

Yonkers Rising

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Friday October 21, 2022

Brothers Face Off as QB's for Force and Brave in Yonkers Bowl Oct. 22



Noah Oelkers left, and Atticus Oelkers, right, will face off Saturday in the Superintendent's Cup

By Dan Murphy

This Saturday, Oct. 22, the Yonkers Force and Yonkers Brave will face off at Roosevelt Field at 130pm for the rivalry known as the Superintendents Cup. The two quarterback for the Force and the Brave are also brothers,

Atticus Oelkers is the quarterback for the Force and Noah Oelkers is the QB for the Brave. Atticus goes to Roosevelt High School and Noah goes to Sanders, and that is why they play on different teams.

The two played in last year's Cup, with Atticus getting the MVP. Force Coach Anthony Fava told us that Atticus is one of two QB's for the Force, but added, "Atticus is one of our toughest players. He is a natural football player and a great kid with a great personality. He is one of my favorite kids that I have coached, and he is a damn good football player. No matter where we play him, he steps on the field and does what he is asked."

Brave Coach Vic Chiappa said about his QB Noah, "He's a great kid and is as tough as they come. He takes a lot of hits and keeps on ticking. He never gives up and has a tremendous heart. But he's also a good athlete and a very good football player. He comes from a great family and I love coaching him."

Chiappa said that he looks forward to coaching Noah next year when he is a senior. "He has gotten so much better this year with every game. He commands the offense and reads the defense well. He has been working on his mechanics and will be a great quarterback and leader next year."

How do the brothers feel about playing each other? "We are both looking

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Lionsgate Studio Developer Discusses Making Yonkers "Hollywood on Hudson" at BCW Dinner



Robert Halmi of Great Point Studios with BCW President-CEO Marsha Gordon

In a highly entertaining and informative conversation with BCW President and CEO Marsha Gordon, Great Point Studios President and CEO Robert Halmi discussed his vision for bringing Lionsgate Studios to Yonkers and his plans for transforming Yonkers into "Hollywood on Hudson". Halmi was the special guest at the BCW's Annual Dinner held October 12 at the VIP Country Club in New Rochelle, attended by more than 500 BCW members and guests.

Halmi, a Westchester County native, explained that he chose Yonkers to build three film and television production studio campuses—one of which houses Lionsgate—because the city lies within a critical 25-mile radius from Manhattan. Halmi said that he sought unusual spaces like the former Otis Elevator Building and the former Rising Ground residential school.

"We wanted someplace unique. Some of the studios are old warehouses and they really don't look that great," said Halmi, who called the former Otis Elevator Building spectacular. "We have these beautiful old buildings incorporated into these modern facilities. It's a seamless transfer and it's really something that I could never have dreamed of."

By the completion of construction in December 2023, the \$500 million Great Point Studios in Yonkers will be the largest media production facility in the Northeast, and it will consist of three locations. The location in downtown Yonkers on Wells Avenue will be the headquarters and primary production center. The South Campus on Hawthorne Avenue will house the largest LED screen stage in the United States. The North Campus on North Broadway will be leased by Mediapro, a European film and television production company that also occupies space at the Wells Avenue location.

Great Point Studios' South Campus will also house a new media high school for the Yonkers Public Schools. The new school will open unprecedented opportunities for Yonkers youth interested in media careers at a time of explosive content production due to online streaming. Halmi said that students who graduate from this high school will possess valuable skills that will position them for higher-wage

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Assemblyman Nader Sayegh: A Record of Delivering for Yonkers



Mayor Mike Spano endorsed Assemblyman Nader Sayegh for reelection

By Dan Murphy

Assemblyman Nader Sayegh is seeking reelection to represent the people of Yonkers for another two years in Albany, Sayegh is seeking his third, two-year term representing the 90th Assembly District, which includes 90% of Yonkers. Sayegh is running on his record of delivering for the City he has served in so many ways for 45 years and in different ways.

Sayegh has been able to delivery for Yonkers in many ways:

-Education: Assemblyman Sayegh has delivered record state funding for the Yonkers Public Schools. Sayegh, who served as a School Principal and President of the Yonkers Board of Education, is uniquely qualified to advocate for the students and staff of YPS in Albany, and has proven results. He has the endorsement from the Yonkers Federation of Teachers, YFT.

-Crime: "We want our streets to be safe, but my philosophy is not based on defunding the police its about supporting law enforcement and getting them the funding they deserve. And to provide the training they need to do their job in a more efficient way," said Sayegh.

Specifically, Sayegh has worked to combat gun violence with stronger laws and state grants to yonkers communities to combat crime on a neighborhood basis. Sayegh has delivered grants for the Yonkers Police Department for specialized training, and has helped deliver over \$1 Million to the NYS SNUG safe street program in Yonkers.

In the Assembly, Sayegh has also co-sponsored legislation to stop thieves from stealing catalytic converters. Salvage businesses will have to keep records on the people they buy these anti-pollution devices from, which will severely curtail the market for these stolen auto parts.

-Inflation: Sayegh helped pass a waiver on sales tax for diapers to help mother's who were having problems caring for their babies. Sayegh also voted for a waiver of the sales tax on gasoline to help families at the pump.

