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Yonkers Rising

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Yonkerstimes.com

Friday October 6, 2023

Target Closes in Harlem, Opens in Yonkers



rendering of Target Yonkers Cross County

By Dan Murphy

The news that Target is closing its Harlem NYC location on October 21 coincides with the opening of their Yonkers Super Store the following day. Target, the American retail corporation, announced a total of 9, of its 1,948 stores would close because of theft and crime at each location.

"We know that our stores serve an important role in their communities, but we can only be successful if the working and shopping environment is safe for all," Target said in a statement.

But shoppers in Yonkers are welcoming the opening of Target at the Cross County Mall, on Oct. 22. The opening, at the former Sears location, gives the Cross County another important anchor tenant.

The 132,000-square-foot store is one of Targets largest stores, and the 40-lease agreement shows their commitment made to Yonkers "the first Target in Yonkers, will bring an "easy, affordable and convenient shopping experience" to the city, a spokesperson said, adding "In the coming weeks, Target will share details about how the shopping experience at its new store will be tailored to serve local guests."

"Yonkers has hit the mark with Target's plan for a new store at Cross County Center, their first ever in Yonkers," said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said. "We are excited to get Yonkers back in business."

"People feel safe in Yonkers, and businesses feel safe in Yonkers. It is good to see that Target has confidence in coming to Yonkers," said Councilman Mike Breen.

Target has Westchester locations in Mount Kisco, White Plains and Mount Vernon.

Spano and Merante Debate at LWV Mayor's Forum



Mayor Mike Spano and Councilman Anthony Merante with moderator Kathy Meany

By Dan Murphy

Mayor Mike Spano and Councilman Anthony Merante participated in an online forum hosted by the League of Women Voters Rivertowns on September 28. The one-hour forum can be viewed online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoyAWxt4c7Q

The forum was mostly a respectable exchange of views between the two, with Mayor Spano pointing out the successes in Yonkers during his 12 years, while Merante challenged Spano's tenure with criticisms on crime, homelessness, mental illness, and migrants.

Spano gave a positive review of where the City of Yonkers is, while Merante painted a more challenging portrait of Yonkers moving ahead.

"Our city has come to a renaissance. We are the fastest growing big city in New York State. We have the highest big city graduation rate. We have built 12,000 units of housing and 22% of that is affordable. We have created open spaces and new parks. We are the safest city in the big 5. We went from a 17% graduation rate to 90%. We want people to come here," said Spano.

Merante said, "I believe that we have crime related issues that statistics are not showing. Development has not been good for some communities. A lot of the problems are related to bail reform -which has hurt our ability to get kids to stay away from Gang Violence. Rents have gone through the roof, and I would ask you what has the development done for you? "

There were no heated moments in the debate, and thus no political knockout was achieved. Merante did challenge Spano on term limits, stating that Spano "supported term limits 12 years ago when you first became Mayor."

But Spano turned the tables on Merante, pointing out that Merante supported term limits five years ago but opposed it four years ago. "We want to make sure people have a choice. We already have term limits; every four years the people decide. Let them make the decision," said Spano.

Merante said that his decision to support term limits, "in 2018 I made a mistake of extending term limits to three terms. I didn't know they would come back to extend it again. When someone is in power for that long a period -it's too long. On day 1 I will work to change the law back to 2 terms."

On Affordable Housing Spano said, "Yonkers has 40% of all the affordable housing in Westchester and we will continue to do our part, working

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Congressman Bowman Embarrasses Westchester: Pulls Fire Alarm in the Capitol-Gives Lame Excuse



Congressman
Jamaal Bowman
caught on video
pulling a fire alarm
in the US Capitol
Building



By Dan Murphy

Last week, Westchester Congressman Jamaal Bowman was caught on video in the US Capitol building pulling the fire alarm hours before the House voted to keep the government open for 45 days. The reaction to Bowman's actions, which most believe was done to delay the House from voting, has included calls for censure, resignation, and disbelief in his explanations.

"Remember the old political story. A politician lies. He gets caught in a lie. He tries to cover it up. The cover-up causes more reputational and legal damage than the crime itself. Why do we persist with the cover-up even though it always makes things worse than just admitting our mistake?" writes Barry Davret. Bowman's explanation to the security video footage was unbelievable to most.

"Today, as I was rushing to make a vote, I came to a door that is usually open for votes but today would not open. I am embarrassed to admit that I activated the fire alarm, mistakenly thinking it would open the door. I regret this and sincerely apologize for any confusion this caused."

"But I want to be very clear, this was not me, in any way, trying to delay any vote. It was the exact opposite — I was trying urgently to get to a vote, which I ultimately did and joined my colleagues in a bipartisan effort to keep our government open," stated Bowman.

Ironically, at the exact time that house democrats were trying to delay the vote, Bowman "accidentally" pulled the fire alarm. Some in the media have reported that Bowman took down 2 signs that stood in the doorway that said Emergency Exit Only and Push Until Alarm Sounds.

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Application to Open Marijuana Dispenary in Yonkers Under Review -748 Yonkers Avenue

By Dan Murphy

The NYS Office of Cannabis Management, OCM, has released a notice of application by Nucleus Dispensay Inc. to open a Cannabis Dispensary at 748 Yonkers Avenue. OCM recently sent a notice a notification of adult-use retail dispensary license application to the City.

While the final application and approval to open has not yet been granted, the applicant does have a OCM CAURD license, which permits the application to legally sell marijuana and marijuana based products, Lic #- 2022-000848. But the license does not include a location to open and sell. The address must be negotiated with the property owner, and board or council must review the application before and work can begin to open.

This would be the first Marijuana dispensary in Westchester County. Other applications are moving forward in Mount Vernon and Peekskill.

Another roadblock to opening is State Supreme Court Judge Kevin Bryant, who has frozen all projects before the NYS OCM from proceeding until a lawsuit filed by NY Veterans against the process by which OCM issues licenses is resolved. The Judges order is now 7 weeks old.

Assuming that the Judge re-opens the process of approving licenses and locations, the Yonkers City Council would have to review the application from Nucleus Dispenary. After getting input, the council could decide to approve the location, or they could reject it, or not vote on the matter at all.

It appears that other local governments that have reviewed licenses to open in their community, all have either approved or not taken a vote, allowing the business to open. There have been negotiations between the applicant and local government, and that could happen in Yonkers.

