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Friday September 2, 2022

Yonkers Gives Back: Everyone Who Needs a Backpack, School Supplies Gets One



above, Councilman Anthony Merante with members of Bronx Visionary; photo by Anissa Latif



left-Rapper and hip hop recording artist 2Rare, with a young student

see stories on pg 4

Below, Mayor Mike Spano's Backpack to School Donation Drive at Enrico Fermi School

Photo by Maurice Mercado

Let the People Decide: Should Mayor Spano Run for a 4th Term?

Charter Revision Commission Would Place Term Limits Change on Referendum



By Dan Murphy

Mayor Mike Spano recently appeared on Yonkers Voice for an interview with Ru Ros. During that interview, Ros asked the Mayor if there was support for him to run for a fourth term, would he do it? "You have moved Yonkers forward, but there's always room for more improvement. We want you to finish the job-what if there was popular demand for you to continue?"

Mayor Spano asked, "how would we know if they want that?" adding "four years ago, I had no intentions of running for a third term, but I bought into it and it turned out to be the right thing for me personally and the city."

There are two ways that Mayor Spano would be permitted to run for a fourth term next year (2023). The City Council would have to vote to overturn term-limits, as they did four years ago, or a change- repeal to the term limits law would have to be approved by the voters in the form of a referendum.

And with the Mayor asking for the people to decide on whether he should run for a fourth term, a referendum would give the people a voice, in saying yes Mayor Spano, run for a fourth term, or no, 12 years are enough.

Six months ago, we spoke with a prominent democrat in Yonkers, who was not necessarily a Spano supporter, but admitted that the City has made great strides under Mike Spano's leadership. And she wanted to know how it would continue, and didn't see any viable alternatives to keep the progress going.

That same sentiment remains among many people in Yonkers, who like Spano, are searching for someone to replace him. Two members of the Yonkers City Council, Corazon Pineda-Isaac, and John Rubbo, have been testing the waters about a run for Mayor. And Yonkers Democratic Party Chair Tom Meier and Assemblyman Nader Sayegh are the other two names that are in the mix.

But the usual assumption has been that one, or all four, would run for Mayor if Spano doesn't run. While that decision may change, all four have not thrilled the stakeholders, unions, and party leaders to the point where Mayor Spano feels comfortable handing the keys over and departing.

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Vote for Yonkers Native Merissa Beddows, Semi-Finalist on America's Got Talent



Merissa Beddows

Yonkers Van der Donck Park Featured in National Geographic



A better celebration to the 10-year anniversary of the Daylighting of the Saw Mill River in downtown Yonkers and the transformation of a parking lot into Van der Donck Park could not have come after National Geographic Magazine features Yonkers in its latest issue.

Groundwork Hudson Valley shared the news, "that National Geographic has featured the Yonkers Saw Mill River Daylighting Park in its September issue America the Beautiful. This park, known as Van der Donck Park, has become a landmark in Downtown Yonkers and continues to flourish.

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Here's another Yonkers success story. Merissa Beddows, a former contestant in Yonkers Junior Idol, has reached the semi-finals of America's Got Talent.

Beddows is a 23-year-old student at Curtis Institute of Music, Pennsylvania. She identifies herself as an opera singer with a passion for impressions.

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**St. John's Riverside Hospital Presents
September 7 Webinar on Heart Health**

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SEPTEMBER 7TH | 12:45PM
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**Go Fly a Poem Day With Yonkers
Poet Laureate Golda Solomon**

Go Fly A Poem
Saturday, Sept. 10, 1 - 5pm
Rain date 9/24
Location: Yonkers Promenade Dock St.-Wells Ave.

Experience Poetry in Motion - Fly a Kite!
BUILD A KITE ! WRITE A POEM !
READ A POEM ! KIDS & TEENS BOOKS GIVEAWAY!
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS & COOKIES

Yonkers First Poet Laureate, Golda Solomon
2022 Community Outreach Event

GUEST POET: SHEILA MALDONADO
READS AT 2PM & 4PM | INVITED POETS AND OPEN MIC
Special thanks: Dwanita Crosby and Sara Brody

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St. John's Riverside Hospital is hosting a webinar with one of their leading Cardiologists, Alon Gitig, MD. Dr. Gitig will be discussing the latest findings to control your cholesterol and high blood pressure as well as critical steps to take for overall essential heart health.

Scheduled for September 7 at 12:45 pm, RSVP here for the upcoming webinar: <https://hipaa.jotform.com/222404657156152>

Pay a visit to Yonkers First Poet Laureate Golda Solomon, in a community outreach event titled, "Go Fly A Poem." Guest poets include Sheila Maldonado and other poets will share in an open mic.

Kids and teens will build a kite and write their own poem. There are book giveaways and light refreshments served.

Go Fly A Poem will take place on Saturday, September 10, from 1-5pm, at the Yonkers Promenade on Dock Street-Wells Avenue.

