

Mayor Spano Instructs Yonkers Police Department to Increase Patrols and Safety Drills for School Yr.



Mayor Spano, Superintendent Soler with Students at Montessori School 31
In Wake of Recent Minnesota School Shooting, YPD to Dispatch Coordinated Drills and Patrols at Local Schools and Houses of Worship

In preparation for the start of the new school year this week, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced on Sept. 3 that he is instructing the Yonkers Police Department (YPD) to increase direct patrols and safety drills at local schools and houses of worship. The directive comes in the wake of the recent school/church shooting in Minnesota, killing two children and injuring dozens.

“Our country should never fall numb to these senseless shootings, preying on innocent children and worshipers,” said Mayor Spano. “We must remain vigilant and ensure our children and residents continue to feel safe as they attend school and practice their faith. While our police are always attentive to the potential threats that plague so many communities, our Police Commissioner and his top brass are coordinating a multi-pronged plan to prevent and deter any incidents so our city remains safe and secure.”

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Let the Revolutionary 250 Celebrations Begin!



Members of the Living History Company portraying Black Loyalists, First Rhode Island Regiment soldiers, Marbleheaders, and military musicians



Left: Leslie Bramlett portraying a woman of the Continental Army
Above: John Koopman III on his horse Bear, portraying Gen. George Washington

Philipse Manor Hall Hosts Free Revolutionary War Festival Sept. 13

Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall, and Revolutionary Westchester 250 are pleased to present “Revolutionary Harvest Festival” on Saturday, September 13, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in-person

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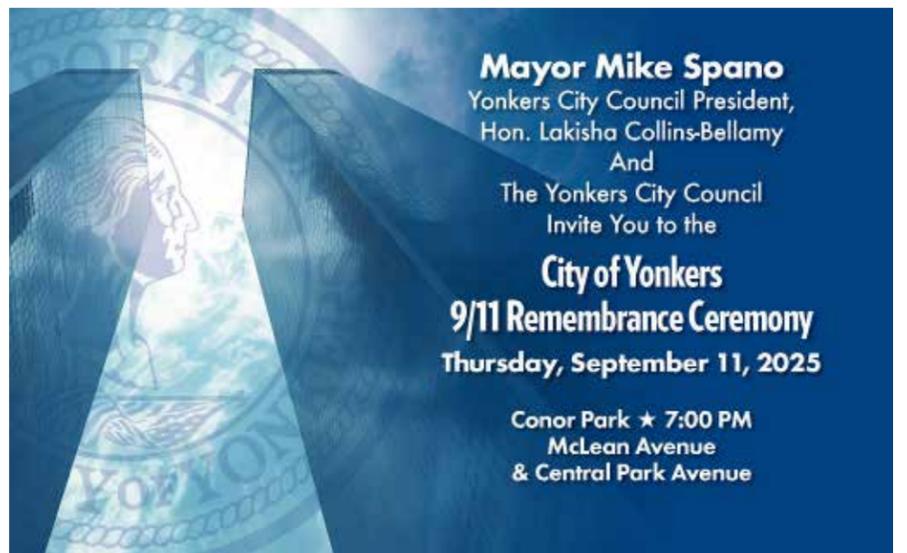
DJ Daniel Sworn in as Honorary YPD Officer



13-year-old Devarjaye ‘DJ’ Daniel, a teen battling cancer who has been sworn into thousands of law enforcement agencies nationwide, spent an unforgettable day with Yonkers Police Department.

Sworn in as an honorary officer by Yonkers Police Commissioner, DJ explored the AWARE Room, met K-9 units, rode aboard Marine1, and connected with dozens of Yonkers police officers. His courage, determination, and positive spirit continue to inspire everyone he meets, showing that bravery comes in all forms. Yonkers PD was honored to welcome DJ and celebrate his incredible journey.

City of Yonkers 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony



Peekskill Parking Cop from Yonkers Busted Traveling to Florida to Have Sex with 13 Yr-Old



Florida Mug Shot of Victor Ortiz

By Dan Murphy

Another disturbing case of a Westchester resident, who was working as a public servant, who was arrested for traveling to Florida to have sex with who he thought was a 13-year old female.

44-year old Victor Ortiz, who lives in Yonkers and who works for the Peekskill Police Department as a parking enforcement officer, was arrested by the Ocoola Sheriff’s office in Florida and charged with traveling to meet a minor for unlawful sexual activity.

The incident occurred on Aug. 22, and according to reports we obtained from the Ocoola Sheriff’s office, Ortiz got caught in an undercover sting operation, and we chatting, and then texting and calling a person who was Florida law enforcement and not a 13-year old girl.

Detective Matthew Chiang submitted an affidavit testifying that he was the undercover who caught Ortiz. Once Det. Chiang posted on the social media site Badoo that he was a 13 year old named Livi, Ortiz began the chat on Aug. 21.

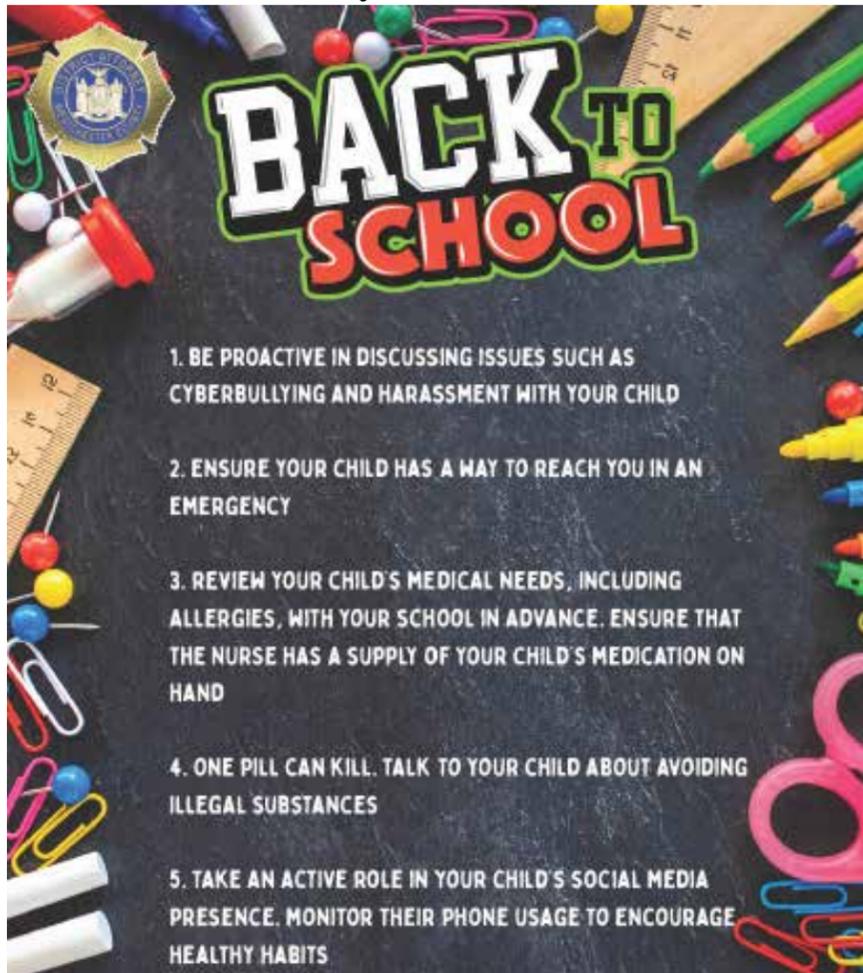
The chatting quickly intensified to texting, and once Livi told Ortiz that she was not a virgin, Ortiz is accused of explicitly expressing his sexual interest in Livi. Ortiz then arranged a visit in Florida and added that he would not get her pregnant and would buy some alcohol for their rendezvous.

Ortiz was given an address in Kissimmee, Fl.to meet Livi. At midnight on

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Upcoming in September: Yonkers Riverfest, Yonkers Marathon, Tour de Yonkers, Comic Con

Westchester DA Cacace Offers Tips for Parents and Students to Stay Safe This School Year



Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace is reminding families to take simple precautions to ensure the safety of their students as the 2025-2026 school year gets underway.

As regular bus routes resume and traffic patterns change, parents are encouraged to discuss safety practices with their children to keep them out of harm's way. Motorists are reminded to take special care when driving in or near school zones.

Here are some tips for staying safe on the road:

Drive cautiously near school zones and obey all signage; don't text and drive.

Ensure students are standing six feet from the curb when waiting for the bus in the morning.

Do not pass school buses when the "stop" arm is deployed.

The new school year is also an opportune time for parents to discuss various issues their students may encounter at school, such as drugs and bullying.

Here are some suggestions for broaching these subjects with your children:

Be proactive in discussing issues such as cyberbullying and harassment with your child.

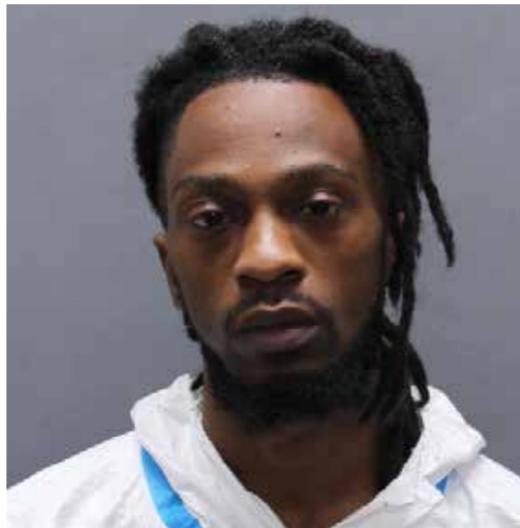
Review your child's medical needs, including allergies, with your school in advance. Ensure that the nurse has a supply of your child's medication on hand.

One pill can kill. Talk to your child about avoiding illegal substances.

Take an active role in your child's social media presence. Monitor their phone usage to encourage healthy habits.

DA Cacace said: "Our children are our most precious resource, and we must take every precaution to ensure they remain safe at school. I hope these tips provide a helpful springboard for parents to begin having tough but necessary conversations with their children about school safety."

Yonkers Police Department Arrests, Charges Man in Labor Day Weekend Homicide



Linzell Stagers

Just before 10:30 pm on August 31, 2025, the Yonkers Police Department responded to the area of 27 Ludlow Street on a report of a male who had been shot. Upon arrival, Officers located a 42-year-old male with a gunshot wound to his abdomen. Emergency medical care was rendered on the scene, and the victim was transported to a local hospital. He unfortunately succumbed to his wound and was later pronounced deceased. The victim has been identified as 42-year-old Felix Santiago of Yonkers.

