to speak with a police dispatcher.

*Yonkers Hollywood, continued from pg 1-*

been incredibly supportive and welcoming as they share in our vision for regional economic growth." said Halmi. Great Point Studios opened its \$500 million Lionsgate Studios in downtown Yonkers in 2022. And iPark recently purchased a 28-acre campus at 463 Hawthorne Avenue from nonprofit Rising Ground for \$52.6 million, with plans to build more film studio space in the Ludlow section of SW Yonkers.

"There is a shortage of big, purpose-built stages, particularly in the Northeast," Halmi said. Lionsgate became the anchor tenant in first location downtown, occupying seven of its 11 soundstages. That location will feature eight, 20,000 square foot stages, one 30,000 square foot stage and two, 10,000 foot stages. Indeed, Yonkers has become Hollywood on the Hudson.



*Helado, above, and The Cranberry Hour are two film by Yonkers filmmakers that you can see this weekend at YoFiFest*



On Saturday, November 18, as part of its Locals Weekend, the fest is running its "DIY: Done In Yonkers" showcase. These independent short movies are all by local filmmakers and cover a wide range of topics and styles, including dramas, comedies, sci-fi, animation and experiment work.

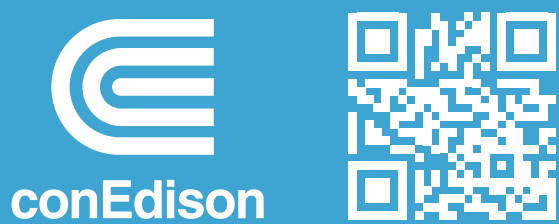
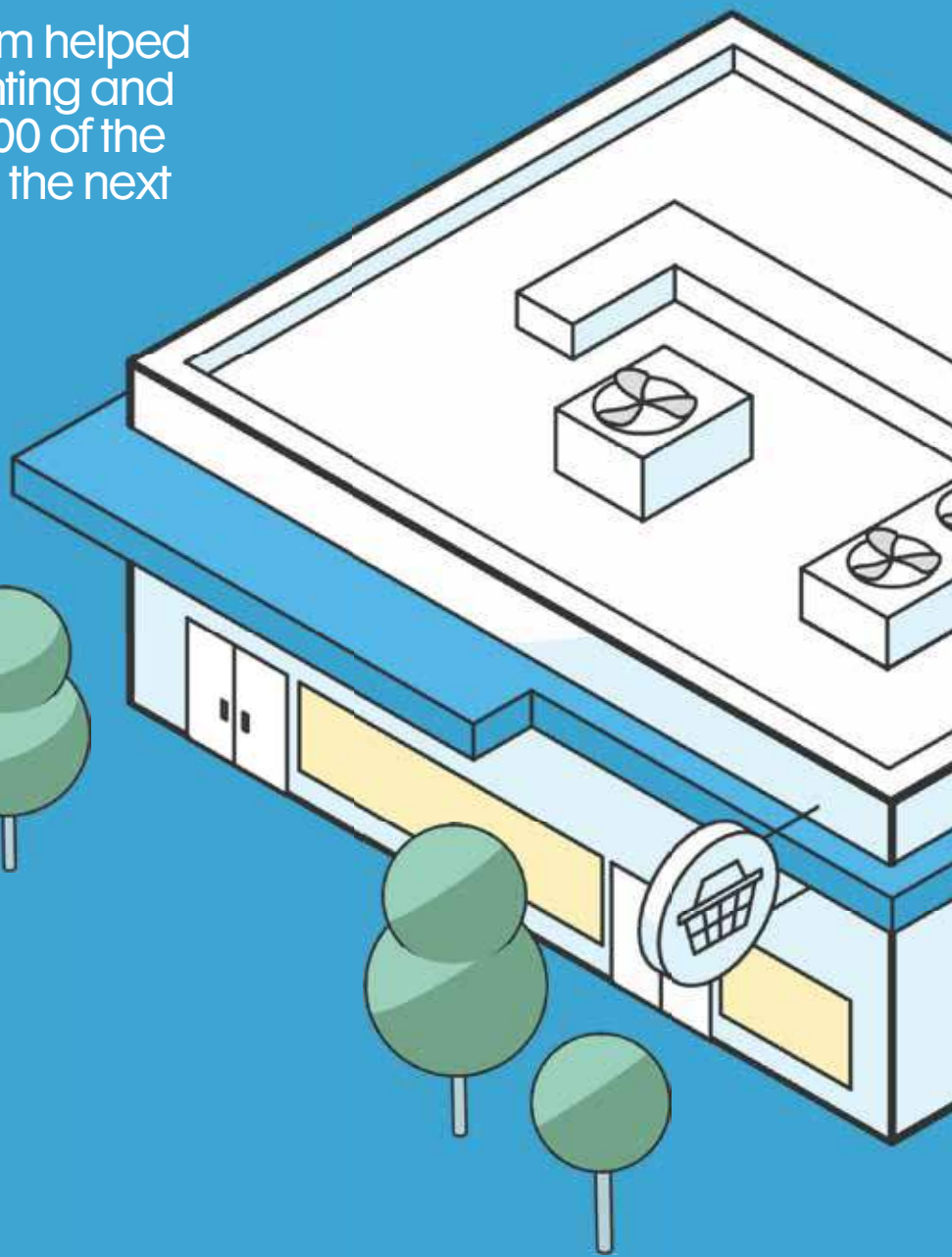
- Helado, directed by Melissa Rodriguez, is about a young woman who reaches her breaking point after she's sent to fetch ice cream for the family late at night.
- Lisa, directed by Kingsley Osei-Abrah, is a comedic drama of a man who's able to let go of pain he has held for a long time.
- Running, directed by Louise Olay, is a live-action-meets-animation-musical about the struggles of a first generation Filipino artist in pursuit of artistry.
- Some Kind of Heavenly Fire, directed by Eric Vincent Riley, is a sci-fi, family drama involving a blackout, levitation and extra-terrestrials.
- The Cranberry Hour is an experimental Narrative with Comedy & Horror made via long distance collaboration between artists G. W. Duncanson and Andy Heck Boyd. It's shot in Yonkers parks and streets on Super16mm film.