Yonkers to NYC: Don't Dump on Our Community Before:



From Mayor Mike Spano: "We've received numerous complaints from area residents about the mounds of debris dumped along the shoulder and service lanes of the north and southbound lanes of I-87 Major Deegan Expressway at the Yonkers-Bronx border. Not only is this a quality of life issue, but because I-87 is a gateway to the Hudson Valley, it is unwelcoming to drivers and visitors who pass through our city. It also encourages rodent infestations to Van Cortlandt Park, which both Yonkers and Bronx residents visit. According to the New York State Thruway Authority, the stretch of road where the illegal dumping occurs is maintained by the City of New York. Therefore, I am calling on my fellow colleagues in government to heed the pleas of our local residents to clean up the Deegan. Let's work together so, as New Yorkers, we can remain proud of our community. There is a simple fix: clean-up and enforce."

After:



A few days later, also from Mayor Spano: "Great work by Mayor Eric Adams and the City of New York for the swift action in cleaning up both north and southbound lanes of I-87 Major Deegan Expressway at the Yonkers-Bronx border. Now let's work to monitor the trucks illegally parking there and enforce stricter dumping fines to create better quality of life for area residents."

Read it all Online at **Yonkerstimes.com**

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Yonkers Split on Student Loan Forgiveness Plan

By Dan Murphy

Westchester County Legislator David Tubiolo's support for President Biden's \$10,000 loan forgiveness plan shows how divided residents of Westchester, and voters across the country are on the issue. (See story above; Congressional candidate Mike Lawler is opposed).

Tubiolo writes, "I celebrate the action taken by the Federal Government to reduce the liability on millions of hard working Americans. I paid off my student loans before this forgiveness initiative. but I experienced first hand the sacrifices I had to make for a decade to overcome high interest rates and what seemed like never ending payments. We were made to believe this was the only way to achieve social mobility, but this deprived many of us from economic opportunities our previous generation enjoyed, like buying homes at a younger age.

"This is the bailout working class millennials (and their parents) desperately needed, and I think this will stimulate the economy and save a generation.



"This is the bailout working class millennials (and their parents) desperately needed, and I think this will stimulate the economy and save a generation,"

-County Legislator David Tubiolo

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On This Day in Yonkers History...



General Joseph W. Stilwell, "Vinegar Joe" from Yonkers

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

Monday, September 5th

September 5, 1945: Attendance of more than 17,000 students in Yonkers Public Schools was the largest in years; it was so large, Schools Superintendent William Williams appointed 15 emergency teachers, with the possibility of appointing more as our population increased. While other schools were bursting, School 26's attendance dropped; with an enrollment of 40, only three teachers were assigned there. The school had been open for ten years, but the attendance never built up. The Board announced it decide whether to close the school at the next School Trustees meeting.

September 5, 1945: Yonkers own General Joseph W. Stilwell, aka "Vinegar Joe," represented the Allies in Okinawa when nine Japanese officers, representing 105,000 Japanese Army and Navy forces who had served in the Ryukyu Islands, signed unconditional surrender papers. After the signing, the general told the officers, "I hold each one of you personally responsible for carrying out my instructions. That is all. You may now go back to your quarters."

Tuesday, September 6th

September 6, 1947: Mrs. Alexander Rosenberg, wife of the Rabbi of Congregation Ohab Zedek, and daughter Naomi returned to Yonkers from Germany. The family lived in Germany for two years while Rabbi Rosenberg served with the Joint Distribution Committee, and as the liaison officer between the American Military Government headquarters and Jewish religious authorities. The Rabbi had expected to return with his family, but was detained in Germany a few more days, finishing up his work there.

September 6, 1956: The Yonkers Keys, our NY State and Eastern Junior American Legion championship team, was met at South Broadway and Valentine Lane with a welcome home parade! Although raining, the parade drove through Getty Square, Palisade to Yonkers Avenue, then headed east to the Pasqua Post for ceremonies. All speakers from Mayor Kristensen on voiced their pride in our boys; the evening ended with the Keys team cheer.

Wednesday, September 7th:

September 7, 1911: Speaking from Paris, Samuel Untermeyer gave a whole hearted endorsement of Governor Woodrow Wilson's views on "big money trusts." Untermeyer said the two most difficult problems the country faced were "curbing the concentration of the money power," and "regulating and controlling the industrial competition engaged in inter-state commerce." He added, Wilson "did not mistake or overstate the facts or the immediate overshadowing peril from the growing concentration of the money power in America."

September 7, 1945: Although their son Staff Sergeant David Eckes of Alder Street was reported missing in action March 18, 1944, Florence and Fred Eckes finally received official word David was presumed dead. He was lost while on a bombing mission to Landsberg, Germany. While heading back from the target, his Flying Fortress was attacked by enemy fighters, destroying the plane. Eckes, a former employee of Rex Roofing Company in Yonkers, had received the Air Medal and an Oakleaf Cluster February 1944.

Thursday, September 8th

September 8, 1919: After an examination of ballots in the Republican primary, Supreme Court Justice Tompkins announced Mayor Wallin had won renomination over Ulrich Wiesendanger by 13 votes.

September 8, 1934: Reginald Roberts of Edgewood Avenue, an oiler aboard the Morro Castle, saved from the ship after it burst into flames off the New Jersey coast. Officially, the cause of the fire never was determined, but more than 130 people died in the conflagration.