Detectives from the Yonkers Police Major Case Squad and Crime Scene Unit responded to process the scene and investigate. The investigation revealed that this was a targeted incident stemming from a dispute between the suspect and a family member of the victim. As the suspect walked by the victim, he fired a total of approximately three gunshots, one of which struck the victim in his abdomen and caused his death.

As the suspect fled the scene after the shooting, Officers in the Yonkers Police AWARE Crime Control Center located him on Yonkers Police Security Cameras and relayed his updated description and location to patrol Officers. Using this information, Officers from the 3rd Precinct located the suspect and took him into custody without incident. A 9mm handgun with an extended 30-round magazine was recovered from his person. This suspect is identified as 26-year-old Linzell Stagers of Yonkers. He is being charged with Murder 2nd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd Degree, both felonies.

"This quick arrest is the direct result of prompt patrol response, solid investigation, and using the technology available to us to apprehend this killer within 15 minutes of the incident, just a few blocks away from the crime," Police Commissioner Christopher Sapienza stated. "Fair warning to those thinking of committing violence in our city- we have the resources here to identify you, locate you, and quickly place you into custody to answer for your acts."

The Yonkers Police Department and the City of Yonkers extend their condolences to the victim's family and friends.

This case is being prosecuted by the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

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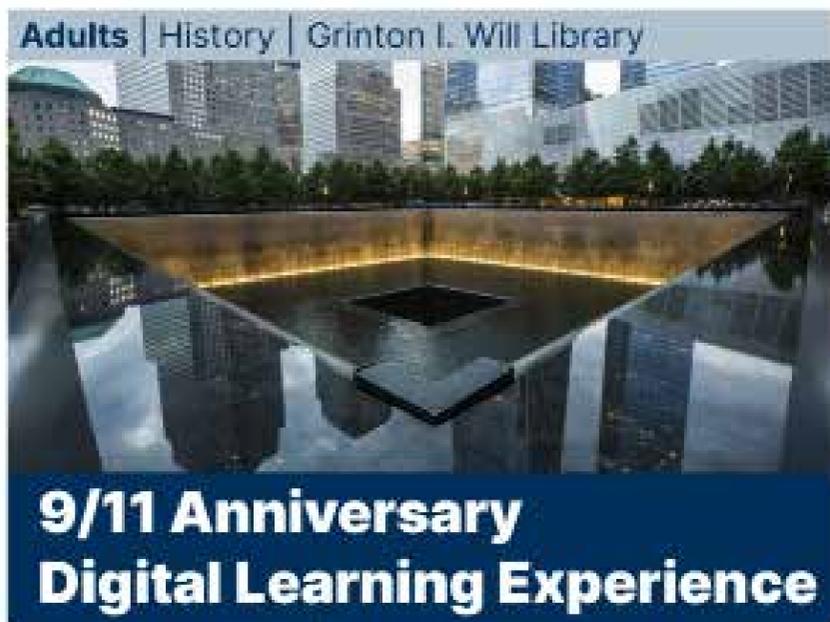
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Send us your letters, opinions, announcements, photos and story ideas to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Yonkers Public Library Presents
9/11 Anniversary Digital Learning Experience

Westchester Loses Fed. Suit; Found to Violate 1st
Amendment Rights of Pro Life Sidewalk Counselors



Thursday,
September 11
2 pm, Auditorium

The 30-minute film highlights the stories of six individuals who experienced 9/11 and its aftermath. It also includes an overview of what happened on 9/11.



Yonkers Public Library
1500 Cardinal Park Ave
Yonkers, NY 10710
ypl.org/events

On Thursday, September 11, at 2 pm in the auditorium at Will Library, there will be a special screening of a documentary by the 9/11 Museum called “9/11 Anniversary Digital Learning Experience”.

The 30-minute film highlights the stories of six individuals who experienced 9/11 and its aftermath. It also includes an overview of what happened on 9/11.

To register, please visit <https://www.ypl.org/.../911-anniversary-digital-learning...>

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.-Thomas Jefferson

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Westchester County Found Liable for Violating Free Speech of Pro-Life Sidewalk “Counselors”

Thomas More Society secures judgment of liability against County in lawsuit against pro-abortion law.

Note: This story comes from the Thomas More Society

A federal court has ruled that Westchester County, New York, violated the First Amendment rights of pro-life sidewalk counselors, marking a significant victory for free speech in a legal challenge brought by Thomas More Society attorneys. The decision in *Hulinsky v. County of Westchester* found the County liable for enacting an unconstitutional provision in its 2022 “Reproductive Health Care Facilities Access Act,” or Chapter 425, which restricted peaceful pro-life advocacy near abortion facilities.

The decision awards plaintiffs Oksana Hulinsky and Regina Molinelli \$1 for the chilling of their life-saving sidewalk counseling for over two-and-half years as a result of the unconstitutional law, even though the County attempted to avoid liability by repealing the offending provision earlier this year.

This ruling builds on a March 14 decision that rejected the County’s attempt to dismiss Plaintiffs’ claims against part of Chapter 425 prohibiting so-called “interference” with abortion access “by deceptive means or otherwise”—a sweeping and unprecedented restriction adopted as part of the County’s furor over the Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs*. The Court rightly held the provision “criminalized large swaths of protected speech” on pain of jail, fines, and civil liability, flagrantly violating the First Amendment.

“This ruling sends a powerful message to municipalities nationwide: vague laws targeting pro-life speech will not stand,” said Christopher Ferrara, Senior Counsel at Thomas More Society. “Westchester County’s pro-life sidewalk counselors seek only to offer compassionate, life-affirming alternatives on public sidewalks—as is their First Amendment right. Westchester’s arrogant overreach tried to silence their voices, but this decision helps reaffirm their constitutional freedom to share the pro-life message.”

Hulinsky v. County of Westchester was filed by Thomas More Society attorneys in August 2022 after the County enacted Chapter 425, which imposed a litany of severe restrictions on speech and assembly near abortion facilities, intending to restrict pro-life sidewalk counseling ministries in public spaces. The County has since repealed or amended a number of those provisions in response to the Thomas More Society lawsuit. But the latest decision ensures that Westchester County must pay nominal damages and potentially significant attorney fees for violating Plaintiffs’ First Amendment rights for nearly three years.

“Nobody should be sent to jail and forced to pay significant fines simply for handing out pro-life leaflets and talking peacefully to women about abortion alternatives on public sidewalks,” said Michael McHale, Senior Counsel at Thomas More Society. “Yet, Westchester County’s vague ban on so-called ‘interference’ with abortion access threatened to do exactly that, in blatant violation of the First Amendment, as the Court recognized.”

However, Thomas More Society intends to appeal the Court’s prior decision upholding Chapter 425’s prohibition on “following-and-harassing,” which the law vaguely defines as ignoring an “implied request to cease” on a public sidewalk.

“This decision sets a precedent that rogue governments may not recklessly trample on the fundamental rights of peaceful pro-life sidewalk counselors and then attempt to run and hide at the first sign of an adverse court judgment—a common tactic wielded against pro-lifers,” McHale said. “We look forward to pursuing significant attorney fees against Westchester County for violating our clients’ rights and in continuing to eradicate similarly unconstitutional restrictions on pro-life speech in courts across the country.”

The opinion from U.S. District Court Judge Philip Halperin reads in part, Plaintiffs are both pro-life “advocates.” Consistent with their beliefs, they have engaged in “sidewalk counseling.” This practice includes approaching individuals leaving or entering a reproductive health care facility and engaging them in an “exchange [of] ideas,” “opinions,” and “information” about alternatives to abortion.

Plaintiffs assert that the challenged provisions, for the purpose of this Opinion and Order

limited to Section 425.31(h), in Chapter 425 have caused them to cease their sidewalk counseling.

First, both Plaintiffs testified during their depositions that they regularly engaged in “sidewalk counseling” in front of abortion clinics but stopped after the passage of Chapter 425.

Accordingly, in light of this well-established rule and the Court’s prior rulings in the Summary Judgment Opinion, the Court finds that Defendant is liable under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for violating Plaintiffs’ First Amendment rights to free speech and Fourteenth Amendment rights to due process. Thus, Plaintiffs are entitled to damages.

Based on the foregoing, the Court finds that Plaintiffs are entitled to judgment in their favor

that the 2022 version of Section 425.31(h) violated their constitutional rights; and determines further that Plaintiffs are entitled to an award of one dollar (\$1.00) in nominal damages.

Because the Court also finds that Plaintiffs are “prevailing parties” within the meaning of

42 U.S.C. § 1988, they are directed to file their application for attorneys’ fees and costs, including supporting records, within 30 days of the date of this Order. Defendant’s opposition, if any, shall be filed within 14 days of the filing of Plaintiffs’ fee application.

Philip M. Halpern, United States District Judge

Westchester County has the right to appeal the decision.

Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

Happy 102nd Birthday Sol Finger!



“Delightful to honor Sol Finger, who turned 102 on July 4! A charming, funny veteran of World War Two, Sol has been a member of Gamblers Anonymous for more than 50 years, and is credited with turning thousands of lives around. His motto is “Make hay while the sun shines,” and he lives up to it every day. Thanks to Sol’s wonderful friends for joining us, and to the staff of BrightView Senior Living in Harrison for hosting us,” said State Senator Shelley Mayer. Sol, you look great, and a blessing to have a World War II Vet still with us. God Bless

On This Day in Yonkers History...



In 1959, Crown Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands visited Yonkers to celebrate the 350th anniversary of Henry Hudson’s discovery of Yonkers.

By Mary Hoar, City of Yonkers Historian, President Emeritus Yonkers Historical Society, recipient of the 2004 Key to History, Yonkers Landmarks Preservation Board Member, Chair of Revolutionary Yonkers 250 and President Untermyer Performing Arts Council

Monday, September 8th

September 8, 1933: Mayor Joseph Loehr celebrated the opening of “Gold Diggers of 1933” at Loew’s Theater; instead of a blue ribbon, he cut a special golden cord at the theater! The first Gold Digger film, the pre-code Busby Berkeley musical starred Joan Blondell, Dick Powell, Ginger Rogers and Ruby Keeler. The musical told the story of chorus girls starring in a Depression era musical, fight to keep the show open and end up with rich husbands!

“Remember Your Forgotten Man” was the movie’s tribute to the out-of-work WWI soldiers. Veterans, unable to find jobs during the Depression, set up “Hooverville” camps in Washington to punctuate their request for early payment of promised service bonuses.

President Hoover ordered Federal troops led by Generals Patton and MacArthur to evict the veterans; they drove the men and their families out using tear gas and bayonets.

