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Friday November 5, 2021

Three Close Elections in Yonkers!

Collins-Bellamy Wins City Council President's Race-54-46

Nolan Defeats Walter for County Board, 53-47

Merante Beats Hodges for Council, 6th District, 51-49



L-R, Council President elect Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, (photo by Anissa Latiff), Councilman Anthony Merante and County Legislator elect James Nolan

By Dan Murphy

The Yonkers elections of 2021 were closer than most expected, most notably in the three closely watched contests on Nov. 2. In the race for Yonkers City Council President, democrat Lakisha Collins-Bellamy defeated republican Ron Matten. The result of this contest was expected, but not the close result, with Collins-Bellamy winning by a 54%-46% margin. At midnight on election night, Collins-Bellamy declared victory, and on January 1, 2022, will become the first African-American Female City Council President. Collins-Bellamy defeated current Council President Mike Khader in the democratic primary and Matten in the general election. She has certainly earned the office of Council President, and Matten, with his strong surprising showing, has earned the right to run for office again.

"I would like to thank the voters in the City of Yonkers for this historic win, as well as all the volunteers who were out on Election Day manning polling stations, making phone calls, and knocking on doors. I am eagerly looking forward to starting my work, and now that the time for politics is over, it's now time to get to work and take care of the people's business to make Yonkers a better place for everyone," said Council President elect Collins-Bellamy.

The other big race in Yonkers and in Westchester was for County Legislator in the 15th District between republican James Nolan and democrat Ruth Walter. Nolan was elected on Nov. 2 with 53% of the vote to 47% for Walter. "Everyone recognized how hard Nolan worked to get this," said one Yonkers republican. "I think he just outworked Ruth."

The Nolan-Walter race was the #1 County Board race in Westchester and it did not disappoint. Nolan will now join the county board as the 2nd republican, joining Legislator Margaret Cunzio who was re-elected on Nov. 2. "To the residents of District 15, I'm humbled by the support I received last night. I am declaring victory this morning. This is our victory. To Legislator Ruth Walter and her supporters, you all worked so hard & advocated for issues important to District 15. This was a contentious campaign and I hope we can work together in the future on behalf of District 15. Tomorrow, the works begins. Thank you again, District 15," said Nolan, who also thanked his family, staff and volunteers.

The race for Yonkers City council in the 6th District, with republican councilmember Anthony Merante against democrat Tim Hodges, was the closest in Yonkers on election night and the day after, as counting and recounting continued. As of press time, Merante was confident of victory and supporters of Hodges had quietly congratulated Merante, who was ahead by more than 200 votes, with 174 absentee ballots possibly in the mail, making it impossible for Hodges to overcome the lead, barring a serious error. A little more than 5,000 ballots were cast in the 6th Council District.

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Yonkers Police Make Arrest in Double Homicide in 26 Hours

YMA Girls Soccer Team Champs! Move Onto State Finals!



By Dan Murphy and Dennis Richmond Jr.

On Tuesday, Nov. 2, the Yonkers Police Department held a press conference concerning a recent double homicide of two women that occurred on Shipman Avenue. Shipman Avenue and Kimball Avenue in the Wakefield Park section of Yonkers.

Commissioner John Mueller explained that around 4:30 PM EST, on Nov. 1 police went to check on two residents at Shipman Avenue. Their goal was to do a welfare check. A friend became concerned after not hearing from the people in the home where the crime occurred for several days.

Upon arrival, the officers ended up finding a broken window at the back of the house. They forced entry. After the forced entry, police found two deceased bodies.

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Members of the YMA Girls Soccer Team Photo from @RayTeodora1

By Phil Foley-

A Championship came to Yonkers last Sunday when the Yonkers Montessori Academy Girls Soccer team Won the Section 1 Class C Soccer Championship by defeating Haldane HS 4-0 at Nyack High School. This is a real big win for the Yonkers Public Schools Athletic Department, as the YMA Girls win is the first time that any Yonkers High School team has won any Section 1 Championship in any sport! Congrats for Montessori Coach Marc Aliberti who did a great job guiding the team this season. The Eagles record now stands at 10-6-1 as they advance to the regional semifinals against Section 9 winner Seward HS.

The stars of the game were Angela Shllaku who scored three goals (2nd half) for Montessori and Kate Comar who scored a goal halfway into the first half to give YMA the lead. Kate by the way is an eighth grader at YMA! Zahaiera Hegazi had 2 assists in the game for the YMA Eagles. Emma Reynolds had a great game making 15 saves for YMA as Haldane kept the pressure up the whole game! Nice game YMA Defense!

Yonkers Rising is very proud of the girls of the Yonkers Montessori Academy. We wish them best of luck as they pursue their dream of a New York State Class C Soccer Championship!

In other Yonkers high school sports news, the Yonkers Force picked a win when they traveled to Oyster Bay to play St Dominick's HS! The long bus ride paid off for our Yonkers boys as they won the game 14-6. The Force opened their scoring on a TD pass from Atticus Oelkers to Malachi Keels to take

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Fuelco-Foodsmart Opens in Yonkers: Young Entrepreneur Brings Healthy Foods to Mini-Marts



Fuelco/Foodsmart President Adam Musa, pictured with proclamation from Assemblymember Nader Sayegh, joins with Councilmember Mike Breen, County Legislator David Tubiolo, in opening new station at 651 Bronx River Road, Yonkers

Fuelco/Foodsmart continued its expansion in Westchester County by celebrating the grand opening of a Yonkers location on Wednesday.

Fuelco/Foodsmart president Adam Musa welcomed local elected officials to the new service station at 651 Bronx River Road to cut a ribbon and give them tours of the Foodsmart convenience store that shares the location with Fuelco. The service station combines deeply discounted gasoline and a variety of organic, gluten-free, and fair-trade snacks, along with convenience store staples—think Trader Joe’s with a gas pump.

