

Neighborhood UPDATE



JUNE/JULY 2025

THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

A Letter from Wilson Kimball



When Cottage Place Gardens was built in 1945, it was state-of-the-art for public housing. Squat, brick buildings that baked in the sun in the summertime. But despite its modesty, it housed a strong community.

A community where many of our residents were raised. Yonkers City Council President Lakisha Collins Bellamy was among them. She has fond memories of her childhood there, including a young boy who later became her husband.

As New York State Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins noted in her remarks at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Ridgeway at The Willow, it was a place where one of her own staff members, former City Council Member Symra Brandon, grew up. Brandon still lives nearby.

Stewart-Cousins and Brandon were among dozens of dignitaries who attended a groundbreaking on June 25 for the new Ridgeway at The Willow. The \$81 million development at 23 Bishop W.J. Walls Place will add ninety-two apartments for seniors in Yonkers. For some, it may represent just another building under construction, but

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A New Name, A New Era for Cottage Place Gardens: Ridgeway at The Willow

Dignitaries from across New York State gathered on June 25 to celebrate the groundbreaking for the start of construction on the new Ridgeway at The Willow.

The \$81 million development at 23 Bishop W.J. Walls Place will add ninety-two apartments for seniors in Yonkers, replacing the former Cottage Place Gardens public housing development originally built in 1945. The ceremony capped fifteen years of construction to complete the new complex.

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it is much more than that. The sixth and final phase of a 15-year-long project, it replaces what over the years had become an eyesore with modern, sustainable, energy-efficient buildings where our seniors can age in their own community.

This was a monumental task from start to finish. The planning, relocation of residents, demolition, and financing. Millions of dollars were raised through the private and public sectors at all levels of government, federal, state, county, and city. Hundreds of people were involved in the execution of this project, from administrative staff to attorneys, bankers, planners, architects and construction workers.

A touching moment at the groundbreaking ceremony seemed to be a fitting final farewell to Cottage Place Gardens. Lakisha Collins Bellamy presented a plaque to Laura Whitney. It was a copy of a plaque that had been placed on the building in 1993 in memory of her daughter Samantha Whitney, who died of cancer at age 10.

Laura told the audience: “I told Lakisha, I have to have that plaque.” And she did it. And I thank all of you, and I appreciate you so much.”

Wilson Kimball
*President & CEO
Municipal Housing Authority
for the City of Yonkers*

MHACY Team Presents at New York State Public Housing Conference

The MHACY team is proud to have shared our expertise at the New York State Public Housing Authority Directors Association Conference June 16-18 in Verona, NY. Congratulations to our President and CEO Wilson Kimball, Chief Legal Officer Brendan McGrath, and Sustainability Consultant, Kara Magooglaghan. Wilson is proud to serve as Executive Director of New York State’s leading organization for New York State Housing Authorities, providing networking opportunities through communication, training, and education.



A New Name, A New Era for Cottage Place Gardens: Ridgeway at The Willow

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In an emotional moment, Yonkers City Council President, Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, who grew up there, presented a memorial plaque from the old building to resident Laura Whitney who lost her 10-year-old daughter Samantha Whitney who died of cancer in 1993.

The Willow is expected to open in October 2026.



Officials from the City of Yonkers, New York State, Westchester County, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the NYS Homes and Community Renewal joined with the Mulford Corporation, The Community Builders (TCB) and Yonkers Housing Authority to celebrate the groundbreaking.



“Today’s historic groundbreaking continues the ongoing and remarkable transformation of our city’s affordable housing. Willow at The Ridgeway will provide our city’s

seniors with housing that is both attractively designed as well as energy efficient with outstanding amenities. Congratulations to everyone who has worked so hard to make this day a reality,” said Mayor Mike Spano.

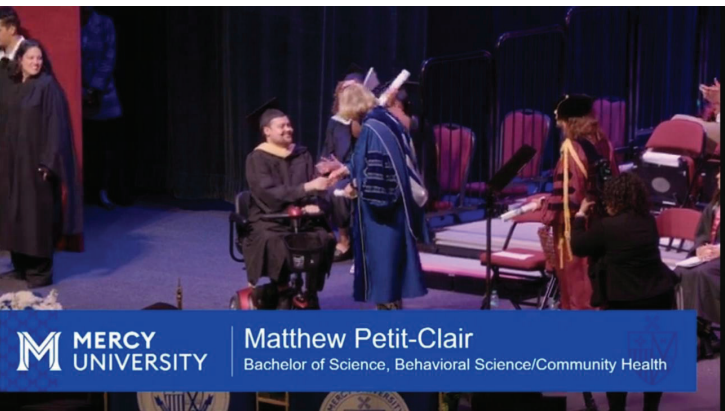


Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: “Westchester County was proud to support Willow at The Ridgeway, a transformational project that represents the best of what can happen when government, housing leaders and community partners work together. This project was all about creating opportunity and ensuring our seniors can age with dignity in safe, affordable and environmentally sustainable homes.”

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said, “Through critical funding and support secured in part by the State Legislature, Willow at The Ridgeway is turning once-vacant sites into modern, affordable, energy efficient homes for seniors. This development will provide Yonkers’ seniors with the affordable housing they need to age in place with dignity, in the community they know and love. It is also a model for how we can continue to create affordable housing for our communities—through sustained partnership, public investment, and a shared commitment to meeting the needs of New Yorkers.”

Congratulations to Graduate Matthew Petit Clair

Martinelli Tenant Council Representative Matthew Petit Clair graduated with a Bachelor's degree from Mercy University in Behavioral Science and Community Health. Matthew will be pursuing his graduate degree from Mercy University in fall 2025.



MERCY UNIVERSITY

Matthew Petit-Clair
Bachelor of Science, Behavioral Science/Community Health

Curran Court and Walsh Road Honor Dads with Father's Day Breakfasts

Dads at MHACY's Curran Court got a special Father's Day treat. Tenant Council Representatives and the Service Coordinator, and volunteers prepared a special breakfast. On the menu: pancakes, waffles, sausages, fresh fruit, coffee and orange juice.



Upcoming Summer Events

Ice Cream Socials at all sites in July
Check with your service coordinator for dates.

July 16
International Day
Curran Court

July 10
Salsa Dancing
Martinelli Manor

July 8
Field Day
Hall Homes




Give your child a head start in a nurturing learning environment at Yonkers Children's Place!



Enroll Now:



OUR CENTER:

- Beautiful classrooms and play areas for ages 3 to 5
- Yummy and nutritious meals and snacks
- Diapers, wipes, formula and baby food
- Outdoor learning

WHY CHOOSE US?

- 60 Years of Head Start success
- Caring, well-trained staff
- The latest in educational materials
- Help with children's individual needs
- Resources and workshops for the family
- Health and dental screening and wellness

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