*continued on pg 3-*

# Thousands of businesses and nonprofits are saving money by making energy-efficient upgrades. Will you join them?

Con Edison's Small-Medium Business program helped Foodtown of Prospect Heights upgrade lighting and refrigeration equipment by covering \$97,000 of the total \$139,000 cost - saving them \$69,000 on the next year's electricity bill!

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## Citizens Union Analysis of Nov. 2023 Elections Finds Significant Drop Off in Voter Turnout

Across New York State, voter turnout was significantly lower than last year's election, including in jurisdictions with important local races

To view Citizens Union's analysis, click [here](#)

In last week's elections, voter turnout decreased significantly across New York State, including in areas with important local races, according to an analysis from Citizens Union. The analysis compared voter turnout in key races for county and city offices in 2023 with voter turnout in overlapping areas in November 2022, finding that turnout in last year's elections was higher by 42 percent to 169 percent.

According to unofficial election night results, only 18 percent of eligible New York voters cast their ballots in the November 2023 general election. This highlights the need to shift local elections to even-numbered years and consolidate them with federal or statewide races, which see higher voter turnout.

This year, the legislature passed S3505B/A4282, legislation that would move certain New York county and town elections to even-numbered years. The bill is awaiting Governor Hochul's signature. A recent Siena College poll found that moving local elections to even-numbered years has support across the political spectrum, with a majority of Democrats and a plurality of Independents and Republicans favoring the policy. In January, Citizens Union released a report outlining the benefits of consolidating local races with elections for statewide or federal offices.

"Low voter turnout in last week's off-year election demonstrates the need to consolidate local elections with higher-profile races that see higher turnout," said Betsy Gotbaum, Executive Director of Citizens Union. "Moving local elections to even-numbered years will engage more voters and make the electorate more representative of the population. We urge Governor Hochul to sign legislation to move county and town elections to even-numbered years, a move that will strengthen local democracy across the state."

In Yonkers, only 24 percent of voters turned out to vote for Mayor this year compared to 43 percent for the race for Governor in 2022.

### Fireside Storytelling at Lenoir

Saturday, Nov. 18, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851. Join us around the warm campfire for a fire-building lesson and some great nature-related children's stories! For ages 2 and older.

### Santa Coming, continued from pg 1-

St. Nicholas Day Celebration: Saturday, December 2, from 12 noon-4pm at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site. This free event, also known as Sinterklaas, this holiday is based on the Catholic feast day of Turkish bishop St. Nicholas of Myra, which in the 17th and 18th centuries became a popular Dutch holiday.

Join us for a visit from St. Nicholas himself, historical games, ornament crafts, gingerbread decorating, live music, and more! Sponsored by the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall. Visit [Philipsemanorhall.org](http://Philipsemanorhall.org) for more information.

The Cross County Center will host their annual Tree Lighting this Friday November 17, from 6pm-8pm. Bringing our community together for an evening of joy with live music and the following activities:

Live music with the FDR band, Ice skating with Olaf, Strolling entertainers, Electric train ride and a Holiday food truck market.

Visit <https://www.crosscountycenter.com/>, for more information.

