

School 31 Principal Suspended for Racy Social Media Accounts



Photos of Suspended School 31 Principal Kim Urban, found on Social Media accounts which are sexual in nature

By Dan Murphy

The Yonkers Public Schools has confirmed that former interim Principal Kim Urban has been placed on administrative leave following allegations that she posted inappropriate content on social media. The content includes sexual websites, videos and photos that are too graphic in nature to print.

But the question that many Yonkers parents and residents are asking is, are YPS employees allowed to do whatever is legally permissible outside of their duties in the Yonkers School District?

“There is no contact with another student alleged here,” said one Facebook comment. “As most of us in Yonkers remember, a former AP was suspended for her actions with another student. Principal Urban is respected within the School 31 community. She should be allowed to do what she wants outside of work, provided that it doesn’t violate the law. These are contenting adults.”

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Yonkers Police Charge Man with Murder in Stabbing Death of Brother-in-law



co-op at 760 Bronx River Road

On Saturday, November 16th, 2024, at approximately 1:30 PM, members of the Yonkers Police Department responded to an apartment inside 760 Bronx River Road on a report of a stabbing at the location. Upon arrival, officers located a male with a stab wound to his chest at the entrance to an apartment inside the location. The male related that he had been stabbed in the chest and that he had stabbed his brother-in-law. Officers then entered the apartment and located a second male lying unresponsive in bed with a stab wound to the chest. Officers began rendering medical aid and rushed both men to a local area hospital.

Detectives from the Major Case Squad, in conjunction with the Digital Forensics and Crime Scene Units, responded to the scene and initiated an investigation. Preliminary findings indicate that the victim and suspect were alone in the apartment at the time of the incident, during which both sustained stab wounds to the chest. The suspect received treatment for his injury, while tragically, the victim succumbed to his injuries at the hospital. Detectives are actively working to determine the circumstances that led to this fatal encounter, and further details may be released as the investigation progresses.

Commissioner Chris Sapienza stated, “This tragedy is a stark reminder that domestic violence can shatter lives at any time, even as we approach what should be a season of peace and togetherness. Our hearts go out to the victim’s family and friends as they grieve this profound loss. We are committed to holding the perpetrator accountable and supporting those affected by this senseless act.”

John SINGH, a 53-year-old resident of Bronx River Road in this City, was arraigned on one count of Murder 2, a Class A-I Violent Felony in the New York State Penal Law. SINGH is expected to be remanded to the Westchester County Jail, pending release from the hospital. The case is being prosecuted by the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office. The victim is identified as Bernard Barua, a 78-year-old resident of this City. The City of Yonkers and Yonkers Police Department offer their sincere condolences to his family and friends.

How One Student Teaches Us to Give Back on Thanksgiving



Left-Right Jordan Mendez, his mom Khaleelah Bond, and Yonkers High School Science Teacher Ms. Kavanaugh See story on page 5-

By Dan Murphy

It’s that time of year when we should all try to help others for the holidays. For the past two years, we have highlighted the efforts of Jordan Mendez, a high school student who started a food and clothing drive to help families struggling to make ends meet.

Two years ago, we met Jordan Mendez, a student at Yonkers High School. Jordan had been working with his student government to collect food, clothing, and hygiene products to give away at a holiday celebration at the Yonkers Riverfront Library.

Last year, Jordan was able to collect clothing to help his fellow students, “who felt insecure about their clothes.” “My desire to help people has manifested in my everyday activities, including turning gardening projects into a way to address food insecurity, using photography for social impact, and talking to people to inspire them to become uplifters. A small donation can make a big difference,” writes Mendez.

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How Much Will a \$9 Congestion Pricing Toll Affect Yonkers?



Plan Rushed Through Before Trump Takes Office

By Dan Murphy

How many Westchester residents commute to work in Manhattan five days a week? And how many of those commuters drive to work?

That question comes after Governor Kathy pushed through Congestion Pricing, a \$9 toll to drive to Manhattan below 60th Street. Hochul’s decision comes after she tabled congestion pricing during the election season. Now that President Trump is ready to take office in January, Hochul has made passing congestion pricing a priority before Trump 47 goes live.

While Westchester and New York Republicans are outraged, Westchester Democrats are largely silent.

Under the plan, the toll structure for entering New York City’s Central Busi

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Stabbing at Gorton High School, Yonkers Police Quickly Make Arrest



**Gorton
High
School**

On Nov. 14, just after 9:30 am this morning, members of the Yonkers Police Department responded to Gorton High School, located at 100 Shonnard Place in this City, on a report of a stabbing that had taken place.

Arriving units located one 17-year-old male victim with several non-life-threatening stab wounds to his body. Aid was rendered on scene by the school nurse, Yonkers Police Officers, and responding paramedics. The victim was transported to an area hospital in stable condition as notifications were made to his family.

Other units located the lone suspect responsible for this crime, who was being detained by school safety officers. He is being identified as a 14-year-old male student of Gorton High School. This suspect was placed into custody, and the knife used was recovered. He was transported to an area hospital to be evaluated before being processed at the Yonkers Police Department Youth Division.

Out of an abundance of caution, the school was placed on lockdown immediately after the incident was reported to authorities and remained on lockdown until both the victim and the suspect were removed from the school. During that time, a preliminary investigation was conducted at the scene of the crime. The lockdown was lifted at approximately 10:30 am, and students returned to their normally scheduled instruction.

Investigation yielded that the suspect, who brought a knife onto the school campus, was involved in a dispute with the victim. This dispute became physical, at which point the suspect stabbed the victim several times with the knife before the altercation was broken up by school staff.

The suspect in this incident was charged with Attempted Assault 1st Degree, Assault 2nd Degree, Attempted Assault 2nd Degree, and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 4th Degree. Due to the ages of those involved, no further information regarding their identities will be released, in accordance with laws prohibiting the release of that information.

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano stated, "Today's incident at Gorton High School is alarming and is not indicative of our District. I have asked the Superintendent of Schools to work with Yonkers Police and the school administration to review security measures and convene a crisis intervention team for students at the school. Our goal is to ensure an incident like this does not happen again and provide continued support to our community. I want to reassure our families that our schools are safe and the well-being of our children remains our utmost priority."

"Safety in our schools is always a top priority for us," said Yonkers Police Commissioner Christopher Sapienza. "We will continue to work with our partners in Yonkers Public Schools and their school safety team to assist however we can to ensure that our students and teachers can learn and work in the safest environment possible."

Superintendent of Yonkers Public Schools Anibal Soler, Jr, stated, "Today's incident at Gorton High School is deeply concerning, but I want to reassure our families that this was an isolated event, and our students are safe. We are working closely with the Yonkers Police Department and will be reviewing security measures with school administration to ensure our schools remain secure learning environments. Our crisis intervention team is available to support students and staff as we move forward together. The safety and well-being of our students and staff are our top priorities, and we remain committed to providing a safe, supportive environment for all."

Gaza Solidarity Protestors Occupy Sarah Lawrence College



On the 411th day of Israel's genocidal war on the peoples of Palestine, Lebanon, and Yemen, members of Sarah Lawrence College's community occupied Westlands and reclaimed it as Dar al-Fayoumi in memory of six-year-old Wadea al-Fayoumi, a Palestinian-American boy who was stabbed to death by his landlord in Plainfield Township, Illinois on October 14, 2023.

On October 15, 2024, Sarah Lawrence's Divestment Coalition of Student Groups submitted a revised version of their February 27, 2024 Proposal for Divestment from Israeli State Violence to the Board of Trustees. The Proposal outlined a timeline for divestment with a November 20th deadline for disclosure of the College's investment portfolio. On November 18, 2024, President Cristle Collins Judd announced over email that the Board's Investment Committee had "reviewed the proposal and the additional appeal letter submitted on November 16th and affirmed the College's investment strategy along with its previous conclusion regarding divestment, [sic] and [had] made no recommendations for change." "Without consulting the rest of the Board, the students, or anyone who is consistently engaged in our campus community, the Investment Committee chose not to disclose or divest.

