

# Yonkers Rising

YonkersTimes.com

Friday October 11, 2024

## Assembly Candidate John Isaac: “I Support Law Enforcement and I Mean It”



By Dan Murphy

Yonkers Assembly candidate John Isaac discussed the latest crime statistics, which show that total crime is up in Westchester County by 30% since the pandemic. Violent crimes are also up by 18% and Burglary and Larceny crimes have increased by 44%.

“The first thing we need to do is to be honest about our crime statistics. Not only do I support our Yonkers Police, but I want to see more police on our streets and more funding overall for the Yonkers Police Department.

“Our number 1 priority is public safety. Without safe streets, we can’t take our kids to school; we can’t get to work safely; we can’t shop and spend in our local businesses free from threats of shoplifting and violence.

“Let me point out a few, key differences between what I will do in Albany and what my opponent has been rubber-stamping in Albany on crime. When I speak to members of the Yonkers Police Department on the streets, their number one concern is that they keep arresting repeat offenders, and they are back on the streets shortly after their arrest.

“This is due to the bail reforms that Nader Sayegh rubber-stamped and voted for.

“Last year, Yonkers police arrested a repeat shoplifter 17 times over 13 months. And he was not convicted of one crime. He was arrested, he walked

*continued on pg 14-*

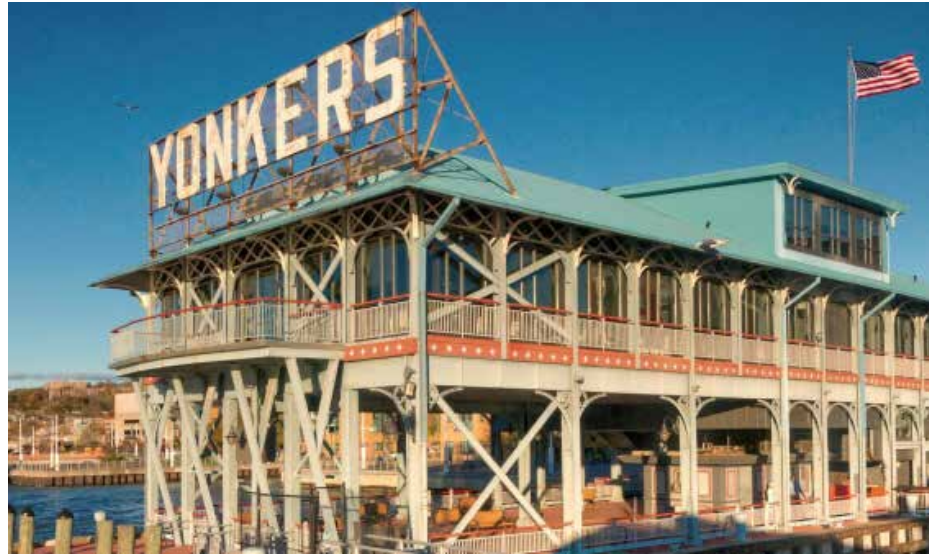
## Why Are 35% of Yonkers Students Chronically Absent?



A new report by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli details how chronic absenteeism rates among New York public and charter school students increased sharply as schools transitioned back to in-person learning after the COVID-19 pandemic subsided and remained high with nearly one in three students chronically absent during the 2022-23 school year (SY). The rates were highest for high school students at 34.1%, 7.6 percentage points higher than elementary and middle school students.

*continued on pg 15-*

## The End of an Era: Xaviar’s X20 Restaurant Closes on the Yonkers Pier



*See Story on pg 4-*

## Assemblyman Nader Sayegh on Education

See OP ED on pg 4

**ASSEMBLYMAN NADER SAYEGH**

ENDORSED BY

**nysut**  
A Union of Professionals

NEW YORK STATE UNITED TEACHERS

RE-ELECT **NADER SAYEGH**  
NYS ASSEMBLY

## Yonkers Comic Con A Big Hit!



photo by  
Donna Davis

See Story  
and More  
Photos on pg  
10

**JOHN ISAAC**

FOR NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY  
90th District - Yonkers

**EVERYONE WINS WITH ISAAC**

Common Sense Leadership  
That We Can All Trust

@isaac4assembly90 • isaac4assembly90.com

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF JOHN ISAAC



Legislator Shanae Williams Launches “Break the Silence on Domestic Violence” 5k Run/Walk -Oct 12

Bloodied But Not Bowed, Yonkers Barber Reinstalls Mezuzah – Jewish Symbol



Yonkers barber Slava Shushakova, 51, enlisted the help of Chabad of Yonkers Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz to place a new mezuzah on the doorpost of his Classic Touch Yonkers Avenue barber shop at 797A Yonkers Avenue, after suspect Ahmed Al Jabali, age 34, repeatedly slashed his right hand on August 29th, leaving him unable to work in his barber craft, seen here with the daughters of plastic surgeon Dr. Ira Savetsky. Yonkers City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, Westchester County Board of Legislators 10th District Jukah J. Holstein, and Pam Holdstein, Michael Scheffler, Board Member Westchester Jewish Council. Photo © 2024 Robert Kalfus.

By Robert Kalfus

Lace up your sneakers and join Legislator Shanae Williams in the fight against domestic violence! On Saturday, October 12, 2024, from 8 AM to 3 PM, Tibbetts Brook Park Pavillion/Loop Trail will transform into a powerful platform for change during the 1st Annual “Break the Silence on Domestic Violence” 5K Run/Walk located at 355 Midland Avenue.

This event is more than just a race; it’s a movement dedicated to raising awareness, remembering victims, and honoring survivors of domestic violence. The day kicks off with registration from 8 AM to 9 AM, followed by an inspiring opening ceremony at 9 AM. Participants can enjoy a scenic run/walk, an award ceremony, and networking opportunities—all while making a significant impact!

Family-Friendly Fun:

Bring your children! Our Children’s Zone features fun activities for ages 5-10, and the event is dog- and stroller-friendly (leashed pups welcome!).

Not Running? Get Involved!

Support our cause by setting up a vendor table, making a donation, or volunteering on event day. Every effort counts in raising crucial funds for the YWCA of Yonkers’ Domestic Violence Community Education and Services.

For details on registration, volunteering, or donations, visit Elitefeats Link or <https://events.elitefeats.com/24breakthesilence>.

Join Us in Making a Difference!

Together, we can foster a safer, more supportive Westchester County. Thank you to our sponsors, including Westchester County Parks & Recreation, Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Yonkers City Councilwoman Tasha Diaz, S.I.C. Film School, Una Vaina Vegan, Westchester Latinos Unidos, Nvested Apparel, ShopRite, the Yonkers Police Athletic League, the Yonkers African American Heritage Committee and more to come.

Let’s take steps toward change—one stride at a time!

After Hamas attacked Israel villages on October, 2023, murdering more than 1,200 people, and seizing 251 as hostages, Yonkers Barber Slava Shushakova took down the mezuzah on the door of his Yonkers Avenue barbershop, fearing that he too be targeted. Despite removing the obviously Jewish symbol, Mr. Shushakova was viciously attacked on August 29th, by one of his customers, who grabbed the barber’s own scissors, stabbed him repeatedly in his hand and arm, yelling anti-Semitic words and saying he was going to kill him.

Since that day the perpetrator has been in Westchester County jail and the crime is being prosecuted as a hate crime. Because of the injuries to his dominant right hand, Mr. Shushakova, a sole practitioner managing his barber shop, has not been able to work. Chabad of Yonkers Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz said that “Because Slava was stabbed because he was a Jew, he now realized just the opposite. Let me now run away from Judaism, let me come very strong back to it.” Mr. Shushakova was adamant that the mezuzah be reinstalled before he would consider returning to work.

With the help of Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz, today he reinstalled the mezuzah, an especially beautiful one presented by Dr. Avi Savetsky, the plastic surgeon who addressed the physical injuries.

“Since October 7th, there have been lots violent hate crimes against Jews,” said Dr. Savetsky. “He is one of several whom I have taken care of. Slava left his native country due to anti-Semitism. He came here for a better life, something that my great uncle, who was a Holocaust survivor, said ‘How much as you try to run away from your Judaism, you can’t run away from it. The important lesson today that you are teaching my kids is a very important lesson: to really embrace your Judaism and to not hide.

Said Dr. Savetsky’s wife, Lizzy Savetsky, “A lot of people think that the mezuzah is a symbol to protect us for the outside world. But the reason we have the mezuzah is to remind us of who we are. Unfortunately you had a very vicious and brutal reminder of who you are. My prayer for you in this coming year,” (the Jewish New Year starting on Wednesday night, October 2nd) is that with hanging this mezuzah that you should only be reminded of who you are as a Jew in a beautiful way and never in a negative, violent way, ever again.”

continued on pg 13-

**Buying Comics!**  
Looking for 1960’s-1990’s I PAY CASH!  
Located in Yonkers Text or call Andrew at 914-646-1718.



## Yonkers Chamber of Commerce Elects Lenny Caro as New President



Yonkers Chamber of Commerce President Lenny Caro, right, with Moira Kiernan, Yonkers Chamber of Commerce Chair, and current chamber President Kevin Cacace

The Yonkers Chamber of Commerce Executive Board has named longtime regional business and chamber leader Lenny Caro as the economic development organization's new president.