Public outrage at this treatment of veterans led to passage of the GI Bill. Bonuses were paid in 1936 when Congress overrode President Roosevelt’s veto.

Tuesday, September 9th

September 9, 1935: After losing redesignation by two votes, Supervisor Joshua Fiero upset the Eleventh Ward Republican Committee, charging they illegally gave the nomination to opponent Chauncey Kingsley.

Fiero reminded them the new Sixth District was not official until October 1st; the Republicans had allowed two men representing the Sixth to participate in the election, both voting for Kingsley. Another vote was a proxy for an absent member; the member casting the absentee proxy vote voted for Kingsley, although the committee member instructed her proxy be cast for Fiero!

Fiero demanded the ward committee meeting reconvene immediately and re-take the vote; the absent member had returned. Ward Leader Edward Winslow “could not be reached for comment.”

September 9, 1940: Charges were presented to the Common Council indicating DPW employees were fired because they refused to make payments demanded by ward political clubs.

Wednesday, September 10th

September 10, 1854: Rudolph Eickemeyer and George Osterheld started a machine work and repair shop in Yonkers. By the end of his career, Eickemeyer had more than one hundred patents ranging from industrial sewing and harvesting machines to electromagnets and electric trolleys. His hat making innovations revolutionized the hat industry.

September 10, 1942: A Herald Statesman reporter was told to leave the War Council meeting after attending for more than two hours!

The Council adopted a resolution to censor the reporter’s account of the meeting to prevent “secrets” from being “disclosed.” The resolution was passed after Mayor Barnes ordered the reporter to leave.

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Hearts & Homes for Refugees Awarded United Way Community Impact Grant

Hearts & Homes for Refugees is proud to announce that it has been awarded an \$8,250 Community Impact Grant from the United Way of Westchester and Putnam. The funding will support the expansion of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programming and the development of new initiatives for refugee children and teens in Westchester County.

The United Way Community Impact Fund supports local nonprofits that serve under-resourced populations, including ALICE households (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). Hearts & Homes for Refugees was selected following a highly competitive process that drew more than 150 applicants.

“We are grateful to UWWP for recognizing the importance of investing in the future of refugee families in our community,” said Kathie O’Callaghan, President and Founder of Hearts & Homes for Refugees. “This grant allows us to expand our specialized ESOL programs for Afghan newcomers and launch new opportunities to support refugee youth as they adjust academically, socially, and emotionally to life in a new country.”

The ESOL initiative includes a virtual evening program designed specifically for Afghan adults, taught by an Afghan educator to foster trust and accelerate learning. The child and teen initiative will provide tutoring, mentorship, summer and afterschool activities, and community-building outings that nurture emotional well-being and promote school success. A key component of the program will include outings and culturally enriching activities, planned in collaboration with volunteers from Students for Refugees. United Way’s support will enable Hearts & Homes to continue creating pathways for refugees to rebuild their lives with hope, dignity, and belonging. For more information, please visit www.heartsandhomesforrefugees.org.

Yonkers Rising

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YONKERS POLICE DEPARTMENT

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLE

I, Christopher Sapienza, Commissioner of the Yonkers Police Department, do hereby issue the following notice pursuant to Sections 109-144 and 109-147 of the Code of the City of Yonkers:

A black 2012 Acura ZDX identified by VIN # 2HNYB1H4XCH500638) has been lawfully impounded since 06/15/25 and to this date no owner has come forward to claim any interest in this vehicle. Any persons having a legal interest in this vehicle may seek recovery of said vehicle by contacting Lt. Gregory Forshy no later than 10/03/25. If such person has a legal right to the vehicle, they shall be responsible for all costs incurred by the City to remove and store said vehicle and for the cost to publish any notice.

If this vehicle is not claimed by 10/03/25, the vehicle shall be deemed abandoned and title shall vest with the City on 10/03/25, (20 business days from the date of publication).

Notice of Formation of OnPoint Home Designs LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 8/28/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 14 Crosby Court, Cortlandt Manor NY 10567. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of JUST SHIPSHAPE LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on [07/17/2025]. Office location: Westchester county. ENTITY PROTECT REGISTERED AGENT SERVICES LLC is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. ENTITY PROTECT REGISTERED AGENT SERVICES LLC shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 1 ALEXANDER STREET APT 314, Yonkers, New York, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of 155 ROUTE 202 LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 07/10/2025. 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, 401 Broadway, Suit 1111, NY, NY 10013. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Create With Vero LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 06/06/2025. 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, 16 Forster Ave, Mt. Vernon, NY 10552. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of PRINCE & BROADWAY PROPERTIES LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/22/25. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 172 Rockne Road, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of LIQUID ASSET SERVICES LLC. Application for Authority Filed with the SSNY on 12/05/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to THE LLC, 46 LINCOLN AVENUE, PORT CHESTER, NY 10573. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of Super Smart Future LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/20/2023. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Super Smart Future LLC, 58 Valley Rd, Katonah, NY 10536. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of IT TAKES ALL KINDS PICTURES, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/21/2025. 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, Republic Registered Agent Services Inc. 54 State Street Suite 804 Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful

Notice of Formation of SteenShots LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/12/2025. Office Location: 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, 343 South 3rd Avenue, Mt. Venron NY 10550. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of 1M Consulting LLC filed with the SSNY on 11/05/2024 with the existence date as 01/01/2025. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whole processes against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of processes to the LLC, 3 Ward Street, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of FUSE WORKS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/11/2025. Office location: Westchester County, NY. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: 54 Brosnan Pl, Tuckahoe, NY 10707. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Math Power LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY On 07/12/2025. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 35 Florence St, Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of BLUEPRINTS AND BEYOND LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on February 4th, 2025. 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 the process to the LLC: 70 Ashburton Avenue, Apt. 7H, Yonkers, New York, 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

September is Gynecologic and Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Free and Affordable Cancer Screenings, Education Treatment and Support Groups Available

The Westchester County Department of Health and the Westchester County Office for Women encourage residents to take time this month to discuss cancer screenings and other prevention strategies with their healthcare providers.

In 2023, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) found breast cancer was the second leading cause of death in women, while uterine and ovarian cancers were the fifth and sixth leading causes of cancer deaths in women.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men, aside from non-melanoma skin cancer, and was the second leading cause of cancer death in men in 2023, according to the CDC. African-American men are more likely to have prostate cancer, and are twice as likely to die of it, according to the CDC. Ashkenazi Jewish men also have an elevated risk due to genetic factors.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "I strongly encourage women and men to make their health a priority by scheduling routine cancer screenings. Early detection saves lives, so please don't procrastinate with your healthcare."

Westchester County Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler said: "Some cancers can be present with few or no symptoms, so if you do experience unusual symptoms, tell your healthcare provider. Early detection is key to the many new treatments now available. We strongly encourage regular screenings for breast, gynecological and prostate cancers."

Westchester County Office for Women Director Robi Schlaff said: "Cancer screenings can save your life. Ask your doctor which preventive cancer screenings are right for you given your risk factors and family history, and learn ways to reduce your risks through lifestyle changes."

Important screenings for women include a pap test for cervical cancer, a mammogram (often recommended with an ultrasound) for breast cancer, and a pelvic ultrasound for ovarian cancer (upon recommendation by your doctor if you have symptoms, family history or other risk factors.) Men ages 55 to 69 should consult their doctor to determine if a Prostate Specific Antigen test is recommended.

Both women and men should consider genetic testing if they have a family history of breast, ovarian or prostate cancer, and some may consider an HPV test. The HPV test screens for the Human Papillomavirus which causes six types of cancer, including cervical cancer and cancer of the genitals in males and females. It can also cause cancer in the back of the throat (called oropharyngeal cancer). The HPV vaccine prevents transmission of the virus. Free HPV vaccines are available for eligible adults and children, starting at age nine, at the County Health Department vaccination clinics in White Plains and Yonkers. Call (914) 995-5800 to learn if you qualify.

Below are upcoming cancer education/support groups, screenings and events:

September 2 at 4 p.m. – Cancer Support Team's After Treatment Support Group is facilitated by a CST nurse and social worker and meets monthly via Zoom. This free group helps patients with cancer who have completed treatment within the last year. Contact Patty Vaughn, RN at (914) 777-2777 or email cst@cancersupportteam.org.

September 3 at 1 p.m. – Cancer Support Community Greater NY & CT's Living with Cancer Group meets via Zoom. This free group helps patients with cancer. Go to <https://cancersupportcommunitynyct.org/join-our-community/> to join and call (914) 644-8844 to participate.

September 3, 10 and 24 at 7 p.m. – Cancer Support Team's Breast, Ovarian and Gynecological Cancer Post-Treatment Support Group meets on Zoom. Call (914) 962-6402 to register or email info@supportconnection.org.

September 18 at 6 p.m. – David Pogue of CBS Sunday Morning will speak on Artificial Intelligence and Healthcare in a benefit for Support Connection's free and confidential services for women with breast, ovarian and other gynecological cancers at The DRIPBaR Rye, 20 Purchase St., Rye. Tickets are \$35 each or \$50 for two. For more information, call Support Connection at (914) 962-6402.

September 24 at 4 p.m. – Cancer Support Team's The Anxiety and Cancer Support Group is facilitated by a CST nurse and meets monthly via Zoom. This free group includes men and women with cancer and caregivers for discussions about managing the stresses of a cancer diagnosis and learning coping skills. Contact Patty Vaughn, RN at (914) 777-2777 or email cst@cancersupportteam.org.

October 1 at 4 p.m. – Cancer Support Team's Ovarian Cancer Support Group is facilitated by a CST nurse and meets monthly via Zoom. This free group is for anyone with ovarian, fallopian, or peritoneal cancer. Contact Patty Vaughn, RN at (914) 777-2777 or email cst@cancersupportteam.org.

For more health tips and cancer resources, go to www.westchestergov.com/health. The Health Department can be reached at (914) 813-5000.

Notice of formation of Schmoose Pack Projects LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/20/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Bruce Wong 10 Station Square Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of Beautifully Hauled LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 07/15/2025. Office Location: 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 28 Chestnut Street, Yonkers NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Name of formation of THEOAK LLC. Date of filing Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State (SSNY) 6/14/24. The LLC is located in Westchester County. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against it served is to the principal business location at c/o 669 Main Street, Unit 605, New Rochelle NY 10801. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Free Square Dancing Fun Nights



Free Square Dancing Fun Nights

Our group is having 2 Free Square Dancing Fun Nights on Monday, September 22nd and Monday, September 29th from 7:00-8:30pm at Katonah Methodist Church Parish Hall, 44 Edgemont Rd, Katonah, NY.