-COVID-During the Pandemic, Sayegh demanded that the state put a COVID testing site in Yonkers at the Armory. "We spoke out and our voices were loud.

Continued on pg 4-

Construction Has Begun on \$44 Million Senior Housing Development in Yonkers



From left, MHACY Board Chairman James Landy; Councilman John Rubbo; Council Majority Leader Tasha Diaz; MHACY President and CEO Wilson Kimball; Mayor Mike Spano; Homes and Community Renewal Commissioner RuthAnne Visnauskas; Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy; NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins; Westchester County Executive George Latimer and Councilwoman Shanae Williams

Governor Kathy Hochul has announced that construction has begun on a \$44 million development that will create 60 energy efficient and affordable homes for seniors in South Yonkers. Known as La Mora Senior Apartments, the development replaces a blighted property with a sustainable building with modern features. A groundbreaking ceremony for the project was held October 12.

"This project will help to ensure that seniors in Yonkers have a safe, comfortable place to live in the vibrant community they call home," Governor Hochul said. "As part of my administration's \$25 billion housing plan, the State will continue to dedicate the resources necessary to create quality homes where older New Yorkers can live with dignity and peace of mind."

La Mora Senior Apartments are part of Governor Hochul's sweeping plans to make housing more affordable, equitable, and stable. In the FY 2023 State Budget, the Governor introduced and successfully secured a new \$25 billion, five-year, comprehensive housing plan that will increase housing supply by creating or preserving 100,000 affordable homes across New York including 10,000 with support services for vulnerable populations, plus the electrification of an additional 50,000 homes.

Located in the Hollow neighborhood of South Yonkers, the development will be constructed on a long-vacant parcel acquired by the Municipal Housing Authority of the City of Yonkers. The four-story building will consist of 57 one-bedroom apartments and three two-bedroom apartments. All 60 apartments will be affordable to residents aged 62 and older with incomes at or below 60 percent of the Area Median Income.

La Mora Senior Apartments is designed to be highly energy-efficient and meets the criteria for the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's New Construction – Housing Program, Energy Star, Enterprise Green Communities, and Passive House Institute certifications. All apartments will

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Fentanyl Laced Heroin Suspected in Three Overdose Deaths in Yonkers



Yonkers Police have identified this type of glass envelope containing Fentanyl

The Yonkers Police Department is investigating three apparent overdose deaths in the City of Yonkers on Oct. 17 that may be connected to the same source of heroin suspected to be laced with fentanyl. The bad batch is apparently packaged in a distinct green glassine envelope, pictured above.

The Yonkers Police Major Case Squad and Narcotics Unit, in collaboration with local law enforcement resources, are actively investigating these incidents and working to identify and apprehend the person(s) responsible for distributing this deadly substance. Community members are advised NEVER to ingest unknown or un-prescribed controlled substances, especially illegal street drugs – the results can be deadly.

If anyone has any information regarding these incidents, they are asked to call the Yonkers Police Narcotics Unit at (914) 377-TIPS (8477). All calls may remain anonymous and confidential. If you or someone you know has a substance abuse problem, please reach out for help – call (914) 964-8000. The City of Yonkers and Yonkers Police Department offers its condolences to the families of the victims.

Overdose deaths from Fentanyl are a national problem. Last year, more than 100,000 Americans died of Opioid abuse, and most of those deaths were from Fentanyl.

Most Fentanyl is made in China and smuggled into the US through Mexico. While some of the Fentanyl ending up on the streets of our cities comes in through smugglers crossing the border, the larger shipments are coming in through trucks and containers, with other goods. It is very hard to detect because such a small dose can be deadly.

The more serious problem is when people unsuspectingly purchase opioids on the streets not knowing that the pills are laced with Fentanyl.

County Executive Latimer: Flip Your Ballot Over and Vote on Environmental Bond Act



**FLIP THE BALLOT OVER
TO VOTE YES ON
CLEAN WATER,
PROP 1**

This November, Westchester residents, and all residents statewide, have the opportunity to vote on Proposition 1: New York’s Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act. If passed, the proposal would allow New York State to borrow up to \$4.2 billion dollars slated to be used to improve and restore New York’s natural resources while reducing climate change impacts.

As a part of the democratic process, County Executive George Latimer is urging residents to remember to “Flip it Over” and look at both sides of their ballot when voting this November.

Latimer said: “While we are not advocating for how you vote, it is vital that you make your voice heard and do vote. It is easy to miss this referendum on the reverse side of your ballot, so when voting this year remember to ‘Flip it Over.’”

County Director of Energy & Sustainability Peter McCartt said: “Our planet is facing a crisis the likes of which we have never seen before and the results of this vote will have a large impact on how our State responds. Flip it over. Vote. Make your voice heard.”

Earlier this month, the Westchester County Board of Legislators passed a resolution in support of the Bond Act. If the referendum passes, the \$4.2B Bond Act will fund restoration and flood risk reduction, climate change mitigation, open space land conservation and recreation and water quality improvement and resilient infrastructure.

Some FAQs about Proposition One are:

What will it say? “To address and combat the impact of climate change and damage to the environment, the ‘Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022’ authorizes the sale of state bonds up to four billion two hundred million dollars to fund environmental protection, natural restoration, resiliency, and clean energy projects. Shall the Environmental Bond Act of 2022 be approved?”