“We’re trying to bring healthy alternatives in terms of snacks to the community, as well as lower-priced gas. It’s so low that people think it’s a joke,” said Musa during Wednesday’s ribbon cutting ceremony when a gallon of unleaded gasoline cost \$1.99.

The Yonkers service station is the 22-year-old Harrison High School graduate’s second location. The first Fuelco station at 85 Virginia Road in Valhalla, N.Y. opened last year, and Musa plans additional service stations in Westchester County, Fairfield County, Putnam Valley and Miami-Dade.

Musa’s Foodsmart brand responds to evolving consumer tastes. “The world is changing. Diets are changing. Keto friendly, kosher, vegan, vegetarian, gluten free, and other dietary restrictions have people transforming their diets. Unfortunately, most traditional convenience stores have not adapted,” Musa said.

While Doritos, Coca-Cola, and Hershey bars were once top sellers, Foodsmart sales show that traditional snacks are outsold by products like Rhythm Broccoli Bites, Harvest Snaps Green Pea Crisps, Amphora Organic Dried Fruit. The reason for these surging sales is Musa’s strategy of targeting dense residential areas and providing a 24/7 convenience store that mimics Trader Joes’ and Whole Foods’ offerings. Musa has an advantage over the larger specialty grocers, as the lower rent, real estate taxes, payroll and gas sales allow Foodsmart to sell healthy products for less.

NY AG James & Senator Mayer Deliver \$2.7 Million to 250 Hotel Workers Unlawfully Fired



State Senator Shelley Mayer, 2nd right, with fired Doral Arrowood Employees

On Oct. 27, New York Attorney General Letitia James and State Senator Shelley Mayer delivered \$2.7 million to workers who were unlawfully terminated without sufficient legal notice and denied their rights and wages from the Doral Arrowood Hotel and Conference Center when it abruptly shut down. Attorney General James joined a lawsuit and successfully argued that the hotel’s lenders — U.S. Bank National Association and Anderson Hill Road Capital, LLC — violated the New York Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act by failing to give workers 90-days termination notices and failing to pay up to 60 days of lost wages for failure to provide such notice. As a result of this lawsuit, Attorney General James recovered the lost wages for the 250 affected workers, who have started receiving payments.

“Protecting hardworking New Yorkers will always be a top priority for my office,” said Attorney General James. “More than 250 workers at the Doral Arrowood Hotel were left to fend for themselves when the hotel shut down without sufficient notice, leaving them jobless right before the start of the pandemic. Today, we deliver big for these impacted workers — finally providing the wages they were unfairly denied and holding these greedy companies accountable for violating their rights. Thank you to State Senator Mayer for her tireless advocacy on this issue and for her partnership in putting our workers first.”

“This is wonderful news for the Doral Arrowood workers who have finally gotten the money they deserve and are entitled to after being terminated without warning on Christmas Eve nearly two years ago,” said State Senator Shelley B. Mayer. “Upon hearing that they were let go, I immediately reached out to ensure their rights would be protected under the WARN Act. We continued to advocate for the workers with the New York state Department of Labor and the Office of the Attorney General. For the past year and a half, we remained in contact with the workers to ensure they were informed and their voices were heard throughout the case, including attending court appearances with them. Thank you to Jane Lauer Barker, Esq., Attorney General Letitia James, and Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon, who worked tirelessly on behalf of the employees.”

Doral Arrowood is a hotel conference center in Rye Brook, New York that employed hundreds of workers. In December 2019, Doral Arrowood management informed its workers that the hotel would be shutting down in about three weeks and employees would be terminated at the beginning of January 2020. Under the New York WARN Act, businesses with 50 or more employees are required to give workers a 90-day notice of termination if the business is closing. If an employer fails to give workers the adequate 90-day legal notice, employers are required by the WARN Act to pay workers up to 60 days of lost wages. The hotel failed to comply with the WARN Act, leaving workers to fend for themselves without pay just weeks before the start of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) immediately took action to enforce the WARN Act and recover lost wages, joining a lawsuit on behalf of the state Department of Labor and the People of the State of New York in an existing foreclosure proceeding in Westchester County State Supreme Court brought by U.S. Bank against Doral Arrowood. The OAG argued that U.S. Bank — which held a mortgage secured by the hotel’s property — and Anderson Hill Road Capital — which acquired the mortgage note from U.S. Bank — were responsible for payment of WARN Act damages to the affected employees because they caused the hotel’s abrupt shut down when they refused to fund the hotel’s operations deficiency which would have allowed it to continue to operate and provide proper WARN Act notice to its employees. Justice Gretchen Walsh agreed with the OAG’s argument and ordered U.S. Bank and Anderson Hill to pay \$2.7 million in lost wages to the workers — a major relief for the 250 hospitality workers whose job prospects were further ravaged by the pandemic.

“I am happy with this result,” said former Doral Arrowood worker Avelino Barco. “Many of us struggled with unemployment and have been looking for jobs since we were let go. Workers have suffered while the owners of Doral didn’t take responsibility. I’m thankful for all the help we received from Attorney General James, State Senator Mayer, and our lawyer, Jane Lauer Barker, in getting this outcome.”

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Westchester County Association Launches Y-Zone, Community Broadband Pilot in Yonkers



Joselyn Pastrana, YPIE Tech Assistant for the Y-Zone at Riverfront Library

On Oct. 21, the Westchester County Association in partnership with the City of Yonkers, STEM Alliance, Yonkers Partners in Education (YPIE), Fordham University, and Westhab launched the much-anticipated Yonkers Zone (Y-Zone). This project is made possible through support from US Ignite, the National Science Foundation (NSF) (Award # CNS-2044448), and Schmidt Futures. By utilizing Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) spectrum, the newly deployed, digital opportunity zone provides free internet access to approximately 250 to 400 need-based households in downtown Yonkers.