Modern Western Square dancing is a lot of fun, great exercise for both the body and mind and an opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. The attire is casual and no experience is necessary. This event is open to singles, couples and families. Our website is www.friendlysquares.org.

Ortiz Arrested, continued from pg 1-

Aug. 22. Ortiz was arrested.

More disturbing details from the charging affidavit. On August 21, 2025, Detective Chiang from the Orange County Sheriff's Office participated in an undercover chat operation conducted by the Osceola County Sheriff's Office for the purpose of identifying and apprehending individuals using the internet to meet and exploit juveniles for sexual activity.

On August 21, 2025, Victor Ortiz initiated conversation with Detective Chiang, who was posing as 13-year-old "Livi" through an application called "Badoo."

After chatting on Badoo, Victor and Livi continued their conversation via text. Victor began texting Livi from 914-xxx. Additionally, they had conversations over the phone. Victor told Livi he was going to "f*&% the shit out of you [Livi]" when she said she was not a virgin. He additionally said he would not get her pregnant. Victor purchased alcohol to bring to Livi at her request. Victor was given an address of apredetermined location. This information and probable cause were provided to me, Detective S. Rios, by Detective Chiang.

He began his head against the table and told deputies they would have to use excessive force, and he would kill himself. Victor said he has now lost everything because he did something stupid and he wanted to die. Due to Victor's statements, it was determined that without care or treatment, there is a substantial likelihood that Victor will cause serious bodily harm to himself or others. Victor met the criteria for a baker act. Ortiz was charged with FSS 847.0135(4)(A) Traveling to meet a minor for unlawful sexual activity, FSS 934.215 Unlawful use of 2-way communication device, FSS 847.0135(3)(A) Solicitation of a minor, and FSS 827.04(1)(A) Contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

We are concerned that based on Ortiz's brazen behavior in this matter, there may be other victims of his criminal sexual behavior. We also have not yet confirmed if Ortiz had traveled from Yonkers to Florida on the night of Aug 21, or whether he was already in Florida, or whether he has been fired from his position with the PPD.

He has worked as a Parking Authority officer since 2018. The Peekskill Herald was the first media outlet that reported on this.

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-Pete Seeger-

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Do Good This 9/11 Day with Volunteer NY



WESTCHESTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE KEN JENKINS JOINS VOLUNTEER NEW YORK! TO ANNOUNCE 15TH ANNUAL 9/11: SERVE & REMEMBER DAYS OF SERVICE

Annual Family-Friendly Volunteer Mobilization Effort to Benefit Numerous Local Nonprofits, and Unite Hundreds of Volunteers in Remembrance of Those Lost

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins and Volunteer New York! will host the 15th annual 9/11: Serve & Remember community-wide days of service in New Rochelle and White Plains on Friday, September 5, and Thursday, September 11.

Jenkins said: "As the anniversary of 9/11 brings us together to remember those lost and the many selfless first-responders, we are proud to join Volunteer New York! in presenting this meaningful way to take action in remembrance. In addition to the mobilization of hundreds of volunteers benefiting our local nonprofits, volunteering alongside our neighbors helps us foster unity, empathy and brings our community closer together."

Registration is now open at volunteernewyork.org/serve for volunteer opportunities that address local needs, from food insecurity to a blood drive with the New York Blood Center. Activities include writing letters to deployed military personnel, packing 50,000 meals, preparing sandwiches with One Sandwich at a Time, and a hands-only CPR workshop with the Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps, among other projects hosted at the Westchester County Center on Thursday, September 11.

Volunteer New York! Executive Director Polly Lagana said: "9/11 Day is a call to action. It's a day for our community to show up for our neighbors and transform remembrance into impact. Whether we are working together to pack meals or giving time in another way, every act of service helps build a stronger, more connected community. This is how Volunteer New York! and our partners honor the past and shape the future."

Robison Oil is the lead sponsor of this event, with additional support from Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts and WMCHHealth.

Robison Oil President Dan Singer said: "For the 11th year in a row, Robison is proud to support '9/11 Serve + Remember' day of service in honor of those whose lives were changed forever by this tragic event. Amidst the catastrophic loss of life, we witnessed heroism and a unified spirit that strengthened our communities and brought out the best in all of us. Service to community is a value at the core of our business, and we thank Westchester County for allowing us to join with Volunteer New York! in supporting this important remembrance."

TAKE ACTION:

Online registration is now open for individuals, groups, schools and families at volunteernewyork.org/serve. Several family-friendly volunteer opportunities are available. Advanced registration is required to participate.

Projects will be hosted on Friday, September 5, and Thursday, September 11.

2025 9/11: SERVE & REMEMBER

EVENT SCHEDULE – DAY 1-www.volunteernewyork.org/serve

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

NEW ROCHELLE HUB: Monroe University

Pack 50,000 Meals with Monroe University

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM / 1 PM – 2:30 PM

2025 9/11: SERVE & REMEMBER

EVENT SCHEDULE – DAY 2-www.volunteernewyork.org/serve

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

COUNTY CENTER HUB:

Create Blankets for Children in Hospitals with Westchester-Putnam Project Linus

12 PM – 1:30 PM / 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM / 4:30 PM – 6 PM

Create Cards for the Troops with United for the Troops

12 PM – 1:30 PM / 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM / 4:30 PM – 6 PM

Create Laundry Sachets with YWCA of White Plains & Central Westchester

12 PM – 1:30 PM / 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM / 4:30 PM – 6 PM

Create The Feelings Book Literacy Kit with Westchester Jewish Community Services

12 PM – 1:30 PM / 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM / 4:30 PM – 6 PM

Make Sandwiches with One Sandwich at a Time

12 PM – 1:30 PM

Donate Blood with the New York Blood Center

§ 12 PM – 6 PM

Learn Hands Only CPR with Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps

12 PM – 1:30 PM / 2:30 PM – 3:30

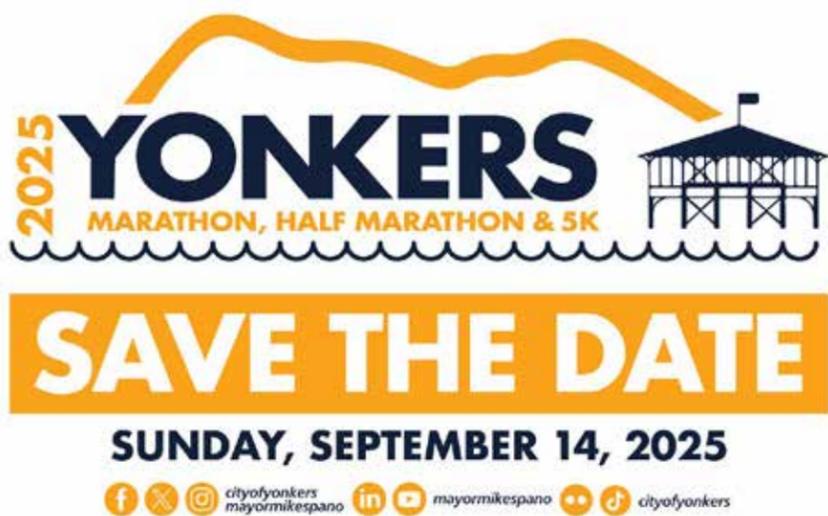
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Yonkers Riverfest is September 13



The Yonkers Marathon is September 14



The Tour de Yonkers is September 28



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Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins Receives St. Elizabeth Seton Legacy Award



Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins with Elizabeth Seton CEO Pat Tursi, Board Chair Frank Oswald, and Stephanie

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins was honored Friday with the St. Elizabeth Seton Legacy Award by the Elizabeth Seton Children's Rehabilitation Center, in recognition of her unwavering commitment to advancing care for medically complex children and young adults across New York State.

The St. Elizabeth Seton Legacy Award specifically acknowledges Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins' decades-long advocacy for the patients, families, medical staff, and administrators at Elizabeth Seton Children's. The award reads in part: "you lifted us in our time of need and guided us through unfamiliar paths with fortitude, wisdom and grace – offering your gifts with a loving and open heart."

Said Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins: "In my eyes, the doctors, staff and administrators of Elizabeth Seton Children's are real-life angels, providing care, dignity and hope to countless children and young adults with complex and life-threatening medical conditions. It's been my honor to support these heroes in their mission, and it is incredibly humbling to receive this award honoring the legacy of St. Elizabeth Seton.

Said Elizabeth Seton Children's CEO Pat Tursi: "This award is presented to those who embody Mother Seton's deep faith, tender compassion and benevolent spirit who serve our children and young adults – who are the most vulnerable in society – with grace and humility. Senator Stewart-Cousins not only embodies the essence of this award, but she brings it to life every day with her courageous leadership, bold action and unwavering devotion to those in need."

The award was presented during the Ground Blessing ceremony for Elizabeth Seton Children's new state-of-the-art Young Adult Center in White Plains. This transformative project was made possible through the Majority Leader's decisive legislative action to address a critical gap in health care for medically complex young adults over age 21 who previously faced life-threatening risks after "aging out" of pediatric care. In 2021, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Assembly-member Nader Sayegh sponsored landmark legislation which designated Elizabeth Seton Children's as the demonstration program for a first-of-its-kind Young Adult Center. In 2022, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins secured \$2 million in State and Municipal (SAM) Grant funding to support the project. Once it opens, the new Young Adult Center will provide round-the-clock specialized medical, rehabilitative, and residential support to serve nearly 100 individuals over age 21.

Yonkers Comic Con is September 27



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Yonkers Resident Millie Gutierrez Honored



“I’m beyond humbled to be recognized as the Yonkers Adopted Dominican Honoree for Excellence in Community Outreach at the 43rd Dominican National Parade.

Thank you Wilson Terrero for nominating me—I’m truly grateful. As a proud Puerto Rican raised in Yonkers, it’s an honor to be celebrated by a community I consider family.

This moment wouldn’t be possible without my incredible support system—my mom, my sister, and my son Martin Negrón, a proud Yonkers firefighter. They are my strength and inspiration.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the event, and to my family and friends who showed up with love and pride—your presence meant everything.

Congratulations to all the amazing honorees, and a big thank you to the board members of the National Dominican Day Parade for your vision and dedication

Thank you

Que viva la República Dominicana, Puerto Rico y todos nuestros hermanos hispanos! Unidos por lengua y cultura!!!” said Gutierrez, who is pictured with her son Martin.

UPAC’s World Fest Presents
The Gus Hayes Band Sept. 6


 Untermyer Performing Arts Council
 Mayor Mike Spano
 Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation
 present
 World Fest 2025
Celebrating Our 50th Season in Song At Untermyer Park!
 Another free Untermyer Performing Arts Council program!