Will my taxes go up? No. New York’s Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act does not directly impact your New York State tax bill.

When do I vote? The Bond Act will be on all Early and Election Day Ballots for the November 8, 2022 General Election.

How do I vote?: Go to your polling location and vote like you would in any election

More info at <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=NgWe5Kyz4do&pp=QAFIAQ%3D%3D>

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Westchester County Board Moving to Ban Flavored Cigarettes



By Dan Murphy

The Westchester County Board of Legislators is moving forward with legislation to prohibit the sale or distribution of flavored tobacco products. In 2020, New York State banned the sale of flavored vape products, but has not yet taken action against other flavored tobacco products.

The Westchester County law is modeled on existing laws in New York City and San Francisco. The New York City law has survived judicial scrutiny and is based on the fact that the new law will help protect the public health and save taxpayer dollars currently spent on the healthcare of smokers.

The BOL Health Committee has spent much of 2022 discussing the proposed legislation and hearing from a large number of health experts, but also from a few opponents to the ban.

Supporters of the legislation include POW'R Against Tobacco, African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council, the American Heart Association and Tobacco-Free Kids. All of these organizations had representatives who spoke to the Health Committee and presented the following facts:

Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death in the United States and contributed to many forms of cancer, and heart and respiratory disease. 45,000 people in NY State die every year from tobacco related illness.

The estimated financial cost of tobacco use in New York is \$17.72 billion per year in direct healthcare expenses and lost productivity. And every year in New York, 5,800 children become smokers.

The most popular flavored cigarettes are menthol cigarettes. And the opposition over the proposed ban on flavored cigarettes in Westchester has come from several members of the African American community, who claim that the ban would disproportionately impact their community.

Representatives from convenience stores, and tobacco companies, are also opposed to the ban. Both would lose significant revenue if the ban were enacted.

But the opposition from some in the African American community is contrasted by the large amount of data and research that shows the harm that menthol and flavored cigarettes present to young adults and adult smokers.

According to the American Heart Association, "The massive growth in popularity of menthol cigarettes over several decades is the result of the tobacco industry's intense and persistent targeting of Black communities, women and youth. These are the findings of a new research study by Stanford Medicine, and the AHA." quit than other tobacco products,"

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Where's the Babe?



By Eric Wolf Schoen

Oh for the good old days. I couldn't believe what I saw happening at Yankee Stadium Monday night. It seemed like the meteorologists were running the show, not officials from the Commissioners office. The game was between our Yankees and the Cleveland Indians, no wait the Cleveland Guardians is what they are called now.

Back in the good old black and white television days, how many times did we see baseball games played in the rain, player uniforms covered with mud. They played until the weather got so bad that for everyone's safety they had to stop the game. Now, a drop of rain or the threat of rain and everyone is in a panic. Tuesday night there were 'meetings' going on between I don't know who to discuss what they were going to do.

Isn't it the job of the Commissioners Office, American And National League officials and the umpires to determine how to proceed. How did all of these other folks get involved? And the press never told us who was in the meetings!

Let's face it. If the weather calls for rain from 7:30-8:00p.m. with a half hour break and more rain from 8:30-10:00pm you don't have to be Al Roker to realize you are not getting a game that starts in the 6:00 p.m. hour in. Though the season is too long as it is and we had to deal with a baseball strike this year despite the enormous salaries the players get they built in too many days off during the various playoffs and no back up plan in place if and when a weather cancellation required rescheduling games. And don't forget with this cocky playoff system we have, a day game could finish late with the team that wins if it's an east coast team having to travel far to the west coast at the end of the game to play the next game.

But wait a minute, aren't the games played for the fans, or did we forget them in the equation. The fans have to get to the stadium from all parts of the region and sit either in the stands or under cover where the concessions are waiting for the game to begin. Don't we have any sympathy for the fans?

To get to the stadium the fans either had to use gas in their cars and pay ridiculous George Washington Bridge (at \$16 a clip) tolls, parking which could be \$45, pack food they are going to bring with them, find a rain slicker from the last time this craziness happened, pay for a baby sitter etc. etc. Or they can eat the overpriced food from the concession stands and drink overpriced drinks and beer with overpriced peanuts and crackers jacks (do they still come with a prize?)

Let's not forget the schlep those who come by public transit must take. Buses, trains, patience and schedules that might not get them home until very late, soaking wet of course. Sure there are good spirits and camaraderie on the train going to the stadium, but going home after not seeing a baseball game? They are liable to kill each other.

The tolls, the parking fees, the over priced Cracker Jacks. Fans get no money back for that. If their schedule permits and they go to the game when it is rescheduled, they have all these expenses to go through again.

Let's not forget the overpriced tickets which if they can't use they have to quickly put up for sale with Stubmaster or Ticketmaster or if they are close go down to the stadium and sell illegally to other fans. There are so many phony tickets out there you are taking a chance that the tickets you are buying are good. Since many people

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The STEM Alliance and AT&T Launch Digital Navigator Program to Advance Digital Equity



Andrea Ruggiero, Executive Vice President, Open Door Family Medical Centers

The STEM Alliance of Westchester is teaming up with AT&T to help narrow the digital divide throughout the county with a new digital navigator program called Digital Pathways. The program brings trained, bilingual STEM Alliance digital navigators to partner sites to help clients access free or low-cost digital resources like devices, internet access and beginner tech training. The STEM Alliance digital navigators can assess and track client needs, refer them to relevant resources and follow up to make sure that all of their digital needs have been met. This first-of-its-kind countywide program is being funded by a \$30,000 contribution from AT&T.

