

Neighborhood UPDATE



OCTOBER 2022

THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

A Letter from Wilson Kimball



E-Bikes, scooters and hoverboards banned.

E-bike, scooters and hoverboards are fun. Everyone wants one.

E-bikes, scooters and hoverboards don't

require gas. They don't take up too much space. They get you around town in a fast and efficient way. Yet, they can be deadly. That isn't a theory, it's a fact.

In August of this year a 5-year-old girl and a 36-year-old woman died in a fire in a NYCHA property. That tragedy marks the second and third fatalities in public housing caused by the volatile lithium-ion batteries that power e-bikes, scooters and hoverboards. Last December, a tenant died in a fire caused by a battery at the Jacob Riis Houses in Lower Manhattan.

A spate of fires caused by lithium-ion batteries throughout New York City on April 21 has prompted the FDNY to issue lithium-ion battery safety tips, including for e-bike batteries. The FDNY was called to the scene of four different fires caused

(Continued on page 2)



Lessonbee Wins \$100K Google Award

One of the BCW's Westchester Innovation Network innovators—the health education tech company Lessonbee who will soon be working with children at MHACY—has won a \$100,000 award from the Google for Startups Initiative.

Based in Mount Vernon, N.Y., Lessonbee joined the Business Council of Westchester's Westchester Innovation Network (WIN) in the spring and the early-

(Continued on page 2)



@mhacyonkers

mhacy.org

A Letter from Wilson Kimball

(Continued from page 1)

by lithium-ion batteries, all on April 21. The batteries were used in an array of vehicles ranging between electric motorbikes to scooters. The largest of the four fires reportedly happened due to several batteries stored on a work shelf. While no deaths were reported, 12 people were injured in the fires. Similarly, a Florida bike shop burned down on April 9, after a refurbished e-bike battery was left on the charger overnight.

MHACY is banning any vehicle using a lithium battery. Because we value the lives of our tenants. I am asking you to comply not because I don't recognize how fun e-bikes etc. are but because we live together in cooperative housing with neighbors. Our neighbors are our friends, their children and our seniors.

Could they survive a fire? Do you want to be responsible for a fire in your buildings that displaces you and your neighbors? I don't think you do. Save a life, maybe your own, don't bring e-bikes, scooters or hoverboards home.

Wilson Kimball

President & CEO

Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers

Lessonbee Wins \$100K Google Award

(Continued from page 1)

stage ed-tech company was matched with the Yonkers housing authority, which is also working with several other WIN participants.

Lessonbee is expected to begin offering its instructional program to children at MHACY starting sometime later this month.

Lessonbee is one of 50 recipients of financial support from the initiative's Black Founders Fund, which provides cash awards to black-led startups that have participated in Google's programs or have been nominated by Google's partner community or a previous recipient. Besides the cash award, Lessonbee will receive Google Cloud credits and hands-on support to help their start-up grow.

"Google's award is a great honor for our company, and it motivates us to continue our work to bring diverse health education content to young people," said Lessonbee CEO Reva McPollom. "We are excited about our work with the BCW and the opportunity the WIN program has given us to meet face-to-face with young people who need comprehensive health education."

WIN is an initiative of the Business Council of Westchester to propel innovation forward as the foundation for the future of economic growth in Westchester County, N.Y. The program matches innovators with local collaborators to test new products.

Lessonbee delivers culturally relevant health and emotional-skills programs. The company's self-paced online content library with skill-building lessons for middle- to high-school grades has produced measurable gains in classrooms where it has been deployed.

"We are excited to have Lessonbee working with our children," said Wilson Kimball, President and CEO of the Yonkers Housing Authority. "Last year, we provided more than 800 virtual classes, programs and services for our tenants ranging from exercise to meditation. Lessonbee's health instruction classes will complement the array of services we will offer our youth as we work to bridge the digital divide."

YONKERS ARTIST SHOWCASE 2022 Exhibition



Yonkers Arts Invites Community to Gala November 3

Yonkers Arts invites you to purchase tickets for their Inaugural Fundraiser & Gala, November 3rd at the Yonkers Arts Project Space.

The Yonkers Arts Gala will highlight & honor 2022's successes as "A Year of Community Dedication and Impact Via the Arts."

They are inviting the community to attend this fundraiser to support their programs and the projects planned for the rest of 2022 and 2023. The goal is to expand from the Carpet Mills Arts District and Downtown Yonkers to the entire City of Yonkers.

If you're interested in more information and early access to tickets and sponsorship opportunities, email director@yonkersarts.org.



What Are You Thankful For?

Tell us what you are thankful for. Children of all ages, if you live in MHACY properties you could win a Thanksgiving meal for your family catered by Stew Leonard's and an Amazon Gift Card and other prizes, by entering our holiday contest. All you have to do is create a Thankful Tree telling us what you are grateful for. Examples could be family, friends, teachers, your favorite books or TV shows or music.

Please submit your tree to your Service Coordinator no later than **November 16th**.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