The Guss Hayes Band
 6:30 pm Saturday, September 6th

Samuel Untermyer Memorial Park ★ 945 North Broadway ★ Yonkers
 In case of rain, please call 914-375-3435 or check our website
www.untermyerperformingarts.org
 after 3 pm the day of the performance.
 Our rain site is Saunders High School, 183 Palmer Road, Yonkers.

Our events are admission free and open to the public.
 Please bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets, as we cannot provide seating.

This program is one in cooperation with Mayor Mike Spano, and the Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. Funding for our programs and classes is received from Arts Westchester with support from Westchester County Government, the City of Yonkers, Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins, Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblymember Nader Sayegh, Empire City Casino by MGM and our loyal arts patrons.






To continue to celebrate their 50th season, on September 6th the Untermyer Performing Arts Council is pleased to present the Guss Hayes Band at 6:30 pm on the Untermyer Performing Arts Council’s stage at Untermyer Park, 945 North Broadway, Yonkers.

Magical music provided by County Clare native Guss Hayes and his band has been a part of the fabric of the City of Yonkers, Westchester and beyond for more than three decades! Hayes, a native of County Clare, Ireland, and a longtime Yonkers resident, is both Irish strong

continued on pg 13-

Send us your letters, announcements, opinions,
 photos & story ideas to
dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Thanks for supporting your community’s clean energy program: Westchester Power

Program Update

To ensure the availability of a reliable fixed rate option for clean energy in these uncertain times, program electric supply for the next term has been bid out and awarded. The opt-out period for Yonkers is Oct. 18 to Nov. 17. Opt out letters will be mailed out in October.

About Westchester Power

Westchester Power is a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program administered by local non-profit Sustainable Westchester on behalf of participating municipalities. The program offers fixed, competitive rates for clean energy as an alternative to the utility’s fossil-fuel-based supply.

Westchester Power is an opt-out program - eligible customers must opt out if they don’t want to participate. You can change your supply option or opt out any time with no fees or penalties .

To opt in/out or change supply, visit sustainablewestchester.org/wp/energy-choices
 email wp@sustainablewestchester.org
 or call 914-242-4725



Westchester Power Rates and Terms Starting December

Supply Option, % Renewable	Effective 12/1/2025-11/30/2027
	Residential & Small Business Rate, ¢/kWh
50%	12.040
100%	12.520

Con Edison’s average rate from July 2024 through June 2025 was 10.888 ¢/kWh for residential customers and 10.336 ¢/kWh for small business rate classes. Please note that this average is not indicative of future pricing, as utility rates vary from month to month.

- There are two supply options - 100% and 50% renewable. Default supply for Yonkers is 50% renewable
- Current supplier, Direct Energy, has won the contract for the new term starting December 1st.
- Customers will pay a premium for renewable supply services. This additional cost helps support New York State’s clean energy goals and a more sustainable energy future.



SustainableWestchester.Org/wp/yonkers
 Email: wp@sustainablewestchester.org
 Call: 914-242-4725

Revitalizing Homeownership: A Call to Action for Sustainable Property Tax Reform

By Frank Spotorno

The escalating property tax burden is prompting working families and seniors to sell their homes, underscoring the need for a transformative shift in how government agencies operate. As municipalities grapple with financial crises, it's clear that innovative solutions are imperative. By streamlining government services, embracing private sector efficiency, and promoting transparency, we can unlock a brighter future for homeowners.

The Property Tax Burden: A National Issue

- Property taxes vary significantly across states. For instance:
 - New Jersey: 2.23% effective property tax rate, with a median home value of \$300,000 and a property tax bill of \$6,690
 - Illinois: 2.08% effective property tax rate
 - Connecticut: 1.79% effective property tax rate

In contrast, states like:

- Hawaii: 0.27% effective property tax rate, with a median home value of \$808,200 and a median real estate tax paid of \$2,183
- Alabama: 0.38% effective property tax rate
- Colorado: 0.49% effective property tax rate

• In New York City, property taxes are determined by the property's classification, with different tax rates applying to different classes:

- Class 1 Properties: One- to three-unit residential properties, taxed at 20.085%.
- Class 2 Properties: Residential properties with more than three units, taxed at 12.500%.
- Class 3 Properties: Utility company equipment and special franchise property, taxed at 11.181%.
- Class 4 Properties: Commercial and industrial properties, taxed at 10.762%.

Unlocking a Brighter Future

To alleviate the property tax burden, we must:

- Streamline government services: Reduce bureaucracy and inefficiency in local, state, and federal agencies
- Introduce private sector competition: Allow private companies to bid on services like sanitation and inspection, promoting efficiency and cost-effectiveness
- Implement Request for Bid (RFB) process: Ensure transparency and accountability in government contracting

New York State's Property Tax Cap

New York State law places a cap on the annual growth of the property tax levy for local governments and school districts, with some exceptions. The cap is calculated as the lesser of 2% or the rate of inflation. However, the cap can be overridden with a 60% supermajority vote, and some jurisdictions are exempt from the cap, including New York City.

A Call to Action

It's time to reimagine our approach to property tax reform. By embracing innovative solutions and collaborative governance, we can create a more sustainable and equitable system. As we move forward, let's prioritize transparency, efficiency, and the well-being of our communities. I'm considering a run for Governor to ensure that our taxes will never increase by more than 2% and to find additional revenue by turning our state and local governments into a business that thrives on efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

Frank Spotorno was the Republican candidate for Congress in NY-14 in 2016. He is the founder of Bringourjobshome.com and lives in Yonkers.

Op-Ed: Pray More, Not Less.

Crisis doesn't create character—it reveals it. In a crisis some people step up and help, while others think only of their own advantage and trample over others.

Last week an evil and delusional man murdered young children as they began their school year acknowledging God. Making it worse, babblers who lie for a living and politicians who refused to provide the public safety their jobs exist for, used virtually identical words to sneer at millions of kindhearted Americans who reached out to intercede for the grieving and traumatized. On national TV democrat talkers and politicians attacked the kind who reached out in support, sneered at them for praying in support of the grieving, and promoted their power-grabbing, criminal enabling policies that enabled the murderer, daring to use their propaganda media platforms to spit in God's face, and fostering the doubt that grief brings, by broadcasting the devilish lie that prayer does not work.

The book of Job, the first book written, reveals Satan as the source of all evil, and God's will for us as abundance and peace. Job was a godly man, and protected by God, until obsessive and constant fear about his children, built in his mind from what he saw around him, opened the door for evil to attack. Job 1:10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.“ That was Job's life as God blessed him. But when fear festered in his mind, Satan struck with full force. Job 3:25, 26 For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me. I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet...” Job's struggle with his grief and with “miserable comforters” who insisted that he must have done something wrong shows the depth of his love for God despite their discouraging words and his circumstances. Ultimately, God tells them to shut up and have Job pray for them. Job 42:10. And the Lord turned the captivity of Job when he prayed for his friends. Also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.” We also benefit when we pray for others. When we pray for others, our minds stop focusing on our problems and focus on God's ability to deliver, which enables Him to help us as well.

King David wrote many Psalms that were prayers to God in critical situations of his life: the death of his first son with Bathsheba, enemies trying to steal the kingdom God ordained him to lead, and betrayals, including by one of his own sons. Prayers are in the moment communications pouring out one's heart to God, acknowledging His greatness (Jeremiah 31:17: “I am the Lord God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for me?”) and asking His aid for things that are too hard for us. God is always willing and able to deliver, but each person, in each situation, has to permit Him to act in their lives. To get results, every time you think about your situation, thank God that your deliverance, promised (Matthew 21:22) by Him Who never lies and never fails, is coming to pass. Don't allow doubt or fear to linger and break a hole in the hedge of protection He would give you. When you pray believe. Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. To get your prayers answered, believe that God is both willing and able to do what needs to be done. A tepid acquiescence that God exists is not enough. Our minds and hearts need to be focused on the promises He made to meet all our needs. (Philippians 4:19).

Support and strengthen others by prayer, upholding, comforting and encouraging them where their believing falls short. Matthew 18:19 “Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.”

The babblers and politicians who disparaged millions of men and women of faith, who have blatantly lied that prayer is useless, need to apologize, then sit down and shut up and stop sowing salt in the wounds. Who are you going to believe: Jesus Christ, or the professional liar Psaki and the mayor and governor who were forewarned about security needs at non public schools and refused to do the job the taxpayers (including the parents who pay for two schools) pay them for?

Judith Niewiadomski, Yonkers

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Hope to hear from you! Thanks!

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and story ideas to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

An Evening at the Opera, Gala Fundraiser Concert

Free Rabies Clinic for Westchester Residents and their Dogs, Cats and Ferrets-September 14



Dr. Sandor Szabo

On Saturday, September 27, 8 pm, at Sacred Heart Church, 417 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry NY, the newly formed nonprofit organization, Szabo Chamber Music Society will present a tour de force Gala Concert, “A Night at the Opera” featuring world-renowned opera singers. All proceeds going toward funding SCMS’s 2025-2026, its second concert season. Dr. Sandor Szabo, Artistic Director, has 20 years of experience leading premier chamber and choral music series throughout Canada and the United States and is thrilled to launch his new series at Union Congregational Church. Dr. Szabo’s schedule includes active engagement as conductor, organist, pianist and harpsichordist throughout Europe, Asia, Canada and the United States. He is Music Director of the Oratorio Society of New Jersey, Organist at Temple B’nai Abraham in Livingston, NJ and Music Director at Sacred Heart Church in Dobbs Ferry, NY. The Gala Concert program will include both instrumental and vocal musical selections featuring, Eunjoo Lee-Hulls, mezzo-soprano, Elizabeth Perryman and Elizabeth Honer, sopranos, Edward Hall, bass, Christopher Lucier, tenor, Cathy Yang, violin, and Dr. Sandor Szabo, piano and organ. The program will include exhilarating selections from the most beloved operas. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$15 seniors and \$5 students; donations gratefully accepted and are tax deductible. For more information visit szabochambermusicsociety.com.

FREE
Rabies Clinic
for Dogs, Cats and Ferrets
of Westchester County residents

Sunday, September 14, 2025

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Stamen Animal Hospital
61 Quaker Ridge Road
New Rochelle, NY 10804



Please Call (914) 632-1269 to reserve vaccine for your pet at this walk-in clinic.

- All Westchester County residents can bring their dogs, cats and ferrets in for rabies vaccinations FREE of charge.
- No examination will be given.
- Cats and ferrets must be brought in carriers.
- Dogs must be on a leash.
- Aggressive dogs MUST BE MUZZLED.
- All pets must be supervised by an adult.