The Yonkers Chamber of Commerce will commemorate its 130th year anniversary in 2025. The appointment of Caro as president marks the first time a Latino has led the Chamber in that organization's history.

Caro served as president and CEO of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce for 14 years, during which time he focused heavily on economic development, job creation and recruitment opportunities for businesses

Through an ongoing series of events organized by chamber leadership, Caro acted as a high-profile ambassador and advocate for local businesses, educational institutions and important nonprofits serving the community.

He actively worked towards the approval and construction of a new 46,537-seat stadium for the New York Yankees. That result paralleled the plan to redevelop a 222-acre waterfront site at the intersection of the Hutchinson Parkway and Whitestone Bridge, converting it into a 7,400-yard, Jack Nicklaus-designed public golf course.

More recently, Caro served as a business development executive and as the Chief of Government and Community Relations at Mercy University, strengthening the institution's connections to business, government and employment opportunities for students and graduates.

"Yonkers Chamber of Commerce is a vital resource to our local businesses, and with Lenny's expert knowledge and acumen, I am confident the Chamber will flourish," said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. "We are excited to collaborate with Lenny and his team on how to best elevate our business owners and keep the City's economic engine thriving."

"It is my great honor to be selected by the Chamber Board. With the support of Mayor Mike Spano and his administration, the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce is going to be a growing force for business, job creation and economic prosperity for our region," Caro said. "Yonkers is one of the safest cities in the nation, and it is a place that attracts people for a wide variety of reasons. Yonkers is blessed to have a growing medical and healthcare sector; it is attracting film production companies; and it is home to numerous tourism attractions like the amazing Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts, along with a countywide

*continued on pg 4-*

**Be prepared before the next power outage.**

**It's not just a generator.  
It's a power move.**

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase\* - valued at \$535.

Call 877-516-1160 to schedule your free quote!

**GENERAC**

## God Forgive Me

By Eric Wolf Schoen



During Rosh Hashanah which we celebrated last week, Jews asked God for forgiveness for their mistakes in the past year. The holiday commemorates the completion of God's creation of the world.

Jews resolve not to repeat their mistakes in the coming year. The holiday also marks the beginning of the Days of Awe which last for 10 days

The last day of this 10 day period is Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. This is a day Jews atone for their sins. It starts tonight at Sundown and is over tomorrow when the sun sets. The day is marked by fasting and continuous prayers of repentance in the Synagogue.

Last year certainly was a rough year for me health wise. I pray for better health this year. The year ended with a bang with a week's hospitalization caused by Parkinson's freeze and Parkinson's cough. Two things I was not expecting and never heard of before. The freeze is when your whole body is in spasm and you can't move, The cough is when all off a sudden you develop this cough that causes extreme back pain. Neither is fun but when you have never heard of them before can be a little frightening.

Luckily I have excellent doctors treating me 'orthopedically' and 'neurologically', but it's all new to Me. I have excellent medical care, but several times over the last few months I have asked the. Question, 'Why me? What did I do to be in so much pain at times I simply want to cry or get back under the covers. And my perennial question, 'When is what I am going through going to get better?'

Sadly no one can answer these questions. After 64 years everything is catching up with me. Ten years ago the doctors prognosis's of correcting my scoliosis was not good. Now with Parkinson's it is no better.

I don't enjoy using a walker but sometimes I must. And yes the getting up in the morning not knowing how I am going to feel is no fun.

I will have to make major surgical decisions in the weeks ahead, and probably be out of commission for several months. I have an MBA, A BA, am a Paralegal and have an extensive plate of work ahead of me. Being out of Commission will be no fun. And the risks of complication from surgery on my neck and back is very great.

There really is nothing one can do but pray that the interventions will be successful. And hope that God is on my side. That he has forgiven me for anything bad I did this year.

So if I miss a week in these newspapers, I apologize In advance. I have been blessed to be surgery free for 64 years. If I don't have the surgery I need now, who knows what the future will bring.

People talk about insurance and I am grateful I have a good plan that will take care of most of the costs. The problem is when it comes to the neck and back, progress has been slow. And sadly the risks have not gotten any better.

I know many of you are battling difficult health situations. I just had a relative in the Hospital who to stay alive must titrate the medicines she takes daily. One mistake And yes Houston we have a problem.

*continued on pg 6-*

**Make the smart and ONLY CHOICE when tackling your roof!**

**LIMITED TIME OFFER! SAVE!**

**UP TO 50% OFF INSTALLATION**

**FREE ESTIMATE**

**1.855.492.6084**

**MADE IN THE U.S.A.**

**Expires 10/31/2024**

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Erie"). Other terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use at [eriemidwest.com/compliance](http://eriemidwest.com/compliance). All rights reserved. License numbers available at [eriemidwest.com/erie-licenses/](http://eriemidwest.com/erie-licenses/)

### In Home Personal Training

In-Home Personal Training Available. NASM, EMT and Special Needs Certified. Strength Training, Fat Loss, and Muscle Building Virtual and online coaching available. Text or call Andrew at 914-646-1718.

## X20 Xaviars Closes

By Dan Murphy

X20 Xaviars Restaurant, located on the Yonkers Pier, recently closed. Mayor Mike Spano released a statement which read,

Yonkers Mayor Spano stated: "As of September 29, Yonkers-famed restaurant X20 Xaviars on the Hudson ended its 20-year license with the City of Yonkers and closed its doors. X20, owned and operated by Yonkers-own Peter Kelly, has been a mainstay along the Yonkers waterfront and has played a significant role in the area's revitalization. We thank Peter for his commitment and investment to his hometown and wish him well in the next chapter of his professional career. Looking ahead, we are eager to announce an agreement with a premier 5-star seafood restaurant that will take over the City Pier property and open in summer 2025."

The City expects to announce its agreement with the property's new licensee in the coming weeks.

The restaurant served as the original anchor in the revitalization of the downtown waterfront 20 year ago. And Peter Kelly worked his butt off and served a wonderful mean in a fantastic atmosphere. I hope our readers had a least one chance to enjoy it.

And we all look forward to what is to come.

Thanks Peter

### Third Precinct Police Community Council Meeting Oct 16

The Third Precinct Police Community Council monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 7:30 PM at the Chema Community Center, 435 Riverdale Avenue. Residents and merchants of the southwest Yonkers area are strongly encouraged to attend this important community meeting. Usual quality of life concerns will be discussed. For future information please contact Bob Stauf, President at 914 476-2284.

### Yonkers Chamber of Commerce President, continued from pg 3-

diversity of great dining and retail experiences."

"We are very excited to welcome Lenny Caro to the City of Yonkers and as our new President of the Chamber of Commerce," said Moira Kiernan, Yonkers Chamber of Commerce Chair. "His nearly 15 years of experience leading a significant regional Chamber, professionalism and insights will propel the organization to new heights."

"Lenny Caro has had a long history of commitment to public service and helping business of all sizes succeed," said Dr. Marsha Gordon, President and CEO of the Business Council of Westchester. "I look forward to working with him as he starts this new chapter in Yonkers."

Current Chamber President Kevin Cacace will remain with the organization, transitioning to the role of treasurer.

## Dear Editor: Stop the Prop.

Proposition 2 should be labeled "The Incumbent Protection Package".

According to your page one story, all County Legislators now want to extend their terms from two to four years.

Their hollow arguments fail to convince me and should push my fellow Westchester residents to vote No on Prop 2.

Why can't these Legislators provide us with clear, concise examples of the purported benefits of this radical proposal?

Sure, eliminating the number of elections results in less cost. In proportion to the County budget what is the saving percentage? I was surprised no figures as to actual savings were given by the Legislators.

The Legislators say doubling a term's time will allow for more oversight in law-making and passage of noble legislation. Where is one single example of any resolution not being enacted because its sponsor was no longer a legislator? There is none.

Finally, the Legislators say with term extension instead of fundraising and campaigning they will have more time for policy study. To that point, one could say being a County Legislator would be a great job, if you just didn't have to deal with voters.

Thanks,  
John Vorperian  
White Plains

## In Trouble with the IRS or the NYS Tax Department?

In trouble with the IRS or the New York State Tax Department? I can help. My name is Gerald Snyder, and I am an enrolled agent and a former IRS Group Manager. I have successfully represented clients before the IRA and the NYS Tax Department for over 25 years. I resolve liens, levies, seizures, income tax and sales audits, and penalties and trust fund recovery issues. I also handle unfiled tax returns.

I operate from convenient offices at 73 Market Street in Ridge Hill, Yonkers, NY. My fees are reasonable and I offer a free initial consultation. I offer in person meetings. Why deal with an unknown person online when you can meet with me in person?

For more information, call me at 914-793-5654 or email me at [thasnyder1@verizon.net](mailto:thasnyder1@verizon.net).

## Assemblyman Nader Sayegh:

## A Lifetime of Work on Education Continues

OP-ED BY ASSEMBLYMAN NADER SAYEGH

Ensuring that our children receive a quality education is one of the most important responsibilities we have as public servants. In New York State, education is the cornerstone of our future, yet the current funding system does not reflect the realities our schools face today. The formula used to calculate state aid to our schools is based on data from the 2000 Census – an outdated system that is now 14 years behind in addressing the needs of our communities.