The 948 Yonkers Avenue location is the site of a closed bar, Duo Lounge. The bar closed after complaints of late night violence. The bar sits between a minimart, with some on site parking, and Flower Funeral Home, with a large amount of on-site parking

Support for a marijuana dispensary in Yonkers is close to 50-50, but many residents who do support it don't want it next to their home or business.

So the council may have to determine the outcome, or whether to negotiate for another location. Most people had guessed that Central Park Avenue would be a better location.

We are also not sure what the vote would be on the council for a dispensary. It could be as close as 4-3 either way.

But if the council were to reject the application and location, it then goes back to the OCM for a final decision. The OCM could override the decision of the council, but that legal bridge has never been crossed yet. All applications have been negotiated and accepted by local governments, so far.

Visit us online at Yonkerstimes.com

Family Fun Day at Untermyer Gardens Oct. 8



Discover the magic of Untermyer Gardens on October 8 for Family Fun Day. Sara Crasson and Bamberg the Bear kick off the magic show at 1:00 in the outdoor amphitheater, captivating audiences with innovative magic. Following the show, enjoy activities from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.: go on a hayride, learn a magic trick, create recycled art, take a garden tour, and fly a kite.

Tickets available for each event at on our website at https://www.untermyergardens.org/family-fun-day-2023.html, providing a day of delight and creativity for all ages.

Don't miss this magical opportunity to be part of an extraordinary day at Untermyer Gardens



Mayor Spano & DPW Announce Flood Debris Removal Plan







CURBSIDE FLOOD DEBRIS PICK-UP APPOINTMENTS

DPW in cooperation with Westchester County DEF will provide curbside pickup services FROM TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3RD, UNTIL FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6TH for residents to dispose of their flood-damaged items.

Residents are advised to separate their flood debris from their regular garbage

and recycling, and to also place them on the curb.

This special collection will occur in the afternoon after the morning garbage collection. CURBSIDE FLOOD DEBRIS PICK-UP APPOINTMENTS CAN AND SHOULD BE MADE

BY CALLING THE MAYOR'S HELP LINE AT 914-377-HELP (4357). ACCEPTED ITEMS INCLUDE: WHITE GOODS (APPLIANCES), ORGANICS, CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS, ETC.

Curbside Flood Debris Pick-Up Appointments can be made by calling Mayor's Help Line at 914-377-HELP (4357)

Mayor Mike Spano along with the City of Yonkers Department of Public Works (DPW) today announced a flood debris removal plan for residents affected by the historic storm that caused widespread flooding and damage in the city on September 29, 2023.

Yonkers' Flood Debris Removal Plan includes the following:

- Ø DPW in cooperation with Westchester County Department of Environment Services (DEF), will provide curbside pickup services from Tuesday, October 3rd, until Friday, October 6th, for residents to dispose of their flood-damaged items.
- Ø Residents are advised to separate their flood debris from their regular garbage and recycling, and to also place them on the curb. This special collection will occur in the afternoon after the morning garbage collection.
- Ø Curbside flood debris pick-up appointments can be made by calling the Mayor's Help Line at 914-377-HELP (4357). Accepted items include: white goods (appliances), organics, construction debris, etc. "As the mayor, I want to assure our residents that we are doing everything we

can to help them recover from the devastating flood that hit our city on September 29th. We have mobilized our public works, fire, and emergency management teams to pump out water, clear debris, and restore services as quickly as possible," said Mayor Mike Spano. "I would like to express my gratitude to County Executive Latimer for his leadership and collaboration in helping the residents of Yonkers cope with the aftermath of the devastating storm."

The Fire Department, the Office of Emergency Management, and other agencies have been assisting residents to pump out water from homes on an emergency basis. The Department of Public Works will continue to work to restore normal operations in the city. For more information about the flood debris removal plan, please call (914) 377-HELP (4357).

Yonkers Rising

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The RESTORE TERM LIMITS CANDIDATE

MeranteForYonkers.com

Four Contested State Senate Supreme Court Judge Seats on the Ballot in Westchester November 7

By Dan Murphy

On Nov. 7, Westchester voters will be electing four State Supreme Court Justices in the 9th Judicial District of NY, which includes Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Putnam and Dutchess counties. With the recent attention placed on the judiciary and the impact it has on our everyday lives, it is important for voters to make an informed decision when they step into the ballot box.

Democrats have two incumbent State Supreme Court Judges from Westchester running for reelection this year: Judge Charley Wood and Judge Fran Connolly. Both have 18 years of judicial experience, both on the bench and as attorneys.

Judge Charley Wood has served as a NYS Supreme Court Justice for the last 14 years. Prior to that was a Yonkers City Court Judge. He has presided over Criminal Jury Trials in Westchester, Dutchess & Nassau counties, as well as Civil Trials in Westchester, Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland, Nassau & Suffolk counties.

"It has been my greatest professional achievement – serving the people of the 9th JD – and I would be honored to be able to continue to serve in this capacity," said Judge Wood, who serves as the Chair of the Gender Fairness Committee for the 9th JD.

Judge Wood grew up in Yonkers, where his parents worked as public-school teachers. "I respect the attorneys and litigants that appear before me, and I am courteous to them, as well as jurors, court reporters, court officers, and court clerks. A judge needs to be part of the solution in a courtroom, not necessarily the center of attention. If you really want to know, ask around. Find a friend that works in the Westchester County Courthouse, or Yonkers City Court, or Dutchess Supreme Court, and ask them about me, my reputation in the courthouse, and their own personal interactions with me. That's how you know whether to re-elect a judge."

Justice Fran Connolly has 17 years of judicial experience. She currently serves as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court, Second Judicial Department, considered the busiest intermediate appellate court in our nation and covers ten counties: Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Dutchess, Putnam, Suffolk, Nassau, Queens, Kings (Brooklyn), and Richmond (Staten Island). The Second Department hears about half the appeals in New York State and is the court of last resort for most litigants. The Court hears appeals on a wide variety of issues, and Justice Connolly has decided over 5,000 appeals and authored numerous published opinions.

In October of 2021, after completing a rigorous screening process, Justice Connolly was one of seven candidates nominated by the Commission on Judicial Nomination to fill a vacancy on the New York State Court of Appeals, the highest court in New York State.

Justice Connolly served her community in many ways over the years. She was an elected member of the Ossining Town Council for five years, from 2000 to 2005, with three of those years serving as Deputy Town Supervisor.