"I can speak for our entire team when I say we are thrilled to have successfully launched Y-Zone as part of Project Overcome," said Michael N. Romita, President & CEO of the Westchester County Association. "The impact this project will have on the community in Yonkers will be life-changing for so many families who have struggled to have their basic internet needs met throughout their lives and especially this past year amidst the pandemic."

Y-Zone is more than an affordable new connectivity solution, the project is a digital ecosystem that incorporates three core principles. The first is establishing digital equity driven by a coalition of committed local stakeholders, including residents and program youth. Next, the project will aim to achieve widespread adoption through community input and engagement. Lastly, it plans to advance digital fluency by providing device ownership and tech education as well as connectivity.

Mayor Mike Spano, said, "Now more than ever, there is a growing need to bridge the digital divide that exists in communities across the country. I am so proud Yonkers families will be given an equitable solution to technology that supports the education of our students. Many thanks to our Y-Zone partners, led by WCA and US Ignite, for recognizing that affordable connectivity is vital to the success and future of the city."

The Westchester County Association was selected as a Project OVERCOME grant recipient in March 2021. The Project OVERCOME grant provided awards to seven communities in a \$2.7 million effort designed to connect the unconnected through novel broadband technology solutions.

In order to qualify, residents must live in the service zone which reaches from Glenn Park to Park Hill Avenue, and from downtown Yonkers to Nodine Hill. If you are interested in signing up for Access or Access plus, please contact one of our community partners or email help@yzone.info, or visit YZone.info.

Turkey Day in 3 Weeks? Must Be Bargain Time



By Eric W. Schoen

Can you believe that Thanksgiving is less than 3 weeks away. Seems like we went from Summer to Winter in one week. What happened to the Autumn leaves? What happened to Fall? Finally we are seeing some fall foliage in these parts close to a month after the usual color change in the leaves before they hit the ground.

Did you buy your turkey yet. Rumors of a turkey shortage have people running to the supermarket. There should be big birds and small birds but there may be a shortage those middle of the range birds most of us buy. Turkeys freeze well so if you see the size you need and have space in the freezer, no pun intended but I would gobble it up!

Everything we want seems to be stuck in some container somewhere waiting to be unloaded. Or it is somehow affected by Covid. Or there is a worker shortage for production. Or a worker shortage on the sales floor. The Target in Pelham was recruiting for workers for their Mount Kisco location. Target would even pay the Metro North train fare to get workers from Pelham and the Bronx to Mount Kisco. And the pay is close to \$20 an hour.

The more I hear of shortages, the more I think this is some big hoax to take advantage of consumers and raise prices. Shortages of Halloween costumes? Yes, the pickings were bare if you were looking the day before Halloween last Saturday. But why would you wait until the day before Halloween to find a scary ghost or goblin outfit. The best costumes are homemade anyway!

Before we get into the bargains let's sip a cup of coffee and relax a little bit. Holidays can be stressful, even in the best of times. If you live or work near a Panera Bread Store (Pelham, Cross County, Scarsdale and other locations) you are crazy if you are not taking advantage of the \$8.99 a month all the Hot or Iced Coffee you can drink promotion.

Time for some calculations. If you spend \$3 a day on coffee multiply that times 30 days in a month which equals \$90. \$90 minus \$9 plus tax puts you \$80 ahead of the game. And unlike Starbucks, Panera let's you put in your own milk and sweeteners. To me coffee is like a chemistry project. I like it perfect, and I like to fix it myself!

Many Black Friday sales have gone live already. Target has been running deals during the month of October. myblackfriday.com posts Black Friday sales from the major retailers as they go live. You can also simply Google your favorite retailer and put 'Black Friday' after the retailers name and chances are the retailers Black Friday sales flyer will pop up. Many sales are online as well as in store, as retailers are still not sure if due to Covid fears consumers are going to shop in person.

Rakuten and Ibotta allow you to link your credit cards and earn cash back on your purchases at many major retailers. They run specials where you can get up to 10% back (and in a few cases more) on top of the sale price you hopefully took advantage of. Retailers like those in the GAP family of brands (GAP, Old Navy, Athleta and Banana Republic) are often featured. BUMPED is the new guy on the block that lets you earn fractional shares of stocks of the stores you shop at when

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PLEASE JOIN US

Veterans Day Ceremony

Wednesday, November 10
1:30 p.m.

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[Facebook.com/Westchestergov](https://www.facebook.com/Westchestergov)

Fourth Precinct Community Council

The Fourth Precinct Community Council will hold its monthly meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday November 18, in the meeting room at the Fourth Police Precinct, 53 Shonnard Terrace. Anyone who lives or works in the area served by the fourth police precinct is welcome. All elected officials are welcome. Captain Michael Messar, Precinct Commander, and Lieutenant Patrick Curtis will be available to discuss matters of interest.

Letter to the Editor: Dirty Tricks in the Yonkers Election

Mr. Murphy: I would like to ask you about two, last minute emails and Facebook posts to see if you know where they came from. One was from a group called, Residents Protecting Our Yonkers. The email I received reads, "Former Republican and Chief of the Yonkers Police Department Tim Hodges, seeking to be elected to the Yonkers City Council, and former Republican, Councilman John Rubbo has created a coup to seize control of the Democratic Yonkers City Council, under the advisement of their shared Republican Campaign Manager, Zehy Jereis. The recently switched Republican Councilman John Rubbo has agreed to support the former Republican, Tim Hodges' bid for City Council. Tim Hodges seeks to come out of retirement to continue capitalizing on taxpayer dollars following his six-figure City and State-funded pension. Tim has pledged his full support, endorsing former Republican John Rubbo as the Democratic Majority Leader of the Yonkers City Council. Republican Campaign Manager Zehy Jereis orchestrated the coup to secure critical votes on the City Council. Yonkers CAN NOT afford to turn back to the days of old."