As an Educator in the Yonkers Public School system for more than 40 years and now an Assemblymember, I've seen firsthand the challenges our schools face. Whether it's the need for new infrastructure, modernized classrooms, or simply adequate resources, Yonkers Public Schools and many other districts are being left behind by a formula that no longer accurately reflects their needs. It is time we recognize that every student in New York State deserves a fair shot at success, and that starts with a fair funding system.

I have been in discussions with educational leaders, including the President of SUNY Rockefeller, Robert Megna, who understand the critical nature of this issue. One of the key points in our discussions was the importance of the Foundation Aid study currently being conducted by the school. This study, approved by the State Legislature and which I was proud to vote for, is crucial to ensuring that the next iteration of state education funding will be equitable and forward-looking. It must consider the real-world needs of school districts like here in Yonkers, where funding gaps have created a significant strain.

The Census date from 2000 no longer reflects the growth, demographic changes, and new challenges facing our communities today. Not a single child from Pre-K to Grade 12 was counted in the 2000 Census, yet this data determines how much their school district received in terms of Foundation Aid. Yonkers went from being the 4th largest city in the State to the 3rd largest. Our schools now serve more students from diverse backgrounds, many of whom require additional support, such as English Language Services or Special Education.

At the heart of this issue is the promise of equal opportunity. Every child in New York, regardless of where they live or their family's income, deserves a quality education. The current funding formula is failing too many of our children by not accounting for the dramatic changes that have taken place in the last two decades. We need to build a new system that recognizes these changes and ensures that state aid is distributed based on up-to-date, accurate information.

I have introduced several pieces of legislation that would help fix this issue, one of which is my bill, A67/S5451, the Education Funding Census Update Act. This bill updates the census numbers used to calculate State Education Funding from the 2000 Census presently used to the "most recent federal decennial census." Other education bills I introduced A96/S4437, which relates to the apportionment of funds for Capital Outlays and Debt Service for school building purposes. This will greatly aid in the renovation of old schools and the building of new ones. My bill, A103, increases Foundation Aid for school districts that meet five variables and percentages impacting funding and academic success: Free or Reduced Lunch, English Language Learners, Enrollment, Special Education, and the Wealth Ratio of the region the school district is located.

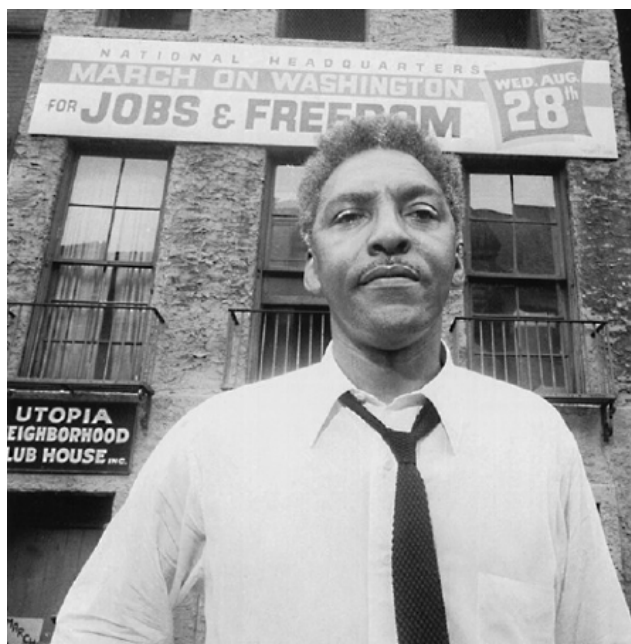
The Foundation Aid study provides an opportunity to right this wrong. By understanding where the gaps are and how needs have evolved, we can create a new funding formula that is based on fairness and equity. We must prioritize districts like Yonkers that have been historically underfunded, and ensure that all schools have the resources they need to educate their students effectively. The lack of funding negatively impacts services students need and deserve such as music, art, sports, library and support services.

Education is the great equalizer, and it is our duty to make sure every child in New York has access to a world-class education. It is time for us to fix the outdated funding formula, invest in our schools, and give our children the future they deserve.



## LGBTQ+ History Month: Overlooked Pioneers

## On This Day in Yonkers History...



By Dennis Richmond Jr.

As we celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month, it's important to remember not only the widely known activists but also the unsung heroes who quietly, yet profoundly, contributed to the progress of the LGBTQ+ community. These individuals may not be household names, but their courage and dedication paved the way for the freedoms enjoyed today.

One such figure is Bayard Rustin, a key architect of the 1963 March on Washington. Rustin, a gay Black man, was a trailblazer in the civil rights movement and a close advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His open homosexuality often made him a target, leading some within the movement to sideline him. Despite the prejudice he faced, Rustin remained steadfast in his activism, advocating for both racial justice and LGBTQ+ rights. His legacy reminds us that the struggle for equality often crosses multiple lines of identity.

Sylvia Rivera, a Latina trans woman, is another figure who helped define the modern LGBTQ+ movement. A fierce advocate for trans and homeless folk, Rivera co-founded the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Activists Alliance after the Stonewall riots. Alongside Marsha P. Johnson, Rivera started the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR), providing housing and support for homeless LGBTQ+ youth. While Rivera's radical activism was often met with resistance from within the LGBTQ+ community, particularly from those who sought a more mainstream approach, her work ensured that the voices of the most marginalized were not forgotten.

Another unsung hero is Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld, a German physician who founded one of the world's first organizations for LGBTQ+ rights, the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee, in 1897. Hirschfeld was a pioneer in sexology and worked tirelessly to decriminalize homosexuality in Germany. His institute was destroyed by the Nazis in 1933, and much of his groundbreaking research was lost, but Hirschfeld's contributions to LGBTQ+ visibility and rights continue to resonate.

These heroes, and countless others like them, remind us that the fight for LGBTQ+ equality has been shaped by a diversity of voices, many of whom faced discrimination not only from society at large but sometimes within their own movements. This month, let us honor those who stood at the intersections of multiple struggles, often without recognition, yet whose work has left a lasting impact on the path to justice.

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



Pulitzer Prize winning dramatist and Park Hill resident Owen Davis, Sr.

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, October 14th

October 14, 1916: The North Yonkers Citizens' Association formally commended Third Avenue Railroad Company's Frederick Whitridge for his refusal to arbitrate the trolley strike. The Association's resolution stated, "There will be no peace in Yonkers until the Trolley-men's Union is broken up once and for all."

October 14, 1919: The First Presbyterian Church gave a Welcome Home reception for Susie, Katherine and Pauline Heermance. The sisters returned from an eighteen-months in Europe as part of the YMCA efforts on the various war fronts.

October 14, 1926: The Crestwood Branch of the Yonkers Public Library was opened with official ceremonies, declaring it a "milestone in the development of the community." Area residents lobbied for a Crestwood branch for five years, while raising the funds to create it.

Tuesday, October 15th

October 15, 1933: Henrietta Wells Livermore of Yonkers passed away. An outstanding leader, a national figure, and close friend of three presidents, she revitalized the New York State Suffrage movement. She later organized and headed the Women's National Republican Club.

October 15, 1951: The Yonkers Savings and Loan Association opened for business in its new home at One Manor House Square. It originally opened February 1888 in two offices—Rooms 2 and 3—in the old Putnam Station Building on South Broadway.

Wednesday, October 16th

October 16, 1916: Sinners, a play by dramatist and Park Hill resident Owen Davis, opened its run at the Warburton Theater. Davis wrote hundreds of plays and scripts for radio and film; he received the 1923 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his 1923 play Icebound. While living in Yonkers, the Davis family lived on Lanark Road and Park Hill Avenue.

October 16, 1952: Detective Sergeant Patrick Christopher, considered to be Yonkers ace detective, was honored on his 25th anniversary in the Detective Division, a YPD record. One of the most decorated members of the department, Christopher was presented a wallet with money from the members of the division, after spending the day directing the Johnny Acropolis murder investigation. He was considered one of the most efficient and respected men in the department by Captain Dominico. Appointed a patrolman in 1926, Christopher was assigned to the Detective Division on October 16, 1927.

During President Truman's 1949 inauguration, the Washington DC Police Department requested Detective Sergeant Christopher be assigned to them, the first time this honor was given to a Yonkers police officer.

Thursday, October 17th

October 17, 1776: General George Washington traveled Tuckahoe Road to inspect troops, roads and fortified places along the Bronx River, leaving from his headquarters at Thomas Valentine's home on Valentine Hill, now the location of St. Joseph's Seminary and College.

October 17, 1910: Armour & Company celebrated their new "branch house" at 87-89 Woodworth Avenue with an open house. The public and trade were invited to investigate what Armour termed one of the largest, cleanest and best-equipped packing plants in the world, one that represented "the best that

continued on pg 10-

### See Your Ad Here: Business Card Special

**3 Months-\$299.00**

**6 Months-\$499.00**

**12 Months -\$899.00**

**email risingmediagroup@gmail.com**

Send us your letters, announcements, opinions,

photos and story ideas to [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com)



## LEGAL NOTICE

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YONKERS  
PUBLIC HEARING  
AMENDMENT TO 2024/2025 CAPITAL BUDGET

I, Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, City Council President of the City of Yonkers, do hereby call a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the 2024/2025 Capital Budget of the City of Yonkers as follows:

22nd day October, 2024  
City Council Chambers  
City Hall  
40 South Broadway – 4th Floor  
Yonkers, New York  
7:00 p.m.