Rev. 250, continued from pg 1

at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site (29 Warburton Ave. Yonkers, NY).

This program is free and open to everyone.

Step back in time to celebrate the fall harvest season and learn about the Revolutionary War in Westchester County and New York. Meet military and civilian reenactors and interact with historical people including General George Washington (on his horse Nelson), French General le Comte de Rochambeau, Mary Philipse Morris, and Ann Fisher Miller. Revolutionary War soldiers like the First Rhode Island Regiment and Black Loyalists will interpret the lives of ordinary soldiers in camp. See live demonstrations of historic crafts like spinning, fiber arts, woodworking and joinery, explore the lives of camp followers, 18th century food preservation techniques, 18th century medicine, and more.

Enjoy live music and try your hand at 18th century country dancing, grinding grain in a portable stone mill, operating a cider press, and playing 18th century-style children’s games. Explore the history of Philipse Manor Hall and colonial New York with free admission to the museum, and don’t miss the special traveling exhibit “Treason of the Blackest Dye: The True Story of Arnold, André, and Three Honest Militiamen.” History buffs of all ages can also enjoy our special espionage activity, as you explore the grounds and meet historical people and booths of local history organizations to decipher your mission, using our special code book!

This festival coincides with Yonkers RiverFest, which features live music, vendors, and food throughout the downtown Yonkers area.

“Revolutionary Harvest Festival” is supported by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall, Revolutionary Westchester 250, Westchester County, and Revolutionary Yonkers 250.

For the full schedule and more information, including directions and parking, visit <https://www.philipsemanorhall.com/programs-and-events/revolutionary-harvest-festival-2025>



Kenneth W. Jenkins, County Executive
Sherita Amles, M.D., Commissioner
Department of Health

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

First National Bank President Frank Xavier told Barnes they needed the press to “get certain information out,” and they “could not get very far without the help of the media.”

Thursday, September 11th

September 11, 1941: After the American Red Cross gave our Yonkers Chapter a new quota to produce 25,000 surgical dressings for victims of war-torn Europe, chapter members sprang into action, planning with members of all the Yonkers Chapter Production teams on how to expand their efforts. More than thirty-five auxiliary teams met at churches and schools throughout Yonkers to make dressings.

September 11, 1941: The US Government announced six Yonkers companies received government contracts. Cameo Curtain would manufacture Mosquito Bars and Campbell Hat Company’s contract was to make Army hats, Otis Elevator Company’s would produce gun recoil mechanisms, elevators, steel castings and plane engine parts. US Industrial Chemicals contract was to manufacture ethyl alcohol, and the NY Guild for Jewish Blind received a contract to make more than \$53,000 worth of pillowcases!

Friday, September 12th

September 12, 1801: Dr. John Ingersoll borrowed \$1,500 from Frederick Van-Cortlandt to buy Sherwood House from Jabez Fowler; he opened Yonkers’ first Doctor’s Office at Sherwood House.

September 12, 1939: The Yonkers Chapter of the American Red Cross opened a workroom specifically for volunteers to make clothing and bandages for hospitals and civilian victims of the European war.

Saturday, September 13th

September 13, 1910: Yonkers Chamber of Commerce members discussed the proposed merger of Yonkers, Mount Vernon and New Rochelle into a borough of New York City. Speakers at the meeting did not favor the plan, originated by the Mount Vernon Taxpayers’ Association.

September 13, 1959: Crown Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands visited Yonkers to celebrate the 350th anniversary of Henry Hudson’s discovery of Yonkers.

Sunday, September 14th

September 14, 1904: A band of gypsies chose Fisher’s Grove to be their winter home! They arrived with everything necessary for every outdoor need. The 40 people, adults and children, slept in beautifully decorated wagons. They had tents to tell fortunes, discussing the past and the future.

They purportedly came from England and traveled with the 73-year-old Queen of the Gypsies and her 88-year-old husband. The Yonkers Herald labeled the group neat and clean, remarking their campground was in “a sanitary condition.”

September 14, 1951: The 135th Street Branch of the New York Public Library was renamed the Countee Cullen Branch Library in honor of the late Yonkers poet and author. This was the first time in the history of New York City a library had been named solely for a person’s achievements and not for a monetary gift.

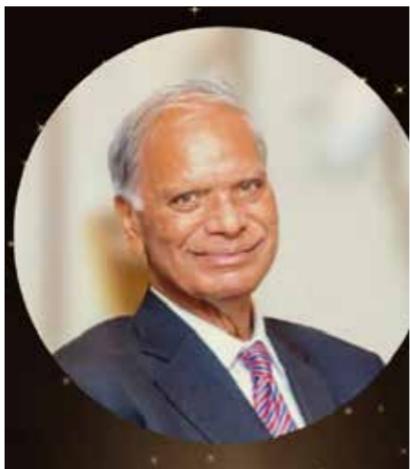
An exhibit mounted for the occasion included 50 illustrations from “the Lost Zoo;” Cullen’s story for children told of animals lost forever because they did not get on Noah’s Ark. There also were pictures of the author, manuscripts, and illustrations for other books he had written.

Cullen lived at 41 Grandview Boulevard in Colonial Heights; his widow Ida presented the collection of her late husband’s manuscripts and other materials to the library.

Questions or comments on this column? 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.

Westchester Leaders Among Honorees at Bronx Chamber of Commerce 2025 Gala



Above left: Ram Gupta; Founder Chatam Management Co.

Above Right: Rella Fogliano; CEO MacQuesten Development,



MacQuesten Development, LLC, based in Pelham, will be honored as Developer of the Year. Under the leadership of CEO Rella Fogliano, MacQuesten has delivered transformative housing and mixed-use developments across the region. With landmark projects in the Bronx, Harlem, and Westchester, Fogliano has positioned the company as a leader in affordable housing innovation. Her career began on construction sites in Westchester alongside her father, general contractor Sabino Fogliano. From that foundation, she built an integrated development and construction firm that today exemplifies community-centered design and development excellence. “The Bronx is where I planted my flag, but Westchester is where my story began,” said Fogliano. “I’m deeply honored to receive this recognition and proud to continue building neighborhoods of opportunity on both sides of the county line.”

The Joseph P. Kelleher Award of Excellence, named in memory of the Chamber’s longtime Board Chair, will be presented posthumously to Ram P. Gupta, founder of Chatam Management Co., Inc., a longtime Westchester-based real estate firm. After immigrating to New York from India in 1970, Gupta founded Chatam Management and expanded his holdings to include mixed-use, multi-family, and retail properties across Westchester, the Bronx, and multiple states. He was a respected civic leader as well, serving with the Bronx-Manhattan Association of Realtors, Rotary Club of the Bronx, American Red Cross Bronx Chapter, and others. “This award honors my father’s vision, not only in owning and managing properties, but in building community, opportunity, and hope,” said Anita Gupta, President of Chatam Management Co. “It’s more than recognition. It’s a reminder that one person’s dedication can help turn dreams into reality for an entire community.”

GVC Transportation (GVC LTD), a transportation firm serving both Bronx and Westchester suburban school districts, will receive the Business of the Year Award. Founded in 1991, GVC is known for its exceptional safety record and commitment to student well-being. With a 98%+ NYS DOT Safety Rating for the last three years and a strong track record of NYC DOE-certified service, GVC serves as a vital connector for Bronx and Westchester families. “Every parent’s deepest concern is their child’s safety,” said Michael Townsend, spokesperson at GVC. “At GVC, we’re committed to providing peace of mind and reliable service every single day.”

Rounding out the honorees is Janet A. Peguero, former Bronx Deputy Borough President and current Chief Operating Officer of Constantinople & Vallone Consulting, who will be recognized as the 2025 Champion in Government. Peguero made history as the first Dominican-American woman to serve in the Deputy BP role and led major revitalization efforts including the \$200 million reinvestment in the Kingsbridge Armory and a \$20 million small business loan fund for the South Bronx. “Being recognized by the Bronx Chamber is a profound honor,” said Peguero. “This award reflects the power of partnership and the belief that we can build a Bronx—and a region—that works for all.”

“The 2025 Gala honorees highlight the deep economic and community ties that bind the Bronx and Westchester,” said Lisa Sorin, President of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce. “From housing to transportation to entrepreneurship, these leaders demonstrate how regional collaboration drives progress. We’re thrilled to shine a spotlight on their outstanding contributions.”

The 2025 Gala is the Chamber’s signature celebration of civic and business excellence, attracting more than 600 executives, elected officials, and community leaders each year. The evening will also feature performances by Frank Sinatra vocalist Steve Maglio, Bronx comedian and actress Tara Cannistraci, and Grammy-nominated Latin pop singer Brenda K. Starr.

Tickets and sponsorship packages are now available. To reserve your seat or support this premier celebration of Bronx leadership and success, visit www.bronxchamber.org.

White Plains HS Senior Maximilian Mui Brings Renewable Energy Bench to the City



Rising White Plains High School senior Maximilian Mui has been busy promoting the benefits of renewable energy sources like the sun – which powers a high-tech bench he assembled and had installed in a prime spot outside the city’s Public Library.

Maximilian was recently joined by Mayor Tom Roach, state Sen. Shelley Mayer and Rep. George Latimer for the unveiling of the bench, which he helped secure with a \$5,000 grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies.

The charging and connectivity bench, which is manufactured by SELS Solar, costs over \$5,000 but Max – as he’s commonly known – used his negotiating skills to bring the price down to the amount in the grant, which he pursued independently.

“The bench is a renewable energy source. It’s also a public amenity, which is a bonus,” he said Thursday while sitting on his futuristic bench, which is covered with solar panels that convert sunlight to electricity using photovoltaic cells.

“People from all over White Plains can come and have a place to sit, a place to charge, free WiFi and Bluetooth,” Max said, adding that it is the only such bench in the city of some 60,000 residents.

For pedestrians who wish to do more than stop for a rest and figuratively recharge, the SB1020 stainless steel bench features USB charging ports, an inductive charging pad, WiFi connectivity and Bluetooth. The various options are displayed with blue logos on either side of the armrests.

“I want to try and make a change. If I can do this with \$5,000, imagine what the city can do with a budget of \$100,000,” Max said. “I want this to be a stepping stone for the city to implement more renewable energy sources.

“This is a testament for what White Plains can do,” he added.

Max said he was grateful for the city and thanked its leadership, the library and Public Works crews for their roles in bringing the project to fruition.

The student, who has attended the district’s schools since kindergarten, also praised WPHS and his teachers over the years.

“White Plains High School is a really good place and I love the learning atmosphere. The teachers really facilitate learning and make it more enjoyable,” said Max, whose brother, Josh, is entering the 10th grade.