Another Facebook post, from a group called 'Coalition for a More Tolerant Westchester' which allegedly pulled their endorsement of Ruth Walter. I have never heard of either organization, and I consider myself well read and up on the politics of the day in Yonkers. Can you help me?

Katherine Abrigella. Yonkers

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

you make your purchases.

Speaking of stocks, what better gift in this booming stock market than the gift of a share or partial share of stock. Particularly fun for the kids to own stock in a company they are familiar with (Disney, Apple, McDonalds) so they see how their purchases can affect stock prices. The Stockpile app allows you to purchase fractional shares at discounted fees, and many companies allow consumers to purchase stocks directly from them saving brokerage fees. investor.gov is a good website that lists stocks you can purchase directly from companies on the various stock markets.

Make sure you are signed up in the frequent reward programs at stores you shop at. Spend with your head, not over it but if you know you are going to make a major purchase at a store that offers a credit card, it might pay for you to open a charge account with that retailer so you can get the discount for opening a card on top of normal discounts. If an employee goes out of their way to help you and you are making a big purchase, open the account with him or her. The employee gets credit for the opening of the account helping to make their holidays brighter.

Most Broadway theaters that closed during the pandemic have reopened. The Radio City Christmas Show is back. If you meet the requirements to join the Theater Development Fund (TDF) and are a teacher, retiree, civil service worker or fit in one of their categories, it's a good place to get theater tickets both in the city and the tristate region at a major discount. Stubhub.com, SeatGeek app, Broadwaybox.com, Todaytix everyday a new discount website selling theater tickets opens up. Stay with the established ones or ones you know your friends have used. There are very few shows except the blockbusters like Lion King, Wicked, Hamilton and a few others where discount tickets cannot be found. If you want one of the hot shows over the Thanksgiving-New Year period, check for added performances other than the regularly scheduled one for good seats.

Have you been to TJMaxx or Marshall's lately and noticed the lines? It is because manufacturers are selling current merchandise, not last season's leftovers anymore to these discounters. An example. I bought a Columbia puffer vest, current season available at Macy's marked retail price \$150, sale priced at your Macy's probably \$100 for \$40. Bottom line: It pays to shop around.

If you haven't booked your flight yet, unless you are willing to fly on the actual day of the holiday expect to pay a pretty penny. The airline business is outta control with lack of staff and cancellations for weather caused by a raindrop. And who really wants to fly with the craziness in the sky. People act like animals but a lot of this goes back to crowded seats, idiots not wearing masks, and the whole experience from when you arrive at the airport to the time you board your plane right through to when you reach your destination. Remember when it was fun to fly?

Hotels? Many are still shuttered like in New York City due to Covid. Many are not fully operational at capacity due to staff shortages. priceline.com and hotwire.com can sometimes bring great savings if you know where you want to stay, the level of accommodation you want (2, 3, 4 or 5 stars) but don't care what particular hotel you are staying in. Kayak.com, booking.com there are new hotel booking services everyday. Stick with ones you or friends have used successfully in the past.

There are very few days when street parking meters are not operational except for Sunday's and major holidays. The biggest day for municipalities to tow cars and make money from meters people have not put money in is Black Friday, the Day after Thanksgiving. Remember: for most municipalities the only days meters are NOT in effect are News Years Day, Christmas Day, Thanksgiving Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day. Always check the meters and posted signs which should have notification when meters are not in effect. In Yonkers, don't forget to take advantage of the '10 minute' button on many meters giving you 10 minutes to run in and do what you have to do.

Some additional websites you should be on: Crazy Coupon Lady, freeshipping.com, wish.com, and don't be so quick to throw away the streamer of coupons you get when you shop at CVS. You never know what you will find! We will have more holiday bargain columns, and feel free to email me (see below) discounts you find! Happy Shopping, and of course Happy Holidays!

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

Meet Westchester's Youngest Hemp Farmer, Kayvon Philip-Reid



Kayvon Philip-Reid, and his dog Champ

By Dennis Richmond, Jr.

"Hemp and marijuana are like first cousins," Kayvon Philip-Reid explained to me. "Marijuana is used for recreational use, while hemp is for recreational use and industrial use." Kayvon Philip-Reid, 26, is a native of the village of a Tuckahoe. Tuckahoe is less than two miles long. A first-generation West-Indian American, Philip-Reid is a cannabis CEO and educator. He is the founder of the health and wellness business, RePhil. RePhil is a small eco-friendly business that provides hemp-based products. His business's goal is to examine the advantages of using hemp products.

Philip-Reid found himself in Yonkers during the Black Lives Matter protest that occurred in June of 2020. During the event, he networked with other young people. After building new friendships, Kayvon found himself making frequent trips to the city. He volunteered to hand out food to those in need and recruited people to assist him with RePhil. All the while, Kayvon fostered relationships with politicians in the community.

Philip-Reid is just as much a part of Yonkers as he is Tuckahoe. A graduate of SUNY Purchase, Kayvon earned a degree in economics and psychology. Before entering in business for himself, he worked in construction. It wasn't until taking a trip to the Caribbean country of Grenada, where his mother's from, that he had an awakening. "I had a resurgence of my roots," he said. He began his official journey of getting back to a natural and holistic lifestyle. In no time at all, RePhil was born.

RePhil grew legs in Mount Vernon, New York. Diligently piecing things together, Philip-Reid did his homework and learned everything there was to know about hemp. He wanted to be as self-sufficient as possible, so he tried to do most of the work alone. After facing manufacturing issues in New York, he felt as if he only had one choice. To chase his dream, he picked up his things and moved to Georgia. Westchester County, New York, is almost 880 miles away from Washington County, Georgia, but Kayvon made the journey. It was just him and his dog, Champ.