The proposed amendment to the Capital Budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, increasing the estimated total authorization set forth in said Capital Budget by an amount not to exceed Three Million (\$3,000,000) Dollar, from Sixty-Eight Million Five Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand Eighty-Six (\$68,583,086) Dollars, to an amount not to exceed Seventy-One Million Five Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand Eighty-Six (\$71,583,086) Dollars, to fund capital projects in and for the City of Yonkers.

Anyone wishing to speak may sign up on the night of the hearing at the hearing site. Each speaker shall be permitted three minutes and speakers shall be called in the order in which they have signed up.

LAKISHA COLLINS-BELLAMY  
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
October 8, 2024

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to law, that a meeting of the City Council of the City of Yonkers, to be held on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 7:05 PM in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, the City Council will proceed to give a public hearing on the application/Petition of DMD Realty LLC, Petitioner in relation to a requested amendment to the city's zoning map by rezoning a portion of the premises known as 218 South Broadway from its current "SB-Central subdistrict" zone classification to a "C" commercial district zone classification to match the "C" commercial zone classification of 12 Bright Place, for the following described parcels of land, to wit:

12 Bright Place (designated on the City of Yonkers Tax Map as Section 1., Block 191, Lot 20)  
218 South Broadway (designated on the City of Yonkers Tax Map as Section 1., Block 191, Lot 31)

The Petition is submitted in connection with the existing parking lot and laundry mat uses at the subject properties. No construction project is proposed.

All interested parties may appear at the public hearing and may submit any comments on the petition during the public hearing or in-writing prior to the public hearing. Instructions for attending the meeting and submitting comments and copies of the petition materials and City of Yonkers Zoning Code are available upon request from the City of Yonkers City Clerk who can be reached at (914) 377-6020 or by visiting <https://www.yonkersny.gov/160/City-Clerk>.

Dated: October 11, 2024

Cuddy & Feder LLP  
Attorneys for the Petitioners  
445 Hamilton Avenue, 14th Fl.  
White Plains, NY 10601  
914-761-1300

## 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, October 22 at 6:45 PM in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York on the following resolution, to wit:

## PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION OF THE YONKERS CITY COUNCIL TO HONOR THE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY'S REQUEST TO HONORARILY RENAME HALLEY STREET BETWEEN MILE SQUARE ROAD AND CRESCENT PLACE "PATRICK QUINN WAY"

Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time as necessary. Further information may be obtained at the City Clerk's office, City Hall, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York and on the City's Website.

VINCENT SPANO

City Clerk

## The African Children's Choir Coming to Yonkers

Performace in Yonkers, Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 7:00 PM  
Calvary Chapel of Grace and Truth, 1373 Nepperhan Ave  
Yonkers, NY 10703  
t: (914) 410-4830

We're celebrating our 40th year! We Are The African Children's Choir ([african-childrenschoir.com](http://african-childrenschoir.com))

The African Children's Choir is sure to melt the hearts of audiences with their performance of popular children's music, traditional spiritual songs and African cultural pieces.

The African Children's Choir is composed of African children, aged 7 to 10 years old, all who come from vulnerable backgrounds and have faced hardship and lack of education. However, they represent the potential of the African child to become leaders for a better future.

"The African Children's Choir proves just how powerful music can be," says Tina Sipp, Choir Manager for the African Children's Choir. "These concerts provide hope and encouragement, not just to our audiences, but to the children whose lives are forever changed by their experiences with the Choir."

The African Children's Choir is more than just a choir. It's part of a larger, international, Christian organization called Music for Life, which provides thousands of impoverished children throughout Africa with the education, discipleship, and leadership skills needed to rise above their conditions so they can bring positive, lasting change to their families, communities and countries.

No tickets required. Donations appreciated.

*Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-*

I'll pray for you and all I ask is that you do is pray for me and VOTE! Voting is your obligation. You might be disenchanted with the candidates, but refusal to use is not the answer. It's your right and obligation. If you don't vote we will continue to have what's going on in the world today, much of what is not to our liking.

To all my friends Jewish and non-Jewish a year filled only with good things. As always, thanks for your support and prayers not only for me but for all those who are suffering.

God, forgive me. I promise to do better in the new year!

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

Notice of formation of CUADRADO LAW PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/19/2024. 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, 295 Main Street, MT KISCO NY 10549.

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.

Notice of formation of Grace For Today Desserts, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/30/2024 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, 10 Hilltop Lane, Thornwood, NY 10594. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of La Estrofa Entertainment, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 06/06/2022. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to La Estrofa Entertainment, LLC, P.O. Box 1049, Yonkers, NY 10703. 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 C BY Mayra LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/03/2024. 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, 3 Sherwood Terrace, apt 3K Yonkers NY 10704. Purpose: Any lawful activity

Notice of formation of Maranatha Health Career Training School, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 8/13/2024. 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, 7 ODELL PLAZA POST OFFICE BOX 1243, YONKERS, NY, 10703, USA. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**Yonkers Rising**

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

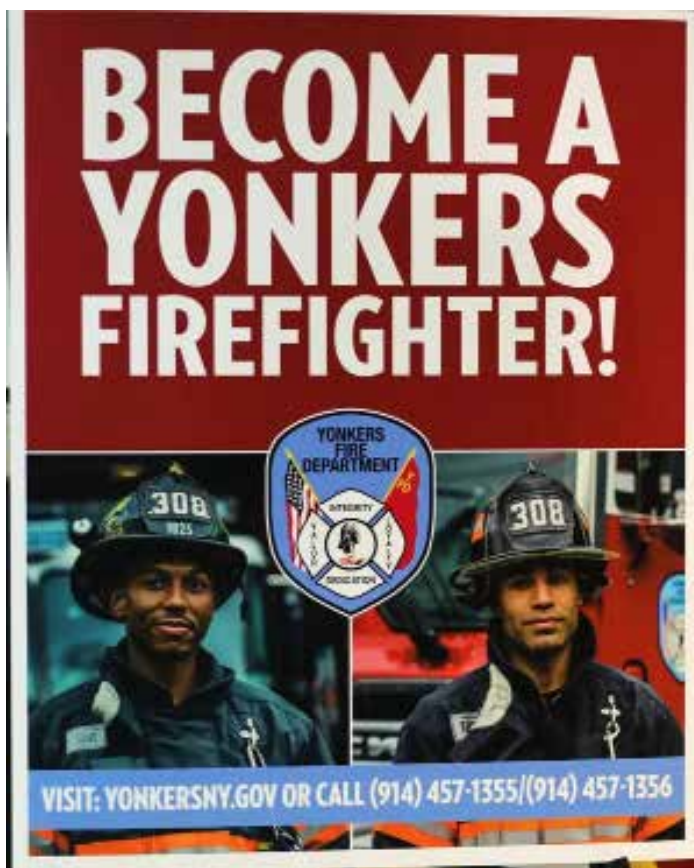
**Read it all Online at  
[Yonkerstimes.com](http://Yonkerstimes.com)**



## Yonkers Fire Department Kick Off Recruitment for New Firefighters

## Yonkers Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association Hosts Police Appreciation BBQ

Fire Department Accepting Applications October 18 - December 18, 2024 at Fire Recruitment Office and Civil Service Office at One Larkin Center



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano joined members of the Yonkers Fire Department today at the Yonkers Fire Recruitment Office at the Yonkers Riverfront Library (One Larkin Center, 4th Floor) to kick off the recruitment period for new firefighters. The Yonkers Fire Department is accepting applications for firefighters from October 18 through December 18, 2024.

“We invite men and women of Yonkers to join the rich tradition of our Fire Department – to join the over 400 firefighters who work each day to serve and protect our City and its residents,” said Mayor Spano. “Being a Yonkers Firefighter is a tough job, but is equally rewarding.”

Qualifications to be Yonkers Firefighter include:

- Must be at least 17 years and 6 months of age and not have reached their 29th birthday on the date of the written test
- High school graduate or equivalency diploma
- Must be legal residents of the City of Yonkers, for at least one (1) year, immediately preceding the date of the written examination.
- Valid New York State Class D Driver’s license
- Must pass medical exam and background investigation

“We look forward, through our recruitment efforts, to continue to expand the diversity within our department,” said William Fitzpatrick, Yonkers Fire Commissioner. “I have full confidence in our recruitment staff led by Captain Aaron McKinney to recruit Yonkers Bravest’s next generation that best reflects our City.”

Mayor Spano added, “The Yonkers Fire Department is not just a job, but a career – providing a competitive salary, excellent benefits and the best training available. I encourage those interested to apply.”

Firefighter applications will be accepted between October 18 through December 18 at the Yonkers Fire Recruitment Office at the Yonkers Riverfront Library (4th Fl.) and at the Yonkers Civil Service Office located on the 2nd floor of One Larkin Center. The written examination will take place on Saturday, March 1, 2025. Applicants will be ranked on a list according to their performance on the written and physical exams and will be called to service when positions on the Yonkers Fire Department become available.