He is already applying to colleges with the goal of entering the field of finance after first considering a career in computers.

“I used to gravitate toward computer science but with the job market right now it’s not that sustainable. So right now, finance is my go-to option,” Max said.

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Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

Yonkers Edition:

SATURDAY, SEPT. 6

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851

Naturalist's Choice Hike, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Go on a one-mile hike that the naturalist decides on. Sometimes steep; hiking shoes recommended; rain or shine.

Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla: (914) 231-4033

Pop-Up Market on the Plaza, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Shop from a variety of local vendors and enjoy a day at Kensico Dam Park.

Get details: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/pop-ups-market-on-the-plaza>

Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla: (914) 231-4033

Cornhole Tournament, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Fun social doubles and competitive doubles. Check in a 12 p.m.; bags fly at 1 p.m. Rain date: Sept. 7.

Get details and register: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/cornhole-tournament>

SUNDAY, SEPT. 7

Westchester County Center, White Plains: (914) 995-4050

New York Metro Reptile Expo, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Check out more than 250 vendor tables full of reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, supplies and more!

Get details: <https://countycenter.biz/event/new-york-metro-reptile-expo-3/>

Bronx River Parkway

Bicycle Sunday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

A 13.1-mile loop from Westchester County Center south to Scarsdale Road in Yonkers is closed to cars. Open to non-motorized bicyclists, scooters and in-line skaters, e-bike class 1 only, plus walkers and joggers. Many points of entry and exit are along the way. Admission is free. Also: Sept. 14, 21; Oct. 5.

Get details: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/bicycle-sundays>

Gus Hayes Band, continued from pg 9-

and Yonkers proud. He began his early career as a roof repairman, but quickly discovered his passion was performing under them. One day, while singing on the job, Hayes was approached by a homeowner about joining a band. A few months later, he started his own group, which has performed across the United States, Ireland and Scotland.

Named the first—and only—house band at Empire City, the group has a repertoire sure to please everyone. The Guss Hayes Band continues to delight crowds with songs from multiple genres and generations, seamlessly transitioning from contemporary to classic, Celtic classics to today's Top 40 to American Songbook. His music is guaranteed to start hands clapping, toes tapping and put a smile on your face.

Not only does Guss' group sing and play like angels, but his sense of humor will uplift all our spirits bringing us the joy we all need in our lives.

All Untermyer Performing Arts Council's performances are free and open to the public. We do not provide seating at the park, so please bring your chairs or blankets.

In case of rain, this performance will be held at Saunders High School, 183 Palmer Road, Yonkers. If the weather looks bad, please call our Arts Line (914-375-3435) or check (www.untermyerperformingarts.org) our website after 3 pm the day of the performance to determine where the performance will be held.

This program is made possible by Arts Westchester with support from Westchester County Government, the City of Yonkers, Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins, Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, and our many supporters.

For further information, please call the Untermyer Performing Arts Council at 914-375-3435



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**Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers
Public Notice of Revised Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan**

In accordance with federal law and regulation, the Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (MHACY) is revising its Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Administrative Plan. The proposed revisions subject to Board of Commissioner approval are (1) Changes to the Point Scale of Waiting List Preferences and (2) Changes to Refusal of Offer for Project Based Voucher (PBV) Assistance. These changes to the HCV Administrative Plan will be available at the Office of The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers, Augustine J. Shea Administration Building, 1511 Central Park Avenue beginning, Monday, September 8, 2025 from 8:30 A.M - 4:30 P.M. weekdays until Friday, October 10, 2025 and on our website www.mhacy.org listed as **Revised Changes to the Administrative Plan.**

Written comments on the proposed revisions must be addressed to "Attention: Jorge Roman, Leased Housing Director, MHACY Administrative Plan" at the MHACY Main Administrative Office, 1511 Central Park Avenue, P.O. Box 35, Yonkers, NY 10710-0035, and must be received by the close of business (5:00 pm) on Friday, **October 10, 2025.**

The MHACY will hold two (2) public hearings to discuss and accept comments on its proposed changes to the Admin Plan on Thursday, October 9, 2025 at:

**4 Curran Court
Community Room Building #4
Yonkers, New York
2:00 P.M.**

**Ross F. Calcagno Home 10 Brook Street (Gymnasium)
Yonkers, New York
6:00 P.M.**

These public hearings are open to all interested parties. Residents are encouraged to select a spokesperson to present their comments at the public hearings. Participants in the public hearings should present their comments orally and in writing. Persons wishing to speak at any of the public hearings will be limited to five (5) minutes each. A sign-up sheet for speakers will be available at the start of each public hearing.

The MHACY does not discriminate because of disability, color, sex, religion, national origin, family status or race. Provisions will be made for persons with disabilities to ensure their full participation in these public hearings if they so choose. **Request for any reasonable accommodation must be made to the MHACY by 4:00 P.M. on Friday, October 3, 2025. The request must be directed to:**

*Legal Department
Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers
1511 Central Park Avenue
Yonkers, New York 10710
idaoud@mhacy.org Fax: 914-793-6916*

Autoridad Municipal de Vivienda de la ciudad de Yonkers

Aviso público sobre la revisión del plan administrativo del programa de vales para la elección de vivienda

De conformidad con la legislación y la normativa federales, la Autoridad Municipal de Vivienda de la ciudad de Yonkers (MHACY) está revisando su Plan Administrativo del Programa de Vales de Elección de Vivienda (HCV). Las revisiones propuestas, sujetas a la aprobación de la Junta de Comisionados, son (1) Cambios en la escala de puntos de las preferencias de la lista de espera y (2) Cambios en la denegación de la oferta de asistencia con vales basados en proyectos (PBV). Estos cambios en el Plan Administrativo de HCV estarán disponibles en la Oficina de la Autoridad Municipal de Vivienda de la ciudad de Yonkers, Edificio Administrativo Augustine J. Shea, 1511 Central Park Avenue, a partir del lunes 8 de septiembre de 2025, de 8:30 a. m. a 4:30 p. m., de lunes a viernes, hasta el viernes 10 de octubre de 2025, y en nuestro sitio web www.mhacy.org, bajo el título «Cambios revisados al Plan Administrativo».

Los comentarios por escrito sobre las revisiones propuestas deben dirigirse a «A la atención de: Jorge Roman, Director de Viviendas Alquiladas, Plan Administrativo de MHACY» en la Oficina Administrativa Principal de MHACY, 1511 Central Park Avenue, Apartado postal 35, Yonkers, NY 10710-0035, y debe recibirse antes del cierre de las oficinas (5:00 p. m.) del viernes **10 de octubre de 2025.**

La MHACY celebrará dos (2) audiencias públicas para debatir y aceptar comentarios sobre los cambios propuestos al Plan Administrativo el jueves 9 de octubre de 2025 en:

**4 Curran Court
Sala comunitaria Edificio n.º 4 Yonkers,
Nueva York
2:00 p. m.**

**Ross F. Calcagno Home 10 Brook Street (Gimnasio) Yonkers, Nueva York
6:00 p. m.**

Estas audiencias públicas están abiertas a todas las partes interesadas. Se anima a los residentes a seleccionar un portavoz para presentar sus comentarios en las audiencias públicas. Los participantes en las audiencias públicas deben presentar sus comentarios de forma oral y por escrito. Las personas que deseen intervenir en cualquiera de las audiencias públicas tendrán un límite de cinco (5) minutos cada una. Al comienzo de cada audiencia pública habrá una hoja de inscripción para los oradores.

La MHACY no discrimina por motivos de discapacidad, color, sexo, religión, origen nacional, situación familiar o raza. Se tomarán medidas para garantizar la plena participación de las personas con discapacidad en estas audiencias públicas, si así lo desean. **Las solicitudes de adaptaciones razonables deben presentarse a la MHACY antes de las 4:00 p. m. del viernes 3 de octubre de 2025. La solicitud debe dirigirse a:**

*Departamento Jurídico
Autoridad Municipal de Vivienda de la Ciudad de Yonkers
1511 Central Park Avenue
Yonkers, Nueva York
10710 idaoud@mhacy.org Fax: 914-793-6916*

The Yonkers Police Department is attending and presenting at the Yonkers Schools Safety Officer Retreat and Training Day. Yonkers Police Commissioner Sapienza is expected to deliver a keynote speech, followed by commanding officer introductions, a Mobile Crisis Response Team presentation, and training by the Gang Unit, Intelligence Unit, Emergency Service Unit, and Training Unit.

In addition to routine Yonkers Police Intel Unit trainings with school security staff, Yonkers Police Department has outlined the following tactics for the start of the 2025-26 school year:

YPD School Safety Drills

dispatch units to random schools as a "drill" to familiarize Officers with response routes and building layouts.

"Park & Walk" patrol on the grounds of the school (if closed), and a walk inside if the school is in session, with advance notice to YPS School Safety Director and school administrators

YPD Directed Patrols (routinely practiced at sensitive sites, and will be enhanced due to recent events)

patrol checks on each Yonkers Public School, private and religious schools and identify sensitive locations (house of worship, etc.) during tours of duty.

school checks kept during school hours, while houses of worship will be focused on holy days and services

"As a new school year gets underway, the Yonkers Police Department is keeping a closer watch over our community," said Yonkers Police Commissioner Christopher Sapienza. "The recent tragedy in Minnesota is a reminder that we can never take safety for granted, so we've increased our presence around schools, houses of worship, and other sensitive sites. Our partnership in safety with Yonkers Public Schools is a longstanding one, and we thank Mayor Spano for providing us with the resources to implement these measures. Protecting our children, families, and faith communities has always been, and will remain, our highest priority."

Superintendent of Schools, Aníbal Soler, Jr. commented, "As we prepare to welcome our students back this week, we are mindful of the recent tragedy in Minnesota. Our thoughts are with that community. Here in Yonkers, we remain committed to protecting our most precious assets, our children. I want to commend Mayor Mike Spano for his proactive leadership in prioritizing the safety of all who live and learn in our city. Together, we will continue to ensure Yonkers Public Schools students enter the school year safe, supported, and ready to learn."

Yonkers Police's Intelligence Unit continues to review intel and work with federal partners to monitor possible threats that would dictate a larger response from necessary units. Currently, there are no credible threats within the City's jurisdiction.

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YONKERS TIMES
News in Yonkers and around Westchester

To the Editor,

Your August 25th article regarding Tarrytowns fire truck purchase seems more of an opinion piece than an actual article based in fact. It makes faulty comments that once printed show your lack of research on the topic-rather relying on a letters from a body shop owner (who also happens to be a Tarrytown Fire Department member from another company).