Upon arrival in May 2021, Philip-Reid lived on acres of land that he leased. All that was left to do was farm it. The only issue was that there was nowhere to stay. There was no home to return to, no hotel to stay in for free, and there were no relatives to call. Kayvon decided to set up a tent. "I slept in a tent for 100 days," he said. It was "me, my hands, my willpower, and Champ." After days of hard work, his profit turned into him breaking even with everything that he did.

Now that harvesting is over, Kayvon is back in Westchester, and he's awaiting his newborn child. He told me that "there's a tight-knit community of hemp farmers." Kayvon is one of the only Black hemp farmers in New York, and he's looking to teach students across the county about nature. "I enjoy seeing the process of things grow," he said. "Reconnecting with nature is the purest form of therapy. In the world we live in today, our children need as much comfort as can be. Many of them can find it in nature."

Dennis Richmond, Jr., is an author and journalist focused on the Black, Latinx, and LGBTQIA+ Community. He has covered HBCUs periodically for six years at Yonkers Rising. Richmond lives in Yonkers. Follow him on Twitter @NewYorkStakz.

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Yonkers Film Festival, YoFiFest, Kicks Off November 5, 183 Films



The 9th Annual YoFiFest annual film festival is back as a hybrid event, with many movie screenings happening in person, and all the films and filmmaker Q&A's being offered online.

This year's festival kicks off on November 5th and offers 183 independent films, many viewable in-person and all of them live-streamed online, plus live filmmaker Q&A's, educational workshops led by entertainment industry-professionals, networking events, receptions and parties.

Nine years ago YoFiFest started with a mission to showcase the work of independent filmmakers and to provide educational and cultural opportunities that otherwise would not exist in the area. This year, it is more committed than ever to continuing that mission, so from November 5th through November 21st, YoFiFest will present 183 films from 25 countries and right here in our own backyard. The films include features, documentaries, shorts, animation, music videos, web series, and student work.

The festival provides an amazing opportunity for audiences to watch films that they might not see anywhere else. FilmFreeway named YoFiFest one of the "Top 100 Best Reviewed Festivals" nine times. It's also been named "Best of Westchester" twice by Westchester Magazine, and it was named as one of the top ten reasons Yonkers was voted the "Hippest Town in the Lower Hudson Valley" by The Journal News/LoHud.

Like many other organizations, YoFiFest is taking measures to protect their visitors and our staff. After much thoughtful consideration and discussion with City, County and State officials over concerns about the spread of COVID variants, this year's YoFiFest will include special safety precautions for all in-person screenings, workshops and events happening at the festival. "This decision was not made lightly, but the safety of our audience and filmmakers is a top priority," said Dave Steck, YoFi's Executive Director and co-founder, "We made the decision to present this year's festival as a hybrid experience, so everyone has access to every movie and can choose to watch them wherever they are most comfortable."

With this year's hybrid festival, audiences have the flexibility of viewing a film in person at the Yonkers Riverfront Library theater or online as a simultaneous livestream. Both the online and in-person audiences will also get to view the filmmaker talkbacks that follow each screening.

"One of the great things about having the films streaming this year is that we're able to reach nearly every corner of the planet," said Patty Schumann, the festival's co-founder and programer, "The filmmaker talkbacks are one of the best parts of the film festival and this year almost every one of our filmmakers plan to attend their film's Q&A!"

Information and tickets are available at YoFiFest.com.

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On This Day in Yonkers History....



Federal prohibition agents, Izzy Einstein and Mo Smith

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

Monday, November 8th

November 8, 1911: Actor Jefferson de Angelis returned to his Yonkers home in Southwest Yonkers from Richmond, Virginia, to rest after ending his tour in the play "The Ladies' Lion."

November 8, 1935: In a preemptive strike to prevent gang wars between three NY area gangs vying for control of the Yonkers slot machine racket, Yonkers Police Chief Edward Quirk raided seven stores, arrested fifteen storeowners, and impounded nine "pin games."

November 8, 1939: Democratic Alderman William Slater, creator of Yonkers' nationally known "Slater Anti-Shorts legislation," was swept out of office; Republicans carried eight of the city's twelve wards.

Tuesday, November 9th:

November 9, 1903: Superintendent Daly of the Yonkers Railroad Company set men to work re-setting the curved rails at the corner of Palisade and Ashburton Avenues.

November 9, 1922: Carrying a greeting from President Warren G. Harding, Henrietta Livermore of 144 Park Avenue sailed for Brazil to represent him at the formal opening of the American Building in December.

November 9, 1928: After an official inspection of the facility, New York State Commissioner of Correction John Kennedy recommended the construction of a steel-barred partition between the outer main entrance and the corridor entrance to the new City Jail on Alexander Street.

Wednesday, November 10th:

November 10, 1936: Justice of the Peace Charles Klein, who preferred not to kiss brides after performing marriage ceremonies, instead occasionally gave the happy couple another benefit to being married. Dancers Constanzo Greco and Sarita Iris Rivera appeared at his office to be married, telling him they were on their way to Hollywood to try to get into movies. Klein's good friend was Harry Jolson, brother of Al Jolson, who ran an actors' agency in Hollywood. Mr. Klein gave them a letter of introduction to Mr. Jolson as their wedding present!

November 10, 1942: Arthur Witte, Yonkers Rotary Club Secretary, suggested if Club members ever gave a ride to a hitchhiking soldier, sailor or marine, they ask the serviceman for his mother's address. That way the member could write a note to the mom to let her know her son looked just fine.