With AT&T's support, The STEM Alliance's Digital Pathways program will provide a range of support, including educating residents about the federal government's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) – which provides an up to \$30 credit toward monthly internet or mobile service (up to \$75 per month on qualifying tribal lands) to eligible households. Households typically qualify by income level or if someone in the home receives other support services like Medicaid, SNAP, Free/Reduced Lunch or a Pell Grant. ACP is part of the federal government's \$65 billion initiative to achieve universal connectivity. However, the ACP registration process can be difficult for those who do not have a computer or experience with online portals. Digital Pathways brings help directly to clients in their communities through partnerships with local nonprofits and other community agencies.

In addition to educating eligible residents on ACP, Digital Pathways uses a new platform to evaluate the needs of clients and help connect them quickly to needed digital resources. The STEM Alliance already provides many of those resources, such as their "on ramp" tech education classes that take students from being non-tech users to early-stage tech adopters in just 15 hours. Students also earn a Chromebook for their full ownership and use.

Designed to engage large numbers of eligible residents, Digital Pathways counts on county wide collaboration with community organizations, civic institutions, healthcare facilities, churches, community centers, schools, and large public events to host their navigators. Interactions start with meeting a digital navigator at a local site or event, reviewing the opportunities with the clients and helping with questions eligible residents might have as they enroll for the ACP discount. The STEM Alliance encourages any organizations interested in hosting a Digital Pathways table at an event or at a location with significant foot traffic to contact them to partner. Bringing Digital Pathways to those with need where they live is critical when narrowing the digital divide.

"The Affordable Connectivity Program is a true gamechanger for so many in our country, which is increasingly dependent on digital resources. Digital Pathways is helping to bring internet connectivity to so many who may not have been able to access it previously," said Robin White, Director, AT&T External Affairs. "We are honored to be collaborating with The STEM Alliance to raise the awareness of the ACP initiative and help residents develop digital literacy skills."

Programs such as Digital Pathways that utilize digital navigators have been proven to drive adoption across underrepresented communities because residents feel more comfortable and safer receiving help through locally based, partner organizations. The STEM Alliance digital navigators who reach clients through on-the-ground community partners can provide more individualized attention when discussing digital equity and digital divide needs. A recent nationwide study conducted by the Boston Consulting Group of people who have utilized a digital navigator service such as Digital Pathways revealed how vital trained digital navigators are in helping to bridge the digital divide. The study found that with the assistance of digital navigators:

Almost half surveyed obtained better healthcare, and 40% received support with basic needs like food, rent, and housing.

More than 65% of those in the study obtained Internet access and/or a computer/tablet at home; among Hispanic and Black Americans, this increased to 72%.

80% reported they are more confident/feel safer using technology. More than 85% said they used the Internet more frequently, and 1 in 3 found a new job or earned a higher income.

American Irish Association of Westchester 48th Annual Dinner Dance October 30

The American Irish Association of Westchester will hold their 48th Annual Dinner Dance on October 30, honoring:

Irish Woman of the Year – KATHY GALVIN – County Mayo, Nurse

Irish Man of the Year – SEAMUS GALVIN – County Roscommon, Nurse Practitioner

Irish American Community Service Award –DAWN DOHERTY, Academy of Irish Music and Dancing

Irish American Achievement Award –CAROLINE MARTIN NY Minor Board GAA

Spirit of St. Patrick Award – FATHER ROBERT J. ABBATIELLO, O.F.M., Cap.; Pastor Sacred Heart Church; Yonkers Police Chaplain

Date: Sunday, October 30, 2022 at The Fairways at Dunwoodie, One Wasylenko Lane, Yonkers, NY 10701.

For ticket information Please make checks payable to: A.I.A. c/o Carol Daly, 68 Algonquin Rd, Yonkers, NY 10710 For information, please contact Carol Daly at (914) 439-5773 or daly68@aol.com.

Assemblyman Sayegh, continued from pg 1-

Assembly office never close and my staff put in the time and effort to help people who needed it. That is what we do," said Sayegh.

-Sayegh has also supported passing legislation to protect women's reproductive rights.

-**Labor:** Sayegh has the endorsement from Teamsters Local 456. "My position is that I would rather see men and women working and earning a living that allows them to educate their kids and pay mortgages and provide health care and live in Yonkers. I have been fighting for workers rights by passing laws protecting labor organizations and fighting against unsafe working conditions," said Sayegh.

Sayegh likes to explain that he proudly serves as a member of the Yonkers community, in the city that he has lived all of his life. "Whether its working with Tasha (council majority leader Tasha Diaz) to distribute food, or working with businesses to support developments, or working with local organizations to make sure there is affordable housing, or protecting legislation for a women's right, or protecting legislation to make sure that we limit guns on the street, or make sure that homeowners get rebate checks, that is what we do in Albany."