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Community Information

- Minimum income standard (non-subsidized homes) is based on gross monthly household income being at least 2.5x the monthly rent. Rent is subject to change at any time.
- Maximum Income is based on the number of persons in the household, as per LIHTC guidelines. Visit our website for applicable income restrictions, under Leasing Information.
- Rental assistance available for 8 homes. Rents not to exceed 30% of gross household income. Referrals made via the Municipal Housing Authority of the City of Yonkers (MHACY). Please contact their office to inquire.



Unit Size	Unit Count	Initial Rent*	Rent Restriction	Accessibility Features
2 Bedroom	8 units**	30% HH Income	30% Area Median Income	NA
1 Bedroom	14 units**	\$1,300.00	30% Area Median Income	3 units (Mobility)
2 Bedroom	12 units**	\$1,550.00	30% Area Median Income	3 units (Mobility)
Studio	4 units**	\$1,450.00	30% Area Median Income	NA
1 Bedroom	13 units	\$1,500.00	30% Area Median Income	3 units (Hearing/Vision) 2 units (Mobility)
2 Bedroom	10 units	\$1,872.00	30% Area Median Income	NA
1 Bedroom	5 units	\$1,850.00	30% Area Median Income	1 unit (Hearing/Vision)
2 Bedroom	5 units	\$2,200.00	30% Area Median Income	1 unit (Mobility)
Studio	2 units	\$1,850.00	30% Area Median Income	NA
1 Bedroom	3 units	\$1,850.00	30% Area Median Income	NA
2 Bedroom	5 units	\$2,200.00	30% Area Median Income	NA

* Rent and availability are subject to change at any time.

** Select homes (20 units) will be set aside for formerly homeless households and referred to the community via the Westchester County Continuum of Care Partnership for the Homeless (CoC Partnership) and other organizations serving the homeless.

- Selection by Lottery. Applications will be made available starting July 15, 2022. You may obtain an application by giving us a call at 914-821-1132 | TTY: 711, emailing us at warburton@tcbinc.org or visiting our website, www.theridgewaycommunities.com and clicking on Leasing Information.
- All paper applications should be returned/mailed to our management office at 43 Ashburton Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701 or emailed to us at warburton@tcbinc.org. Applications can also be completed online on our website, www.theridgewaycommunities.com, under Leasing Information. Online applications are preferred.
- We will hold two virtual information sessions for those interested in applying on 07/27/2022 from 6pm – 7pm and on 08/17/2022 from 6pm – 7pm. Links to those sessions will be made available on the Leasing Information page on our website.
- The deadline to apply for the Lottery will be Tuesday, September 13, 2022 (mailed applications must be postmarked by this date). Applications received after this date will not be included in the Lottery and will be entered on a waitlist based on date/time stamp of application receipt following those ranked Lottery applicants.
- Housing Lottery will be held electronically at 10:00a.m. and recorded on 09/28/2022 – the Lottery link will be made available on the Leasing Information page on our website.
- All applicants must be determined eligible in accordance with the Department of HUD regulations and must meet the family size requirements for a designated bedroom size (maximum of 2 persons per bedroom; minimum of 1 person per bedroom preference) as well as maximum income of all family members (please see our website for limits). Your application must also be complete to be eligible for Lottery submission. If your application shows that you are eligible, you will be notified in writing by mail or electronic mail prior to the Lottery date and you will be provided an Application Registration Number (ineligible applicants will also be notified in writing and will be provided the chance to appeal). Only eligible applications will be entered into the Lottery. Your place on the waitlist will be decided by a Lottery.
- PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR POSITION ON THE WAITLIST MAY NOT BE DICTATED BY YOUR LOTTERY NUMBER SINCE THOSE WITH A PREFERENCE WILL TAKE PRIORITY.
- After the Lottery, the waiting list will remain open until further notice. Applications will be processed in order of receipt from that point forward.
- For more information, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities please call 914-821-1132 | TTY: 711 or email warburton@tcbinc.org.

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Equal Housing Opportunity
NYS Governor – Kathy Hochul | NYS HCR Commissioner – RuthAnne Vaccaro



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Yonkers Mayor Spano Hosts 11th Annual “Backpack to School” Drive

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano today joined School Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada, Board of Education Trustee Vice President Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio, Yonkers City Councilmembers, Enrico Fermi Principal Mark Ametrano and event sponsors to present over 800 backpacks, filled with school supplies, to the students at Enrico Fermi School as part of the Mayor’s annual “Backpack to School Drive.”

“The continued success of our ‘Backpack to School Drive’ continues to show the strength of our community and sponsors,” said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. “I am deeply grateful for our city’s ongoing support. This year we were able to collect over 1,500 backpacks and an abundance of school supplies for our students in Yonkers.”

Donations were provided by Yonkers residents, city employees, and local corporate and nonprofit sponsors including: Heavenly Productions Foundation, Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts, PCNY, Garden of Eden, Castle Royale, Fuelco, Rock & Rod’s Collector Car Club, Ridge Hill and Elite Investigations.

“2022-2023 in the Yonkers Public Schools is our year to foster “Champions for Children,” noted Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Superintendent of Schools. Mayor Spano’s annual backpack drive magnificently personifies the school district’s initiative. Today’s champions are the backpack and school supplies donors. Through their efforts, our students and families at Enrico Fermi School start the new school year on positive path. We know that all children flourish and achieve in an educational environment replete with love and opportunities.”