By refusing to disclose the contents of their investment portfolio, Sarah Lawrence's leadership has signaled their intention to wait out the will of the student movement and the global solidarity network that steers it. They assume that their complacency is a universal tendency rather than a moral aberration. We know that community members of good conscience cannot accept the Investment Committee's indifference while watching their tax dollars pay for genocide and scholasticide in this American war. The American government is forcing American workers to fund Israel's campaign of mass murder, manufactured famine, and environmental catastrophe because American companies including Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Ford, General Electric, Caterpillar, and Northrop Grumman are profiting from it. We call on the Board to use their power as fiduciaries to do what the average taxpayer cannot. They must ensure that neither the size of our endowment nor the sustainability of our institution is dependent on the profitability of corporations whose very business models necessitate death. The brutality of the Israeli apartheid state has not changed and neither have our demands.

In 1985, the Board of Trustees understood that an institution of progressive learning cannot promote a "framework of humanistic values and concern for community" while financially supporting apartheid. They responded to campus pressure by voting to divest from all companies doing business in South Africa, describing their decision as "a clear and public statement of the College's opposition to apartheid." In 2024, the Board of Trustees is choosing willful ignorance about our institutional responsibility to align our investment practices with the values inscribed in our mission statement and taught in our classrooms. The Board has a unique opportunity to continue Sarah Lawrence's legacy of collaborating with the student body to uphold its core values by privileging solidarity, humanism, and dignity over ignorance, greed, and apathy. We must collaborate to set a precedent for our peer institutions by divesting and, in so doing, collectively signalling to firms like Commonfund that corporate war profiteers are high-risk investments.

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Yonkes PBA “Disappointed” in DA Rocah’s Decision to Vacate Convictions Connected to Former Detective

On Nov. 13, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced today that judges vacated convictions and dismissed underlying narcotics-related charges for 12 individuals in cases connected to former Yonkers Police Department Detective Christian Koch, who was convicted of perjury in 2015. Following a thorough examination by her Conviction Review Unit (CRU), the District Attorney supported defense motions to vacate five felony and seven misdemeanor convictions out of Yonkers between 2011 and 2014 that were conclusively tainted by Koch’s compromised credibility. The CRU’s determinations were based on Koch’s perjury conviction, factual discrepancies found in police records, and damning admissions he made under oath in a civil lawsuit suggesting he did not understand his responsibility for the truth and the facts in his affidavits.

DA Rocah said: “The extraordinary facts revealed during the CRU’s review regarding Detective Koch’s fundamental lack of credibility and the material role that he played in these prosecutions irrevocably compromised the resulting convictions. Addressing wrongful convictions is a necessary step in maintaining the integrity of future prosecutions and the public trust in the criminal justice system.”

Westchester County Court Justice Larry Schwartz on Nov. 8 vacated felony convictions and dismissed underlying charges for five individuals who pleaded guilty between December 2011 and April 2014 to criminal possession of a controlled substance (third, fourth, fifth degrees) and an attempted criminal possession of a controlled substance (fourth degree). Sentences served by the charged individuals ranged from one year in jail to five years probation.

Yonkers City Court Justice Arthur Doran on Sept. 16 vacated misdemeanor convictions and dismissed underlying charges for seven individuals who pleaded guilty to charges ranging from disorderly conduct to criminal possession of a controlled substance (seventh degree). Sentences served by the charged individuals ranged from four months in jail to three years probation.

All 12 convictions stemmed from prosecutions that relied on sworn statements, and/or signed search warrant affidavits, by then-Detective Koch regarding certain narcotics transactions between a confidential informant and the accused individuals who were later arrested.

The CRU identified factual discrepancies in search warrant affidavits sworn to by Koch between December 2010 and March 2012.

Additionally, in a 2014 civil suit, Koch testified that he had used “template” language that he did not write, in warrant applications, to establish the reliability of informants, rather than actual information about the informant’s reliability and work. In further testimony, Koch indicated he did not understand that, as an affiant, he was taking responsibility for the truth and facts in an affidavit.

Based on all of these factors, the CRU concluded that Koch’s credibility was completely compromised, and he could not be relied upon in any prosecutions where he was a necessary witness.

Koch pleaded guilty in April 2015 to one count of perjury connected to a March 2014 search warrant affidavit sworn by him in the City of Yonkers. He was sentenced in September 2015 to eight weekends of incarceration. He had been with the Yonkers Police Department since 2001 and resigned when he was sentenced.

The new motions to vacate followed the District Attorney’s initiation of an extensive investigation of Koch-related cases after determining that the previous review by the DA’s Office that led to five vacatur in May 2018 was too narrow.

The need to review a broader group of cases tied to police officers convicted of perjury was integral to the inception of the Conviction Review Unit by DA Rocah upon taking Office in 2021.

The CRU, with pro bono assistance from the law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, also evaluated cases from between March 2011 and September 2014 involving former Yonkers PD Detective Sean Fogarty, who was convicted of perjury in December 2019. The District Attorney agreed with the CRU’s determination that there was insufficient grounds for the vacatur of any additional convictions in which Detective Fogarty played a role because of a dearth of information in the DA’s Office and Yonkers PD files.

The CRU reviews were conducted by former Bureau Chief Anastasia Heeger and former Senior Assistant District Attorney Alexandra Keeling.

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Holiday ‘Congestion’ is Here!



By Eric Wolf Schoen

Thanksgiving is Next Thursday. And the streets of Westchester are congested with visitors and friends and people eager to make this year more special than the last year. But

The first congestion we have to deal with is good old congestion pricing. Like me, the various readers I spoke to were totally against this new level of taxation, So I said to myself, let me call Albany, ask my legislators if they are for or against congestion pricing, tell my legislators my feelings against it and encourage them to tell the Governor not to support any Congestion pricing ‘tax.’ We don’t care if was fifteen dollars or nine dollars

Assemblyman Nader Sayegh said he was speaking out against Congestion pricing,

Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins Press Person gave me this quote from the Senator:“I have always made it clear that whatever the state does regarding congestion pricing must address congestion, environmental concerns and resources for the MTA. We hope this is a start to that process and we will continue to work toward this goal during the session.”

Sadly, typical political language. Surprised to hear this from a State, Senator who lives in a district that will not benefit from this costly tax. So many of the Senators constituents travel to New York by car and many cannot afford this tax. A night on the town. A Broadway show. Forget about it.

So we wait. The Governor knows the opposition to this tax. And as I have said before, we will wait to see what happens.

So Congestion is not only at the Governor’s office. You will find it at the grocery store as folks pay ridiculous prices for their Thanksgiving feasts. This is a holiday where you have to comparison shop. There are bargains out there to be found. So many things at the Dollar Tree stores in Yonkers and throughout WESTCHESTER. You just need to shop around.

And remember that though things might be a little tight for all of there are many folks worse off then we are.

Can I remind you on Black Friday to comparison shop, and get there early for those specials that are limited. Retailors tend to discount older models at good prices.

I hope that you and your family have a bountiful Thanksgiving Feast and deal with congestion around you without shouting and screaming. If you have plans to go out of town leave plenty of time! Drive safely, and a little exercise after dinner helps the digestion of food? From my house to yours, Happy Thanksgiving!

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Purchase College Celebrates Ribbon Cutting for ADA Compliant Bus Stop, with \$250K Grant from Senator Mayer



Senator Shelley Mayer, Purchase College President Milagros “Milly” Peña, and student leaders at the celebration of the college’s new ADA compliant bus stop

State Investment Spearheaded by Senator Shelley B. Mayer Made Upgrades Possible

New York State Senator Shelley B. Mayer joined Purchase College President, Milagros “Milly” Peña and other College leaders on Thursday, November 14 at 3:30pm to celebrate the ribbon cutting of a new ADA compliant bus stop which was made possible, along with other accessibility upgrades, by substantial state funding in the amount of \$250,00 spearheaded by Senator Mayer.

Senator Mayer and President Peña were joined by Purchase College staff from the Office of Disability Resources and students who spoke about the importance of ensuring that the campus is fully accessible to all who work, study, and visit the campus.