### YoFiFest, continued from pg 2-

Besides the DIY: Done In Yonkers showcase, other films with a local connection include documentaries by Yonkers residents, including Ben Fraternal's Inside the Last Polaroid Factory in The World and Simon Nathan Feldman's Revival about the Volunteers and Musicians at Clearwaters's Great Hudson River Revival Music Festival. Other Yonkers-connected work include Yonkers' natives Zef Cota's film Westway (Saturday, November 18 at 4PM), Chandler Wild's The Dancing Monkey (Saturday, November 18 at 2PM) and Zen Brownie, Alison Bartlett's documentary about Yonkers' Greyston Bakery, narrated by Oscar Winner Jeff Bridges and featuring ice cream icons Ben and Jerry. Visit [YoFiest.org](http://YoFiest.org) for more information.

## It's Beginning to Look a Lot like Thanksgiving



By Eric Wolf Schoen

Where does time go? It seems like only yesterday that we were carving the Thanksgiving 2022 turkey dishing out the sweet potatoes with marshmallows, stuffing and vegetables! And here we go again, the 2023 turkey and accompaniments will be on our plates next week! Is it possible that a year has gone by? Did someone take a month out of the calendar?

Though Tom Turkey may not have gone up in price a lot, the price of everything that goes with it has skyrocketed out of sight. No afternoon delight! These price increases have been blamed on everything. I was looking at the leftover from Halloween Reese's Peanut Butter Cups (actually in the shape of a turtle) that were half price at the CVS. Six turtles for a little under \$5!

I couldn't believe that price so I asked the salesclerk if the actual price was \$10 for the package. She said yes it was. Thank god practically no children ring my doorbell. The price for candy is insane! I figured let me treat myself to the package, eating only one turtle at 175 calories a day. I opened the package and the turtles which are the same thing as the cups tasted different. Same thing for a carton of dad's favorite, Breyer's Ice Cream which I haven't had in years but tasted different. Lemon Ice cups same thing.

Have they reformulated the ice cream, lemon ice and Reese's? They didn't seem as sweet as in the past. Could they have cut the sugar due to its' increasing cost? Something is up with these food items as well as others I enjoyed which just don't taste the same. Price goes up, quality goes down. Wonderful.

So a warning. Don't be shocked if the foods you have traditionally enjoyed cost more and don't taste the same. With many of these items I don't believe that ingredient costs have gone up in price because of the economy, inflation, the pandemic or some other reason. I think manufacturers are just trying to screw us. By the way, Stew Leonard, Jr. says buy a fresh turkey over frozen. I agree with him!

Dining out for Thanksgiving? Not everyone in the world eats turkey. Most prix fixe menus included selections other than turkey in the past. I looked at a list this year of restaurants offering Thanksgiving dinner. The only thing on the prix fixe meal as a main course was turkey. The price? \$100 + per person. Now turkey is turkey. Before you go out to eat and spend \$100 for turkey, please consider buying a whole one and eating at home. And where did pumpkin cheesecake come from. Is there a law that says pumpkin must be in everything for Thanksgiving?

Stores have been having Black Friday sales for a month. The big Black Friday bargain doesn't seem to exist anymore. Fortunately most malls and retail stores are closed Thanksgiving Day opening early Friday morning. It allows their staff to enjoy the holiday as they should. But you know, in a strange way I miss the stores opening at midnight Friday morning and standing in the cold waiting to purchase that big screen television set. Crazy me!

People travel Sunday to Wednesday before Thanksgiving. But everyone wants to come home on Sunday. Remember that when planning your travels. Be careful driving. I can't believe the crazy way people drive during a regular day. It is worse on a holiday. Try to drive off hours when the crazies are not out there. And pray a police officer is nearby because when people see police on the road they behave like ladies and gentlemen.

A record number of people are expected to be on the roads and using our airports this Thanksgiving. Check the rules for parking because without a reservation on site at our airports the prices are more insane then they usually are. John Kennedy and Fiorello LaGuardia are turning in their graves when they see the prices their namesake airports charge to park.

As we go to press the lights are being placed on the Rockefeller Christmas tree and Wednesday was the first traffic red light alert day. Have you ever seen Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in person? We live so close to what people

continued on pg 4-

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**Webster Bank Renews Support of YPIE Finance Lab with \$50,000 Grant**



**Yonkers students develop financial literacy skills through the Webster/YPIE Finance Lab.**

On Nov. 13, Webster Bank announced a \$50,000 grant for the Webster/Yonkers Partners in Education (YPIE) Finance Lab. The grant will continue to provide financial education to Yonkers students, empowering them to make informed decisions about their finances and future. The Webster-YPIE Finance Lab launched in May 2022 to help underserved high school students in the Yonkers school system.

“The Finance Labs empower Yonker’s youth, equipping them with the skills they need for a healthy financial future. Making financially sound decisions for themselves and their families can help them achieve their life goals, and drive economic vitality in their communities,” said Marissa Weidner, Webster Bank Chief Corporate Responsibility Officer. She added, “We are pleased to continue our strong partnership with YPIE. It has been wonderful to see this program working to achieve our goal of financial empowerment for all.”