"November 8 is election day, and in the days before that we have early voting. There is no excuse, if you complain about issues you better speak up and vote. Don't take it for granted," said Sayegh.

Sayegh is running against Republican City Council Minority Leader Mike Breen.

Brothers at QB, continued from pg 1-

forward to Saturday. It's weird to play against your brother but he taught me how to be a good Quarterback so it'll be good to see how we play against each other now," said Noah.

Atticus added, "He always says I taught him to play QB but I wouldn't have learned myself if I didn't have him to throw to. We taught each other to play football. We're obviously brothers first, but we're both competitive so we are definitely both going into Saturday looking to win"

The game on Saturday will be one of the highlights of what has been a tough year for both teams. Coach Fava said, "We started out 2-0 but lost our last five games. But that 5 game stretch was one of the toughest in Section one football." The Force played two State Championship caliber teams in Mount Vernon high school, at Memorial Fields opening game, and against State Champ Carmel high school. And the Force were competitive in both those games.

"Some of our losses are not an indication of the performance of our players. The boys have played hard all year and have not given up. We have been banged up for a while but are coming into this game healthy." Even with a win, the Force will not make the playoffs this year but will have two more game to be scheduled.

The Brave are still looking for their first win of the year. "We have had a tough year. Are players are young and we have had some injuries. But I'm most proud of the fact that every day at practice they work hard. They still get after it," said Chiappa. Go Force and Go Brave!

Yonkers Rising

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Yonkers Mayor Spano Appoints Lisa Reyes as Deputy Director of Communications



Lisa Reyes

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced this week his appointment of Lisa Reyes as the city's new Deputy Communications Director.

"I know Lisa will use her years of experience in communications to great advantage," said Mayor Mike Spano. "She will certainly prove to be an incredible asset for this city, with her diverse background specifically as a former journalist, she will bring a fresh new perspective to our Communications team."

Lisa previously served as the Communications Specialist at Westchester County, where she served as the key launcher of the County's Public Service Announcement Campaign "Kick COVID-19 to the Curb," served as the Public Relations Liaison for the Office of Economic Development, managed the distribution of proclamations and certificates, created content for all social media platforms and served as the County's key communications for the Spanish-speaking community. Prior to joining Westchester County, Reyes served as an Assistant News Director for WTXL ABC 27, News Manager Apprentice for The E.W. Scripps Company and was a well-known reporter for News 12 Westchester for 10 years. Lisa holds a bachelor's degree in Communications and Media Studies from New York University.

"The City of Yonkers has been home to News 12 Westchester since its inception. I spent so much time in the community and focused on covering the growth, development and culture of this thriving city," said Lisa Reyes. "I welcome the opportunity to work alongside Mayor Mike Spano and his administration and hope to make a difference by continuing to share stories of our Yonkers neighbors and follow the evolution of New York's third largest city."

Reyes will support Mayor Spano's Communications Office by developing and coordinating comprehensive communication programs and strategies to promote the City of Yonkers and its administration.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg- 3

are working at 4:00 p.m. chances are the ticket seller will have offer a discount to the buyer, adding more cost to what should be a pleasant relaxing experience.

No matter where the ball goes, you are talking about a problem that Major League Baseball could have solved for itself. They knew the rain was going to pass during game time. Cancel the game early in the day so people don't start traveling. That's what they would have done if they cared about the fan.

But why do I feel if Yogi, Mickey, the Babe, DiMaggio and the old timers are playing they would have gotten the game in. This column is filed earlier than when the Guardians (that's what they call Cleveland now) and the Yankees will finish the American League Division Series, so all I can say is 'Let's Go Yankees!'

Rats and Garbage

It's disgusting when you come home at 6 p.m. and you see bags of garbage on the street. New York City Mayor Eric Adams has come up with a solution. Businesses and residential properties can only put their garbage out after 8 p.m. This way, you don't have to see it early in the day. Let's face it, laws allow garbage to be put out at sunset. This makes it very visible. 8:00 p.m.? Not so visible. In NYC the only way you can put garbage out earlier than sunset is if your garbage is in a closed container or garbage can. What happened to garbage cans? At least things looked neater!

Heat Time is Here

If the temperature goes below 55 degrees your landlord if you live in a rent stabilized building must provide heat and hot water. If they don't call the City of Yonkers Housing and Building office and file a complaint through the Mayor's Help Line at 914-377-HELP. When your landlord gets a call from the city, they don't like it and will fix the problem. Yonkers has always had an excellent Housing and Buildings Department that follows up on heat call. You deserve to be comfortable, and the landlord has to follow the law!

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

On This Day in Yonkers History...



Francfort's Inn on South Broadway and Main Street

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

Monday, October 24th

October 24, 1924: Two Brink's Express Company employees were shot while defending an Otis Company payroll of \$24,000! Two men, delivering money to a New York City construction site were attacked by three bandits armed with revolvers; the criminals opened fire when the Brink's men refused to hand over the money. Although wounded, the men would not release the payroll. The thugs escaped in the confusion that followed when workmen rushed to the scene. The wounded men were brought to Bellevue Hospital, where one was listed as critical with wounds in his lung and elbow.