Purchase College President Milagros “Milly” Peña said, “Upgrading our entry to and from campus and within our campus, is at the heart of our commitment to fostering a community that is safe, accessible, and accepting, and where students of all backgrounds, identities, and abilities are welcome and valued. On behalf of Purchase College, I am grateful to Senator Mayer for her continued support of our community and for her dedication to removing barriers to public education.”

State Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, “I am pleased to have helped secure \$250,000 in state funding for Purchase College to develop a fully ADA compliant bus stop and to attend this ceremony alongside President Peña and members of the Purchase College community. This important upgrade will ensure members of our community with varying abilities have access to the campus. I thank President Peña and Purchase College for their outstanding commitment to accessibility. Special thanks to Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins for providing our community with the resources to make this substantial improvement.”

Luther V. Garrison Sr. Masonic Foundation Scholarship Luncheon to be Held November 30



top left-Harold Mckoy II, guest speaker, top right- DaQueen Monroe as “Woman of the year 2024” left-Mohammad Rahman Manager of Shoprite on Tuckahoe Rd. -Community Support Award



Luther V. Garrison Sr. Masonic Foundation Inc. is a 501-(c)-(3) non-profit charity organization with federal and state tax exempt status. We have committed to providing much needed services and assistance to our community. We provide services such as Scholarships, Christmas Programs, Thanksgiving Programs, Easter Programs, and Feeding the Less Fortunate all free of charge for the community.

The major service that we provide is our scholarship program. In the past, we have relied on contributions from the membership.

For the past ten (10) years, we have been able to award 150 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 each to inner city students. These students are enrolled in schools such as: Howard U, Hofstra U, Morgan ST, New York University, Claflin University, John Jay Coll. St. Johns U, Yale U, Westchester Comm. Coll. and many others.

In 2023 as a result of generous donations we were able to award 10 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 each. These scholarships are to be used for education related items such as books, fees, supplies, etc. The goal for year 2024 is to award 15 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 each.

Our annual scholarship luncheon will be held on Saturday, November 30, 2024, at the Runyon Heights Community Center, 21 Runyon Ave, Yonkers, NY 10710, from 12 noon to 3pm. Donations are \$40.00, all donations are tax deductible. The Luther V. Garrison Masonic Foundation Inc. is funded by donations only. We will present our 2024 scholarship awards at the luncheon.

In addition, we will bestow honors Mohammad Rahman Manager of Shoprite on Tuckahoe Rd. who will be awarded the “Community Support Award for 2024” and DaQueen Monroe as “Woman of the year 2024” for her work with the Autistic Community. Harold Mckoy II, Entrepreneur, President of Executive Branch Entertainment Group, will serve as our guest speaker.



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On This Day in Yonkers History...

How One Student Teaches Us to Give Back on Thanksgiving continued from pg 1-



Amelia Earhart spoke in Yonkers in 1935

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 Untermyer Performing Arts Council

Monday, November 25th:

November 25, 1944: Park Hill Avenue resident Irving Haim, President of International Distributors, sponsored a national contest for the best essays to promote better understanding... on matchbook covers!

There were six different messages on the matchbooks, including, "When you find anyone, yourself included, thinking, speaking or acting with racial or religious prejudice—Stop It! If Smith, Kelly, Cohen or Svoboda is good enough to die for us, he is good enough to live here with us as an equal."

November 25, 1944: Yonkers had a sad Homefront war industry death. Sixty-one-year-old Fritz Bliss died working at "Pier Two, Arthur G. Blair," or the Yonkers City Pier. Bliss, repairing a US Navy ship, was hit by a 30-pound block falling 20 feet. Although he received immediate emergency care from ship doctor Lieutenant Commander Gackeneheim, he died early the next morning at St. John's Riverside Hospital.

Tuesday, November 26th:

November 26, 1934: Mayor Joseph Loehr crowned Ruth Reichenbach the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce's "Queen Prosperity," culminating their "Buy at Home" campaign. Besides the honor of reigning at the "Prosperity Ball," Reichenbach was awarded a 23-day cruise to the West Indies. She received about three million votes, 500,000 more than her nearest competitors. Runners-up Pearl Hanley and Ann Kowalczyk received two million votes each and cruises to Bermuda.

November 26, 1932: Margaret George, Publicity Director for the War Industries Training Program, revealed executives at Tarrytown's Eastern Aircraft called the Yonkers School of Aeronautical Manufacturing the "West Point of the Air." Hundreds of the school's certified graduates, reflecting a wide variety of ethnic, social and religious backgrounds, worked together in the school and in Eastern's plant with one goal in mind, to end the war.

Wednesday, November 27th:

November 27, 1928: "Machine Gun Louie" Wishbrod, Chicago's Gas and Machine Gun specialist, visited Yonkers City Hall to convince Yonkers to buy his wares, including his latest invention, the fountain pen gas gun!

November 27, 1932: Although only seventeen degrees, officials dedicated an elm tree on the grounds of Philipse Manor Hall to George Washington.

Thursday, November 28th

November 28, 1776: Frederick Philipse III signed the Declaration of Independence! His signature was prominent on its first page, one of the Loyalist signers who pledged to continue to support Great Britain's supremacy over the Colonies.

November 28, 1942: The safety glasses Harry Ahistedt used every day at work were featured in Yonkers Works Digest, the Otis employee paper.

Although Ahistedt performed a thousand operations a day at the plant, he had a narrow escape. A bolt flew out of his machinery, hitting the safety glasses he was smart enough to wear, saving his eyesight! The incident and publicity were an important lesson for the men and women of Otis... and Yonkers' other defense factories.

Friday, November 29th

November 29, 1672: Adriaen Van der Donck's brother-in-law Elias Dougherty sold Colendonck to Thomas Delaval, Thomas Lewis and Frederick Philipse.

A thriving business at the mill near the mouth of the Nepperhan River proved so profitable, Philipse bought out his partners in 1686, becoming sole owner of the land.

"I know most people want to help but don't know how. So I came up with the idea of doing something and giving everyone the chance to help."

"This year is The Moxie Project's 3rd Annual Thanksgiving Drive where we will be giving food, clothes, hygiene products, and religious items for free, for all members of our community. Donating to this project helps us help the members of our community who deserve a good Thanksgiving. Any and all donations are appreciated.

"The Moxie Project started my freshman year in Yonkers High School. I was inspired to organize an annual thanksgiving drive when my mother decided to give away the excess food from the rest stations at the Tour De Yonkers biking event. It was something about being in Getty Square to feed others that connected my personal altruistic interests with an immediate path to help others.

"Effective activism is like a virus: anyone exposed to it is consumed by its effects and changes their actions in accordance. In a word, it's contagious; seeing others smile and knowing they're better off because of you is infectious and desirable to spread. That's how I felt. I didn't just want to help others, I wanted to share my love of helping with as many as I could.

"Over the past two years I've grown personally, professionally and intellectually. To have Moxie is to have courage, to have determination, to persevere; in a word, to have unwavering conviction and spirit. These are the traits that are necessary to create and execute a movement and thus, the traits that are necessary for us to activate in others. With not just a selfish desire but a moral imperative to do good, I wanted to turn The Moxie Project into an effort shared by all for addressing humanitarian crises anywhere I can.

"By the time this article is out, I'll have submitted my Articles of Incorporation to make The Moxie Project a nonprofit. Through this project I have continuously fed members of the community through agricultural efforts and I'm looking to the City to help me institutionalize a sustainable infrastructure of services for Yonkers Residents.

"God willing, I'll graduate next year as an eagle scout and although I've left Yonkers High School, I hope to have left an impact on that school and for Yonkers High School to continue with their support for the thanksgiving drive. I hope, with the support of the local government, to have established an urban farm dedicated to feeding single mothers and our homeless friends. I hope by the time I graduate, to have shaken the city and to have my neighbors as invested in this movement as I am.

"If anyone would like to contribute I have an active GoFundMe where people can donate money so we can do more good.

www.gofundme.com/f/donate-to-the-moxie-projects-community-drive?