YPIE is one of six Finance Lab collaborations Webster has implemented throughout its footprint, furthering its commitment to provide students a unique opportunity to learn about finance, foster youth leadership, and build its future workforce.

“The Webster/YPIE Finance Lab has given Yonkers students invaluable skills and insights into the world of finance as they embark on their college journeys,” said Sam Wallis, YPIE Executive Director. “We’re grateful to Webster Bank for their continued generous support of YPIE students and for opening exciting opportunities for them to pursue in college and their professional careers.”

The YPIE Finance Lab is a vital resource for Yonkers students, offering hands-on learning experiences and real-world applications of financial concepts. Through interactive workshops, students gain practical knowledge about budgeting, saving, investing, and other important financial skills. The Finance Lab also provides opportunities for students to explore careers in finance and develop leadership skills.

Webster Bank was recently honored by Yonkers Partners in Education with its Corporate Supporter award at the organization’s annual gala. The event was a celebration of YPIE’s 16 years of helping students on the path to college success. Guests had the opportunity to interact with YPIE students, who enthusiastically showcased their projects and shared their experiences.

According to Webster’s recently announced Financial Empowerment Study, an in-depth, independent report that examined financial challenges and literacy of consumers, just 27% of U.S. consumers report receiving any type of financial education in middle or high school. The impact of these courses is clear and validates Webster’s commitment to engaging in community partnerships supporting financial education. Those who received financial education in middle and high school years are more likely to feel fully in control of their finances (49%) compared to those who did not receive any financial literacy courses (25%). Visit YPIE.org for more information.

**City of Yonkers Continues Perfect Streak as One of the Top US Cities Exhibiting LGBTQ+ Inclusion**



**Yonkers Receives Perfect Score of 100 for 9th Year**

View Scorecard at <https://hrc-prod-requests.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/MEI-2023-Assets/MEI-2023-Yonkers-New-York.pdf>

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced today the City of Yonkers’ recognition on the Municipal Equality Index (MEI) report. The MEI examines how inclusive municipal laws, policies and services are for LGBTQ+ people.

The City of Yonkers received a perfect score of 100 joining 129 cities across the nation out of the 506 cities surveyed.

“The City of Yonkers has a longtime commitment to promoting equality and inclusion, regardless of who you love,” said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. “We are a City that celebrates and values all of us, and that continues to be our greatest strength. Our employees, residents and families deserve a safe space that provides opportunities to work, play and live their truth. Our score shows that progress is possible, it’s valued and important to building our community.”

Yonkers was recognized in the following categories:

- ü Non-discrimination laws
- ü Municipality as Employer
- ü Municipal Services
- ü Law Enforcement
- ü Leadership on LGBTQ Equality

Anthony Nicodemo, Chair of Mayor Spano’s LGBTQ Advisory Board said, “Under the leadership of Mayor Spano, the LGBTQ community in Yonkers is thriving. He has made a concerted effort to ensure that Yonkers continues its run of a perfect score on the Municipal Equality Index. At a time when the LGBTQ community is under attack, Yonkers is a beacon for inclusion.”

Michael Sabatino, Yonkers Director of Constituent Services and Mayor’s Liaison to the LGBTQ Advisory Board said, “A perfect score for nearly a decade doesn’t happen by accident. I am so proud the City of Yonkers has scored 100% for nine consecutive years. Thank you to Mayor Spano and the City Administrators for making Yonkers a welcoming, accepting City for the LGBTQ community.”

The MEI is a collaboration between the Human Rights Campaign Foundation and the Equality Federation institute. Read the report at [https://reports.hrc.org/municipal-equality-index-2023?\\_ga=2.251727693.512236220.1699973451-1237234965.1699973451#heading-2-executive-summary](https://reports.hrc.org/municipal-equality-index-2023?_ga=2.251727693.512236220.1699973451-1237234965.1699973451#heading-2-executive-summary)

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

around the country and the world are watching and would love the opportunity to see in person. It’s a fun experience for the family- hot chocolate, warm pretzels and chestnuts roasting on the open fire sold by vendors to munch on.

Most places that need volunteers to serve Thanksgiving Dinner have more people than they can use. Remember, there are 364 more days in the year that charities need volunteers. Check on your neighbors and if they are alone invite them to join you at your dining table. Isn’t that what Thanksgiving is all about?

There are discount tickets with the exception of a few big hits for all the shows on Broadway. The new Barry Manilow show, Harmony is perfect given the times we are living in. In Yonkers check out the Showcase Cinemas movie plan which brings the cost of a movie down to a little over \$5 a person. Other movie theaters have similar discount plans.

Yes, the world we live in is a little topsy turvy right now. Organizations sponsor days when people can do something good for charity. Every day is a good day for you to help individuals and organizations in our community. Do something good everyday and you will feel better yourself.