The two other democratic State Supreme Court candidates are:

Judge Rolf M. Thorsen has 15 years of judicial experience. He is currently serving as an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court for the Ninth Judicial District. In November 2014, Judge Thorsen was elected as County Court Judge for the County of Rockland. Prior to his election to the County Judge, Thorsen served as a Clarktown Town Justice.

Judge Larry Schwartz was elected as a County Court Judge in 2016 and currently serves as a Rockland County Court Judge and Acting Supreme Court Justice. He is a former Public Defender and Assistant District Attorney.

Republicans have also nominated four candidates for State Supreme Court. They are: John Sarcone, Judge Karen Ostberg, Judge Susan Sullivan, John Ciampoli.

Westchester resident John Sarcone ran for State Supreme Court last year. He has more than 20 years of legal experience, including serving as Town Attorney in Eastchester, and Regional Adminstrator, NE & Carribean Region, from 2018-2021.

Judge Karen Ostberg is the Town Justice of Minisink and sits as a CAP Judge at the Orange County Jail. She has 37 years of legal experience including her past positions as City Attorney, Prosecutor, and in the Court of Appeals, has earned her the reputation of being fair and impartial. Judge Ostberg lives in Orange County

Judge Susan Sullivan is the 1st Woman Judge serving in her hometown, the Town of LaGrange, and has previous served as acting Poughkeepsie City Court Judge, Town of Union Vale Justice, Town of Patterson Justice and Associate Justice, Village of Wappingers. She has over 25 years of legal experience as a Judge and attorney.

John Ciampoli also ran for State Supreme Court last year and has 35 years

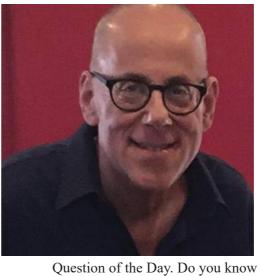
of legal experience.

State Supreme Court candidates are elected to 14-year terms. Early voting begins on October 29 and Election Day is November 8.





Congressman Bowman: You're Not in High School Anymore



By Eric Wolf Schoen

Question of the Day. Do you know the difference between a switch on the wall that is clearly marked 'fire alarm' or a button you push clearly marked to open a closed door or push bars used for security purposes to let you out of a building and keep strangers from coming into a building?

Well, our Congressman Jamaal Bowman clearly does not. Either that or he pulled the fire alarm switch to evacuate a federal building to delay a House of Representatives bill from being voted on. Like in High School when we would pull the alarm in the middle of a big test to share answers with our fellow students. Or pull the fire alarm at the end of the day to get out of school early.

What we all can agree on is that pulling a fire alarm when there is no fire is dangerous. It scares the people in the building. They may run out of the building and actually hurt each other. People panic. The climate in Washington in the various buildings is tense as it is. A false fire alarm makes an already difficult situation worse. Resources to come investigate what is going on must be used and are very costly. And god forbid there really was a fire in a close by building, resources would be delayed by the investigation of the fire that doesn't exist.

And don't you think that a Congressman who was a former High School Principal should know what it means when there is an alarm on the wall that is clearly marked, 'Fire Alarm.' Let's go over the details and see what you think.

Our saga starts in the Cannon Office Building. A building that is used for offices for Congressman. The House of Representatives was having a difficult time passing a government spending bill. Democrats wanted more time than Republicans wanted to give them to review the bill. A vote was called and members of Congress had to report to vote.

Enter Congressman Jamaal Bowman. He wanted to go and vote, was running late and came upon a door to exit the Cannon office building that had specific instructions how to use it if it was closed. Apparently the door is open during most hours but at this time it was closed. Congressman Bowman saw a bright red alarm. Clearly marked with the words Fire Alarm. Right on the doors that were closed were signs that give explicit details on how to open the door if it is closed.

The instructions said, 'Emergency Exit only. Push until alarm sounds 3 seconds. Door will unlock in 30 seconds.' So what do you do if you want to get out and there is no fire in sight. That's an easy question. That was the situation. But what did Bowman do? He pulled the fire alarm setting all the procedures in motion as if there truly was a fire.

By the way, how did they know it was Bowman who pulled the alarm? There is a sophisticated camera system by the door that snapped Bowman's picture. House security examined it and knew right away who it was.

Since there was no fire and the Democrats were trying to gain extra time to read the budget resolution, Bowman was accused of pulling the alarm to give them more time. Illegal. Unethical. Beneath the behavior of a Congressman. Or in most of the country a High School Student.

Interfering with the Legislative process. Interrupting official proceedings of the House Republicans to keep the government running. Crimes worthy of everything from censure to expulsion. Doesn't it remind you of the activities of January 6 when mobs tried to stop the Vice President from certifying the Presidential Election. Many of the folks who participated that day are in jail. For what he did, should Congressman Jamaal Bowman be jailed? Should he be expelled from the House of Representatives. Lose his committee assignments? Lose his seniority?

As House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said, 'The House Ethics Committee should look into this as it is serious. This should not go without punishment. This is an embarrassment. You are elected to be a Member of Congress. You pulled a fire alarm hours before a government shut down trying to dictate that the government would shut down. When you think of how other people are treated when they want to come in and change the course of what was happening in Congress. Why should Bowman be treated any differently. '

Representative Nicole Maliotakis drafted a resolution to expel Bowman from Congress over this incident. Even former President Trump weighed in. 'Bowman should be prosecuted and imprisoned for dangerously pulling and setting off a mainframe alarm system.

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Yonkers Police Department Launches Community Opioid Outreach Program (COOP)

The Yonkers Police Department is committed to the safety and well-being of all residents and visitors to our great City. At the heart of our commitment to Public Safety lies the newly created Yonkers Police Department Community Opioid Outreach Program (COOP). Here, we unite with our local communities in a shared mission to combat opioid addiction and abuse. Our unwavering dedication is to educate, prevent, intervene, and foster positive change in the face of the opioid crisis. Background

In 2019, the New York State Attorney General filed suit against several drug manufacturers and distributors for their role in the opioid epidemic. Since this suit, several of these cases have been settled, resulting in the awarding of approximately \$1.6 Billion in funds to New York State. As the third largest City in New York State, Yonkers has begun receiving its share of these funds under the terms of the settlement agreements.