Jordan is pictured with his mother and Ms. Kavanaugh from Yonkers High School. "Ms. Kavanaugh made this project possible by believing in me the most in this project. She let me take time out of her science classes to build support and put boxes in her classroom for students to drop off clothes. She also helped me organize the project conceptually. She played a huge role.

Editor's Note: We hope this story has inspired you to try and make a positive difference in someone's life this Holiday Season. Or at least to make a donation to Jordan's Yonkers Moxie Project. And have a Happy Thanksgiving!



Mayor Mike Spano
Mayor's African American Advisory Board and Yonkers Public Library
Hosts

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Friday, December 27 (10am-5pm)
Saturday, December 28 (10am-5pm)
Sunday, December 29 (12pm-5pm)
Monday, December 30 (9am-8pm)
Tuesday, December 31 (9am-5pm)

GOSPEL COMMUNITY CONCERT

Friday, December 6, 2024 • 6PM-8PM

Yonkers Riverfront Library • One Larkin Center (Auditorium)
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For more information, Contact Dwanita Crosby at Dwanita.Crosby@yonkersny.gov

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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 Hufjaj, 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.

Notice of Formation of David A. Langner, Esq., PLLC filed Arts. of Org. with NY Sec. of State (NYSS) on 11/18/2024. Office: Westchester County. NYSS was designated PLLC's agent for service of process, and shall mail process to 87 Hawkes Ave., #2104, Ossining, NY 10562. Purpose: Practice of Law.

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.

CORPORATION NOTICE

CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the City Council of the City of Yonkers, New York will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 6:45 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York on the following General Ordinance, to wit:

PROPOSED GENERAL ORDINANCE

A PROPOSED GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING GENERAL ORDINANCE 4-2000, ALSO KNOWN AS CHAPTER 43 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS AND THE ACCOMPANYING ZONING MAP: A) TO RECLASSIFY AND REZONE THE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT: 1) 24 ALEXANDER STREET; 2) 60 ALEXANDER STREET; 3) 58 ALEXANDER STREET REAR; 4) 62 ALEXANDER STREET; 5) 72 ALEXANDER STREET; 6) 80 ALEXANDER STREET; 7) 110 ALEXANDER STREET; 8) 104 ALEXANDER STREET; AND 9) 60 BABCOCK PLACE, WHICH PROPERTIES ARE ALSO DESIGNATED ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE CITY AS SECTION 2608, LOT 1, 14.18. 70, 20.23, 25, 35 AND BLOCK 2618, LOTS 1, 2 AND 200 RESPECTIVELY FROM I DISTRICT TO D-MX DISTRICT; B) TO AMEND 43 ATTACHMENT 16 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE ENTITLED "MAP D: DISTRICTS" TO RECLASSIFY AND REZONE THE ABOVE-REFERENCED PROPERTIES FROM I DISTRICT TO D-MX DISTRICT; AND C) TO AMEND 43 ATTACHMENT 14 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE ENTITLED "MAP B: HEIGHT DISTRICT MAP" TO INCLUDE THE ABOVE-REFERENCED PROPERTIES AND TO ALLOW A MAXIMUM PERMITTED BUILDING HEIGHT OF 325 FEET.

VINCENT SPANO
City Clerk

CORPORATION NOTICE
CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the City Council of the City of Yonkers,

New York will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 3rd, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York on the following

Appeal of the Self-Storage Moratorium contained in General Ordinance 9-2024, to wit:

PROPOSED APPEAL

A PROPOSED GENERAL ORDINANCE DECIDING MEHRANCO LLC'S APPEAL

REQUESTING RELIEF FROM GENERAL ORDINANCE 9-2024 THAT INSTITUTED AN EIGHT-MONTH MORATORIUM ON SELF-STORAGE FACILITIES WITHIN THE CITY OF YONKERS.

Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time as necessary. Further information, including access to a copy of said Appeal, may be obtained at the Yonkers City Clerk's

Office located at City Hall — Room 102, 40 S. Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701

VINCENT SPANO
City Clerk
November 20, 2024

WESTCHESTER COUNTY
HOLIDAY
Gift Drive
Help brighten the holidays for some of Westchester's most vulnerable children.
Donate a new, unwrapped gift at one of our gift drop locations by Monday,
December 16

DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

Westchester County Michaelian Office Building 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains	Peekskill District Office 750 Washington St.
Dept. of Social Services Central Office 112 East Post Road, White Plains	White Plains District Office 85 Court St.
Mt. Vernon District Office 100 East First St.	Yonkers District Office 131 Warburton Ave.

Gift donations requested for babies through age 21. (Please, no stuffed animals or violent toys). Monetary donations are graciously accepted in the form of gift cards, Zelle, or checks made payable to: "Westchester Child Welfare Holiday Fund."

MONETARY DONATIONS MAY BE MAILED TO:
Barbara Salater 112 East Post Road, Room 637, White Plains, New York 10601
Electronic Donations: Zelle ID email: WCSSSHolidayGiftDrive@gmail.com
FOR ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT: Barbara Salater at b.salater@WestchesterCountyNY.gov or call (914) 995-1957

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Job: Strong organizational and analytical abilities to handle various tasks efficiently. Excellent verbal and written communication skills, followed by effectively interact with customer service technicians, customer service, and the ability to convey complex and sensitive information all parties involved. (Production, customer, and manufacturer) Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite and database management software.

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Please Email Resumes to: hr@finke-equipment.com
Or Call to Schedule an Interview: 914-957-5571

FINEK EQUIPMENT

PBA Disappointed in Rocah, continued from pg 3-

Yonkers PBA President Frank McDonald responded to Rocah's announcement with the following statement. "The Yonkers PBA expresses its disappointment in District Attorney Miriam Rocah's recent decision to revisit cases associated with former Detective Christian Koch. Detective Koch was held accountable for his actions years ago, and all convictions related to him have already been meticulously reviewed and resolved by previous administrations. This latest move appears to serve more as political posturing as she prepares to leave office than a genuine pursuit of justice, with Ms. Rocah seemingly focused on building her legacy rather than ensuring the integrity of our legal process.

"Furthermore, we condemn the District Attorney's decision to publicly address her office's review of cases involving former Detective Sean Fogarty. Despite a thorough investigation revealing no evidence that would warrant further action, the public mention of this review undermines the integrity of the law enforcement community and serves little purpose other than self-promotion. Detective Fogarty's conviction was addressed long ago, and the DA's review confirmed that there are no grounds to vacate any convictions. To bring this to public attention without new findings diminishes the very essence of justice and accountability.

"While the Yonkers PBA fully recognizes the necessity for transparency and accountability within law enforcement, we firmly believe that these objectives must be pursued based on factual evidence rather than political grandstanding. Our commitment remains steadfast in supporting honest policing and protecting the interests of the community we serve," stated McDonald.

Editor's Note: The cases that were vacated by Rocah's office have been sealed and not identified to the media or the public. We would welcome the opportunity to review these cases to determine if they did warrant vacating. Detective Koch did serve weekends in jail for his perjury charge in 2015. All of the cases vacated by Rocah's office were at least 10 years old.

Houlihan Lawrence Commercial Announces Sale of 18,000 SF Retail Property at 465-479 South Broadway in Yonkers for \$4.7 Million



465-479 South Broadway, Yonkers

Houlihan Lawrence Commercial, a division of Houlihan Lawrence, the leading real estate firm serving New York City's northern suburbs, has announced the sale of 465-479 South Broadway, Yonkers, NY for \$4.7 million.

The seller was exclusively represented by Garry Klein, Regional Manager and the purchaser, a regional investor, was represented by Jared Stone, Associate Broker; of Klein Stone Commercial at Houlihan Lawrence.

The single-story retail property consists of nine storefronts, totaling over 18,000 square feet, and sold for over \$260 per square foot. The anchor tenant Snipes is bolstered by a roster of long-term tenants including Yonkers Paint & Hardware and other neighborhood retailers. The property is strategically located in the Central Subdistrict of the South Broadway District, which is undergoing a revitalization and has long-term future development potential.

