

# Neighborhood UPDATE



NOVEMBER 2022

## THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

### A Letter from Wilson Kimball



November is a natural time to be grateful and count our blessings. Thanksgiving is right around the corner as I write this. Christmas

is less than two months away. A new year will be dawning shortly.

This year I am grateful that our residents have, for the most part, been safe. We have largely been safe from gun violence, COVID and fires started by e-bikes. This safety isn't by accident or chance, the Yonkers Housing Authority works to keep its residents safe through a network of related departments including but not limited to: security, resident coordinators, legal and property management.

Tenants sometimes call or e-mail me and apologize because they think they are bothering me with their issues. It could be a lack of heat, a lack of water, a lack of pest control or a lack of closet doors. I will tell you what I tell the

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### Iona University Students to Speak with YHA Residents on Climate Project

Addressing climate change and environmental justice in urban neighborhoods of Yonkers is the latest project being tackled by the Business Council of Westchester in partnership with the Yonkers Housing Authority and students at Iona University.

The Business Council of Westchester joined with Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and Iona University President Seamus Carey, Ph.D, this month to announce the new partnership to help bring relief to the city's affordable housing residents

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@mhacyonkers

mhacy.org

## A Letter from Wilson Kimball

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resident advisory board (RAB) all of the time, none of these calls bother me. I want to know what is going wrong so we can make it right. That's one way in which I can contribute to our collective safety network.

I am thankful for you all. I am thankful for every compliment and complaint. And I am asking you to play your part in our collective safety. If you see something, say something.

Thankfully, Wilson.

**Wilson Kimball**

*President & CEO*

Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers

## Iona University Students to Speak with YHA Residents on Climate Project

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who have suffered from extreme heat and flooding due to climate change. The partnership is the latest initiative of the BCW's Westchester Innovation Network's City Labs project. WIN's City Labs works to bring solutions to pressing urban problems.

"We are grateful to the Business Council of Westchester and students at Iona University for joining us in this important cause: addressing environmental justice and climate change. I believe we must do everything we can to ensure that communities like Southwest Yonkers that are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis become more sustainable and resilient to climate change," said Mayor Mike Spano.

Wilson Kimball, President and CEO of the Yonkers Housing Authority, said: "In partnership with New York State and Groundwork Hudson Valley we are already leveraging millions of dollars to address this cause. Now we are adding the brain power of the Business Council of Westchester and Iona's Hynes Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation to the mix."

Iona students will be meeting with residents in the coming months to get their input on the climate change plan. Stay tuned.

## Liz Owens Honored by Westchester County Senior Hall of Fame



Our own Liz Owens will be honored December 3 at the Westchester County Senior Hall of Fame celebration. Liz was among several accomplished seniors across Westchester to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Liz loves to "serve" and make a difference in her community. Although retired, she has been an active contributor and volunteer at the Yonkers Housing Authority for over 40 years as a Resident Leader. She has served on the Screening Committee, Welcoming Committee, Resident Advisory Board (RAB), Palisade Towers (formerly Schlobohm Homes) Tenant Council, Voter Registration and as a Democratic District Leader.

Liz has also served as President of her individual Tenant Councils, including Mulford Gardens and Palisade Towers, for over 25 years and also served as a City-Wide representative for READY, the National Tenant Council organization for over 15 years.

Liz says she wants to help ensure all residents are treated with dignity and respect and works to educate residents on the benefits they have within their communities. Congratulations, Liz!

## NYPA Plants Trees at Housing Authority Properties



Counterclockwise: Kerry-Jane King: NYPA Senior Director of Sustainability; Yonkers City Councilman John Rubbo; Wilson Kimball, President and CEO of YHA; Yonkers City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy; Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano; Lisa Payne Wansley: NYPA, VP of Environmental Justice; Yonkers City Council member Shanae Williams, William Serratore, City of Yonkers Sustainability Director

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and city officials joined the staff of the New York Power Authority's Tree Power program to plant trees at a Yonkers Housing Authority property as part of an on-going Yonkers Housing Authority Climate Resiliency program.

Wilson Kimball, YHA President and CEO, said the planting dovetails with an ongoing partnership between the Yonkers Housing Authority and Groundwork Hudson Valley to plant trees and create bioswales at housing authority properties to mitigate flooding and the effects of summer heat islands in urban areas.

The Tree Power program is planting a total of 66 trees across the city as part of NYPA's multi-year Sustainability Plan. The program also prioritizes tree planting in disadvantaged communities across New York State.

## Wilson Kimball Honored at Yonkers Arts Gala November 3

Congratulations to YonkersArts on its amazing Inaugural Gala on November 3 attended by Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and other dignitaries. We appreciate our partnership and were honored that YHA President and CEO Wilson Kimball was selected as one of the community leaders to receive a Visionary Award.

## Lessonbee Starts First Classes at MHACY



Lessonbee started its first classes at MHACY in October. The educational company delivers culturally relevant health and emotional-skills programs designed for middle- to high-school grades.

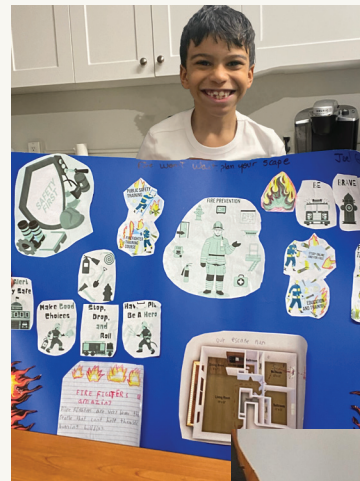
"We are excited to have Lessonbee working with our children," said Wilson Kimball, President and CEO of the Yonkers Housing Authority.

Residents interested in signing up for classes should contact their service coordinators.

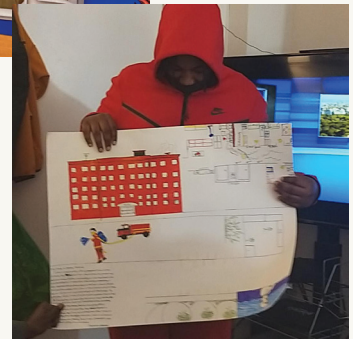


## Two Children Win Fire Safety Poster Contest

Joel Gomez of Schroeder Street and Serene Hendrick of School Street were the lucky winners of the HAI Group and YHA Fire Safety Poster Contest. Joel won first place in the 6-9 year-old category and Serene won first place in the 10-14 year-old category. Both children will receive \$25 Target gift cards from YHA and \$50 Amazon gift cards from the HAI Group.



Joel Gomez



Serene Hendrick



Jinzhou Lu, Commuter Services & Mobility Specialist with 511NY Rideshare, YHA President and CEO Wilson Kimball, and Housing Supervisor Jorge Roman install 511 Ride Share VIP parking signs at Curran Court.

## We Saved You a Spot!

Are you looking for a cheaper, greener ride to work? Now you can arrive to work in style! 511NY Rideshare is partnering with the Yonkers Housing Authority to create a Preferred Parking Program, which reserves parking for people who carpool or vanpool to work.

Here are some of the benefits of carpooling:

- Guaranteed front-row parking
- Save money on gas
- Reduce carbon emissions
- Access to 511's ride share program
- Get to know your fellow employees better

For more information on the 511 Rideshare program, call **866-NY-COMMUTE** or email [info@511rideshare.org](mailto:info@511rideshare.org).