From this settlement, the Yonkers Police Department has been allocated approximately \$800,000. These funds will address approved opioid-related issues in the City of Yonkers, combatting them through Education, Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment. As these four categories house the multi-pronged approach to fighting this epidemic, we hope the steps within these prongs will make a difference in our community. COOP Goals

We recognize that the opioid epidemic is a complex challenge that demands a collaborative response. We aim to bridge the gap between law enforcement, local communities, and schools in the vital mission to counter opioid abuse by fostering trust, empathy, and understanding. Through open dialogue and mutual respect, we aim to create a supportive environment where knowledge and education will flourish.

Education serves as the cornerstone of prevention. A significant aspect of our program marries together the efforts of the Yonkers Police Department and Yonkers Public Schools. Actively engaging Yonkers students in grades 7-12, educators, and parents through comprehensive education initiatives will dispel common misconceptions, foster awareness, and empower informed decision-making. Through compassionate intervention strategies, we will equip our parents and faculty to identify early signs of opioid misuse, guide those at risk, and facilitate access to appropriate treatment and support networks. We know that by educating our youth on the dangers of illicit drug use, opioid abuse, and addiction, we can decrease the odds of our youth falling victim to this epidemic. Regular school seminars and discussions will help us achieve this goal with our youth.

In addition, we know that we must pass this knowledge to our adult community. Educational "pop-up" COOP stands will be present at local festivals and gatherings, with additional events throughout the City. Once we equip community members with the facts about opioid abuse, its signs, risks, and available resources, as well as equip and train them in the use of Narcan (naloxone), we can make a difference on our streets and in our homes. By raising awareness and dispelling myths, we will empower individuals to identify early warning signs of opioid abuse in their friends and family.

Equally vital is our approach to intervention and providing access to treatment. Our Narcotics Unit will proactively utilize precision enforcement to locate distributors of illicit opioids, apprehend them, and file appropriate charges. This operation will be enhanced by focusing on the areas with increased overdoses. By diminishing the source of these substances, we hope to reduce their availability here in Yonkers. Eligible persons arrested for using or possessing illicit opioids will be given addiction counseling resources and the opportunity for rehabilitation and diversion alternatives to traditional sentencing in jail. In addition, when encountering an individual displaying signs of opioid addiction, our Detectives and community advocates will collaborate to connect them with local treatment options, support networks, and vital services. This is where our local stakeholders and relationships with local treatment centers, substance abuse advocates, and physical and mental health professionals will be crucial. In this constant two-way flow of information and referrals, we can direct those in need to the appropriate resources before it is too late. While this road to recovery may differ for each person we encounter, we will do everything in our power to be a resource for individuals affected by opioid addiction, offering a compassionate hand to guide them toward recovery.

Together, we will form an alliance in the fight against opioid addiction and abuse. Our joint efforts reflect a commitment to safeguarding lives, strengthening neighborhoods, and creating a future free from the grasp of addiction. Through education, prevention, intervention, and treatment, COOP stands as a beacon of hope, offering a path to healing and transformation.

"We are not alone in fighting this relentless battle against opioid misuse," said City of Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. "It has created a widespread crisis that not only impacts Yonkers, but every community across the nation. I commend the Yonkers Police Department for taking a proactive, educational approach with the Community Opioid Outreach Program. By working together, we can strategize and utilize resources so we can save lives and prevent families from feeling the pain of loss due to opioid addiction and overdoses."

Yonkers Police Commissioner Christopher Sapienza stated, "In this transformative partnership between Police, schools, and our community, we are forging a powerful alliance against opioid abuse and addiction. We will not stand idly by as our youth and communities suffer from this epidemic. Together, we will tackle this public health emergency head-on, offering education, prevention, intervention, and treatment options to our citizens. I thank Mayor Spano and Dr. Rodriguez for their partnership in this effort, which exemplifies the City of Yonkers' dedication to fostering a safer, healthier, and more resilient community for all. It's time for a change in the narrative on the opioid epidemic, and we're going to lead the way."

For more information about this program, including upcoming YPD COOP community events, please contact the Yonkers Police Community Affairs Division at (914) 377-7293 or visit: bit.ly/YPDCOOP.



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Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company ENH Assets Limited Liability Company Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 10/28/22 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: ENH Assets Limited Liability Company 465 Tuckahoe Road #1189 Yonkers, NY 10710 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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77 Teens Missing in New York State



By Dennis Richmond Jr.

Paris White, 15, and Destiny Morales, 15, both went missing in the Bronx over the summer. This never made national headlines. Shakura Webb-McCullough, 17, went missing in Yonkers in January. This didn't make national headlines either. Shaylynne Way, 16, went missing last month in Pleasantville. There was no major media coverage for her. Angela Pringle, 17, went missing from the same place in Westchester and I didn't see anything on News12.

Why are there so many teenagers missing in New York? According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, as of September 25th, 2023, 77 teenagers are missing in The State of New York. Those missing in Yonkers are Shakura Webb-Mccullough and Roselin Angeles Suarez. Unfortunately, when many Black, and Hispanic teenagers go missing, there's never national media coverage. Yonkers Times both online and in-print is changing that narrative. Two years ago, a Google search for the name "Gabby" instantly pulled up articles about Gabby Petito. Gabby, 22, was a slain white woman. Gabby received national media coverage, but Keira, Ethan, and Aiden didn't. That's where the paper comes in.

In 2021, NPR said, "Tens of thousands of Black girls and women go missing every year. Last year, that figure was nearly 100,000. Yet their cases hardly ever grab national headlines." A journalist in California is doing what she can to try to change that, by telling as many of their stories as she can — and hopefully helping them get the justice they deserve. Our Black Girls centers on the often untold stories of Black girls and women who have gone missing or, in some cases, were found dead under mysterious circumstances." The website was created four years ago by Erika Marie Rivers.

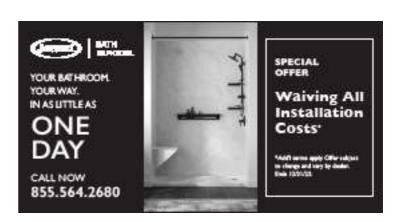
Though teenagers of all backgrounds are missing, why are Black and Hispanic teenagers specifically targeted? Dr. Umar Johnson and the late Dick Gregory talked about organ harvesting. People are stealing organs from Black and Hispanic people. Illegal activity, such as payment for this process, takes place on the dark web. Hopefully, none of the 77 missing children might have a connection to the dark web.