October 24, 1924: After restaurateur and car dealer Henry Francfort pleaded guilty to charges he (Francfort) had removed "No Parking" signs in front of his property at South Broadway and New Main Street, he received a suspended sentence. His explanation? He had asked "No Parking" signs be placed there during the previous administration; when he realized they were hurting business, he took them down. Since he asked for the signage, he didn't think he needed permission to remove them!

Tuesday, October 25th

October 17, 1936: The New York State Historical Society presented Yonkers twenty-two historical markers at a special ceremony in Manor Hall.

October 25, 1946: Yonkers Dentist Dr. Edward Jones, whose office was at 46 Warburton Avenue, was featured in an article in Ebony magazine as one of the influential residents of the Sugar Hill neighborhood. Besides being a dentist, Jones had been a National Broad-jump champion thirty years earlier. Sugar Hill was located on a high bluff, covering the area from New York City College to the Polo Grounds, and was home prominent many African Americans such as Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, Roy Wilkins and William Stanley Braithwaite..

Wednesday, October 26th

October 26, 1928: Public Safety Commissioner Frank Devlin ordered the six door-men at our new City Jail be armed to prevent jail breaks. Concerned because of the nearness of the NY Central Railroad and the Hudson, he felt both could be easy escape routes for prisoners attempting to break out. This was the first time in Yonkers' history Jailers would be armed.

October 26, 1946: Bad weather postponed one of the key features of Yonkers four-day Tercentennial celebration of Navy Day, a mass flyover by more than 400 Atlantic Fleet airplanes! Not canceled was the dance held for the 420 enlisted men on the Fecheler and the Arnold J. Isbell; it took place at the North Broadway Armory, instead of the planned Larkin Plaza. Other events to entertain the sailors were a trip to Empire City Racetrack and the Tercentennial Marathon sponsored by the Chip-pewa Club.

Thursday, October 27th

October 27, 1908: William Howard Taft, Republican nominee for President, was the principal speaker at a rally at Blaney's Theater by Republican City Chairman Leslie Sutherland. Introduced by Congressman John E. Andrus, Thousands heard him present his platform.

October 27, 1946: Fifteen-year-old Walter Paul of Cook Avenue took an early lead in the 34th Annual Yonkers Schoolboy Race, open to boys between 11 and 15, and held it to the very end, finishing the 1 1/4 mile course in 6 minutes 4 seconds. He won a bicycle for his victory over the other 119 entrants running at Empire City Track.

Friday, October 28th

October 28, 1899: The Board of Parks Commissioners agreed to allow the Board of Education utilize the Nesbit Mansion in Washington Park free of rent for the Yonkers Public Library. As part of the agreement, the Library had to set aside a room on the second floor for the Parks Board and a second one for the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Board felt it was more than adequate, and when Washington Park was completed with new entrances, it would be very easy to approach.

October 28, 1946: Although the Maritime Strike ended, 5,000 long tons of sugar remained on the ship Cape Barrow, parked at the Refined Syrups and Sugars docks for almost three weeks, waiting for its owner to let the company know when it would power up the ship and send a crew to remove the sugar. **-con't on pg 6-**

F Administrative Opening
Fallsburg Central School

Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Salary up to \$105,000 commensurate w/ exp.
NYS SDL or SDA Certification Required
Please forward resume & Fallsburg's application (located at fallsburgcsd.net) by Oct 21st
To fallsburg-recruitment@scbooces.org
Attn: PPS Asst Dir Search

EOE

F Administrative Opening
Fallsburg Central School

Jr/Sr HS Assistant Principal
The Fallsburg CSD is looking for a Junior/Senior High School Assistant Principal to provide instructional leadership to students, staff, and community members. He/she will lead innovative programs that result in attainment of the district's vision, achievement of school/district goals and improve student achievement.
Salary up to \$95,000 commensurate w/ exp.
NYS SDL or SDA Certification Required
Please forward resume & Fallsburg's application (located at fallsburgcsd.net) by Oct 21st
To fallsburg-recruitment@scbooces.org
Attn: Fallsburg - HS AP Search

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

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

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

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

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

1. Bid 6881 - Opening date: 11/04/2022: 12-month contract to purchase up to 150 Uline model H-2125BL/H-1857BL, or equal 45-gallon wire mesh trash cans with lids (NG).
2. Bid 6882 - Opening date: 11/18/2022: Provide cleaning and disposal of the collection nets in the Larkin Plaza Daylighting 3-times through 6/30/23 (DC).
3. Bid 6883 - Opening date: 11/18/2022: 3-month rental of four 8' X 20' walk-in freezers (AC).
4. Bid 6885 - Opening date: 11/18/2022: Purchase of various sports uniforms as manufactured by Metro Team Sports and Under Armour, or equal (38 items) (FB).
5. Bid 6884 - Opening date: 11/18/2022: Purchase of up to 2 catch basin/clam bucket bodies to be mounted on a Freightliner M2-106 cab/chassis (FB).
6. Bid 6886 - Opening date: 11/04/2022: purchase of up to 10 United Shield, or equal, 24 x 48 rifle shields over 12-months (NG).