"The purchaser saw tremendous upside and future rent growth both due to upcoming lease renewals and in their plans to upgrade the building and the tenancy, enabling us to achieve the seller's pricing expectations," stated Klein. "Dealing with a professional investment group that owned other retail assets in the area made this a real strategic fit for the purchaser," added Stone.

Houlihan Lawrence Commercial, a full-service division, specializes in Investment Opportunities, Office, Multifamily, Industrial and Retail Sales and Leasing, Land Acquisition, Development, and Municipal Approval Consultation. With local expertise in the markets north of New York City, the Commercial Group has a database of buyers and sellers throughout the country to effectively market commercial properties and opportunities on a national level. For more information, please contact Mike Rackenberg, mrackenberg@houlihanlawrence.com or 973-609-2105.

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Yonkers Installs New LED Illuminated Pedestrian Crosswalks Across City



In-Road Warning System (IRWL) Crosswalk at North Broadway in Yonkers

On Nov. 12, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced the installation of six new in-road solar LED crosswalks across the City. The new LaneLight In-Road Warning System (IRWL) lights up crosswalks as pedestrians cross the street using solar-powered flashing in-pavement LED and Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons. The City installed the first crosswalk at School 16 on North Broadway earlier this month. Yonkers is the first city in Westchester County to install these illuminated IRWL crosswalks.

“With state-of-the-art technology and innovation, Yonkers continues to be leaders in protecting the well-being of our residents,” said Mayor Spano. “Thanks to the hard work of our Department of Public Works, these cross

continued on pg 10-

Dominican Republic Law Enforcement Visits Yonkers City Hall



The City of Yonkers recently welcomed some international guest to City Hall from Veron Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic. Members of the International Law Enforcement Association and Municipal Police Colonel Victor Pichardo and Municipal Police Lt. Raysa Feliz visited our Yonkers Police Department to observe demonstrations of our Emergency Service Unit and Aware Room. We donated a police vest and baton for them to take with them and they gifted us some Dominican coffee. We love welcoming guests to our City and showcasing of police and fire departments.

Mayor Mike Spano, Police Commissioner Chris Sapienza and Councilwoman Tasha Diaz are pictured with DR Law Enforcement above



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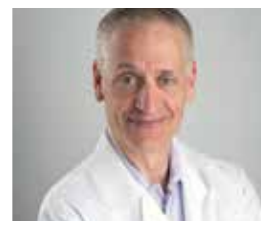
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Jordan Fokhoury, DO; Evan Gaines, MD; David Lent, MD
Patrick Murray, MD; Paul S. Ragusa, MD; Thomas Schmiecker, MD
Eric Spencer, MD; Mario Voloshin, DPM, FACFAS



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Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

Apple Cinemas Opens ScreenX Theater in White Plains



Apple Cinemas White Plains will open a new Movie Theater at 237 Martin Ave White Plains, with state of the art Screen X technology, pictured above.

ScreenX is a cinematic experience like no other. ScreenX engages viewers, drawing them into a cinematic journey with its multi-projection system and 270-degree panoramic experience. With three screens surrounding your field of view, your attention on the center is broadened to include the side screens to feel totally immersed in the film. To enhance the experience, there is an option to order BurgerFi food from your seat and have it delivered as well! Ordering and delivery options include food, alcohol, ice cream, and drinks.

Experience the biggest blockbusters in a 270-degree panoramic view with ScreenX! Using award-winning, cutting-edge technology, ScreenX takes audiences beyond the frame of a traditional movie screen by expanding the action to specially formatted side walls that open up during key moments in the story.

The theater is open. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/AppleWhitePlains>, for more information.

**Read it all Online
at [Yonkerstimes.com](https://www.yonkerstimes.com)**

Yonkers Man Captured on Video Beating a Puppy and a Dog, Arrested by SPCA Westchester



Pretty Girl and Champ

On Nov. 20, SPCA Westchester announced today that their Humane Law Enforcement Unit (HLE), under the direction of Ernest Lungaro and with the assistance of Yonkers Police Officers Fagan and Sousa, arrested and charged Roger Andrews of Yonkers, NY with two counts of animal cruelty.

The SPCA's HLE Director arrested Andrew Rogers on November 18th after obtaining video that captured him severely beating a helpless male puppy named Champ and a female dog named Pretty Girl. The video, which is extremely disturbing, shows Champ being whipped mercilessly with a thick rope leash and screaming. Other footage obtained of Roger Andrews shows him kicking, punching and throwing Champ and Pretty Girl.

Neither dog is owned by Roger Andrews, who had them in his possession temporarily to walk them for their owners. "By some miracle, Champ and Pretty Girl did not sustain any serious injuries," says Shannon Laukhuf, SPCA Westchester's Chief Executive Officer. "We are so thankful that these innocent animals were seized by our HLE Unit before it was too late."

Rogers was held overnight for an open warrant on an unrelated case and arraigned yesterday. If you witness or suspect an animal is being neglected or abused, please call the SPCA's Confidential Cruelty Hotline at (914) 941-7797.

Link to video: <https://youtu.be/s9DEglfRqTc>

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H2168_MKT25-33_M

walks will improve the visibility of neighborhood crosswalks in high-traffic areas and improve the safety of motorists and pedestrians alike.”

Additional crosswalks are set to be installed at the following locations:

- Park Avenue and Convent Place – Gorton High School
- Van Cortlandt Park Avenue at Thurman Street – School 23
- Buena Vista Avenue at Nepperhan Street – Downtown Yonkers Train Station
- Mile Square Road at Little John – South County Trailway Crossing
- McLean Avenue at E. Sanford Street

The system targets distracted drivers, including those using hands-free devices. A National Safety Council report highlighted that even hands-free devices may cause cognitive distraction, which contributes to a withdrawal of attention from the visual scene on the road. This can cause a driver to fail to notice events in the road until it’s too late to respond, especially at night. The Governors Highway Safety Association has also attributed increased pedestrian fatalities in recent years to the increase in SUVs and light trucks on the road, which tend to have larger blind spots and are more deadly to pedestrians. The LaneLight system creates a barrier of bright flashing LED lights directly in the driver’s line of sight to capture their attention.

“In 2023 the U.S had over 7,300 pedestrian fatalities, with many occurring at night. Better lighting at crosswalks is one of the ways we can prevent accidents,” said Yonkers Public Works Commissioner Thomas Meier. “As we lose daylight this time of year, the City of Yonkers is taking the lead in utilizing the latest advances in traffic safety technology and solar power to improve pedestrian safety in our communities.”

LaneLight’s below grade, snow plow-safe installation enables the technology to be used in all weather conditions. The system is solar-powered, enabling operation without relying on the electric grid and during power outages.

This initial phase of LaneLight IRWL System installations is funded by the New York Power Authority’s Smart City Grant Program and in partnership with Glenco Supply, Inc., a leading local supplier of innovative solar-driven traffic safety solutions.

“Solar-powered LED crosswalks will provide an additional measure of safety to Yonkers residents – and do it in a common sense, energy-efficient way,” said New York Power Authority President and CEO Justin E. Driscoll. “The Power Authority is always looking for new partnerships like the one with the City of Yonkers to support the energy transition and help further New York State’s clean energy goals.”

School 31 Principal, continued from pg 1-

YP does have a morality clause in their contracts with employees that requires employees to maintain a certain level of moral and ethical conduct during their employment. This includes conduct outside of school.

Some wondered why the Yonkers Voice posted some attractive photos of Urban which were not graphic in nature. We have printed these same photos and do not believe they are inappropriate.

Principal Urban has been relieved of her duties, and because of that Yonkers Voice and Yonkers Rising-Yonkerstimes.com has the right to explain the reasons for her departure.

Who spilled the beans on Urban? That is unknown.

A new interim Principal has been appointed for School 31, Rita Morehead. Morehead was a retired YPS Principal who has returned on an interim basis.

He gradually extended his holdings from the Spuyten Duyvil Creek to Croton River.

November 29, 1933: Samuel Untermyer of Greystone on North Broadway, addressing a hearing at the New York Bar Association to unify federal laws controlling sale of liquor, spoke against the ban on “standing drinking” as “unfair and discriminatory.” He believed the open bar was the “poor man’s club!”