Board of Education Vice President Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio added, “At every monthly meeting of the Board, President Rev. Steve Lopez and the Trustees acknowledge the generosity of individuals and businesses for donations of goods, services and monetary gifts. These donors, stakeholders from across our community, understand and act on their conviction to enhance opportunities for our students. The children and families at today’s event met community members willing to reach out a helping hand. This commitment to children and education by community stakeholders truly is what is necessary for Yonkers Public Schools, in the third largest city in New York State, to continue its trajectory increasing student achievement for all students.”

Chairwoman of Heavenly Productions Foundation, Dr. Kathy Reilly Fallon added, “On behalf of Heavenly Productions Foundation, we are thrilled to support Mayor Mike Spano’s Backpack outreach and donate backpacks with school supplies and classroom supplies. Best wishes to all the students of Yonkers.”

“Fuelco devoted itself to community outreach this summer. We gave veterans \$5 in free gas on Memorial Day and Independence Day and offered consumers super discounted gas for several weeks. Now it’s time to focus on kids and get them ready for school,” said Fuelco President Adam Musa, whose Yonkers station is located at 651 Bronx River Road.

Since 2012, Mayor Spano’s annual donation drive has distributed nearly 14,000 backpacks and school supplies to public school students. Due to the continuous outpour of support, each year non-profit organizations, churches and clients of the Westchester County Department of Social Services in the City of Yonkers are also able to receive backpacks and school supplies.

1ST ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL BOOK BAG GIVEAWAY

Sat. August 20th from 1PM to 5PM, Boo Wilson Park

This event was organized by WWR Inc., Kings On Assignment and Bronx Visionary in cooperation with Westchester County Legislator (Majority Leader) Christopher A. Johnson and sponsored by Councilman Anthony Merante. This year’s drive was to honor of the late Justin Robinson affectionately known as “Boogs” to his family and friends around the Runyon Heights community and all over Yonkers. He tragically lost his life in a car accident but in his everlasting spirit donated his organs saving up to 12 lives. His giving will continue to manifest through this event. Link to News12 story about Justin (<https://bronx.news12.com/organs-donated-by-yonkers-man...>)

Yonkers Councilman Anthony Merante stated. “When I was approached by the organizers to sponsor the 1ST ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL BOOK BAG GIVEAWAY, I said most definitely count me in. With rising Inflation cutting into Yonkers families pocketbooks leaving little money to spare helping families with book bags and school supplies was a small way to ease their financial burden” Saturday’s event at Boo Wilson Park drew about 250 people. over 100 book bags and back to school essentials were given away. Merante noted, “It was a fun day for all with food, music by a DJ, Italian Ices, the Exquisite Force dance troop and even our great Yonkers Fire Dept brought a truck out for kids to explore. It was nice seeing our Runyon Heights community out especially Lamont (Mel) Robinson Sr. and Carrie Ann Robinson. I like to thank the event organizers for an awesome job and especially Dwayne Cloud. I’m looking forward to next year’s event that we can make even bigger and better.”

Uplife Foundation Hosts 4th Annual Backpack Giveaway BBQ

On Sunday August 28th, 2022 Uplife Foundation Inc. hosted its 4th Annual Back to School Giveaway and Barbeque At John F. Kennedy Marina in Yonkers.

Dozens of local businesses from Yonkers and the Bronx came together to participate in one of the biggest school giveaways in the city, giving away hundreds of book bags, school supplies, dozens of laptops and free food. The event also produced free performances by world renowned artists 2Rare, Kenstarr, and many more. With the current climate of rap, specifically the negative connections placed around drill rap, this event was proof that regardless of genre, many artists care our about youth and influence them in positive ways. The performances were enjoyed youth of all ages. There was also games and activities like a dunk tank, bouncy house and more.

Uplife Foundation Inc. is thrilled to bring musicians and entertainers together to help create moments that will be a positive influence and memorable time for the youth. Back to school in 2022 is a different time, so Uplife Foundation Inc. continues to be a group of community leaders and mentors stepping outside of the box to make a difference in the community. Uplife understands that in order to make a difference you have to relate to the youth. Uplife members relate and are able to communicate to kids the importance of success in education and in life. Through partners like City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy and County Legislator Christopher Johnson, Uplife is able to host this event in Yonkers and continue to inspire the youth. Uplife Foundation Inc. is a Yonkers-based non-profit organization that focuses on strengthening, unifying, and building up urban communities. The Co-founders are Reginald Joseph, who owns Cafe 2.0, a coffee shop in Yonkers, and Robert Salkey.

“When we say constructing the community we are talking about leaning into urban neighborhoods and providing access to jobs, and resources needed to live a decent life,” says Reginald Joseph. Robert Salkey adds “ It’s all about constructing, building, and connecting the dots for families who need it. That’s what this annual event does and we are blessed to be able to host it for a 4th year, here in Yonkers.