For more information on the Yonkers Fire Department recruitment, visit [www.yonkersny.gov/firerecruitment](http://www.yonkersny.gov/firerecruitment).



The Yonkers Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association hosted their second annual Police Appreciation BBQ for the Yonkers Police Department on Saturday, September 14th at the First Precinct. Police Officers were acknowledged for their professionalism and keeping our city safe. Many officers stopped by during their shift to eat, socialize with everyone in attendance and catch up with one another.

The organization also acknowledged the following for their donations and participation: Phil Foley, Rory Dolan’s, Bobby Kitson, OEM/CERT, Stew Leonard’s and The Butcher’s Fancy. A hearty thanks also goes out to our wonderful chefs for working hard on the grill.

If you would like to know more about the Yonkers Citizen Police Academy, check the City of Yonkers website or contact Captain Vincent Castelli at 914 377-7360 or send an email to [Vincent.castelli@ypd.yonkersny.gov](mailto:Vincent.castelli@ypd.yonkersny.gov).

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

**SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB**  
1-855-916-5473

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082193 HSCB 0082199 DG83445

FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

**Saving a Life EVERY 11 MINUTES**

*I'm never alone*

**Life Alert® is always here for me.**

One touch of a button sends help fast. 24/7.

Help at Home | Help On-the-Go

**Life Alert®** Batteries Never Need Charging.

For a FREE brochure call:  
**1-800-404-9776**

**See Your Ad Here: Business Card Special**

**3 Months-\$299.00**

**6 Months--\$499.00**

**12 Months -\$899.00**

**email [risingmediagroup@gmail.com](mailto:risingmediagroup@gmail.com)**

# VILLAGE CARE MAX

Are you getting the most out of your Medicare plan?



Get up to

# \$300

per month

Over-the-Counter (OTC) Items/  
non-prescription drugs, utilities,  
gas-at-the-pump, mortgage/rent  
assistance, and grocery items. Unused  
amounts carry over month to month but  
expire at the end of the year.

## FLEX Benefits

Get up to \$1,500 per year for  
additional dental, vision, or  
hearing benefits. \$125 distributed  
monthly, unused amounts roll over  
month to month.

Member Wellness  
Rewards Program

## VISION, HEARING, UNLIMITED DENTAL, PLUS MORE.

See what's possible when health care gets personal. Call to enroll.



[villagecaremax.org](http://villagecaremax.org)

# 1-855-296-8800 (TTY 711)

7 days a week, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm

Cost sharing and deductibles may vary based on the level of Medicaid & Extra Help that the beneficiary receives. Food & produce (grocery items), utilities, gas-at-the-pump, rent/mortgage assistance, and transportation for non-medical needs are a part of Special Supplemental Benefits for the Chronically Ill (SSBCI). Generally, members enrolled in VillageCareMAX Medicare Total Advantage Plan will qualify. Food & produce (grocery items), utilities, gas-at-the-pump, rent/mortgage assistance, and transportation for non-medical needs are a part of Value Based Insurance Design (VDID). Generally, members enrolled in VillageCareMAX Medicare Health Advantage Plan and VillageCareMAX Medicare Health Advantage FLEX Plan will qualify. Some dental service limits and prior authorization requirements apply. VillageCareMAX is an HMO plan with Medicare and New York State Medicaid contracts. Enrollment in VillageCareMAX depends on contract renewal. Service area includes the following counties: Oneida, Kings (Brooklyn), New York (Manhattan), Queens, Richmond (Staten Island), Nassau, Westchester, and Putnam. For accommodations of persons with special needs at meetings, call 1-855-296-8800 (TTY: 711). VillageCareMAX complies with Federal civil rights laws and does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-855-296-8800 (TTY: 711). 注意: 如果您使用繁體中文, 您可以免費獲得語言協助服務。請致電 1-855-296-8800 (TTY: 711).

102424\_010124-01\_01



# NADER SAYEGH

for ASSEMBLY | DISTRICT 90

Nadersayegh.com

f naderjsayegh | @nadersayegh90assembly

## NADER SAYEGH IS

# TAKING THE SAFETY OF OUR

# COMMUNITIES SERIOUSLY



*"We all deserve to feel safe and protected in our neighborhoods. I'll keep working with Mayor Mike Spano and law enforcement to keep Yonkers families safe."*

- Nader Sayegh

### ENDORSED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT



## NADER SAYEGH IS WORKING TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER

- ✔ **Strengthened the Red Flag Law**, raised the age to purchase a semiautomatic rifle and cracked down on untraceable ghost guns
- ✔ Required social media platforms to provide **an easily accessible way to report hateful content**
- ✔ **Secured grants for the Yonkers Police Department** and got \$1 million for Yonkers neighborhood violence prevention programs
- ✔ **Strengthened penalties** for retail theft and illegal cannabis shops
- ✔ Gave judges more discretion to **hold dangerous criminals accountable**
- ✔ Will work with the federal government on **commonsense solutions to the immigration crisis** to stop the flow of illegal guns and drugs into our communities

### THREE WAYS TO VOTE

VOTE BY EARLY MAIL OR ABSENTEE: [ELECTIONS.NY.GOV/REQUEST-BALLOT](https://ELECTIONS.NY.GOV/REQUEST-BALLOT)

VOTE EARLY: **OCT 26 - NOV 3**

VOTE IN PERSON: **NOVEMBER 5**

Paid for by Friends of Nader Sayegh



## Popularity of Yonkers Comic Con Continues to Grow

Congratulations to Evan Bishop, the founder of Yonkers Comic Con, for the great success of the 2nd Annual event, held at the Riverfront Library on Oct. 5. Hundreds of Comic lovers, young and old came out and dressed up, representing their favorite superheroes.

This year's Creator's Choice Award honored the legendary Mark Gruenwald, a distinguished writer and editor at Marvel Comics. Renowned for his encyclopedic knowledge of the Marvel Universe, Gruenwald is celebrated as one of Marvel's finest editors. His impactful work includes spearheading the Official Handbooks to the Marvel Universe and his celebrated ten-year runs on Squadron Supreme and Captain America, Mark Gruenwald's contributions have left an indelible mark on the comic book industry, and we are thrilled to recognize his exceptional legacy with this prestigious award.

Thanks to the sponsors that have helped to elevate the visibility & potential success of this all-inclusive family-oriented event at the Yonkers Public Library Yonkers Brewing Co. The Plug W/Rxsuperstar Lost Borough Ice Cream & Alamo Drafthouse Yonkers.

*Photos by Donna Davis*

## 97th Yonkers Columbus Day Parade, Oct 6

Enjoy photos from Donna Davis of the 97th Yonkers Columbus Day Parade held on October 6.



above: Miss Columbus, Kylie Delaney with Councilman Antony Merante

below: Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano marches along Midland Ave.



**Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com)**

**Read it all Online at [Yonkerstimes.com](http://Yonkerstimes.com)**



**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

**INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT?** Don't Accept the insurance company's first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to major cash settlements. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now: 1-888-454-4717. Be ready with your zip code to connect with the closest provider

**Auto Donations**

**GOT AN UNWANTED CAR???** Your car donation to Patriotic Hearts helps veterans find work or start their own business. Fast free pick. Running or not! Call 24/7: 1-888-251-3135.

**Health**

**HEARING AIDS!!** High-quality rechargeable, powerful Audien hearing aids priced 90% less than competitors. Tiny and NEARLY INVISIBLE! 45-day money back guarantee! 855-819-7060

**IF YOU HAD KNEE OR HIP SURGERY AND SUFFERED AN INFECTION POST-OPERATIVELY** and a Bair Hugger (BLUE BLANKET) forced-air warming blanket was used during the surgery, between 2020 - present time, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 1-800-535-5727

**FreedomCare.** Let your loved ones care for you and get paid! Paid by Medicaid. Choose family or friends as your paid caregiver. Check your eligibility today! Call FreedomCare now! 1-855-385-7556

**ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS!** Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-855-399-2719

**WE HAVE THE HELP YOU NEED!!!** HHA's, LPN's, Nurse's Aides, Childcare, Housekeeping, Day Workers. No Fee To Employers. Serving The Community Over 20Yrs. Evon's Svces: 516-505-5510

**Attention: VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS!** A cheaper alternative to high drug-store prices! 50 Pill Special - Only \$99! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW: 1-855-399-2582

**Home Improvement**

**BEAUTIFUL BATH UPDATES** in as little as ONE DAY! Superior quality bath and shower systems at AFFORDABLE PRICES! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Call Now! 1-855-399-2076

Do you need a Roof or Energy Efficient Windows & Help paying for it? YOU MAY QUALIFY THROUGH NEW RELIEF PROGRAMS (800) 944-9393 or visit NYProgramFunding.org to qualify. Approved applications will have the work completed by a repair crew provided by: HOMEOWNER FUNDING. Not affiliated with State or Gov Programs.