November 29, 1940: The US War Department announced Otis Elevator received a \$2.7 million contract to manufacture anti-aircraft gun parts, making Yonkers one of the country’s most important arsenal centers.

To prevent sabotage, FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover placed Otis’s waterfront plant under FBI protective custody and sent agents to consult with local plant and city officials. Together they developed effective procedures to prevent interference with manufacturing the top-secret recoil gun mechanisms.

Otis was selected because it was “sufficiently large, adequately tooled and equipped to begin almost immediate production.” (Otis complained there was a problem getting needed materials.) Yonkers also had a “reserve of trained mechanics in the community.” (Otis executives believed there was a shortage of skilled machinists.)

Saturday, November 30th

November 30, 1692: Frederick Philipse married Catherine VanCortlandt Dervall; his first wife Margaret Hardenbrook de Vries had died the year before. Catherine was the wealthy widowed sister of Stephanus Van Cortlandt, an adviser to the provincial governor. Another brother, Jacobus Van Cortlandt, married Frederick’s adopted daughter Eva.

Philipse is buried with both wives in the crypt of the Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow.

Sunday, December 1st

December 1, 1892: The Nepperhan River dams belonging to Copcutt, Flagg and McCann were “destroyed mysteriously” in middle of night. Companies owned by these men caused river pollution, and the destruction removed a major health hazard to Yonkers and our water.

December 1, 1935: Female aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart spoke at the South Yonkers Forum. Introduced by fellow aviator Edward Molitor, Earhart mixed humor with anecdotes about her experiences in the air and on land. She also spoke about several instances of mistaken identity, such as being congratulated for swimming the English Channel or identified as Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt!

December 1, 1940: Nearly 1,000 men registered to attend the new school, Yonkers’ National Defense School of Aeronautical Manufacturing at Saunders Trades School. During its existence, thousands of men—and women—were trained in this program.

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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Did You Know that Frosty the Snowman 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. (As a) matter of fact, 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."

During the holidays, where several religions are symbolized in civic and educational settings, Frosty the Snowman remains a symbol of the fun and excitement of the winter season. 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

New activities for this year's parade include miniature trains, animated animals, horse drawn wagon and a bubble truck. There will also be dancers, singers, marching bands Santa, and of course Frosty. The non-profit, Friends of Frosty is encouraging visitors to donate a coat or winter clothing to someone in need. clothing bins will be around town and at the North Castle Library.

For more information, visit www.ArmonkFrosty.com.

This year's parade will take place on Sunday, December 1st

12:30 PM - 3:30 PM: Fun Activities for all ages!

4:00 PM: Frosty Day Parade

4:30 PM: Lighting Ceremony

Visit the BHEF in downtown Armonk for hot cocoa and festive temporary tattoos!

Holiday Lane at American Christmas in Mt. Vernon Open for the Season and for Your Visit



American Christmas opened its doors to the public for the third consecutive year on November 7 and celebrated Holiday Lane at American Christmas in grand style with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a tour for local dignitaries, elected officials, and the Executive Directors of three nonprofit organizations that will benefit from 100% of the net ticket sales.

Located at 30 Warren Place in Mt. Vernon, American Christmas has been designing and installing the world's most iconic holiday displays for over 50 years. In New York those include landmarks like Rockefeller Center, Radio City Music Hall, Macy's, Cartier, Harry Winston, Ralph Lauren, and J. Crew, to name just a few. Across America they work in 30 states and decorate some of the most prestigious locations including Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills.

This year, their showroom has once again been transformed into 'Holiday Lane,' a magical Christmas walk-thru for children and adults alike, perfect for taking those memorable Christmas photos. Holiday Lane at American Christmas features 100,000 twinkling lights, many whimsical animatronics, and festive figurines. Visitors can also shop at the on-site retail store, Christmas in America, which offers unique ornaments, decorations, pre-lit Christmas trees, infinity lights, and more.

Holiday Lane will remain open through December 29 and Santa will visit several days throughout the season. Dates and times are available on the website where people can purchase tickets from \$10 - \$25. All net proceeds will benefit the Mount Vernon Boys & Girls Club, Northeast STEM Academy of Mt. Vernon, and Youth Community Outreach Program of Mount Vernon.

About American Christmas

American Christmas was founded in 1968 and acquired by MK Illumination in 2017, making it the largest provider of festive lighting in the world. It provides turnkey solutions for incredibly complex and intricate commercial Christmas displays used by retail stores, building lobbies, corporate headquarters, hotels, malls and more across 30 states. American Christmas services include design and development, manufacturing and assembly, distribution, installation, removal, refurbishment, and storage.

For information, on commercial Christmas decorations, , click the links or visit www.americanchristmas.com.

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Manhattanville to Host Holiday Concert with GRAMMY Winning Opera Singer Will Liverman and Acclaimed Pianist Judith Lynn Stillman



L to R: GRAMMY Award-winning baritone Will Liverman; pianist and composer Judith Lynn Stillman

This holiday season, Manhattanville University will host a spectacular evening of music featuring GRAMMY Award-winning baritone Will Liverman and acclaimed pianist Judith Lynn Stillman. This exclusive performance in O’Byrne Chapel promises an unforgettable showcase of world-class artistry. Together, Liverman’s rich baritone and Stillman’s celebrated piano artistry bring art songs, arias, festive selections, and original compositions to life through their extraordinary collaboration.

The performance marks one of Liverman’s few appearances outside the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.

The concert will take place on Thursday, December 19, at 7:30 PM on the Manhattanville campus (O’Byrne Chapel) at 2900 Purchase Street in Purchase, NY. General admission tickets are \$75, while a limited number of \$250 VIP tickets include a special post-concert reception and photo opportunity. Tickets are available here.

Judith Lynn Stillman and Will Liverman’s *ESSENTIAL BUSINESS: A Mini-Opera* with film, musical score, and piano/instrumentals by Judith Lynn Stillman, featuring Will Liverman, was the First Prize winner of the worldwide OperaVision/Opera Europa International Quarantine Competition. The film was spotlighted as “a watching and listening highlight” by The Guardian. Liverman and Stillman also performed *Art Song to Aria* at the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts. Their duo recital included the world premiere of Stillman’s song cycle, “Where There’s A Will...”, commissioned by Liverman.

“This concert promises to be an extraordinary experience, bringing together two remarkable musical artists in an intimate setting,” said Frank D. Sánchez, Ph.D., President of Manhattanville University. “The O’Byrne Chapel is a beautiful building with wonderful acoustics, making it the perfect venue for what is sure to be a magical evening.”

Visit https://alumni.mville.edu/s/1851/interior.aspx?sid=1851&gid=2&pgid=1492&content_id=1675, to purchase tickets. Music at Asbury Presents “God Bless Us, Everyone”

Music at Asbury Presents “God Bless Us, Everyone”



Holiday Tradition in its Fourth Year-Sunday December 8-4pm

Asbury-Crestwood United Methodist Church is delighted to present the third performance of its popular free holiday program, “God Bless Us, Everyone,” part of the Music at Asbury series. The show is a staged reading of Dickens’ classic holiday story, *A Christmas Carol*, complemented with songs by Alan Menken and Lynn Ahrens, Alan Silvestri and Glen Ballard, and a selection of familiar Christmas carols for the audience to sing along. This is a 75-minute program with no intermission.

Directed and conceived by Mauro Contrastano, with Mary Thombs as music director, “God Bless Us, Everyone” stars Mauro Contrastano, Laura Leopard, Martin McGeachy, and J.T. O’Connor. Jonathan Riss will serve as the organist, with soloists Joseph Diaz, tenor; Katherine Logan, soprano; Nick Stephens, trumpet; Michael Quigley, Ruth Chiamulera, Carmela Sirico, Jeannine Padula Goche, Robin Aleman, and Gary Skidmore from Asbury Summer Theatre; the Asbury UMC Choir, and young people from the Riverarts voice studio of Mary Thombs. Reservations are strongly suggested. Reservations can be made online at <http://www.musicatasbury.com> or by calling the church office 914-779-3722 and leaving a message with name, phone number, email address, and number in your party.