**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 25, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. 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**

**WARBURTON AVENUE AT THE CORNER OF WARBURTON AVENUE AND
GLENWOOD AVENUE IN THE CITY OF YONKERS "JAMES L. SIMMONS WAY"**

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at Tina_vazquez819@yahoo.com.**

Notice of Formation of Them Houghs LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/5/2022. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to; 49 Greenwood RD Yonkers NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

Saturday, October 29th
October 29, 1946: St. Joseph's School for Practical Nursing opened at St. Joseph's Hospital. The first school connected to a Catholic Hospital in the state, its first class had 15 students; four students were nuns. A one-year program, it had a NY Board of Regents approved curriculum.

October 29, 1948: Deputy Public Safety Commissioner William Comey estimated 50,000 people came to Larkin Plaza to see President Harry Truman!

No trouble spoiled the program, but in another area of Yonkers, three men posed as secret service agents got away with \$6000 of jewelry from a home on Kneeland Avenue. The men rang the bell, said they needed to question the women's husband, then pushed their way into the home, brandishing a gun! After the thugs left, the women managed to get out of their bonds and called the police... who were preparing for the presidential visit! The maid pleaded for her money back; the man returned \$8.

Sunday, October 30th
October 30, 1899: Inspector Kipp granted the City of Yonkers a permit for a brick building for Public School Thirteen, to be built at the junction of McLean and Park Hill Avenues. Although the new school was to be three stories, when it opened the next year under the direction of Principal Carolyn Sims, it had five classrooms, and auditorium and an office. C. C. Chapman was the architect and P. J. Flannery was the builder.

October 30, 1917: Secretary of the Treasury William McAdoo, a former Yonkers resident, appointed Russell Leffingwell, another former Yonkers resident, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in charge of Liberty Loans.

**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.**

Senior Housing, continued from pg 1-

will include low-flow plumbing fixtures, Energy Star appliances, individual high-efficiency electric heat and cooling, and LED lighting. Residents will have access to services provided by the Yonkers Office for the Aging, including case management, home-delivered meals, assistance with entitlement programs, transportation, health awareness programs, access to nutrition centers, recreation and exercise programs, and supermarket and pharmacy delivery coordination. Services will be funded by the Office for the Aging and the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services.

La Mora Senior Apartments is being co-developed by MHACY and the Mulford Corporation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable development corporation formed by MHACY in 2004. State financing for La Mora Senior Apartments includes \$17 million in permanent tax-exempt bonds, Federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits that will generate \$17.7 million in equity, and \$9.1 million in subsidy from New York State Homes and Community Renewal. NYSERDA will provide \$240,000. Westchester County is providing \$3.4 million from the Housing Implementation Fund and the city of Yonkers is providing \$650,000 in HOME funds. MHACY provided a \$2.6 million loan.

In the last five years, HCR has invested over \$331 million to create and preserve nearly 2,400 affordable homes in Yonkers. This includes Landy Court, which now provides 80 affordable apartments, including 48 with supportive services near Downtown Yonkers, and 172 Warburton at the Ridgeway, which created 85 new apartments.

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Alice: When Slavery was Over, America Still Kept Slaves



By Dennis Richmond Jr.

Alice is a 2022 crime thriller starring Keke Palmer, Common, Gaius Charles, Alicia Witt, and Jonny Lee Miller. The film was written and directed by Krystin Ver Linden. According to The Hollywood Reporter, per the filmmakers, Alice is, “inspired by the true events of a woman of servitude in 1800s Georgia, who escapes the 55-acre confines of her captor to discover the shocking reality that exists beyond the tree line ... it’s 1973.”

America has a dark history and hidden history of not freeing all slaves at the same time after the Civil War. Some slave owners waited, if they could, before telling their slaves that slavery was over. Some sources say that the last slaves in America to receive their freedom were those owned by the Choctaw. The Choctaw sided with the Confederacy during the Civil War. The slaves owned by the Choctaw didn’t receive their emancipation until 1866. Not to mention, not all slaves heard about the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas. That’s why we celebrate Juneteenth.

Alice is an emotional film. From watching the less than two-hour film, folk hear parts of iconic speeches from activists Fred Hampton and Malcolm X. They also see powerful Black images of Diana Ross, Red Foxx, and Pam Grier. The audience even gets to see some bits and pieces of the 1973 film Coffy. The film is about a woman named Flower Child “Coffy” Coffin.

The film received mostly negative reviews. Maybe some people aren’t ready to embrace true American history. True American history isn’t about Critical Race Theory or Far-Right Views. True American history is about the truth. The film Alice sheds light on true American history.

Dennis Richmond, Jr., is an author and journalist focused on the Black, Latinx, and LGBTQIA+ Community. He lives in Yonkers. Follow him on Twitter @NewYorkStakz.

“This study is a compelling addition to the overwhelming evidence showing that tobacco companies directly target populations including Black communities, women and youth with menthol cigarettes, which make it easier to get hooked and are much tougher to said Rose Marie Robertson, M.D, and medical officer of the American Heart Association. “They should no longer be sold.”

Menthol cigarettes are used by 85% of Black people who smoke and 44% of women who smoke, compared to 30% of non-Hispanic white people who smoke. More than half of teens who begin smoking start with a menthol brand. Numerous studies have shown that the cooling sensation of menthol cigarettes makes them easier to inhale deeply, which leads to a higher dose of nicotine and a stronger addiction as compared to other cigarettes.