For more information follow @uplifefoundationinc on social media or visit

Latimer, County Government Announces Inflation Busting Measure to Help Residents

Bee Line Bus Ridership Up 30% Due to Free Summer Fares

Whether you were traveling for work, play or a summer beach day – Westchester County residents enjoyed free rides on the Bee-Line Bus this summer from June 1 through Labor Day. The free fares program was valid on all buses in the fixed route bus system including the express route into Manhattan, and the Bee-Line ParaTransit System. Bee-Line bus ridership soared this summer, up approximately 20% on weekdays and 45% on weekends compared to levels in May 2022. Residents who normally purchase a 30-day unlimited MetroCard, saved nearly \$400 this summer. Thousands of residents participated in the free rides program, which will conclude on September 6.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: “Every dollar counts. In Westchester County, we are working hard to combat rising costs by finding new and innovative ways to provide relief. This summer, we wanted to give people a reason to ride the Bee-Line bus, but more importantly, we want to provide an opportunity for our residents to save some money. While our free fare program may be coming to an end, we have a robust number of cost-saving programs we are rolling out now for residents to take advantage of this fall and winter.”

Free fares on the Bee-Line Bus are part of a larger program Latimer created to address inflation, including free admittance to Westchester County’s pools and beaches on certain days, and free commuter parking at the North White Plains Commuter lot, and the County Center parking lot from July 1 through August 31.

The fall and winter additional cost-saving programs Westchester County residents can participate in are as follows:

Lowering the Sales Tax on Residential Energy

Latimer has proposed lowering or eliminating the sales tax on residential energy on a quarterly basis, from December 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023. The sales tax elimination covers home heating oil, propane, natural gas, electric, coal and wood for residential heating purposes. It covers homeowners as well as rental units, and landlords/renters will be eligible depending on the structure of the unit’s heat and electric use.

Civil Service Exams: Westchester County is waiving the fees for Civil Service Exams through December 31.

Zero Tuition Increase at SUNY Westchester Community College

Together with SUNY Westchester Community College Trustees and the Westchester County Board of Legislators earlier this summer Latimer announced WCC will be holding the line on tuition for the 2022-2023 school year. The flat tuition reflects ongoing challenges faced by students and families who are struggling with rising costs due to inflation, and uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Annual full-time credit-student tuition is \$4,730 – the lowest tuition among colleges in the region.

Feeding Westchester and Food Pantry Funding

Latimer has increased funding to Feeding Westchester by \$700,000. This doubles what was included in the 2022 budget, and covers the increased cost of food and fuel. Feeding Westchester has experienced an increase this year of \$0.71 per pound across the foods they provide, compared to \$0.60 per pound last year. Feeding Westchester is also seeing an 18% year over year increase in food costs.

Daylighting, Van der Donck Park, continued from pg 1-

The article, “America in a New Light” by Emma Marris, highlights conservation approaches outside of protected areas and introduces the idea that species can be conserved on working lands and in cities. This recognition serves as a proof point that environmental conservation and stewardship is possible in even the most unlikely of places.

As stated in the article, “This project, initiated by community leaders more than 20 years ago, is a hard-won and expensive reality, involving the state, the City of Yonkers, Groundwork, Scenic Hudson, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” Yonkers mayor Mike Spano says the project has been “a major catalyst for the renaissance of downtown Yonkers and the city as a whole.” Other key partners include US Army Corps of Engineers, PS&S, Friends of Philipse Manor Hall, Westchester County, Scenic Hudson, the Yonkers Downtown BID, Beczak, and many other local residents and community leaders. We are so grateful to our friends at the Van Cortlandt Park Alliance who encouraged Ms. Marris to visit us, and are planning to daylight their urban creek, Tibbetts Brook, in the near future.

More from the National Geographic story, “Nothing illustrates the promise of urban conservation more poetically than “daylighting” a creek. It’s easy to forget that all cities were built on ecosystems, and many had rivers and creeks running through them. As cities grew, these waterways were typically confined to pipes or culverts.

“In Yonkers, an unofficial “sixth borough” just north of New York City, Saw Mill River, which once powered mills to cut timber and grind grain into flour, gradually turned into a polluted mess. In the 1920s the last 2,000 feet was covered with a parking lot. But since 2012, 800 feet of that section has run through a landscaped channel, sparkling in the sun in a new 2.2-acre park. More recently, other sections, deeper downtown, have been uncovered.

“I take a train from Manhattan to Yonkers to see it. The creek turns out to be visible from the platform. Just outside the station, I am met by Brigitte Griswold and Candida Rodriguez of Groundwork Hudson Valley, one of the many organizations that helped unbury the creek. We cross the street and take in the satisfying sight—and sound—of a burbling river in the center of downtown. We see a fish ladder, installed for the sea-born eel babies—called “glass eels” because they are completely transparent—to climb upstream to grow big.

This project, initiated by community leaders more than 20 years ago, is a hard-won and expensive reality, involving the state, the city of Yonkers, Groundwork, Scenic Hudson, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. That first 800 feet cost \$24 million. But Yonkers mayor Mike Spano says the project has been “a major catalyst for the renaissance of downtown Yonkers and the city as a whole,” adding that it inspired more than four billion dollars in redevelopment, including 3,000 apartments.

“Green gentrification” can be an ironic consequence of urban conservation, but Yonkers has required some units to be low-income housing. After native plants were installed along the new channel, wildlife appeared as if by magic. Muskrat, herons, turtles, and ducks are spotted here regularly. Another section hosts a hydro-electric wheel that powers nearby streetlights.