Music at Asbury was launched in November of 2014 by Lu Gmoser, founding producer of Asbury Summer Theatre, and Dr. Earl F. Groner. As a program of Asbury-Crestwood United Methodist Church, Music at Asbury is designed to serve as a social service to the community, offering free performances by some of New York City and the Hudson Valley’s finest musical artists. The December 8 performance will open with a short tribute to Music at Asbury founder Lu Gmoser, who passed away in September.

Program is made possible in part by a 2024 Arts Alive Grant from ArtsWestchester and an Art\$Westchester Challenge Grant.

Asbury Church was founded December 10, 1771 and has worshiped as a congregation continuously in Tuckahoe for 250 years. The Rev. Jason Radmacher is pastor of Asbury Church and Mary Thombs is Minister of Music and Chair of Music at Asbury.

Gaza Protest at SLC, continued from pg 2-

The solidarity protestors intend to remain inside Dar al-Fayoumi until Sarah Lawrence’s leadership 1) provides tangible evidence of communication with Commonfund and establishes an urgent timeline for disclosure, 2) pledges to protect Arab and Muslim students against harassment, 3) commits to amnesty for all those involved in the occupation, and 4) takes concrete steps to expand student and faculty input into decisions that impact the entire campus. To that end, we assert that this is a conversation between members of the Sarah Lawrence community, and we have chosen not to engage with the media in order to prioritize negotiation and open conversation between students, faculty, staff, and leadership. We will not be making statements to the press apart from this one. Any additional comments made on our behalf do not represent the intentions or views of the solidarity protestors.

This is a family conversation and a student-led movement born of love for the living, grief for the hundreds of thousands dead, and solidarity with the peoples of Palestine and Lebanon. The gift of their moral clarity and resistance amid the waking nightmare of occupation will never be repaid. Rather than fixating on our minor disruption of day-to-day life on a small campus, we encourage the press to dedicate their time and resources toward reporting on the Israeli campaign to disrupt and end the lives of the men, women, and children of Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen, Syria, and Iran and pressuring U.S. legislators to support an end to the siege on Gaza and an arms embargo now.

*If we learn through PYM that the al-Fayoumi family is uncomfortable with this renaming, we will honor a different martyr.

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Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

SATURDAY, NOV. 23

Alfred B. DeBello Muscote Farm, Somers: (914) 864-7282
Book Buddies, 9 a.m. - 12 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! Also: Dec. 21.

Get details and register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/book-buddies-program-at-muscote-farm-tickets-1009763037427?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466
Nature Sketchbook Walk, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Sketching in nature is a great practice for building nature observation skills and can be a wonderful mindfulness practice. In this relaxed and guided program, we will capture a quick representation of natural objects, landscape features, and more as we walk around the landscape. Bring a sketchbook and pencil, or borrow one of ours. No previous art training is necessary.

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268
Natural Holiday Ornaments, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Just in time for the holiday season, children of all ages will make ornaments from natural materials that include pinecones, twigs and a wooden dinosaur. Free; walk in anytime between 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (no walk-ins accepted after 1:30 p.m.) Get details <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/natural-holiday-ornaments/>

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050 Harvest + Craft: Winter Greenery, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

In this class, learn how to forage and harvest evergreens to make sustainable decorative wreaths, garlands and other greenery to take home. For ages 12 and older. Supplies are included in the program fee. \$28.52 per person.

Get details and pre-register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/harvest-craft-winter-greenery-tickets-1069606143769?aff=oddtcreator>

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851

Turkey Day, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Wild turkeys are all over Westchester! To celebrate Thanksgiving weekend, learn some cool turkey facts and make a turkey-themed craft! This indoor-outdoor program is for all ages.

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

A Late Look at the Invasives and Tree Pruning, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Now is a good time to control vegetation because many plant species are dormant. Please bring work gloves. Hand tools will be provided.

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

Cool-Season Tree ID, 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Learn how to identify common deciduous trees and evergreens during changing seasons.

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-2/2024-11-23/>

Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla: (914) 231-4033

Westchester Winter Wonderland Drive-Thru Holiday Light Extravaganza, 5 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Make priceless memories with your family and take a 1.2-mile drive through Kensico Dam Plaza to see it dazzle in thousands of lights. Open most nights through Dec. 31; \$35 per car. Get details and reservations <https://feverup.com/m/249901>

SUNDAY, NOV. 24

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.

Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/yoga-in-the-gardens/2024-11-24/>

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/2024-11-24/>

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

Turkey Lurking, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Drop in on the nature center for some crafts and turkey facts. Take a short self-guided walk to learn about their habitat.

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Congestion Pricing, continued from pg 1-

ness District (Manhattan below 60th Street) would initially be as follows, starting at midnight on January 5, 2025:

- Passenger vehicles (once per day): \$9
- Motorcycles (once per day): \$4.50
- Small trucks and non-commuter buses: \$14.40
- Large trucks and sightseeing buses: \$21.60

The average commuter would pay more than \$2,000 a year to drive into midtown Manhattan and the \$9 toll is set to increase to \$12 in 2028.

The money raised will be used for capital projects for the MTA subway and bus systems in NYC, not for Metro-North or the LIRR.

“The way that the Governor pulled the proposed \$15 toll just before the election, and now has brought it back at \$9, only fuels the general distrust people have in their government. And all of this done without making and cuts or attempts to control the fraud and abuse in the MTA, is noteworthy,” said one Westchester commuter. “How about the \$700 million in lost revenue people who don’t pay their tolls or fares?”

Some believe that Hochul doomed her political future by enacting congestion pricing. One of those is Congressman Mike Lawler, rumored to be preparing a run for Governor against Hochul in 2026.

“New York State needs a Governor committed to lowering costs on working families, fixing the MTA’s broken and corrupt budget, and making things a little easier for all New Yorkers. Sadly, Governor Hochul doesn’t appear to be up to the task,” said Lawler.

One democrat who did speak up against congestion pricing was Congressman Pat Ryan (D, NY-18). “You simply cannot put a tax on the backs of Hudson Valley families with zero plan to use the additional revenue to actually bolster service in the Hudson Valley.”

“I thought we were done with this. The fact that the governor is back peddling so quickly after the election reveals how blatantly political this rehearsed reversal is,” Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne said. “Charging drivers additional fees for driving through an area to fund the MTA instead of fixing what’s broken with our mass transit system will only worsen the nation’s inflation crisis with more regressive taxation. Many of our county residents, our small business owners, and first responders commute into the city and already struggle to afford the basics. This is offensive.”

Statement by Susan Lee, President, New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax

We are extremely disappointed with Governor Hochul’s decision to reinstate the Congestion Pricing Toll-Tax. Unfortunately, the Governor decided to listen to the well-funded groups who are in the minority instead of the voters of New York State.

On Election Day, New Yorkers and the nation sent a message loud and clear: affordability and inflation are chief among the concerns of voters. In the June Siena College poll, New Yorkers overwhelmingly rejected the inflationary and regressive economic impacts of the Congestion Pricing Toll-Tax by 2:1. The last thing New York needs and New Yorkers want is another Tax to increase our cost of living more and make things even less affordable. This toll-tax will have rippling effects on our still struggling recovery. That’s why New Yorkers Against Congestion Pricing Tax, a coalition of residents from diverse neighborhoods around and outside New York City, initiated and continue to pursue a lawsuit to demand that the Federal Highway Administration perform an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to show the real impacts of Congestion Pricing (CP) on our communities. The last thing New York needs and New Yorkers want is to increase our cost of living more and make things even less affordable. It’s time that our Governor and our leaders READ THE ROOM, and end Congestion Pricing once and for all.”

“New Yorkers no longer trust Governor Kathy Hochul — and why should they? The governor has officially broken faith with New Yorkers by moving forward with a deeply unpopular new tax after cynically ‘pausing’ it right before the 2024 elections. In doing so, Mrs. Hochul has insulted the intelligence and pocketbooks of working- and middle-class New Yorkers who genuinely believed Mrs. Hochul’s controversial tax was gone when they voted less than two weeks ago.