**Miscellaneous**

**Get Boost Infinite!** Unlimited Talk, Text and Data For Just \$25/mo! The Power Of 3 5G Networks, One Low Price! Call Today and Get The Latest iPhone Every Year On Us! 844-329-9391

When veterinary care is unavailable or unaffordable, ask for Happy Jack® animal healthcare for cats, dogs, & horses. At Tractor Supply® (www.happyjackinc.com)

**Real Estate**

**We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS!** No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-888-704-5670

**Services**

**Consumer Cellular** - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-844-919-1682

**PEST CONTROL: PROTECT YOUR HOME** from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for service or an inspection today! 1-866-448-8311 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

**Services**

**SAVE ON YOUR TRAVEL PLANS!** Up to 75% More than 500 AIRLINES and 300,000 HOTELS across the world. Let us do the research for you for FREE! Call: 877 988 7277

**TV Internet Phone**

**Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet!** Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-866-782-4069

**AFFORDABLE TV & INTERNET.** If you are overpaying for your service, call now for a free quote and see how much you can save! 1-855-399-2803

**DIRECTV-** All your entertainment. Nothing on your roof! Sign up for Direct and get your first three months of Max, Paramount+, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package \$84.99/mo. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-888-534-6918

*Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-*

experience and money can buy to secure sanitary perfection and absolute cleanliness.”

October 17, 1930: Mrs. Gertrude Hickman Thompson, widow of Colonel William Boyce Thompson, was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, succeeding her late husband. Colonel Thompson had endowed the Institute with \$10 million to wipe out hunger.

**Friday, October 18th**

October 18, 1943: Former YPD Patrolman and Gorton High athlete Andrew Sukowsky, taking basic training in the Military Police School at Fort Custer MI, won the ten dollar first prize on the Michigan radio program “Let’s make Conversation.” Sutton was asked, “Is Marriage Complete Without Children?” He spoke so lovingly about his Yonkers wife and son, the audience voted him first prize without hesitation. The Private later told friends he thought the audience had to be mostly married people with children, “judging by the applause” given him.

October 18, 1945: City Manager Walsh accused Mrs. Edith Welty of constantly asking favors! He stated she continuously championed contractor John Canepi for city contracts, demanded removal of Health Commissioner McGilian because he was too friendly with Democratic political leaders, and demanded he reinstate a police officer removed from the job because of misconduct; the officer had worked on Welty’s campaign.

**Saturday, October 19th**

October 19, 1895: An irate citizen placed an ad in the Yonkers Statesman “in memory of Philipse Manor Hall, assassinated in 1895” after the Common Council announced plans to erect a new City Hall on the Manor Hall grounds.

October 19, 1925: Yonkers Mayor Ulrich Wiesendanger sternly warned the Board of Education to “keep out of politics.”

October 19, 1942: Although City Manager William Walsh banned all commercial and church bingo games in Yonkers, Assemblyman Malcolm Wilson announced he would propose legalizing bingo in communities where five percent of the community wanted it and petitioned for it. He stated many people asked about “a change in the law to remove any question as to the legality of bingo game.”

**Sunday, October 20th .**

October 20, 1913: One of the pieces added to the Keskeskick Chapter’s display at Manor Hall was a copy of Martha Washington’s last will and testament. Frances Calkins of 9 Fairfield Road obtained the reproduction in

Martha’s hometown of Fredericksburg, VA, and donated it to the Yonkers Keskeskick DAR Chapter.

October 20, 1944: Yonkers residents were surprised to see a photo of Sergeant Albert Altwarg of Hamilton Avenue in The Herald Statesman; the picture showed Altwarg portraying Hitler in the variety show, “Regimental Rhythm,” presented by his infantry unit in the 88th Division at the Fifth Army front!

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





## Oldest Living Democrat from Westchester County Board of Supervisors Endorses Trump



The sole surviving Democrat who was elected to both the now defunct Westchester County Board of Supervisors and the first Westchester County Board of Legislators has proclaimed his support for the election of Donald J. Trump in the upcoming presidential election. Andrew J. Balint, who represented the 10th Ward in the City of Yonkers from 1964 through 1969, and who represented the County of Westchester's 16th Legislative District from 1970 through 1971, has attributed the downward slide of the once great Democrat Party to the seizure of national leadership positions by leftist extremists.

He recalled that, when Elon Reeve Musk disassociated himself from the party earlier this decade, he noted that the Democrat Party went from being the "party of kindness" to being the "party of hatred and division". "The party leaders have demonstrated that on countless occasions" claims Balint, who also charged the media with forsaking the high standards set by Walter Cronkite, Chet Huntley, David Brinkley, Ted Koppel and other like kind professionals. Balint recalls watching on You Tube a panel of five news people, including Ted Koppel and Brian Stelter, who were discussing national politics. When Trump became the topic of discussion, Koppel told Stelter that CNN's ratings would be "in the toilet" if it didn't have Trump to bash around. Koppel was equally critical of MSNBC. Balint also expressed his disgust with the party's making abortion its crowning glory. He observed their use of euphemisms to enhance the appearance of this once criminal act of slaughtering infants in utero like "women's reproductive health", "women's right to choose", and "women's reproductive rights". Balint raised the question: "What about the rights of the in utero infant?" The former County Legislator, himself a Catholic, is appalled by the the countless Catholics who have been elected to public office and who disregard the teachings of their faith about this serious sin. He commented: "We have witnessed the culture in which we live going from deeming abortion a crime to approving it even though the head of the infant is visible. The Catholic faith remains firm in its holding that abortion is a serious sin and violates moral law." One of Balint's piques with the media is the manner in which it has gone from doubting that Harris is the right person to be Biden's running mate to making her the high priestess of American politics within an extremely short period of time after Biden's disturbing dismissal as the party's candidate for president. It reminded him of the words he happened upon many years ago "When wealth or ego or country or power becomes the central preoccupation of one's life, disintegration follows as surely as night follows day."

## YoFi Fest Returns for 12th Year

*International Film Festival That Welcomes Filmmakers and Film Lovers From Around the World. This year's ten day festival kicks off on November 8th and offers over 140 independent films, plus live filmmaker Q&A's, educational workshops led by entertainment industry-professionals, networking events, receptions and parties.*

YoFi Fest launched its annual festival twelve years ago as a small non-profit with a mission to raise the level of arts and culture in its community by showcasing the work of independent filmmakers and providing educational and cultural opportunities that otherwise wouldn't exist in the area. This year, the organization is more committed than ever to not only continuing that mission, but expanding on it, so from November 8th through November 17th, YoFi Fest will present 145 films from 14 countries, as well as from right here in our own backyard. The films include features, documentaries, shorts, animation, music videos, web series, and student work.

"When we started the film festival over a decade ago, Yonkers wasn't known as a film-friendly city," added Steck, "But with an increasing number of movies and television shows shooting here, and a new studio complex right outside our YoFi Digital Media Art Center, it's beginning to feel like people are realizing what we've know for awhile—Yonkers is Hollywood on the Hudson!"

Most of the film programs will be followed by a live Q&A where the audience has the opportunity to ask the filmmakers questions about their movies. "The filmmaker talkbacks are one of the best parts of the film festival," said Patty Schumann, the festival's co-founder and programer, "This year, many of our filmmakers plan to attend their film's Q&A."

Highlights of this year's festival include the Opening Night Party, which is a celebration of creativity and includes a "Taste of Yonkers" reception featuring local food and drink as well as a curated selection of short films and an after party. There are weekend workshops and open conversations with the Co-Executive Producer of Comedy Central's The Daily Show, the producer of The Blair Witch Project, a prominent entertainment attorney, PBS documentary filmmaker Ric Burns and production and distribution companies. There are also networking events, afterparties, DJ's, live band performances and, of course, lots and lots of movies!

The festival provides an amazing opportunity for audiences to watch film 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 and LoHud.

All the screenings and workshops are being held in downtown Yonkers within a few blocks of each other at either the Yonkers Riverfront Library theater, directly across the street from the Yonkers Metro North Train Station, or YoFi's own DMAC (Digital Media Art Center), which offers year-round programs, screenings and events. The festival is convenient to public transportation, as well as several nearby parking lots.

Information and tickets are available at [YoFiFest.com](http://YoFiFest.com).

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER ; Index No. 59236/2023 Filed 04/07/2023 Plaintiff  
MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT, LLC VS.

UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF LUCIETTA BORGIA; DONNAMARIE DISTASIO, HEIR-AT LAW OF THE ESTATE OF LUCIETTA BORGIA; RICHARD DISTASIO, HEIR-AT LAW OF THE ESTATE OF LUCIETTA BORGIA; SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOODS LLC; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA O/B/O INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; "JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #12," the last twelve names being fictitious and unknown to plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the Subject Property described in the Complaint,

PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF LUCIETTA BORGIA

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Amended Complaint in the above captioned action and to serve a copy of your Answer on the Plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner than by personal delivery within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a Defendant in this action may answer to appear within sixty (60) days of service hereof. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Amended Complaint.

NOTICE

YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

If you do not respond to this Summons and Amended Complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure

proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the publication and protect your property.

Sending payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT, LLC ) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

To the above named defendants: The foregoing Publication is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Hon. Paul I Marx, J.S.C, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of N.Y., dated September 06, 2024 and filed along with the supporting papers in the Westchester County Clerk's Office. This is an action to foreclose a mortgage on the property located 26 Gail Road, Yonkers, NY 10710 Section: 4 Block: 4863 Lot: 56

Westchester County is designated as the place of

trial based upon the location of the property being foreclosed. Attorneys for

Plaintiff: Stern & Eisenberg, PC, 20 Commerce Drive, Suite 230, Cranford, NJ 07016 T:(516) 630-0288.