We pray for peace in the world and an end to all the conflicts that exist. From my family to yours a very Happy Thanksgiving filled with good health, happiness and love.

Reach Eric Schoen at [thistoisonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistoisonkers@aol.com), follow him on Twitter (X) @ericyonkers or friend him on Facebook Eric Schoen...just look for him in the picture with Joan Rivers!

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# On This Day in Yonkers History...

# Former Westchester Deputy County Exec & Yonkers City Manager Arrested for Hit & Run



Actor, author, editor, humorist and Yonkers resident Robert Benchley



mug shot of Neil DeLuca

By Dan Murphy

The news that former Westchester County Deputy County Executive Neil DeLuca was arrested and charged with leaving the scene of an accident after striking a 66-year old woman was disturbing.

The incident happened in the Town of Mount Pleasant on October 21. DeLuca is accused of hitting the woman at 7:45 pm on Bradhurst Avenue. Another motorist witnessed the accident and called the police.

An investigation by Mount Pleasant police found a piece of the car that struck the woman. Further investigation identified the vehicle involved and DeLuca was found to be an owner of the vehicle. Police interviewed DeLuca and he was placed under arrest.

DeLuca was arraigned in Mount Pleasant Town Court on October 22 and charged with a felony charge of leaving the scene of a serious injury motor vehicle accident and with unlicensed operation.

The woman was taken to Westchester Medical Center with serious injuries.

“As chief of the department, I could not be more proud of all involved personnel to bring this investigation to a successful conclusion culminating in the arrest of this offender,” said Mount Pleasant Police Chief Paul Oliva. “Our thoughts and prayers are with the victim.”

Prior to serving as Deputy County Executive under County Executive Andrew O’Rourke from 1991-1996, DeLuca, 74, served as Yonkers City Manager from 1988 to 199. He is President of the DeLuca Group, a real estate development consulting firm.

Mt. Pleasant Judge Mark Rubeo also issued an order of protection preventing DeLuca with having any contact with the victim or witness.

This incident is disturbing because DeLuca is a retired public servant with a generous pension. Due to the injuries sustained by the victim, it is clear that DeLuca knew that an accident had happened but decided to flee.

Police didn’t get to interview DeLuca for 24 hours, preventing DeLuca from being examined for intoxication. He was also charged with driving without a license.

Most retired election officials obey the laws of their community. DeLuca had no regard for the woman he seriously injured. Shame on you-Neil DeLuca.

Monday, November 20th:

1934: Careful investigation by Assistant Corporation Counsel J. Raymond Hannon unearthed a forgotten decision by the Court of Appeals, invalidating the bill introduced by New York City to annex Yonkers. Law Department research started after Bryn Mawr Park resident Clem Roeder criticized City Clerk William McCabe for “jumping the gun.” After the Common Council voted against annexation, McCabe notified State Assembly leadership the City of Yonkers was against the plan. After Roeder claimed many Yonkers residents favored annexation, the City Clerk asked our Legal Department for a legal opinion.

As a result of the department’s work, McCabe was able to remind Roeder New York voters approved a constitutional amendment in 1927 specifically prohibiting annexation without a referendum in the affected municipality. More important, the Court of Appeals ruled in NYC vs the Village of Lawrence, “no home rule bill of political subdivision in the state is effective,” meaning the state legislature could not override wishes of the locality potentially being taken over by another municipality. The NYC attempt to grab Yonkers could not be authorized by the state!

Tuesday, November 21st:

1944: Yonkers school children mounted a “Schools at War” campaign to put schools in the thick of the war; they wanted to purchase war vehicles by selling War Bonds! 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,” and bring home their beloved fathers, brothers, uncles or friends.

1945: Actor, author, editor and humorist Robert Benchley passed away. Benchley, who lived on Pennsylvania Avenue in the Crestwood section of Yonkers, authored more than 600 essays and screenplays. With Dorothy Parker and Alexander Woollcott, he was an original member of the famed Algonquin Round Table, actors and writers whose sharply honed wit and professional accomplishments gained national media attention.

Wednesday, November 22nd:

1943: Six merchants leaving lights on after closing and the Blair Shipyard, not completely dark during Yonkers’ test blackout, had to appear before the Yonkers Civilian Protection authorities to explain why their lights were on.

1946: The Family Service Society of Yonkers announced they purchased Bank President Charles Ketcham’s home on Palisade Avenue for its headquarters. The purchase was made after office rent at 45 South Broadway was increased by almost 700%! While the building was owned by the Westchester Lighting Company, the organization paid \$1000 annually. The company sold the building, and the new owners sharply increased their rent.