“This tax, which was passed as a budget bill to avoid legislative debate, was never about street congestion or the environment. It will simply shift traffic and pollution to lower-income communities. Indeed, the Congestion Pricing Tax has always and only been about the constant deficits run by an incompetent and bureaucratically bloated MTA that fails to collect more than \$700 million in toll, bus, and subway fares each year. This same MTA has spent more on consultants for the Second Avenue Subway than on its construction, and New York continues to pay multiple times per track mile than any other city on the planet.

“Governor Hochul just pulled a fast one on New Yorkers. They will never forget it.” Conservative Party Chairman Gerard Kassar

Lawler’s campaign also unveiled CongestionPricingSucks.com. “Governor Hochul’s congestion pricing scheme is nothing more than a massive new tax on working families, daily commuters, college students, and residents who just want to travel within the city they call home. Frankly, this plan amounts to legalized theft by a governor and state government that is out-of-control and out-of-touch with everyday New Yorkers,” said Congressman Lawler.

Keep NYC Congestion Free said, “Governor Kathy Hochul burned us. And she did it in the most cynical way. Not only is she assaulting our pocketbooks, but she has also insulted our intelligence. This is a governor who can no longer be trusted.

“Working- and middle-class New Yorkers were manipulated into believing the Congestion Tax was gone when Democrats needed votes, and then, within days of the election, she let the hammer fall on New Yorkers again.

Assemblyman Matt Slater said, “Kathy Hochul lied. She wants to tax New Yorkers just to drive to work to bail out the bloated and mismanaged MTA. We need a new governor.”

One Westchester democrat told us, “I am against this 150%. If you needed money for the MTA, then be honest and say that. This will only move congestion to other parts of the city. This also doesn’t give any funds to Metro-North, which is the best way to truly reduce cars coming into the city. Make it more affordable for Westchester residents to take metro-north to Manhattan. This plan doesn’t do that. If anything, congestion pricing will make it more unlikely that Westchester families will return to Manhattan to enjoy all that it has to offer.

Lawsuits, and efforts by republicans in congress to derail and repeal congestion pricing are being reviewed.

State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins was asked about the reduced Congestion pricing plan, and she reiterated what she has always said,

“I have always made it clear that whatever the state does regarding congestion pricing must address congestion, environmental concerns and resources for the MTA. We hope this is a start to that process and we will continue to work toward this goal during the session.”

Resident & Associate of The Fountains at RiverVue
Thankful for a Unique Bond this Holiday Season



Reghan Gianelli, RiverVue community life director, with resident Rob Pitofsky.

Thanksgiving is often a time when families, friends and loved ones come together and celebrate all that they are thankful for each year. For resident Rob Pitofsky and Community Life Director Reghan Gianelli, The Fountains at RiverVue has given them both plenty of blessings to count – with the main one being each other.

Pitofsky came to the Watermark retirement community in 2021 after moving in and out of several other communities. According to him, “There was no question about it: I liked it. I came here with some trepidation, but I found this was my kind of place – a kind, welcoming place.”

One of the first faces to welcome Pitofsky was Gianelli, the community life director of RiverVue for 9 years. Her job is all about creating experiences and bringing fun to the seniors of the community. “Reghan pours her heart into her work and she’s always putting together a new event,” Pitofsky explained.

The friendship between the two spans generations and in recent years has become even more special to Gianelli. After her grandparents passed away, Pitofsky became like a grandfather to her. Whenever they have a spare moment, the two eagerly seek each other out to laugh, talk and even cry together. “I feel like whenever I’m talking with Rob, we can just be silly and honest with each other,” she said.

Gianelli and Pitofsky initially bonded over their shared interest in helping people, particularly as Pitofsky has become an ambassador for new residents. He provides a personal and honest perspective on life at The Fountains at RiverVue during tours, which he says often persuades potential residents to move to the community. “I reassure them that they will have connections and security if they move in. That they will always have a friend.”

This year Gianelli and Pitofsky will celebrate their intergenerational friendship with the members of the community and staff at The Fountains at RiverVue this Thanksgiving on Thursday, Nov. 21. The community, along with friends and family, will hold the annual holiday dinner the week before Thanksgiving. “It’s a big event with multiple seatings,” Gianelli mentioned. “We want to make sure everyone and their loved ones get a chance to enjoy each other’s company.”

**Send us your letters, announcements,
opinions, photos and story ideas to
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Family of Peekskill Man Who Died in NYC Stabbing Attack Wants Justice



Angel Landi

By Dan Murphy

36-year-old Angel Landi came to the United States 20 years ago from Ecuador. He lived in a boarding house in Peekskill and worked in construction. He also took care of his nephew after his sister died.

Angel was working in Manhattan on Nov. 18 when he was stabbed to death by 51-year-old Ramon Rivera. After killing Landi, Rivera went on to stab and kill two more innocent New Yorkers.

Some are wondering how Rivera was able to continue his killing after murdering Landi. Landi was killed on the West Side, near the Water Club, while working on a construction site at 820AM. He was waiting for a ride to work.

Rivera then walked across Manhattan to the East River, where he stabbed and killed Chang Wang, 67, who was fishing, at 1030AM.

Rivera then walked back to the East Side and stabbed Wilma-Augustin, 36, near the United Nations building. She was a Haitian immigrant staying at the Americana Inn with her 8-year-old son.

Rivera is charged with three counts of first-degree murder.

Landi's family sat in the courtroom and waited for Rivera to be charged. Outside the courtroom, Vertha Landi, Angel's sister, wanted justice for her family. "The city should take responsibility for the disaster we've been left with. He died working, and we want justice,"

"He was sick, this person killed my brother and then went and killed two other people. I hope the mayor doesn't let him out, that he works together with other [officials] to keep him detained and not let him leave. "I need justice for my brother, I don't want his death to be in vain," said Vertha Landi.

"A hard-working man in construction was stabbed by a mentally ill person, and then we find out that he was freed eight times, so why did the system let this criminal walk out of the justice system?" said Walter Sinche with Ecuadorian International Alliance.

Rivera has a lengthy criminal history that includes burglary, assault, and other crimes in NY, New Jersey, Ohio, and Florida. He was recently released from jail in NY on October 17, arrested for Grand Larceny THAT day, and out on NYS No Cash Bail for stealing from a Manhattan store on Oct. 17.

Many are questioning why he was free to commit the three murders on Nov. 18. Rivera has been arrested eight times in New York City in the past year, including seven felonies and one misdemeanor.

"Angel Gustavo Lata-Landi. Say his name. And explain to his family how and why an unhoused, unhinged, and unrestrained mentally ill person with an extensive criminal record was allowed to roam freely," said one New Yorker.

According to the NYPD, Rivera had been living at the Bellevue Men's Shelter on East 30th Street. Rivera did not enter a plea through his legal aid attorney, pending a mental exam.

Rivera has also been charged with assaulting a corrections officer and sentenced to 90 days, in addition to the one-year prison sentence given for the burglary charges. He was released on 10/17 after serving two-thirds of his NYC sentence, which is SOP.

Angel Landi was known in Peekskill as a responsible and friendly person, who helped others in need.

Letter to the Editor: Great Expectations

No, not the 1861 novel by Charles Dickens, but the 11/22/24 conference at the Supreme Court of the United States.

On that day the Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court will decide whether or not to proceed with a case that would finally define the principal rights of the people and principal obligations of the government that are secured by the Petition Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (and, by extension, each of the fifty State Constitutions).

At stake is the right of the people to hold the government accountable to their will, as expressed throughout the Constitution.

As goes the Court's decision, so goes our Constitutional Republic.

The case, *Futia v. United States* was brought by Anthony Futia, Jr., an 89 year old life-time resident and employee of the town of North Castle, N.Y.

The Supreme Court has docketed the case at 24-364.

Readers are encouraged to visit the Court's home page, enter the docket number and read Futia's historic "Petition for Writ of Certiorari" which was filed on September 27, 2024.

On November 1, 2024, finding no factual error in Futia's filing, the defendant waived its right to file a response.

Tony Futia, North White Plains

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