Your statement that the vendor for Rosenbauer (Gabrielli Mack) has “ a history of supplying Tarrytown” is flat out false. Of the 4 pumper trucks and 2 ladder trucks in TFDs fleet none are or have ever been a Rosenbauer.

Additionally, your statement that you “spoke to other people in the business of delivering firetrucks to local governments in Westchester County” by quoting “said the fire truck expert” is outright poor journalism. If you have a source to quote please name the source to ensure accuracy in your reporting. And place some accountability in who is saying what.

Finally, your statement that Stiloski has no financial stake in the fire truck purchasing of Tarrytowns fleet is also outright false. FOIL Stiloski Auto Body and see how many bills for fire truck repairs he has sent to the Village of Tarrytown over the last 5 years alone. Wouldnt this imply that if a cheaper or less efficient rigs were to be purchased by the village that their breakdowns or issues would be brought directly to his shop to be fixed. Thus, directly giving him a financial stake in suggesting which trucks to purchase.

The committee did their due diligence. They met with the village board multiple times prior to approval of this purchase.

Questions were raised by board members and the committee cognitively and thoughtfully answered their concerns before the entire village in open meetings where anyone could insert their 2 cents at public comments both at the beginning and end of each public session mutiple times before board approval.

The author of this article Dan Murphy should have researched both sides of this issue before printing anything and failing to name his sources. Instead it seems he aligns with Stiloski blindly and without informed research on the topic. This article is borderline slanderous to the committee and should be removed immediately.

*Respectfully,
Bryan J Meade
1st Lieutenant
Deputy Chief
Company President
Tower Ladder 78
Tarrytown Fire Department*

Dear Editor at Rising Media Group,

Workers deserve fair pay, safe working conditions, affordable healthcare and the freedom to retire with dignity. We deserve the right to join unions that give workers a voice; an economy that works for all families, not only the wealthy; and a democracy where every voice is heard and every vote counts.

Workers and families deserve fully funded public schools that are safe, welcoming, relevant and engaging, as well as higher education that is accessible, affordable and free from political intrusion.

President Donald Trump campaigned on making life better and more affordable for working families, and I’m sad to say that his administration has not delivered on these promises. Instead, we have seen funding slashed for schools, healthcare, child care and more—while handing tax breaks to the ultra-wealthy.

Our family members and communities will be sicker, hungrier and poorer. We deserve so much better.

Whether it’s peacefully protesting with our neighbors and co-workers in the streets, forming a union at our workplaces, or engaging with elected officials in Congress, let’s work together to fight for the future that all workers deserve.

*Sincerely,
BG Scott
Irvington*

Who is Buying Weed in Westchester?



Op-Ed by Jennifer Gierum, Founder/CEO of Highlife Health, New Rochelle

Editor’s Note: New Yorkers bought over \$1 billion worth of weed in 2024, but how did that break down in New Rochelle? Highlife Health, a women-owned dispensary in New Rochelle, celebrated its one-year anniversary on August 23 and released some customer data from its first year of sales. The dispensary found:
Largest Spend Group Ages: 21–29, Highest Spend Per Visit Ages: 50–59
Largest Cart Size: Seniors (50+) averaging \$65.63 per customer
Most Popular Products:
Vapes/Carts: 32.2%, Flower: 28.8%, Pre-Rolls: 19.1%, Edibles: 14.1%
Other (Concentrates, Beverages, Topicals): 5.8%

When we opened New Rochelle’s first legal cannabis dispensary, HighLife Health ,a year ago, we expected our customer base to skew young, and in some ways it does. The 21–29 group is the largest by volume, coming in frequently and spending collectively more than any other demographic. But what surprised us most is that our customers in their 50s are the highest spenders per visit. Seniors in particular average \$65.63 per transaction, making their cart size the largest in our store. That difference has reshaped how we think about service, inventory, and the role our dispensary plays in the community.

The numbers make it clear. Younger shoppers are driving traffic, while older shoppers are making bigger, more deliberate purchases. Among product categories, inhalables dominate. Vapes and cartridges account for 32.2 percent of sales, followed by flower at 28.8 percent. Pre-rolls make up 19.1 percent, edibles 14.1 percent, and everything else, concentrates, beverages, topicals, rounds out the final 5.8 percent. The split reflects both experimentation and comfort zones. Younger customers often move quickly, chasing potency and price, while older shoppers tend to invest in a variety of products that address specific needs.

Our personal customer interactions reveal even more. Customers who are new to consuming legal cannabis will ask about how strong a product is, or what makes an edible different from a tincture, pre-roll, or topical. Topicals in particular raise questions about whether they might show up on a drug test, and we explain that regulated topical products are designed for localized relief, not systemic absorption. Many customers come in searching for strains from their past (many have asked about Panama Red is a common request) and we take the time to explain how today’s regulated, tested products are both safer and more consistent, even if the names have changed.

Sleep is another frequent topic, and one that requires nuance. We ask whether the struggle is falling asleep or staying asleep, since each calls for different cannabinoid profiles and delivery methods. These conversations are where education becomes as important as the product itself.

Some of our most powerful learnings come from our regulars. We have one customer who visits Highlife Health almost daily. For him, the dispensary is more than a retail stop, it is a social anchor and a place where familiar faces matter. The story of his loyalty says more about community than any metric could.

When two neighbors voiced opposition to our opening on Facebook, we held back from arguing. Instead, our broader community spoke up for us, offering public support that proved far louder than the criticism. That moment reinforced the idea that trust is earned through consistent service and openness, not by chasing down every detractor.

The wider community has also embraced us in meaningful ways. The Chamber of Commerce welcomed us as members, allowing us to participate in local initiatives and give back through donations. The city’s Buildings Department has worked with us to address the realities of overdevelopment and the unique challenges of applying cannabis regulations designed for dense urban blocks to the suburban grid of New Rochelle.

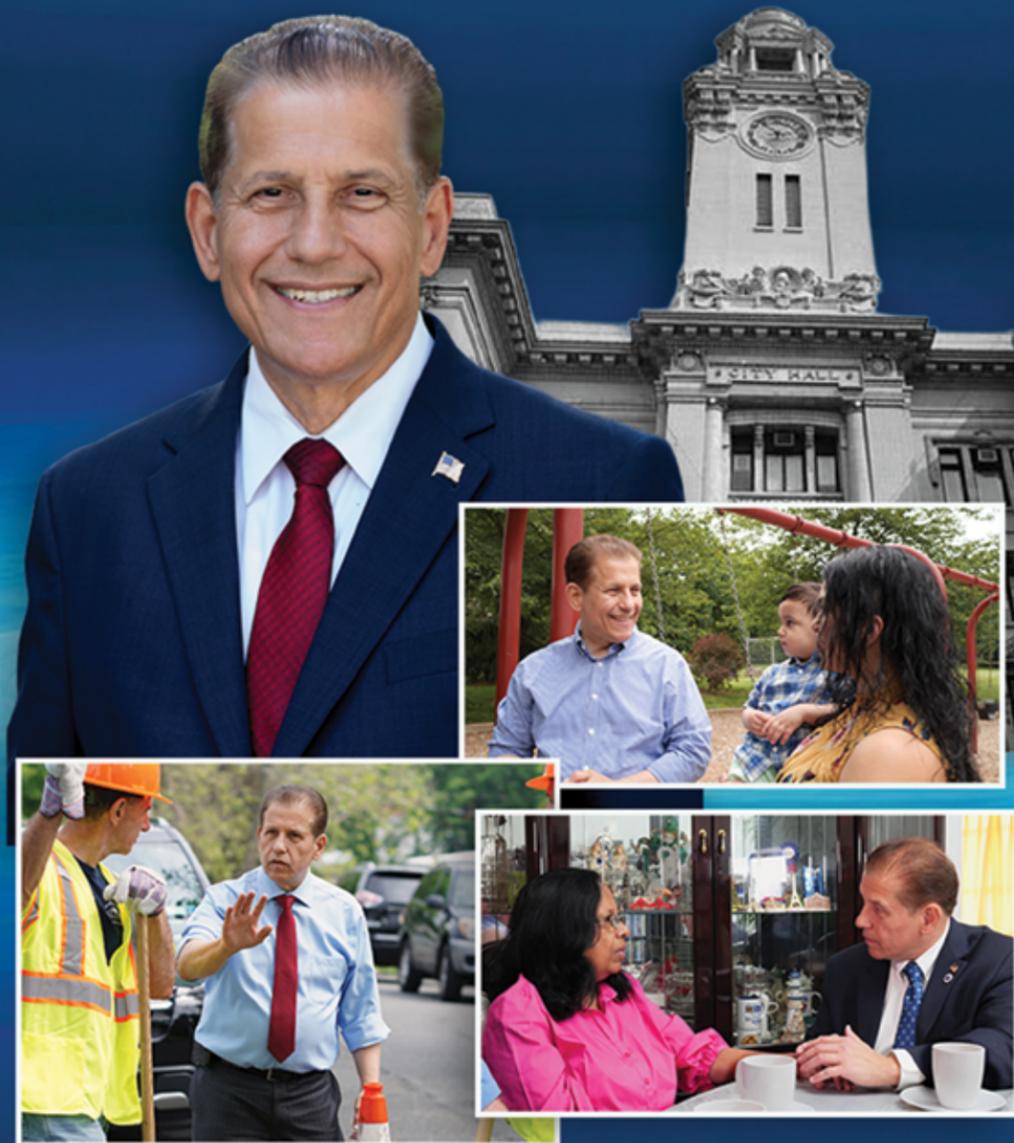
What all of this means for New Rochelle is simple: the cannabis consumer here is not just one thing. The younger crowd brings energy, volume, and experimentation. The older crowd brings thoughtful purchases, loyalty, and a focus on health and lifestyle. Both are essential. Our role is to meet each customer where they are, whether that means explaining dosing to a first-time buyer, recommending a vape to a value-driven twenty-something, or guiding a senior through the options for better sleep.

HighLife is more than a dispensary; it is part of the fabric of this city. We are here for the questions, the stories, the quick stops, and the long conversations. Whether you come to us for relief, recreation, or routine, we will always treat education as part of the purchase and community as part of the business.

Visit <https://highlifehealth.com>, for more information.

Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

HE LISTENS. HE CARES. HE WORKS FOR YOU!



RE-ELECT

ANTHONY MERANTE

YONKERS CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 6

It's All About **YOU!**



EARLY VOTING: OCT. 25 – NOV. 2
ELECTION DAY: TUES. NOV. 4

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PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF ANTHONY MERANTE
2070 Central Park Ave. Yonkers, NY 10710
(914) 361-1420 • info@MeranteForYonkers.com
Web: MeranteForYonkers.com FB: @MeranteForYonkers