Other than organ harvesting, teenagers are missing due to sex trafficking. Yonkers has done its due diligence by putting signs up across the city to raise awareness about this. A man in Detroit was arrested for this. A man in Milwaukee, 45, was arrested for this too. According to FOX6 Milwaukee, some of his charges include "interstate transportation for prostitution" and "interstate transportation of a minor for criminal sexual activity." Florida saw this phenomenon too when police broke up a sex trafficking ring. This stuff is serious. Dozens of teenagers are going missing, and there's no outcry.

Where is the national media attention? I don't know if any of the missing teenagers have been found. I haven't found any information stating that they have. I also don't know if any of the missing teens in New York are victims of organ harvesting or sex trafficking. The hope is that the families and friends of all these victims find their loved ones. That could only happen when more people start talking

Visit https://www.missingkids.org/home, to learn more about the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.







Notice of Formation of RyPlunk LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 7/28/2023.

Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served.

SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 104 Seminary Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of Pro-Ductiv Exhaust System Services LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on (09/04/2023). Location: (Westchester County). SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: (70 Hillside Avenue Apt. 1R, Yonkers, NY 10703). Purpose: Any lawful purpose

Notice is hereby given that a license, 1359665, 1359666 for beer, wine, & liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, wine, & liquor at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at the business known as Via Veroli LLC located at 2150 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710 for on premises consumption.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

Bowman's office said it was an accident. 'He was trying to get to a door. He thought a fire alarm would open the door and he pulled the fire alarm to open the door by accident. He was just trying to get to his vote and the door that's usually open wasn't open it was closed. This was not the Congressman, in any way, trying to delay any vote.' Enough of the lies Jamaal.

But the most serious, disgusting remarks to come out of a press release from Bowman are, 'Republicans need to instead focus their energy on the Nazi members of their party before anything else." Bowman denied that those were his words. It was on his stationary. Simply disgraceful. The Jewish community, particularly AIPAC is very unhappy with his positions on Israel. His 'Nazi' reference didn't improve his relationship with the Jewish community.

So where does this all go. The House will do their various investigations. A felony was clearly committed here. The Congressman could be censured, disciplined or expelled. I say censured and disciplined at a minimum but expelling the Congressman must seriously be looked at. He should be treated the same way as the January 6 protestors. Because what he did was just as bad even worse than what the protestors did that day.

Bowman does not belong in Congress. With actions like pulling fire alarms He is an embarrassment to the institution. The residents of his district will get screwed when it comes to funding from Washington for projects in the district. There is a rumor that County Executive George Latimer is considering, depending on Congressional lines a run for Bowman's seat. Latimer would make an excellent candidate.

Congressman Bowman. You're not in High School anymore!

Briefs: People wrote in such beautiful memories of the Roosevelt Hotel. It's sad that it is not the elegant hotel it once was.

There is talk of a marijuana dispensary on Yonkers Avenue at the old Duo Tapas Bar location. The neighbors don't deserve it. We have enough streets in Yonkers that reek of the smell of marijuana. Yonkers doesn't need one more. I don't know about you but I'm tired of the smell. Put the dispensary in a place out of the way with parking and away from schools. And the State has to do something to regulate where marijuana can be smoked.

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







On this Day in Yonkers History...



1932 photo of child silent film star Miriam Batista, taken by photographer Murray Korman

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, and President Untermyer Performing Arts Council

Monday, October 9th

October 9, 1942: The Civil Part of City Court was installed in its own quarters in City Hall, a move hailed by City Manager William Walsh as the realization of a 40-yearold plan marking the separation of the Civil and Criminal parts of the court.

October 9, 1943: Yonkers Unity Week and Mrs. Harold Weidner brought two Baltimore natives together at the Jewish Community Center! While escorting Henry Frank on a tour of the Center, Mrs. Weidner came across the Center's Executive Director, Isidore Beierfeld. As she began to introduce them, the newcomer gasped, "Isidore!" Beierfeld exclaimed "Mr. Frank!" Two had not seen each other for 25 years; Beierfeld had been a member of the Progressive Club at the Jewish Education Alliance, led at the time by Henry Frank. Frank was at the Center because his daughter Susan was performing with the Sarah Lawrence dance group.

Tuesday, October 10th

October 10, 1913: Building Inspector Bartley granted a permit to the Carlton Motion Picture Laboratory Company to build a two-story high studio at 537 Riverdale Avenue.

October 10, 1916: The automobile speed limit in Yonkers was raised from 10 to 15 miles an hour after City Judge Joseph Beall ruled our 10-mile limit violated wih state

October 10, 1952: President Harry Truman made a campaign stop in Yonkers; approximately 8,000 people gathered in Larkin Plaza to hear him speak in support of Adlai Stevenson, Democratic candidate for President.

Wednesday, October 11th

October 11, 1934: The Yonkers Board of Education discussed using part of School Six for the College of the City of New York's state supported emergency college to offer a freshman year courses. CCNY and state officials paying for the classes, stated they were ready to open the college as soon as Yonkers selected its location.

October 11, 1942: Vera Robinson of Pondfield Road West and Ravine Avenue's Chief Petty Officer Bert Rothing, USN, shared the honor of being the first people to donate their bumpers to the "Bumpers for Victory" drive in Larkin Plaza.

Thursday, October 12th

October 12, 1946: Yonkers hometown hero General Joseph Stilwell passed away after stomach cancer surgery; on active duty at the Presidio (San Francisco), he commanded the Sixth Army, the administrative unit command of Army units in the western

After cremation, his ashes were scattered on the Pacific Ocean and a cenotaph (empty monument) was placed in his memory in the West Point Cemetery. While alive, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal with one Oak Cluster, the Legion of Merit degree of Commander and the Bronze Star. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge as he lay dying; five months earlier on May 3rd, Stilwell and General Frank Merrill led two platoons of marines to end the Battle of

Friday, October 13th

October 13, 1894: Two important golf tournaments were held at the St. Andrews of Yonkers-on-the-Hudson Golf Course, the first United States Open tournament for professional golfers and the first National Amateur Golf tournament. Willie Dunn, Biarritz golf teacher, won the professional competition and received \$100 and a gold medal for his efforts. L. B. Stoddard of Saint Andrew's won the amateur tournament.

October 13, 1976: President Gerald Ford visited Mayor Angelo Martinelli at Yonkers City Hall; while there he signed the State and Local Fiscal Assistance Amendments of 1976, while hundreds of school children and adults cheered. Besides our esteemed Mayor, other New York dignitaries witnessing the bill signing were Yonkers own Governor Malcolm Wilson, Senators Jacob Javits and William Buckley and several Councilmembers.