In a streamside park, two men are whiling away the afternoon. “I like the water. I like the ducks,”-one tells us, appreciatively. Griswold once worked on more traditional conservation projects, but she wanted to do something that connected people to the non-human world—in part so they would come to care for it enough to fight for it. That meant doing it in the city. Not everyone can afford to visit flagship national parks, she says.

Rodriguez shows me areas on a Yonkers map that were redlined—set aside for nonwhite residents, spurned by lenders. They have fewer trees and more concrete. Access to nature is not evenly distributed. Fixing that injustice may be the best way to create a generation that cares enough about other species to save them.

Rodriguez says the daylighted creek offers a place for people to unwind, creates a buzzy location for businesses, and protects threatened species like eels. “A triple win,” she calls it. Griswold sums it up: “There’s a beautiful thing in downtown Yonkers, and it belongs to all of us.”

Editor’s Note: Next week, we hope to highlight the 10-year anniversary of the Daylighting at Van der Donck Park. Email us at dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com with any information you may have.

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MGM-Empire City Casino Presents \$100K in Grants to Local Westchester Non-Profits



Eight area nonprofits benefit from MGM Resorts employee and guest-driven Community Grants Program

Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts (“Empire City”) donated \$102,000 to eight local nonprofit organizations through multiple grant funding opportunities. Grants were distributed to organizations providing services in the core MGM Resorts philanthropy areas. These areas include food insecurity programs that provide access to nutritious meals, educational programs that support academic success, workforce development initiatives providing educational and training programs to prepare individuals for sustainable career opportunities and a new initiative this year, the homelessness initiative, to support organizations making an impact in combating homelessness in our surrounding communities.

“Our company, employees and guests alike strongly believe in giving back to our communities,” said Ed Domingo, Vice President and General Manager at Empire City. “All eight grant recipients provide crucial resources and programming to Bronx and Westchester residents and we’re incredibly proud to support their efforts.”

This year’s grant recipients include Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York (“Catholic Charities”) which received \$10,000 to fund a mobile food pantry targeting area food deserts, Yonkers Family YMCA which will utilize their \$10,000 grant to expand their hot meals programs, and Feeding Westchester which also received \$10,000 to expand their food recovery initiatives. All organizations fight food insecurity in the City of Yonkers and throughout Westchester County. United Way of Westchester & Putnam (UWWP) received two grants to support education initiatives. Their Education United Program and Summer Learning Program received a \$10,000 grant to provide educational materials such as backpacks, school supplies and nutrition education to low-income and academically at-risk youth and families in Yonkers and Mount Vernon. UWWP received a second grant of \$12,000 to launch a new program that focuses on youth violence prevention and mental health awareness.

In the area of workforce development, a grant directed to Greyston Foundation of \$10,000 will support their Workforce Education and Training Program, which provides occupational courses designed to place individuals in permanent jobs within high-demand sectors. A second \$10,000 grant was awarded to Catholic Charities to support their workforce development programs in Yonkers. An additional \$10,000 workforce development grant was awarded to VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, a nonprofit provider of free services for visually impaired individuals and their families.

“VISIONS is thrilled to be selected as a grant recipient,” said Nancy D. Miller, VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired Executive Director/CEO. “The casino’s support enables blind youth to achieve their work readiness and employment goals. They’re helping increase the number of working blind people above the current 40% employment rate for blind job seekers, compared to nearly double the number who are sighted and working. Thank you Empire City Casino for making such a major difference in the lives of blind New Yorkers.”

Through a new initiative, guests had the opportunity to direct change from winning vouchers to the MGM Resorts Foundation to fund grants for local nonprofits focused on homelessness efforts. BronxWorks received a \$10,000 grant to support workforce development programs focused on currently unhoused individuals. The Guidance Center of Westchester, which helps individuals find permanent housing, received a \$10,000 grant which will support furnishing apartments for individuals receiving services in their programs.

To learn more, please visit <https://empirecitycasino.mgmresorts.com/en/about-us/community-engagement.html>

Yonkers Police Arrest Repeat Burglar



Great job by #YonkersPD Detectives in making the case against 53-year-old John Tobias from the Bronx, charging him with 5 forced-entry commercial burglaries that occurred in the west side of The City of Yonkers over two weeks. More information on this case as it becomes available.

SPCA Westchester assists in the Humane Society’s Work to Find Placement for 4,000 Abused Beagles



SPCA Westchester welcomed nearly a dozen beagles to its Animal Rescue Center in Briarcliff Manor, NY as part of the group of beagles to be removed from a mass-breeding facility riddled with animal welfare concerns. The Humane Society of the United States is coordinating the removal of approximately 4,000 beagles housed at an Envigo RMS LLC facility in Cumberland, VA which bred dogs to be sold to laboratories for animal experimentation.

The transfer plan was submitted by the Department of Justice and Envigo RMS LLC, with the agreement of the Humane Society of the United States to assume the responsibility of coordinating placement. The transfer will take place in stages over the next 60 days, and the dogs will be up for adoption via SPCA Westchester and other shelters and rescues.

“It’s unimaginable what these poor dogs have gone through, says Shannon Laukhuf, Executive Director of SPCA Westchester, and we’re honored the SPCA was asked to assist in giving these deserving, brave beagles a second chance. We’ll be placing them into foster and forever homes shortly and encourage anyone interested to email Eileen@spcawestchester.org.”