Thursday, November 23rd:

1915: Yonkers police launched a drive to keep New York City residents from coming to Yonkers to hunt; Judge Beall gave the first fine, \$260, to a Bronx man for shooting a chipmunk. The man claimed he thought it was a squirrel; State Conservation Laws prohibited shooting chipmunks.

1922: In his response to an appeal for funds, Yonkers elevator executive Alonzo See wrote that he would like to see all women’s colleges burned to the ground and thought college women should be forced to perform manual labor for a year.

Friday, November 24th:

1925: Gene’s Restaurant, 33 South Broadway, was the scene of a testimonial dinner Yonkers Socialists gave for Eugene Debs, the national leader of their party. Dr. Paul Bauerberg and Dr. John Morgan were the keynote speakers.

1950: The largest single group of women to be accepted in the Women Marines in the New York area enlisted for three years at the Marine Corps Recruiting Station in the Post Office Building at the foot of Main Street. After getting last minute instructions from St. Sgt. James Harrington USMC, our Women Marines left for Parris Island for six weeks’ boot training.

Saturday, November 25th:

1942: Harry Sampson, appointed to manage the Yonkers office of the United States Employment Service (USES), called for 400 women to work in Westchester war industries. He found far too few people registered to fill open slots in our wire, food and clothing factories to fill war contracts.

continued on pg 6-

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THE CITY OF YONKERS/YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS, BUREAU OF PURCHASING, One Larkin Center, 3RD Floor, Yonkers, New York 10701 (Located in the Yonkers Riverfront Library Building across from the Metro-North train station) will receive sealed Bids for the following projects until 2:00 PM, on the dates below.

Sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read at the address above in the 3rd Floor Finance Conference Room.

The building is open from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM for receiving packages via courier services and in person. If delivering bids in person, individuals must see the Public Safety Officer in the library atrium, who will contact Purchasing to meet the individual at the 3rd floor elevator.

Those interested in listening to the bid opening and the reading of bids can dial Conference Call number 1-701-802-5221 and enter Access Code 1354203 when prompted.

Solicitation documents are available for downloading from the Empire State Purchasing Group website at <http://www.empirestatebidsystem.com/>. The City welcomes and encourages participation by local and minority and women owned business enterprises.

1. RFB-7062 - Opening date: 12/1/2023: Purchase 2023 Tahoe LT 4WD Vehicle or newer (MM).
2. RFB-7050A - Opening date: 12/1/2023: Purchase of (2) new Ford Transit Passenger Vans T-350 XL AWD - REBID (MM).
3. RFB-7063 - Opening date: 12/13/2023: Provide maintenance and repairs to fuel dispensing equipment and petroleum bulk storage tanks, as needed (KS).
4. RFB-7048A - Opening date: 12/1/2023: Furnish and deliver up to sixty (60) Kintronics, or Yonkers approved equal, camera enclosures and ubiquities - REBID (NG).
5. RFB-7061 - Opening date: 12/8/2023: Furnish and install three (3) Chargepoint, or Yonkers approved equal, charging stations at two (2) Yonkers Police Department locations (NG).
6. IFB-7064 - Opening date: 12/13/2023: Kitchen Upgrades at PEARLS Hawthorne (AC).
7. RFB-7065 - Opening date: 12/8/2023: Repair of Clock, Intercom & P.A Systems (FB).
8. RFB-7066 - Opening date: 12/8/2023: Chemical Treatment and Cooling Tower Maintenance Program (VB).
9. RFP-486 - Opening date: 12/1/2023: Provide Traffic Study Mc Lean Avenue (DC).
10. IFB-6891A - Opening date: 12/13/2023: Gym Complex and Site Upgrades at Lincoln High School - REBID (AC).
11. RFB-7035A - Opening date: 12/8/2023: Window Replacement – Part 2 of Roof, Heating Plant & Window Replacement and Interior Upgrades at Martin Luther King School - REBID (MM).
12. RFB-6949A - Opening date: 12/13/2023: Furnish and Deliver Corbin Russwin, or Yonkers approved equal, locks and hardware for schools - REBID (KAS).
13. RFB 7067 - Opening date: 12/13/2023: Furnish and deliver Fire Department uniforms, as needed (KS).
14. RFB 7068 - Opening date: 12/13/2023: Paint Safety lines as Vehicle Maintenance Department on the garage floor (FB).

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Notice of formation of Jaylee’s Beauty Lounge, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/29/23. 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, 55 Cole Street, Ste. 101, Yonkers, NY, 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Formation of 25 COUNTY ROUTE 62 LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/6/2023. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The principal business loc. and address SSNY shall mail process to is Floann and Raymond Landeck, 79 Pembroke Dr., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company 2023 Holdings LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 08/21/2023 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : 5 Palisade Avenue Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date.