Saturday, October 14th

October 14, 1864: Abraham Lincoln wrote a letter to Provost General James Fry about an issue with the Civil War draft after the issue was brought to his attention; this letter now is in the rare autograph collection at St. Joseph's Seminary and College!

October 14, 1926: Corporation Counsel Arthur Hume, addressing the Council of Yonkers Civic Organizations, called the plan to link the Hutchinson Valley sewage system with the Bronx Valley system emptying into the Hudson off Yonkers, "a scheme to make Yonkers a dumping ground for the rest of Westchester County."

continued on pg 6-



PAGE 6 - YONKERS RISING - FRIDAY OCTOBER 6, 2023

YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AGENDA PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023 AT 6:00 PM, WILL BE HELD IN YONKERS CITY HALL, 40 SOUTH BROADWAY, 4TH FLOOR (building is handicapped accessible). PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV .

OPEN CONTINUED HEARINGS # 5790 – Area Variance – James Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of Mehranco Limited Liability Co., owner, on premises known as 1999 Central Park Avenue, Block: 4385, Lot: 42.43, Zone: BR (B30132) (Adjourned to Nov. 2023)

5797 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Marketin Hila/110 Ravine Realty LLC, owner, on premises known as 110 Ravine Avenue, Block: 2118, Lot: 39, Zone: A (B29521) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1H-4V45sMcWs0_3rOyDixjXc_ttIYGnZq?usp=share_link

5810 – Use & Area Variance - David S. Steinmetz, Esq. & Jacob E. Amir, Esq., on behalf of TCP Realty LLC, owners, on premises known as 143-151 Woodworth Avenue, Block: 2102, Lots: 4, 5, 11, 39 & 41, Zone: C (B32117)

****PUBLIC SCOPING SESSION FOR THIS PROPERTY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 16, 2023 at the RIVERFRONT LIBRARY – 6:00PM****

 $https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1H-uwlmlnZ67Pdqnxin47LX7kkvY8uwUh?usp=share_link$

5818 – Area Variance – William Null, Esq. of Cuddy & Feder LLP, on behalf of UB Tanglewood LLC, owner, on premises known as 2248 aka 2270 Central Park Avenue, Block: 4800, Lot: 60, Zone: BR (B32155) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kfspSJjpCbe9uAOtY_sNZ_PQ3dPgh7Lm?usp=sharing

5820 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Mountain Portfolio Owner NY LLC, owner, on premises known as 380 Riverdale Avenue, Block: 130, Lot: 1, Zone: BA (B22026) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1h3FBZIcdBqsNnUlLEZXutFeFSJ9xC8fJ? usp=sharing

5821 – Area Variance – Warren Post, on behalf of AIS LLC, owner, on premises known as 664 Saw Mill River Road, Block: 3116, Lot: 39, Zone: CM (B31328) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1o8brlAzjdMkMkGf9SlgyHn_pfxwTQh3F?usp=sharing

5823 – Area Variance – Zarin & Steinmetz LLP, on behalf of CPD NY Energy Corp, owner, on premises known as 1250 Nepperhan Avenue, Block: 3182, Lot: 2, Zone: I (B32100) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16KK7VQdcakUWvDXKM98DB4TaFVrwweeG?usp = sharing

5826 – Area Variance – Stephen Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of 1270 Saw Mill Associates LLC, owner, on premises known as 1270 Saw Mill River Road, Block: 3270, Lot: 220, Zone: CM (B32288) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_-38xILKNDY3aRGWIdljFRB 6NspZE1U6?usp=sharing

5828 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of JSJ Lawrence Realty Corp, owner, on premises known as 23 Lawrence Street, Block: 122, Lot: 32, Zone: A (B30161) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1C7zj3irUHMTUiPfAPsXDbnHv-cgx6sdf?usp=sharing

5829 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Alba Developers Inc., owner, on premises known as 173 Linden Street, Block: 477, Lot: 38, Zone: M (B21173) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QUk9ksqWVXq-t4O0q9bscrkPQutJJ1Gv?usp=sharing

NEW HEARINGS

5830 – Area Variance & Improvement to a Non-Conforming Use – Theodore G. Rieper, R.A., on behalf of Yumi Chen, owner, on premises known as 13 Randolph Street, Block: 119, Lot: 27, Zone: BR (B29946) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wVme_xqCrB3OLyxOtwFR_auVaChddTdD?usp=sharing

5831 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of 43 New Ave LLC, owner, on premises known as 44 New Avenue, Block: 6250, Lot: 51, Zone: M (B32519) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xyvLIG4p-m39Yqs1AZGR3DSYoh7UuTfl?usp=sharing

5832 – Area Variance – Marisa Kaufman, owner, on behalf of herself, on premises known as 20 aka 16 Wiltshire Place, Block: 5608, Lot: 6, Zone: S-50 (B29329) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1s8YIbjqX10ycLMrMMw3x6UQbKbYM48Kt?usp=sharing

5833 –Use Variance – Cuddy & Feder LLP, on behalf of 326 Riverdale Owners LLC, owner, on premises known as 330 Riverdale Avenue, Block: 157, Lot: 10, Zone: A (B31183) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18YJCCxBXNCifSNK_sCzYaURo9-1al3d3?usp=sharing

5834 – Area Variance – James G. Dibbini, Esq., on behalf of Stephen Johnson, owner, on premises known as 444 Park Hill Avenue, Block: 101, Lot: 73, Zone: T (B32712) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1PtC88LxZQQFGudjdf8CMq3M8SDbe0GVd?usp=sharing

5835 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Jesus Rebutti, owner, on premises known as 39 Spruce Street, Block: 438, Lot: 24, Zone: M (B31070) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jDnYDJZbCMxRqiuMBCesmhf7FFE36y6O?usp=sharing

5836 – Use & Area Variance – Mastrogiacomo Engineering PC, on behalf of My Main Man LLC, owner, on premises known as 47 High Street aka 102 Park Avenue, Block: 2167, Lot: 1.3, Zone: MG (B32874) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KcvFoSwZw6ljqBkVUcJQsWyXq4z4Pn-x?usp=sharing

5837 – Use Variance – Joseph Fernandez, R.A., on behalf of B & N Apex Corp, owner, on premises known as 1051 Yonkers Avenue, Block: 6328, Lot: 49.54, Zone: B (B33009) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UPIfVZ3cWgVUC9z_S753PsscJgnTnRYI?usp=sharing