The transfer plan comes as a result of a lawsuit filed against Envigo by the Department of Justice in May, alleging Animal Welfare Act violations at the facility. Repeated federal inspections have resulted in dozens of violations, including findings that some dogs had been “euthanized” without first receiving anesthesia, that dogs had received inadequate veterinary care and insufficient food, and that they were living in unsanitary conditions.

“It takes a massive network of compassionate, expert shelters and rescues to make an operation of this scale possible,” said Lindsay Hamrick, shelter outreach and engagement director for the Humane Society of the United States. “We are deeply grateful to each organization that is stepping up to find these dogs the loving homes they so deserve.” SPCA Westchester is located at 590 North State Road, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510. Please visit spcawestchester.org for more information.

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Classifieds*Yonkers History, continued from pg 3-*

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Mayor Spano Fourth Term, continued from pg 1-

“The one thing I hear again and again about Mayor Spano is stability. A lot of people in Yonkers want the stability that Mayor Spano has brought the city for the past 11 years. They also see what’s happening in other communities and they don’t want that to happen in Yonkers,” said one Yonkers democratic leader.

“If there was someone out there to take over and continue the progress and move the city forward that the party leaders and others were comfortable with, then we wouldn’t be having this discussion. But there isn’t and the Mayor doesn’t want to see the work in Yonkers, on test scores, safety, jobs and development go in the other direction. There’s more to do, and for some, the work of Mayor Spano isn’t over. It’s like having a coach leave before the game is over.”

“Usually after 12 years, there’s voter fatigue, to the point where the Mayor, or Governor, knows its time to go and the people want you to go. But that’s not the case here in Yonkers. There remains a large segment of the population happy and ready to vote for a fourth term.”

One question remains in all of this: Mayor Mike Spano has yet to officially agree to move forward with a referendum on a fourth term. He said as much to Ru Ros, saying the job of Yonkers Mayor “is all consuming, and a completely unnatural lifestyle. There are a lot of needs that the city has and a lot that needs to be accomplished.”

If the Mayor agrees to play the scenario out, The Yonkers Charter Revision Commission would meet and go over any proposed amendments to the City Charter. The next step would be to hold public hearings and create the ballot question, on term limits and any other charter changes, and to set a date for the referendum.

Another Yonkers democrat said, “If I want to vote for Mayor Spano again, why can’t I. Someone else can also run and try to beat him. Who is going to step up? I think his popularity, even after 12 years, is the answer to that question. Let the people decide.”

Other supporters of the Mayor, and a fourth term, point to the fact that 91% of local governments have no term limits, and their leaders can serve as long as the voters want them to serve. Watch the interview with Ru Ros at <https://www.facebook.com/ykersvoice/videos/391850973020393>, and email us with your thoughts to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com.

There are other candidates interested in running for Mayor. We will include them all in the weeks to come.

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September 8, 1941: Dr. Ward Cook, Director of the Yonkers Bureau of Laboratories, asked Charles Cox, Chief of the New York State Bureau of Water Supply, to resurvey the Saw Mill River watershed. Cook wanted to increase the daily amount of water in the Yonkers water system.

Friday September 9th

September 9, 1926: Van Cortlandt Park Avenue’s Catherine Kennedy, “Miss Yonkers of 1926,” became the first Yonkers gal chosen to be a Miss America finalist! Kennedy competed against 72 other contestants for Miss America 1926; after more than three hours of questioning, finalists were chosen by secret ballot.

September 9, 1945: Point Street’s William Beckmann, Jr., a former Otis Elevator tester, notified the company their badly damaged plant in Manilla, was still standing! He sent a photo of himself standing outside the building to the “Digest,” the Otis employees’ magazine. In the Navy, Beckmann served as an Electrician’s Mate Second Class.

Saturday, September 10th

September 10, 1945: General Brehon Somervell, Commander of the Army Service Forces, sent a letter to Alexander Smith and Sons Carpet Company President Frederick Klein stating, “Your company has played a very important part in producing the equipment and supplies which have been such a decisive factor in winning the war. You and your associates... must have a deep sense of satisfaction as you look back on your accomplishments on the war production front. Now that the war is won, I want to express to you the gratitude and appreciation of the Army Forces for the magnificent achievement of your organization.”

September 10, 1955: Administrator Max Manus announced the newly opened Cross County Hospital and Medical Center had admitted its 1,000th patient.

Sunday, September 11th

September 11, 1926: The new Benjamin Franklin Junior High School opened with 1,200 students. Unfortunately, construction had not finished so students walked on hall floors covered with planks and tarpaper to the tune of pounding hammers. The work was finished a few days later.

September 11, 1927: Elizabeth Tomashevsky, was appointed as the YWCA International Institute Worker; Mrs. Tomashevsky was forced to flee her home in Petrograd, Russia, to escape oppressive Bolshevism. While living in Russia, she chaired a large charity.

September 11, 1936: When Republican Congressional Candidate Oliver Carpenter addressed the Sixth Ward Republican Organization, he warned Democrats to “stop Roosevelt or let the party become the Roosevelt Party.”

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.