Notice of formation of D & E Guest Reality Management, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/15/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, D & E Guest Reality Management LLC, 79-81 Main Street, P.O. Box 1100, Yonkers, NY 10702. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**Clay Tiffany - Gadfly, Truthteller, Pest, Movie Star**  
**Dirty Cop Nick Tartaglione & Jeffrey Epstein Part of Story**



*Clay Tiffany*

*By Dan Murphy*

Many of our readers may not know or remember the name Clay Tiffany, the bombastic host of a cable TV access show, Dirge for the Charlatans, which aired out of an Ossining cable access studio in the late 1990’s. Tiffany, a Briarcliff resident, would rant about corruption and scandal, and would target whoever he believed was on the wrong side of good government.

Tiffany’s accusations of corruption and wrongdoing in local government and the Briarcliff school district resulted in some notoriety. The show was entertaining and informative but was not always correct in its accusations. Tiffany named the people in local government who he accused of wrongdoing, and one was Briarcliff Manor police officer Nick Tartaglione. Tartaglione was a young, hulking presence who Tiffany was accusing of being a “rogue cop.”

Tiffany continued the weekly accusations against Tartaglione, until Tartaglione flew into a steroid like rage, assaulting Tiffany while he was swimming alone on the Hudson River in 1999. Tiffany sued Tartaglione and the Briarcliff Police Department and kept talking about it on his show.

This resulted in a second, more ruthless beating, that left Tiffany in the hospital and scarred him for the rest of his life. The FBI began investigating and Tiffany won a lawsuit against the Village and Tartaglione for \$200,000, but his life was never the same. He died in 2015 a broken man but did have a moment of notoriety in Westchester because of his public access shows, lawsuits and confrontations with Tartaglione.

Tartaglione was fired, and then rehired by the Briarcliff Police Department.

He later “retired” and moved upstate where he became a drug dealer, eventually killing four of his drug partners. He was convicted of murder and is now serving a life sentence.

While in prison awaiting trial in the Manhattan Correctional Center, Tartaglione was a prison mate of Jeffrey Epstein. In fact, Tartaglione was cell mates with Epstein in the days and weeks before Epstein “hung himself” in his prison cell.

The story of Tiffany, Tartaglione and Epstein has drawn the interest of Emmy award-winning producer Gary Cohen, who has created nine documentary films for ESPN’s 30 for 30 series.

“This is about free speech and how free speech isn’t always pretty. But it’s effective in keeping the public informed and the public servants accountable. Clay Tiffany was an ugly, necessary part of the system,” said Cohen.

“Clay did something that made the system work better, and there is a concern that we are losing that ability by the local press to hold people accountable for bad behavior. Tiffany was a voice, a true citizen journalist. While he wasn’t right all of the time, once in a while he hit a nerve that needs to be hit. More of these voices are disappearing.

“Its this erosion that creates the need for Clay Tiffany, and the object lesson is Tartaglione. Clay was screaming that Tartaglione was a rogue cop before he was a drug dealer. He was an inconvenient truth to the system,” said Cohen.

Phil Reisman, the Dean of Westchester journalists at the turn of the millennium, wrote that Tiffany “ultimately aspired to nobility, even when he crossed the line of civility,” and called him “a controversial, iconoclastic gadfly in a quest for truth.”

Tiffany also heckled DA Jeanine Pirro on several occasions, blurting out “how’s your husband,” referring to Al Pirro and his tax troubles. And then again at her book signing, “what’s the matter, Jeanine, did you have a bad face lift?”

Actor John C. Reilly created a character for an American comedy TV series called Check It Out with Dr. Steve Brule, who has an uncanny similarity to Tiffany and his public access show. (Link- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5bMr\\_0Zoc0&list=RDQMpy76GcrwR-g&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5bMr_0Zoc0&list=RDQMpy76GcrwR-g&start_radio=1))

What is required for Cohen to begin his work is to find copies of Tiffany’s Dirge shows. A few episodes are on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SJ3vkUHFQc&t=63s>

Perhaps a Tiffany aficionado has copies of most or all of the shows on VHS tapes. We want to help Cohen in this effort and believe that he has found a great topic for a documentary.

Anyone in possession of, or with information on who has video tapes of Dirge for the Charlatans can contact us at [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com), or Cohen at [gary@triplethreattv.com](mailto:gary@triplethreattv.com).

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

944: Yonkers was notified 36-year-old Captain Gustave Laffel was killed, the first and only Yonkers teacher to die in World War II. Laffel, a Saunders Physical Education teacher, was with the Corps of Engineers when killed in the Metz-Saarburg region. Just a few days earlier two friends received war souvenirs from him. Merchant David Knepper received a Nazi battle flag; fellow Saunders teacher Harry DeVoe received a watch, wrapped in paper printed with the name Saarburg Port, Salut-Kase.

Sunday, November 26th:  
1911: Alexander Smith Cochran offered to purchase a complete set of colonial furniture for Philipse Manor Hall.