Other data presented by supporters of a flavored cigarette ban include:

- This legislation will NOT lead to the arrest and incarceration of more Black and Brown New Yorkers. The law only restricts the sale of menthol cigarettes across the county’s retail network. It will still be legal to use or possess menthol cigarettes in Westchester.
- This bill will NOT cause Westchester to suffer massive losses to its tax revenue because of a restriction on the sale of menthol cigarettes. Tobacco sales have been declining for several years, and any additional decline would be offset by a decline in the exorbitant healthcare costs that are placed upon Westchester because of smoking-caused illnesses.

We spoke with County Legislator Jewel F. Williams- Johnson, Chair of the BOL Health Committee, about the proposed law. “This proposed legislation would ban all flavored tobacco products, not just menthol cigarettes. We are moving forward because of the health implications for those who use the product and kids who have increase attractiveness because of the flavoring.”

Legislator Johnson said that earlier this year, the Health Committee changed the enforcement of the law if passed. Now the Westchester County Department of Health will issue violations to any store that is selling flavored cigarettes, and not the county police or any law enforcement agency.

“This bill targets businesses and not individuals. So, if a person is selling individual cigarettes on the street, (known as loosies) they would not be affected by this law. The bill is targets to retail owners, and not a person walking along the street with a cigarette. I hope this comes across loud and clear.”

Legislator Johnson said that health implications are the reason for the law. “Tobacco use remains the primary cause of preventable death. And the financial cost of tobacco use in Westchester and New York State, are in the billions.”

“We also know that 5,000 children become smokers in NY because of the flavors. They are initiated into tobacco use and then they turn into daily smokers. The taste of regular cigarettes is harsh to a first-time smoker, but the flavors like menthol, cools and numbs the throat. Those types of cigarettes are appealing to get people to start smoking, and tobacco companies use flavored tobacco as a progression into other nicotine,” said Leg. Williams-Johnson.

“This bill doesn’t target black people and I get peeved when I hear that. Instead of being mad at this bill, we should be mad at the tobacco industry for targeting black people. They have desperately preyed on the black community.”

“I believe that I have a majority on the Board to pass this, although there is some push-back who prefer that the focus be on education instead of a ban. We plan on adding funding in next year’s budget for education and for nicotine patches. But we need to approach this from as many angles that we can. I’m hoping that Westchester can lead the way in our region.”

Speakers against the flavored cigarette ban have included the media publication Black Westchester, and Gwen Carr, mother of Eric Garner, who was killed by the NYPD for selling loose cigarettes. “We believe this county law will affect Black communities more than White communities. Depending on the data used, it is estimated that 74% to 95% of Black Americans smoke menthol cigarettes, and only 22% to 36% of White American smoke menthol cigarettes. Policies like a menthol cigarette ban will increase crime. Increase police interactions. The number of people being pulled over and stopped will increase. The number of innocent Black men in jail will increase. Increase black market sales of menthol products from jurisdictions where it is legal. Let’s also remember that youth smoking is at an all-time low of 3.3 percent, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). At the same time, overall crime rates since the pandemic have increased,” writes Black Westchester.

Gwen Carr, wrote to the Westchester BOL “When you ban a product sold mostly in Black communities but do not have the same ban in other communities, you must consider the fairness of such an approach as well as the reality of what will happen to that very same overrepresented community in the criminal justice system....If Westchester County Legislators decide to move forward with the proposed menthol ban without such consideration, it will unleash an unintended consequences storm in our community, which many members of our community would find quite discriminatory. We cannot afford to stand by and let that happen.”



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*Source: Based on WOC follow-up survey

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



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School 13 Renamed for Mirabal Sisters



The Yonkers Board of Education recently renamed School 13, Las Hermanas Mirabal Community School to honor the significant and far-reaching contributions of the Mirabal Sisters, who championed human rights for every individual and underscored the importance to speak up against repression and violence against women. photo by Maurice Mercado.

Hollywood on the Hudson, continued from pg 1-

jobs with media production companies.

Halmi had a long and distinguished career in media before opening Great Point Studios. "As the President and CEO of Hallmark Entertainment, you transformed the business from a small production company into one of the first modern studios with production, distribution, and broadcast all under one umbrella," said Gordon, who moderated Wednesday's conversation with Halmi. "Now you have embarked on bringing to life your vision of creating major new film and television production facilities across the US and abroad."

The three campuses are expected to create almost 2,000 jobs when fully operational. The downtown Yonkers facility currently employs 400 people, with 100 of them Westchester County residents. Gordon called the new campuses an economic development game changer for Yonkers, Westchester County and New York.

Halmi credited local officials for their support in making Great Point Studios a reality. "We couldn't get more support than partnering with Mayor Mike Spano," said Halmi. "He understands his city. He understands what industry will work there. He really knows what's important to what we're trying to establish and really helped pave the way. Without him, we never would have built this studio."



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- Small Business COVID Income Tax Cut
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- Sales Tax on Diapers Eliminated Jan. 1
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- State Aid to Our Schools Increased by \$71 million
- Anti-Crime Funding for Yonkers Increased
- Delivered Yonkers Police Special Training Funds
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