5838 – Use Variance – Shahin Badaly, P.E., on behalf of 222 Lake Partners LLC, owner, on premises known as 222 Lake Avenue, Block: 2179, Lot: 1, Zone: A&I (B32787) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ckpicpipRFStOnVZ118vQjNlPcnXIrS3?usp=sharing

5839 – Area Variance - Kristen Motel, Esq., on behalf of ASkone LLC, lessee, on premises known as 743 Central Park Avenue, Block: 5081, Lot: 21.32, Zone: BR (B33098) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1d2qauAwlwgUGud2MVsCNBSzA7eOFC-dk?usp=sharing

5840 – Use Variance - Regina P. Murray, on behalf of Irene Wasiczko, owner, on premises known as 59 Virginia Place, Block: 3403, Lot: 48, Zone: S-60 (B33145) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nfdP49AVDNAd9poDlCTgmkGEKkCXH0dQ?usp=sharing

OTHER BUSINESS https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DFjGE0R7_nW7Moo69r2YDU_Zyc7wO3Jl?usp=sharing

Notice of formation of GLOW N GLAMOUR LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the Sec of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/14/2023. Office location, County of Westchester. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process served to:, c/o Faisal Butt - 117 Wickes Ave., Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: any lawful act.



Classifieds

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Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

October 14, 1940: The Grand Jury investigation of Yonkers' municipal affairs moved nearer a climax. Deputy Tax Commissioner Joseph Lenox, Deputy Superintendent of School Buildings and Maintenance Alfred Corbin, WPA Foreman Joseph McMahon who worked on School Five, and R. P. Nugent of Gazette Press were questioned on the purchase of materials and equipment for School Five. A major part of the questioning covered the installation of allegedly substandard heating equipment at the school. The Grand Jury also investigated reported attempts to license pinball machines in Yonkers.

Sunday, October 15th

October 15, 1926: An angry group of Yonkers citizens led by Mayor Walsh appeared before the Westchester County Sanitation Commission to protest the new Hutchinson River Valley sewer to empty into the Hudson at Yonkers. The mayor bluntly told the commission if they did not abandon the plan, the citizens of Yonkers would bring a lawsuit to stop the county from "turning Yonkers into a cesspool."

October 15, 1926: Former Yonkers resident Reverend Joseph Breslin, Vice Rector of the American College in Rome, was promoted to Monsignor by Pope Pius XI. Breslin was the son of the long time Superintendent of St. Joseph's Seminary and lived on Seminary Avenue. He attended St. Joseph's School on Ashburton Avenue and Fordham. The good father served in WWI with distinction, Chaplain for the 23rd Infantry and was decorated for his services during the flu epidemic on the transport General Grant.

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 info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org

PUBLIC NOTICE AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT SCOPE AND PUBLIC SCOPING SESSION

The City of Yonkers Zoning Board of Appeals ("ZBA"), as lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act, has determined that the proposed development at 143-151 Woodworth Avenue (Section:2, Block: 2102, Lots: 4, 5.7, 11, 39 and 41) may have a significant adverse impact on the environment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("DEIS") must be prepared. The Draft Scope for the DEIS is available on-line at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Fs6UG2BN4vrGEN8spjeMnaV_pTCtT1Vx?usp=sharing and at Yonkers Department of Housing and Building, 5th floor, 87 Nepperhan Avenue AND Yonkers Department of Planning and Development, 3rd floor, Room 320, 87 Nepperhan Ave, Yonkers, NY 10701. A public scoping session on the Draft Scope will be held on October 16, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Yonkers Riverfront Public Library at One Larkin Center Yonkers, NY 10701. All of those interested will be given an opportunity to be heard with a time limit of three (3) minutes per speaker. The ZBA will accept written comments on the Draft Scope until 4 pm October 27, 2023. Written comment can be submitted by mail to 87 Nepperhan Ave., 5th Floor Yonkers, NY 10701 or by email at ZBAPublic@YonkersNY.gov.

TCP Realty, LLC (the "Applicant") proposes an approximately 815,850 square foot mixed-use development. Two 32-story residential buildings would be constructed containing 672 residential units with 10% of the units designated for affordable housing (the "Proposed Project") on the existing approximately 1.35-acre property, comprised of five tax parcels. The residential units would be a combination of studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments. The Proposed Project will also include ground floor commercial space, a four-level garage with parking spaces for 702 vehicles including valet parking, landscape areas, and amenities for residents, including an outdoor swimming pool, jacuzzi, roof garden, gym, sauna, lounge, library, game room, kids' room, and party room. To facilitate the Proposed Project, the Applicant has applied to the City of Yonkers Zoning Board of Appeals for approval of use and area variances. The Proposed Project will also require site plan approval from the City of Yonkers Planning Board. The Proposed Project, together with the required variances and site plan approval, constitute the "Proposed Action."

Notice of Formation of Hanyst RX Consulting LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 9/2/23. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 35 Florence Street, Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: Pharmacy Consulting



Bowman Embarrasses Westchester, continued from pg 1-

Some Westchester democrats have had enough. "Beyond the hard-core support in parts of the Black community, and the Bernie Sanders-ultra progressive democrats...Will the broad mainstream of the Democratic party remain silent about his antics? The GOP can attach Bowman's actions and comments to every other elected democrat-and take back seats lost in past elections if Democrats say and do nothing.

"The mainstream Ds do not want a war with the ultra-left, but the ultra-left wants to do what the far right has done: take over their party. And they routinely primary mainstream Democrats, calling them "corporate" Democrats because they do not strongly back their socialist agenda. If a mainstream Democrat primary's a Squad member? Horror! What division is being let loose!

"It is a battle for the soul of the Democratic Party. The GOP battle is over-Trump won. Does America need two parties – hard-right and hard-left – when most Americans fall somewhere in the middle," said one Westchester democrat.

Michael Gerald, a Democrat from Tuckahoe, who has announced that he will challenge Bowman next year, said, "It is hard to believe that a former school administrator doesn't know what a fire alarm triggers when activated. But, in a day and an age of attention seeking, public posturing and a quest to build national branding, elected officials are doing all of this for clicks, likes and fundraising. My question is: do we agree with these antics and what actions like these communicate to society? I do not.