Thursday, November 11th:

November 11, 1934: After receiving a call to a St. James Terrace home because a "queer noise" in the chimney was terrifying the owners, Yonkers Fire Department Captain Albert Kern and the Truck Five crew arrived to help. They pulled out the fireplace grate, with no luck finding the source of the noise. They figured it had to be an animal, and tried enticing it with nuts, again no luck. Finally, the captain lit a few newspapers in the fireplace; the flames made their way up the chimney, and out rushed the big bushy-tailed and slightly singed gray squirrel that had been trapped in the chimney! Mr. Squirrel ran once around the room, spotted his exit and darted out an open window,

November 11, 1940: Yonkers only surviving Civil War veteran Charles Frazee was the Honorary Grand Marshall of our annual Armistice Day services. Veterans of three wars—Civil, Spanish American and World (I)-- marched in the annual parade to honor those we lost. At 11 am, the hour the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918, all traffic stopped; those at the World War Monument on South Broadway stood silently for two minutes to pay tribute to our deceased veterans.

Friday, November 12th:

November 12, 1921: Yonkers featherweight Jack Bernstein, formerly known as Kid Murphy, was disappointed by the cancelation of his bout with Sammy Stone at the Commonwealth Sporting Club. Stone, a title contender, thought the bout would be an easy win... until he realized he was fighting Kid Murphy. He then put requirements on the fight, ones impossible for Bernstein to meet. Mike Arra was substituted for Bernstein, making our Yonkers boy very disappointed. Common wisdom had Bernstein winning the fight as he was in top condition. Instead he fought Benny Valger at Columbus Hall a few weeks later, losing by decision.

continued on pg 7-

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Yonkers Rising

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Advertising requests to the Editor: dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) # 2021 - 09
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR VIDEO SURVEILLANCE
SYSTEM SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE AT VARIOUS PROPERTIES
OWNED OR MANAGED BY THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY
FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS**

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers ("MHACY") is soliciting proposals from qualified firms for a Full-Service Video Surveillance System Service and Maintenance for MHACY at various sites as specified in this Request for Proposals ("RFP").

This RFP package contains submission requirements and terms and conditions and other pertinent information for submitting a proper and responsive proposal. This RFP is the only information provided to prospective bidders (hereinafter "Responders" or "Respondents") and is available online starting November 10, 2021 at www.mhacy.org/about/procurement/. There will be a site tour for interested parties on November 23, 2021, time to be determined, starting at 1157 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY. The RFP questions deadline is December 3, 2021 at 11:00 AM Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any and all questions must be emailed to Michael A. Cassino at security@mhacy.org by the deadline. No telephone calls and/or written communication sent via mail will be accepted.

Proposals must reach MHACY no later than 3:00 PM (EST) on December 17, 2021. Late submissions will be handled in accordance with the provisions in Form HUD-5369B.

Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria stated in the RFP. Negotiations may be conducted with contractors who have a reasonable chance of being selected for the award. After evaluation of the proposal revision, if any, the contract will be awarded to the responsible firm(s) whose qualifications, price and other factors are considered to be the most advantageous to MHACY.

MHACY reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive any irregularities or informalities if it is in MHACY's best interest to do so. MHACY reserves the right to cancel this RFP or to reject, in whole or in part, any and all proposals received in response to this RFP, upon its determination that such cancellation or rejection is in the best interest of MHACY.

MHACY is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sexual orientation, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or family status. MHACY solicits and encourages the participation of minorities and small businesses in procurement. Contact, related to this procurement, with members of MHACY's Board of Commissioners, or MHACY's officers and/or employees other than the contact person show above, during the procurement process could result in disqualification of a proposal.

Wilson Kimball
President & CEO
Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers
1511 Central Park Avenue
Yonkers, New York 10710
Project No. 2021-09

AGENDA FOR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2021 AT 6:00 PM, WILL BE HELD IN THE AUDITORIUM at SAUNDERS HIGH SCHOOL (183 Palmer Road, Yonkers, NY 10701).

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV .

CURRENT CDC GUIDELINES SHALL CONTINUE TO BE OBSERVED REGARDING ATTENDANCE BY THE PUBLIC.

CONTINUED HEARINGS

5758 – Area Variance – Steven A. Accinelli, Esq., on behalf of The Plant Powerhouse LLC, owner, on premises known as 45 Water Grant Street, Block: 2635, Lot: 1, Zone: IP (B27856)

5759 – Area Variance – Daniel D. Tartaglia, Esq., on behalf of Verus Development LLC, contract vendee, on premises known as 345 McLean Avenue, Block: 59, Lot: 75, Zone: A (B27461)

NEW HEARINGS

5768 – Improvement and Intensification to a Non-Conforming Use – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of 51 Lawrence Street LLC, owner, on premises known as 51 Lawrence Street, Block: 116, Lot: 11.14, Zone: A (B26857)

5769 – Improvement and Intensification to a Non-Conforming Use & Area Variance – Shahin Badaly, P.E., on behalf of Ghassem Khorassani, owner, on premises known as 527 aka 531 Van Cortlandt Park Avenue, Block: 39, Lot: 59.60, Zone: A (B22793)

JOSEPH CIANCIULLI

CHAIRMAN, ZBA

Section 3 Work Opportunity

MDG Design + Construction is currently seeking construction Section 3 eligible applicants for a moderate rehabilitation project, Calcagno Homes Located in Yonkers, NY. Section 3 eligible applicants are invited to submit a resume for the work in the following trades:

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- Public housing residents or
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For more Section 3 information: <https://www.hud.gov/section3>

Eligible applicants must have an active Osha 30 card. If interested in applying, please send a resume with the position desired to:

Jeffrey Goritz; jgoritz@mdgny.com

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT, WESTCHESTER COUNTY
INDEX NO.: 58848/2019
BONITA WEST LLC v. 164 ELM REALTY CORP., et al., Defendants.