Student Loan Forgiveness, continued from pg 3-

We really need to talk about how we can control the cost of higher education, and also invest in more Career Technical Education like BOCES so adolescents and young adults are more aware of their opportunities. Average college tuition tripled in my lifetime, even when adjusted for inflation. Developing a career and getting started in life shouldn’t put us at the high risk of bankruptcy,” writes Tubiolo, whose social media account was filled with supporters and opponents of the bailout.

Notice of formation of Color It Black, LLC. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/28/2022. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the Color It Black LLC, 33 Cliffside Drive, Yonkers, NY 10710 Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Sweeney Tech, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 06/16/2022. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 14 Alta Place, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Formation of DRUMCOOBRADY LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/10/2022. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Gabriel Carbin, 70 Alexander Ave., Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of SNY Media, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/10/2022. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, PO Box 997, Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Yonkers AGT Semi-Finalist, continued from pg 1-

Merissa attended Yonkers Montessori Academy, and was singing and performing since she was 10. Her performance is part opera, part comedy and part impressions.

She began her latest act by handing over a giant dice with various celebrity names written on it to judge Heidi Klum. She then told the judges that she would sing ‘Somewhere Over the Rainbow’ in her original voice, and then move to impressions of the names that Heidi picked from the dice.

While Merissa’s original vocals were spectacular, her impressions were nothing short of flawless. She kicked off the impressions by hitting the high notes like Ariana Grande, before moving on to mimic her grandmother. She also did impressions of Stevie Nicks, Celine Dion, and Snow White, before concluding her act with Siri’s take on the classic song!

“I like you,” said Klum. ‘You’re a woman of many different talents.’ Judge Sofia Vergara said, ‘I think your voices are so spectacular,’

Merissa lost her dad when she was 11, and has served as her mother’s caregiver ever since. She is currently hosting a GoFundMe page- https://www.gofundme.com/f/q7ckgj-please-help-my-mom?utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer

to raise \$25,000 to get her mother long-term care. It is a touching story that you can read about, and if you can, make a donation. She is dedicating her AGT performances to her.

Beddows has over 745K followers on her TikTok and is all over social media.

This year’s process is slightly different than previous seasons. 11 Acts will perform during every Tuesday Live Show for five weeks. Fans will then have their allotted time to vote, with the top two Acts revealed and automatically advanced to the Finale. The remaining nine Contestants will be eliminated.

In the end during the September 13 finale, the remaining top Acts will all compete for the \$1 million grand prize and a spot in AGT’s Las Vegas residency. The winner will be determined by America’s Vote and revealed on September 14.

We will follow Merissa - ‘This has changed my life, absolutely,’ Merissa said, and all of us hope that she continues to the finals of AGT. You are making Yonkers proud!

Share your Yonkers memories of Merissa with us and our readers by emailing them to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com. We will try to reach her for an interview.

YONKERS IDA A Driving Force Behind the Yonkers Renaissance.

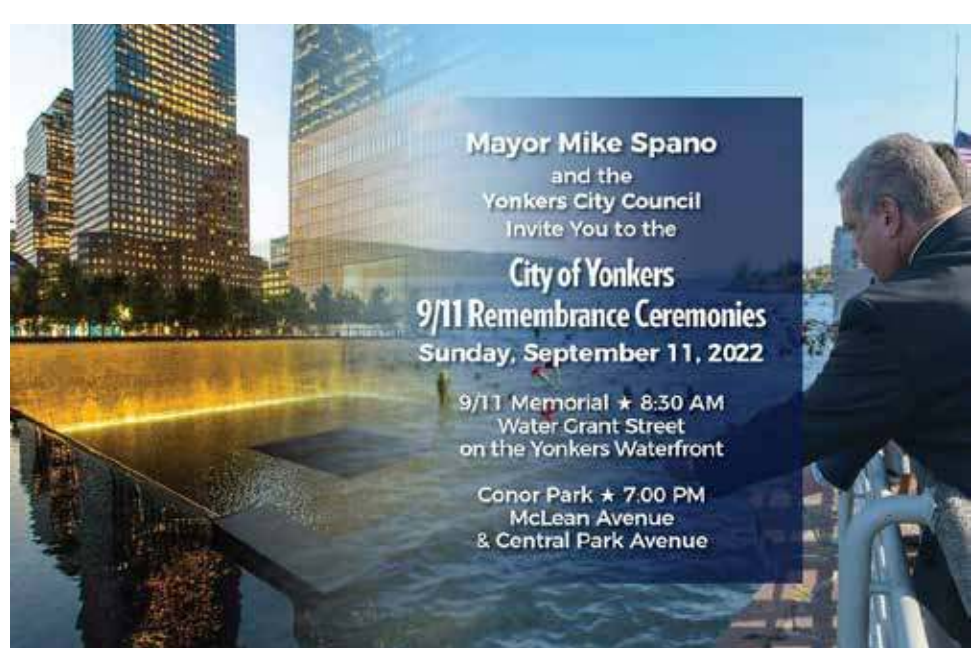
Building on a nearly decade-long economic renaissance, the Yonkers Industrial Development Agency (YIDA) under the leadership of Mayor Mike Spano has been instrumental in providing financial incentives for development projects representing nearly \$5 billion in private investment and more than 9,100 multifamily units planned, completed, under construction and approved for development.

To learn more about the financial incentives provided by the Yonkers IDA, visit yonkersida.com or call (914) 509-8651.



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