"This isn't a laughing matter. Erroneously pulling a fire alarm in a public building is a crime. This issue of irresponsibility is a layered problem because it not only endangered people but it also caused the unnecessary activation of emergency personnel, equipment and other resources utilized for a false alarm. Moreover, I am certain that this set off an alarm amongst a people already reeling from the effects of January 6, 2022's insurrection.

"As a Law Enforcement professional I will tell you that today's actions endangered many in the Federal Building who were there to vote on a Continuing Resolution to keep the government funded and avoid a shutdown. It is time for responsible adults to lead our Nation," said Gerald.

Republicans were calling for Bowman to be investigated, arrested, expelled, or to resign. Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy said, "When you think about how other people were treated when they come in and wanted to change the course of what was happening in the building, (Jan. 6). This should not go without punishment, I'm gonna have a discussion with the Democratic leader about it. But this should not go without punishment. This is an embarrassment."

Westchester's other member of Congress, Rep. Mike Lawler said, "That any member of Congress would think it's appropriate to pull a fire alarm to try and delay Congress from doing its business is shameful, it's unbecoming, and he should strongly consider resigning from Congress if he did that."

AOC, Rep. Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, came to Bowman's defense, attacking republicans for trying to expel Bowman while protecting Congressman George Santos. "they're filing a motion to expel a member (Bowman) who, in a moment of panic, was trying to escape a vestibule? Give me a break!"

The final vote in the House was 335-91, so Bowman's vote was not needed for passage. The Senate voted 88-9 vote. A \$6 Billion request for additional aid to Ukraine was pulled from the House bill and was not part of the final package.

Instead of admitting his error and what he was truly trying to accomplish, Bowman and his staff sent out a messaging guidance of talking points to democratic supporters, which included: "I believe Congressman Bowman when he says this was an accident. Republicans need to instead focus their energy on the Nazi members of their party before anything else.

After this release was made public, and reported on by Politico, https://www.politico.com/live-updates/2023/10/02/congress/bowmans-damage-control-00119493 Rep. Bowman issued an apology....kind of. "I just became aware that in our messaging guidance, there was inappropriate use of the term Nazi without my consent. I condemn the use of the term Nazi out of its precise definition. It is important to specify the term Nazi to refer to members of the Nazi party & neo-Nazis," said Bowman.

The US Capitol Police stated that "USCP officers had previously placed signs with clear language that explained the door was secured and marked as an emergency exit only."

John Daniel Davidson from The Federalist writes, "It's clear he pulled the fire alarm as a delaying tactic, precisely to force the evacuation of the building and disrupt official congressional business. Indeed, there's no other reasonable way to interpret his actions. Everyone who has ever attended school knows what a fire alarm is and what happens when you pull it — including Bowman, a former school principal.

Mayor's Debate, continued from pg 1-

with non-profits and developers. But no other community in Westchester has built more affordable housing than in Yonkers."

Merante focused on "trying to bring rents down in Yonkers. It is making a lot of good people leave. "

On Waterfront development, or shopping and dining downtown, Merante returned to one of his major themes; "We need to clean up Getty Square and the areas around it. These areas are crime ridden and many residents stay home. There are too many homeless and mentally ill persons, and others are not comfortable on the waterfront. We have an underlying problem that is preventing us from solving other problems; crime, the homeless and mentally ill."

Two other big issues discussed in the form include flooding and migrants living at the Ramada Inn.

"I'm a big proponent of allocating some funds to look at all our sewers and storm drains and find out which are broken and what we can do. Some of the flooding may be because of overdevelopment. I don't know if it's 100% fixable, but we do need to get our share of infrastructure money," said Merante.

Spano said that Yonkers is flooding more "during this age of global warming. "There is no system that can sustain that amount of water in a city with two mountain ranges. But we continue to fight for federal funds so we can expand and improve. And in some areas, we have made improvements, including on Kimball Avenue and on the Bronxville border and on the Saw Mill. When you get a 500-year storm its tough for a city like ours."

The first thing I would do is make sure that we put a halt on any others coming in without a plan. I would sue NYC Mayor Adams and Governor Hochul to make sure. I have been kept in the dark because I'm running for Mayor. We need to know what the plan is and what is the end game. Where are these folks going to go and how are we going to pay for it," said Merante?

Spano said "We made it clear to Mayor Adams and the Governor that this was

On the Migrants at the Ramada Inn, Merante said, "That hotel is in my community.

Spano said, "We made it clear to Mayor Adams and the Governor that this was unacceptable to send us these individuals without a plan and funding. They came and we have worked with Westchester County, worked with Westhab and have treated the immigrants with dignity and respect. We are not getting any reports of criminal activity."

shootings, but one is too many. The problems came when there were changes in the law and just coming out of COVID. Bail reform and raising the age has placed a significant impact on our police to keep our community safe."

Merante said, "Foot patrols are needed in some neighborhoods. We need to try and get rid of the gangs and keep kids from joining a gang. We are failing our kids and I think

On gun violence, Spano said, "We are down from last year in the number of

that many kids that are graduating high school are doing so because we have lowered the bar. "

On Minority representation in City Hall and City government, Spano said, "My administration has the most diverse workforce of any Mayor. Yonkers is one of the most

diverse City's in America, and I look for qualifications and diversity. They both can work together."

On bringing new businesses to Yonkers, Merante said, "The sale of real estate has made rents go through the roof. That makes it difficult for a small business. We also need to get people to come out more and spend some money and make going out a social event

again. But crime is an underlying factor."

Spano said, "Unemployment is 3.1% in Yonkers, the lowest in New York State's big cities. We have Lionsgate building 22 studios in Yonkers, creating thousands of jobs and revenues for the city, all in Southwest Yonkers. And full gaming at MGM will provide thousands of jobs and give our residents in black and brown communities a chance to get a middle-class job." Merante asked "where are all the jobs from Lionsgate? I don't see them."

At the end of the debate, Spano emphasized that a Mayor should be a cheerleader for the City and its 211,000 people. "I never try to beat up our city. You can't escape the successes we have had. Don't let people dismiss Yonkers. I have heard people dismiss Yonkers and our kids, but we have made so many strides. Our communities are thriving, and our city is booming. I'm proud to say we are from Yonkers-six generations of my family have called Yonkers home. Let's be real, let's move Yonkers forward and let's be positive."

Merante said, "I like the mayor, but he has lost focus. I'm here to take care of the people. I'm a listener and I will act." One other debate is scheduled to be held by the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce at St. John's Riverside Hospital.

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