Pursuant to Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, dated January 22, 2020 and entered on January 24, 2020, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction, in the Courtroom 200 of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, New York on the 19th day of November, 2021 at 2:30 P.M., the premises directed by said Judgment to be sold, being in Section 1, Block 455, Lot 6 on the Tax Map of the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester, and known by the street number 164 Elm Street, Yonkers, New York.

Approximate amount of Judgment is \$23,431.15 plus interest, costs, attorneys' fees and advances. Said premises will be sold subject to the provisions of the filed Judgment and the Terms of Sale.

FRANCIS APICELLA, ESQ., Referee.
SANDERS, GUTMAN & BRODIE, P.C.,
Attorneys for Plaintiff, 18 North Central Avenue, Suite 204
Hartsdale, New York 10530 (718) 522-0666

Notice of formation of youRmore LLC LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/09/2020 . 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, 10 Dassern Drive Apt I Dobbsferry NY 10522 . Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Classifieds

Attorney

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

Auctions

Real Estate Auctions Nov. 15-17. New York Land ranging from 6 to 89+/- acres in Davenport, Exeter, Richmondville, and Sanford. Bid ONLINE at auctionnetwork.com. NY: Philip R. Heiliger RE Lic. 10311207661. Buyer's premium may apply. williamsauction.com 800.801.8003

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Pre-Registration for 2022 Golf Westchester E-Z Reserve Now Available

Westchester golfers can pre-register for the next season's Golf Westchester E-Z Reserve program available at all six 18-hole County golf courses. During the pre-registration period, through Tuesday, November 30, E-Z Reserve holders from 2021 can reserve the same tee time/day for the 2022 season. If the holder is not interested in keeping the specific time and day, the time will be made available to all golfers in December.

From Wednesday, December 1 through Friday, March 4, all remaining E-Z Reserve tee times will be available to new golfers or past golfers who may want a new time or day. These E-Z Reserve times will be available on a first-come, first-served basis and are limited to one tee time per weekend day.

The E-Z Reserve program enables golfers with a valid Westchester County Park Pass to book a starting tee time for a series of weeks. A non-refundable fee of \$350 per player is due at pre-registration and payable by cash, check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. As a bonus for pre-registering, the 2022 E-Z Reserve season is increased from 25 to 30 weeks. After the pre-registration period ends on Friday, March 4, remaining E-Z Reserve tee times will only be available at golf courses beginning the first day of play in 2022. These tee times will be sold for a \$300 per player fee for 25 weeks. E-Z Reserve applications will be available at all courses. Applications are also available on the web with complete rules and regulations at golf.westchester.com.

Double Homicide, continued from pg 1-

26 hours after the discovery, Commission Mueller returned to inform the public that thanks to great police work, a suspect has been found and charged with Murder in the 2nd degree of both victims.

The victims were identified as a mother and daughter. The mother, Isabella Triano, 70-worked at Saunders High school. The daughter, Tricia Miller, was 38, at the time of her death. Mueller said that both victims of "knife trauma."

The suspect was identified as Luis Gabriel Ramos, 27, from Yonkers. Ramos was found in Arizona, apparently on his way to Mexico. He drove to Arizona and was pulled over by the FBI and arrested without incident.

On Oct. 26, Ramos was arrested in Wappingers Falls, for Felony Arson. He was released and 8 days later he was arrested by the YPD for murder. "We have made a case about the difficulties of bail reform. The suspect was arrested for a serious charge a C Felony and released, and a week later two women were murdered. We are working with our state legislators to try and make modifications to bail reform," said Mueller.

Mueller praised the work of the Detectives of the YPD who worked the case, and the cooperation from the Westchester DA's office, the US Attorney's office in the SDNY and the FBI.

"This is such an amazing job by our Yonkers detectives, and our partners in the DA's office, the FBI, and the SDNY to all do this and come together in 24 hours.

There are currently no other suspects and a weapon has not yet been found. One challenge to this case is that the home was filled with an extraordinary amount of personal items, and bags upon bags that were removed and seen by cameras and interested residents. It appears that the mother and daughter were "hoarders" who never threw anything out.

"It is a challenge to go through everything, like trying to find a needle in a haystack. Every piece has to be examined and if evidence collected," said Mueller, who added that detectives were able to find the suspect based on a tip from a former girlfriend who was in the YPD database.

The YPD also plans to establish a timeline based on how long it would take the suspect to travel across the country. Mueller said that the YPD does not know when the two women were murdered, and how long their bodies might have been in the house.

Great work by Yonkers Finest?

Yonkers Election , continued from pg 1-

Low turnout across Yonkers helped republican candidates and hurt democrats, who hold a large enrollment advantage. Minor parties did play a role, with Nolan receiving 603 votes on the conservative line, Collins-Bellamy getting 694 votes on the Working Familise Party line.

There were mixed views on what happened in Yonkers for Election 2021. Some democrats blamed the progressive wing of the party and the troubles of President Joe Biden. "Not all democrats are progressives, many of us are moderates and some of the moderate democrats in the party are conservative democrats. I understand that is now an oxymoron, conservative democrat, but I'm glad Tim Hodges embraced it. I think our democratic party needs to take a good look at our ideology locally, statewide and nationally," said one Yonkers democratic leader.

Two Yonkers City Councilmembers, democrats Corazon Pineda-Isaac and John Rubbo, each won re-election without a serious challenge. Both councilmembers now move on to a possible contest between each other for Majority Leader on the City Council next year, and perhaps in a democratic primary for mayor in two years. They are two young rising political stars in Yonkers.

Yonkers Democratic Chair Tom Meier said, In the more conservative parts of Yonkers, there are still voters that will come out and say we don't want the extremes. Democrats come out to vote in Presidential years and for a Governor's race, but they don't come out in high numbers for a city council race or a county board race. That is something that our party needs to work on, to get our base excited for off year elections"

CITY OF YONKERS DEPLOYS MCLEAN AVENUE TRAFFIC PLAN TO ALLEVIATE CONGESTION

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano today announced the City has deployed a five-part action plan led by the Yonkers Police Department to address traffic congestion issues along the McLean Avenue corridor. Responding to reports of increased traffic along McLean Avenue, Yonkers Police is enacting a multi-agency action plan to relieve congestion from Kimball to Woodlawn Avenues and Sedgewick to Central Park Avenues.