*Yonkers Barber, Mezuzah, continued from pg 2-*

The mezuzah is attached about a third from the top of the right side as one enters, and a special blessing is said. Rabbi Hurwitz also blew the shofar, the ram's horn, and helped Slava and others put on tefillin on their arm and forehead.

Speaking and joining the installation of the new mezuzah were Yonkers City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, Westchester Jewish Council members Pam Goldstein and Michael Scheffler, Westchester 10th District Legislator Judah J. Holstein, former Yonkers City Council President Chuck Lesnick and his wife Dr. Beth Schorr Lesnick, Dr. Ira Savetsky, his wife Lizzy and their four children, and former New Rochelle Firefighter Norman Hauptman.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER  
INDEX NO: 70289/2023  
D/O/F: 11/03/2023

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

Property Address: 351 South 3rd Avenue a/k/a 351 Third Avenue South a/k/a 351 South 3rd Street, Mount Vernon, New York 10550

Plaintiff designates Westchester County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the property is situated.

BRITE FAMILY LLC,

Plaintiff,

-against-

BRENDA O. JONES A/K/A BRENDA JONES A/K/A BRENDA A. JONES, if living, and if she be dead, grantees, mortgagees, lienors, heirs, devisees, distributees or successors in interest of such of them as may be dead, and their husbands and wives, heirs, devisees, distributees and successors in interest, all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to Plaintiff;

TEMICKA L. JONES A/K/A TEMICKA JONES A/K/A TENICKA JONES A/K/A TEMICKA C. JONES A/K/A TOMICKA L. JONES, if living, and if she be dead, grantees, mortgagees, lienors, heirs, devisees, distributees or successors in interest of such of them as may be dead, and their husbands and wives, heirs, devisees, distributees and successors in interest, all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to Plaintiff;

DOUGLAS R. DRAYGOH A/K/A DOUGLAS DRAYGOH A/K/A DOUGLAS R. MADDOX, if living, and if he be dead, grantees, mortgagees, lienors, heirs, devisees, distributees or successors in interest of such of them as may be dead, and their husbands and wives, heirs, devisees, distributees and successors in interest, all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to Plaintiff; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA O/B/O INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE;

“JOHN DOES” and “JANE DOES”, said names being fictitious, parties intended being possible tenants or occupants of premises, and corporations, other entities or persons who claim, or may claim, a lien against the premises,  
Defendant(s).

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your Answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorneys within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by delivery upon you personally within the State, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: The foregoing Summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon. Nancy Quinn Koba, a Justice of the Supreme Court, Westchester County, entered Sept. 16, 2024 and filed with the complaint and other papers in the Westchester County Clerk's Office.

THE OBJECT OF THE ACTION is to foreclose a mortgage recorded in the Westchester County Clerk's Office on September 29, 2021 in Control #612713799, covering premises k/a 351 South 3rd Avenue a/k/a 351 Third Avenue South a/k/a 351 South 3rd Street, Mount Vernon, NY 10550 a/k/a Section 169.31, Block 3115, Lot 24.

NOTICE

YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.

Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

The following notice is intended only for the defendants who are owners of the premises sought to be foreclosed or who are liable upon the debt for which the mortgage stands as security.

YOU ARE HEREBY PUT ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

PLEASE BE AWARE:

(1) that debt collectors, in accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., are prohibited from engaging in abusive, deceptive, an unfair debt collection efforts, including, but not limited to:

- i. the use or threat of violence;
- ii. the use of obscene or profane language; and
- iii. repeated phone calls made with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass.

(2) If a creditor or debt collector receives a money judgment against you in court, state and federal laws may prevent the following types of income from being taken to pay the debt:

1. Supplemental security income, (SSI);
2. Social security;
3. Public assistance (welfare);
4. Spousal support, maintenance (alimony) or child support;
5. Unemployment benefits;
6. Disability benefits;
7. Workers' compensation benefits;
8. Public or private pensions;
9. Veterans' benefits;
10. Federal student loans, federal student grants, and federal work study funds; and
11. Ninety percent of your wages or salary earned in the last sixty days.

TO THE DEFENDANTS, except Brenda O. Jones, Temicka L. Jones, and Douglas Draygo: The Plaintiff makes no personal claim against you in this action.

TO THE DEFENDANTS: Brenda O. Jones, Temicka L. Jones, and Douglas Draygo: If you have obtained an order of discharge from the Bankruptcy court, which includes this debt, and you have not reaffirmed your liability for this debt, this law firm is not alleging that you have any personal liability for this debt and does not seek a money judgment against you. Even if a discharge has been obtained, this lawsuit to foreclose the mortgage will continue and we will seek a judgment authorizing the sale of the mortgaged premises.

Dated:

Sandy J. Stolar, Esq.,  
Margolin, Weinreb & Nierer, LLP, Attorneys for Plaintiff  
165 Eileen Way, Suite 101, Syosset, New York 11791-516-921-3838  
#101810



# NONPARTISAN COALITION TO PROTECT KIDS-NY ANNOUNCES

## “WALK OFF FOR FAIRNESS DAY”

### Statewide Sports #GirlCott October 24

New York State high school athletes are being urged to walk off playing fields on Thursday, October 24th — “Walk Off for Fairness Day” — to protest the continuing efforts to end girls-only sports in New York, the nonpartisan ballot issue committee, Coalition to Protect Kids - NY, which is organizing the #GirlCott, today announced.

The Coalition is urging female athletes, and males who want to stand with them, to skip practices and games that day to raise awareness about two separate and imminent threats to Girls and Women’s Sports in New York: the ongoing effort by the State Board of Regents to combine Girls and Boys High School Sports, and Prop 1, a 2024 statewide Constitutional ballot amendment that would almost certainly lay the groundwork for biological males gaining a permanent right to compete on girls teams, despite their clear physical advantages.

“Girls are being systematically canceled in this state, and ‘Walk Off for Fairness Day’ will give them a safe opportunity to make their voices heard,” said Coalition to Protect Kids - NY spokeswoman Ayesha Kreutz. “So many of these young women are afraid of speaking out, so they’re forced to watch as 50 years of female athletic progress gets washed away by destructive ideologues. Girls are not second class citizens, so why are they being treated that way?”

In April 2024 the NYS Department of Education issued draft guidance allowing boys on Girls Sports teams based on their chosen gender. It also allows boys - regardless of their gender choice - to play on girls’ teams if the school fails to offer a boys’ team in a selected sport. If Prop 1 passes on November 5th, these regulations could likely gain permanent NYS constitutional backing, the Coalition notes.

“New Yorkers know what’s happening to Girls Sports isn’t fair,” said Tamara Marcella of Staying Woman TMM Global, a Coalition partner. “Indeed, 66% recently polled (Siena) want girls-only sports preserved in the state. They aren’t anti-anyone; they’re simply pro-Girl, and that should be enough.”

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

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

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

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

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

1. Bid No. RFB-7346 – Opening date: 10/18/2024: Furnish and plant approximately 122 trees, per City specifications, throughout the City during October and November 2024 (FB).

2. Bid No. RFB-7205 – Opening date: 11/01/2024: Transportation and rigging of City provided rooftop HVAC unit for 1 Larkin Plaza, Yonkers, NY 10701. Services will be performed on a Saturday and include removal and lawful disposal of the old equipment (VB).

3. Bid No. RFB-7195C – Opening date: 11/01/2024: Twelve-month contract to purchase various pool chemical as needed for the 2024-2025 school year (VB).

4. Bid No. RFB-7172B – Opening date: 11/01/2024: Furnish and install shelving and racks on three 2023 Ford Transit vans and one 2023 Ford F150 Lighting (FB).

5. Bid No. IFB-7173 – Opening date: 12/06/2024: Construction of new generator at the Hillview Pumping Station, 391 Central Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10704. Funding for this project is provided in part by a grant from the New York State Homeland Security and Emergency Services Department, therefore, additional terms and conditions will apply and are included with the bid documents (KS)

John Isaac, Support for Law Enforcement, continued from pg 1-

out the door and did it again and again. He never returned for his court appearance and had bench warrants for his arrest.

“This madness has to stop. The Yonkers Police Department posted the following after the 17 arrests.

“Thieves and recidivist property offenders have been empowered to stroll through our retail stores and steal what they want with impunity. These perpetrators have no fear of committing crimes or getting caught. Why?”

“If there are no consequences for bad behavior, if the criminal justice system is a revolving door, then we are failing in our duty to protect the public. Courts must have the discretion to jail offenders based on their propensity to re-offend or the danger they pose to the community. Fix our laws. Put victims and law-abiding citizens first.”

“I couldn’t agree more. Even the judges want some discretion over holding the same persons arrested who appear in their courtroom.

“Two years ago, I saw how older residents who live on South Broadway had empty shelves in their drugstores from shoplifting.

“Nader Sayegh is making our police officers work harder by rubber-stamping this agenda in Albany.

“I also want to work on Gun Safety, but a different type of Gun Safety. One that helps our police take illegal guns off our streets. I would support increasing funding for the Yonkers Police Department’s gang unit and officers who are already working to take guns off our streets.