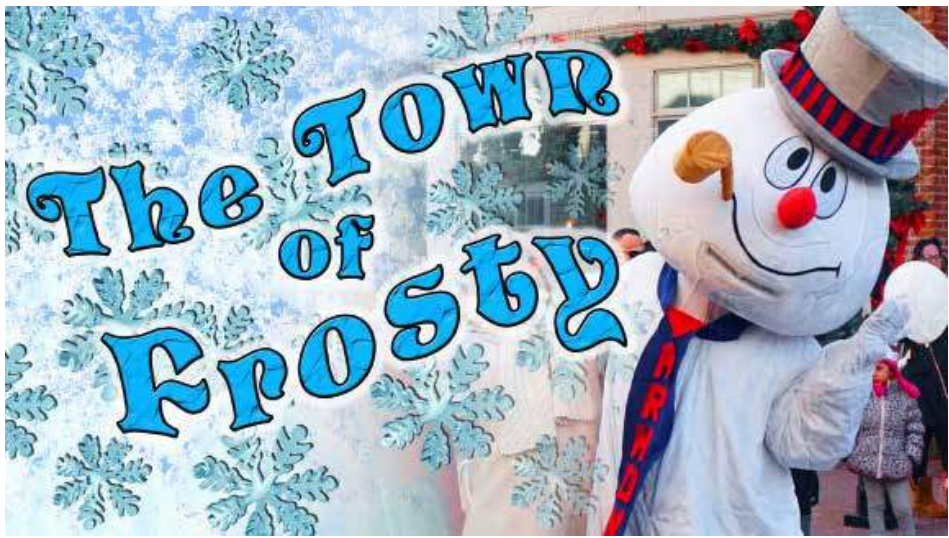
1932: According to Margaret George, PR director for the War Industries Training Program, executives at Eastern Aircraft in Tarrytown called the Yonkers School of Aeronautical Manufacturing the “West Point of the air.” Hundreds of the school’s certified students, from all strata of society and a variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds, worked together at Eastern with one goal in mind, to end the war.

1943: Although Yonkers Mayor William Wallin was Counsel both to Habirshaw Cable and Wire and its parent firm Phelps Dodge, the company “abandoned its parking lot project.” Running the plant round the clock caused serious parking issues in the neighborhood’s narrow streets; the planned parking lot was to ease the situation. Although the Common Council unanimously supported the parking lot project, it voted to reconsider authorization of the needed zoning changes the night before, triggering the company’s decision not to buy land to build a parking lot.

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

Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company TM Studio Ink LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 08/18/2023 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : 5 Palisade Avenue Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date.

**Did You Know that Frosty the Snowman's is From Westchester? Armonk Parade Set for Nov. 26**



By Dan Murphy

Every year in the Westchester Town of North Castle, a holiday tradition is held celebrating the birthplace of Frosty the Snowman. In the Westchester village of Armonk, a parade is held to commemorate the fact that the famous story, and movie that most of us have watched again and again on television, hails from Westchester.

The lyricist of the winter holiday classic, Steve Nelson, was a frequent visitor to Armonk after World War II from his home in nearby White Plains. In 1950, he wrote the song's lyrics, which he put to Jack Rollins' music; it was the same year that he was looking for land in Armonk on which to build his new home. Gene Autry recorded the song that year, making it an instant classic, following his earlier hit of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

Two years later, Nelson moved his young family to Armonk, where he lived until his death in 1981. In 1957, "Frosty the Snowman" was recorded again by Perry Como, solidifying it as a perennial song of the season. This success was followed by an animated version in 1969, now seen annually on TV. Located in the Town of North Castle, Armonk's historic district is the "Village Square" mentioned in the song's lyrics where Frosty dared the children to "catch me if you can."

Lifelong Armonk resident and town Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto said: "It was pretty much common knowledge that Mr. Nelson had Armonk in mind when he wrote the song. The traffic cop in the song who hollered 'Stop!' to Frosty was said to be based on the town's former Chief of Police John Hergenhan, who just happened to be my uncle."

Ed Woodyard, a longtime organizer of the townwide holiday event commemorating Frosty noted, "Frosty reminds people of the magic to be found during this time of year, for young and old alike. The only thing the Frosty believes in is kids." Events and activities will be held for three hours around town before the parade, which will travel north on Main Street to Maple Avenue, and then to Wampus Brook Park. Everyone is part of the parade, joining at the end to help welcome Frosty home for the holidays For information visit [www.ArmonkFrosty.com](http://www.ArmonkFrosty.com).

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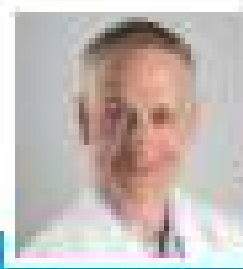
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