"As many of us return to offices and school, we've noticed an increase in traffic patterns in certain locations, mainly along McLean Avenue, leaving motorists and local residents frustrated," said Mayor Spano. "I've directed Yonkers Police to monitor the traffic and devise solutions that may alleviate the issues."

After a month observing specified traffic hot spots that began at the start of the school year, Yonkers Police reported much of the congestion occurs near St. Barnabas Elementary School, which has experienced increased enrollment and new arrival/dismissal protocols in order to adhere to COVID-19 safety guidelines. These factors have resulted in more school buses, vehicles and an increase in illegal parking, all which block the roadways. Additional school buses and traffic back up from the New York State Thruway along McLean Avenue, from Sedgewick and Harrison Avenues, also was observed.

As a result, Yonkers Police has enacted a five-part action plan, involving other city departments, to address the issues:

1. Retimed traffic lights in the area surrounding St. Barnabas (McLean and Woodlawn) to allow for smoother traffic flow.
2. An additional School Crossing Guard assigned to McLean and Woodlawn to allow for smoother pedestrian crossing.
3. Coordinated effort among Yonkers Police, School Crossing Guards and the St. Barnabas school administration to allow for faster unloading and loading of students to school buses.
4. Deployment of two Yonkers Police Officers to patrol near St. Barnabas for a two-week period during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up to control traffic flow and issue citations to illegally parked vehicles, specifically double parked cars.
5. Recommendation to adjust school bus stop location near McLean and Sedgewick to Harrison Avenue, which may relieve blocked traffic.

"As schools opened their doors after Labor Day and as more and more people return to their place of work, we have seen a significant increase in traffic across our city, but most notably along the Mclean Avenue corridor. Every morning I drive my children across the city to school. It has taken me as long as 45 minutes to get across McLean Ave from Bronx River Road to South Broadway. I commend Mayor Spano for his swift action and addressing this problem head on. This is a quality of life issue that must not be ignored," stated Councilmember John Rubbo.

Mayor Spano added, "Responding and reacting to issues like this is just another step in improving the quality of life for our residents. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of our community partners, city agencies and schools, we've been able to identify some of the unique contributing factors causing the increased congestion on our roadways. Our Yonkers Police will continue to monitor traffic flow along the corridor and determine if additional resources are needed."

Yonkers Sports, continued from pg 1

the lead. Ryan Joseph added a 3 yard run for their second TD. A pass from Oelkers to Brandon Sweat enabled the Force to convert a two point play after the Joseph TD. On defense in the game Quadir Holmes sealed the win with two sacks on St Dominick's final drive!

Coach Fava said after the game: "It was a nice win for our guys! It was a long bus ride and we wanted to have fun on the ride back"! "St. Dominick's is a classy program, coming from the CHSFL. " It was a hard fought win for the Force. We've improved every week as a team." The Forceplay their final game on Saturday November 6th at Roosevelt HS! Kick off time is 1:30 PM.

Last week the Brave traveled to Westlake HS and lost 20-0. I know the Brave team fought hard all year round and played their hearts out every game and left everything out on the field. I know this was a building year for Coach Vic Chiappa and look forward to a breakout season next year! Thank you to all the Brave players for all of you efforts this season! The Westlake game was the last game of the year for the Brave!

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

November 12, 1944: A Yonkers Red Cross worker received an unusual phone call. An Army carrier pigeon had flown into the caller's home; although the window was open, the pigeon just would not leave. She was told the pigeon was exhausted and needed to rest, so she should leave milk mixed with sugar by the open window. As soon as the bird ate and rested, it would leave. Within a few hours it ate, left and flew off to resume its mission.

Saturday, November 13th:

November 13, 1916: Mayor Lennon's administration announced the pumping station and reservoir on Lake Avenue would be abandoned, and a new 3,000,000-gallon pump would be bought for the Tubewell Station. Later, Yonkers poured tons of fill into the former reservoir to raise it to the level of Lake Avenue; this former source of Yonkers' water now is Lennon Park.

November 13, 1920: Federal Prohibition agents led by Izzi Einstein stopped by Yonkers, made three arrests, and took away eleven barrels of Italian wine. Einstein, along with his partner Moe Smith, was one of the most successful prohibition agents in the early days of prohibition.

Sunday, November 14th:

November 14, 1951: To celebrate its third anniversary as a night harness racing track, Yonkers Raceway presented Yonkers a "\$32,787 lighting system, two and one-half miles long." The new system, designed to improve traffic capacity and speed traffic on Central Park Avenue during racing season, officially was turned on the overhead lane lights by Yonkers Trotting Association President William Cane at the control box just south of the Raceway entrance. The gift included lights, thousands of feet of wire, stanchions and posts for parking restrictions, signs and directions, flasher barricades, and more! It was suggested when the new State Thruway opened, the lane signals could be repurposed as signals on the service roads paralleling the new highway.

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



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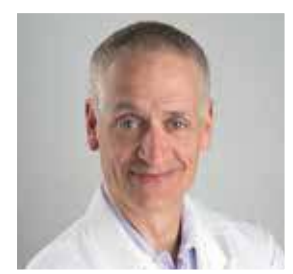
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NOT SHOWN: Evan Gaines, MD; Vishal A. Mehta, MD; Patrick Murray, MD; Paul S. Ragusa, MD; Daniel Shein, MD; David Shein, MD; Eric Spencer, MD; Mario Voloshin, DPM, FACFAS