“We all know about the epidemic of young men killing young men in our communities with illegal guns. But politicians don’t like talking about it.

“There’s now a crazy plan to let anyone over the age of 55 have the ability to be released by the parole board, based on their age.

“I also continue my calls to work with our federal law enforcement to identify if migrant criminals are here in Yonkers. I support having our law enforcement work with ICE, and not having to live in a Sanctuary County.

“I understand that some law enforcement agencies have endorsed my opponent. I’m here to say that I will do what’s right for Law enforcement regardless of who they support. I will always put the interests of the everyday people of Yonkers first when I am elected, and the best thing for the people of Yonkers is to feel safe in their communities. And when I’m in Albany, the Yonkers Police Department will love me, because of what I stand for, and what I won’t stand for.

“Thanks to our men and women of the Yonkers Police Department for all that you do to keep our families safe. I want to Back the Blue in Albany.

“I support law enforcement-and I mean it.”

*John Isaac came to this country legally three decades ago, and has lived in Yonkers, raised his children, and created a small business. He is not a career politician, and is running for office for the first time because of the failed policies coming out of Albany. He hopes his children and grandchildren can enjoy living the American Dream in Yonkers.*

Visit

**BIG WIRELESS COVERAGE,  
WITHOUT BIG WIRELESS COST.**

Plans start at just \$20/month.

Switch & Save Today

**844-919-1682** **Consumer Cellular**

**NEW MEMBERS**

**WIN UP TO \$500 FREE SLOT PLAY**

ENTRIES TO **WIN A NEW**



**FORD**

Ford Ranger Drawing  
Saturday, October 26 • 10pm

\*Actual model and color may vary.

**Kenworth Market** | **Westing NY**  
HAMBURG VALLEY | 800 Westing NY  
1-84 | Ext 369 | 1-87 | Ext 17

MUST BE 18+ TO PLAY OR OVER 21 TO PLAY IN NEW YORK CITY. GAME PLAY SUBJECT TO CHANGING ODDS AND HOUSE ADVANTAGE. 1-87-8-10-2024

**BUYING COMIC BOOK COLLECTIONS!**

**TOP PRICES PAID!**

Harold and Patricia, 30+ years experience. Local Collector/Seller  
Pulsons, Wertheimer/Strong, Charlises and more

Call or text: 917-699-2496 • email: smileLP@aol.com

Hope to hear from you! Thanks!



## Yonkers Brave Lose Close Game to Ossining; Force Also Lose to Mt. Vernon

*Chronic Absenteeism, continued from pg 1-*



*Keba Cassie Sr.*

*By Phil Foley*

It was a tough week for the Yonkers Force as they lost to Mount Vernon HS last Saturday 37-6. Scoring for the Force was Jeyden Benique on a 10 yard rushing touchdown.

This Thursday night the Force will be at Nyack HS. Kickoff is at 6 pm.

The Yonkers Brave played at Ossining HS last week and lost a tough fought game 34-26.

This Thursday the Brave play at Ketcham HS. Kickoff is at 6 pm.

One bright spot for the Brave continues to be the play of Keba Cassie Sr., #13. Brave Coach Doug Hogue said that Cassie, who attends Lincoln High School, "has been getting a lot of attention from colleges to play at the next level."

"Chronic absenteeism has been linked to lower grades, lower standardized test scores, and increased risk of dropout," DiNapoli said. "Students who chronically miss classroom time often fall behind. Reducing chronic absenteeism will be essential for turning around pandemic-era learning loss. School districts need to engage students, families, and their communities to address this troubling issue."

Chronic absenteeism is defined by the U.S. Department of Education as the share of students who miss at least 10% of days (typically 18) in a school year for any reason, excused, unexcused, or for disciplinary reasons. New York state excludes suspensions and extended medical absences from the state's chronic absenteeism calculation.

DiNapoli's report found during SY 2022-23:

Large city public schools (Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Yonkers) and charter schools had the greatest high school chronic absenteeism rates: 64.2% and 52.1%, respectively. These high schools also had the greatest increase in chronic absenteeism between SYs 2018-2019 and 2022-2023. New York City high schools had a 43.1% chronic absenteeism rate in SY 2022-2023.

Chronic absenteeism rates are higher in high-need school districts than in low-need districts. High schools in high-need rural districts had a chronic absenteeism rate of 33%, a 10.1 point increase from SY 2018-2019, and high-need urban-suburban districts had a rate of 40.9%, an 8.6 point increase from SY 2018-2019. Low-need districts had a high school chronic absenteeism rate of 13.4%, a 4.9 point increase from SY 2018-2019.

Racial disparities also impact chronic absenteeism rates. Asian or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (21.3%) and White (24.7%) high school students have much lower chronic absenteeism rates than Hispanic or Latino students (43.7%) and Black or African American students (46.4%).

Absenteeism rates are also higher among economically disadvantaged students, English language learners and students with disabilities. In the large city high schools, the SY 2022-2023 rate for these students was an alarming 71.2%.

**Pandemic's Impact**

New York's public and charter schools were forced to quickly shift to remote learning when the pandemic affected daily life in March 2020, and through SY 2020-21. As a result, these school districts continued to utilize a mixture of remote, in-person and hybrid formats: 61% of students were fully remote, 38% were in-person, and 1% were hybrid. As parents, students and school personnel contended with the effects of the virus and its impact on learning, chronic absenteeism increased to 24.1% in SY 2020-2021 from 18.6% in SY 2018-19. When fully in-person instruction returned in SY 2021-22, chronic absenteeism spiked further with 32.6% of students chronically absent—an increase of 14 percentage points from SY 2018-19.

While the public health emergency remained in effect, many school districts implemented restrictions preventing students who tested positive for COVID-19 from returning to school for a period of time. These restrictions likely had a significant bearing on the increase of chronic absenteeism rates. Rates improved in SY 2022-23 but remained significantly above pre-pandemic rates.

**Policy Efforts**

Chronic absenteeism rates vary significantly between student subgroups. The New York State Education Department (SED) reports chronic absenteeism rates by race and ethnicity, as well as for students that are economically disadvantaged, English language learners and with disabilities. Though New York had initially set the long-term goal of reducing chronic absenteeism rates to no more than 5% of students statewide in each subgroup, the state paused that goal in SYs 2022-23 and 2023-24 in response to the post-pandemic heightened absentee rates.

SED has proposed eliminating the chronic absenteeism metric altogether in SY 2025-26 in favor of an attendance index rank metric. SED also launched the "Every Student Present" initiative as a public awareness campaign to help parents, school staff and communities understand the impact of chronic absenteeism. SED has recommended that school districts reduce chronic absenteeism with expanding school breakfast programs as a means of getting students to school each day and on time, engaging in frequent and positive communications with parents and caregivers and recognizing good attendance and improvements in attendance, among other initiatives.

School districts like Buffalo and Syracuse have also launched their own efforts, and federal funding provided through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) can also be used to address chronic absenteeism.

DiNapoli's report highlighted the need for the state to continue its tracking and public reporting of chronic absenteeism on a school, district and state level to provide transparency and the ability to measure the state's progress in addressing this persistent problem. Chronic absenteeism is one of the key factors impacting the ability of some students to overcome pandemic-era learning losses.

Read the report at: [https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/reports/pdf/missing-school-ny-chronic-absenteeism.pdf?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/reports/pdf/missing-school-ny-chronic-absenteeism.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

In the Yonkers Public Schools, in the Yonkers Public Schools, 55.3% of all students were chronically absent in the 2022-23 school year, including:

Asian or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander-35.7%; Black or African American -57.8%; Hispanic or Latino -58.0%

White -45.0%; Economically Disadvantaged - 57.4%; English Language Learner - 58.6%; Students with Disabilities- 62.6%

Mayor Mike Spano has encouraged students to attend school every day, on time and ready to learn. Spano has created the Pledge 182 campaign to create incentives for students to attend school every one of the 182 school days in the academic year.

Yonkers Public Schools prioritizes reducing chronic absenteeism and is committed to supporting students and families, by decreasing chronic absenteeism Districtwide. Since the 2023-2024 school year, chronic absenteeism has decreased by approximately 13%, with the current Districtwide percentage now at 35.78%.

In conjunction with professional development, Yonkers Public Schools continues to promote best and promising practices to reduce chronic absenteeism across the district by offering incentives and rewards, engaging families, establishing Attendance Teams, mentoring, and partnering with mental health professionals to support students and families.



[www.isaac4assembly90.com](http://www.isaac4assembly90.com)

# EVERYONE WINS WITH ISAAC

## STRENGTHENING LAW ENFORCEMENT

As your law and order assemblyman, John Isaac will: Lead the charge to keep violent repeat felons off the streets by repealing Nader Sayegh's dangerous cashless bail laws. Provide law enforcement all the tools and resources they need to keep themselves safe while protecting our families.



# JOHN ISAAC

For New York State  
Assembly 90th District  
Yonkers

## 2024 ELECTION CYCLE

Early In Person Voting  
Saturday Oct. 26 to Sunday Nov. 03  
Daily Time 10 am to 6 pm

Election day - Tuesday Nov. 05, 2024

\*Paid by Friends Of John Isaac\*