

# Neighborhood UPDATE



JANUARY 2024

## THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

### A Letter from Wilson Kimball



A lot to look forward to in 2024!

This coming year there is a lot to look forward to at the Yonkers Housing Authority (YHA). LaMora, sixty (60) new units of senior

housing, will be finished in March. LaMora means “Mulberry” in Spanish and the new building will be located on Mulberry Street in the Hollow. The goal is to have the building leased-up by June.

Ridgeway VI, the YHA development done in partnership with The Community Builders (TCB) will be going up to Albany for review. This building will also be passive house living for ninety-two (92) seniors. Passive house design means the air quality will be especially good and the building will be well insulated to save on energy bills. It also means that if there is a climate emergency like a flood, mudslide, or rain event, the building will have its own generator and be completely self-sufficient.

Grant Park, which has been managed by Landex Richmond, will be getting a new field team. Many residents have complained to the YHA about Grant Park’s current operating

*(Continued on page 2)*



### Yonkers Housing Authority Gets \$1 Million Federal Grant for Environmental Justice Initiatives

The Yonkers Housing Authority has received a \$1 million federal grant that will allow it to build on the already substantial work it has done to address environmental justice in underserved communities in Southwest Yonkers.

The grant from the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection will fund a number of initiatives aimed at

*(Continued on page 3)*

## A Letter from Wilson Kimball

(Continued from page 1)

team. They were hard to reach, kept restricted hours on the property and did not make the necessary repairs. The YHA agrees with you! We heard you and raised your concerns to Landex Richman who is bringing in a new team in the first quarter of 2024. We look forward to some positive changes happening on that property.

Loehr Court has been flooded by catastrophe after catastrophe, from Hurricane Ida to Tropical Storm Ophelia. The new community room, laundry room and boilers were destroyed. The YHA has applied for grant monies to redesign the boiler system, taking it out of the basement. The City of Yonkers engineering Department has also applied for grant monies to fix the combined storm water and sewer system in southwest Yonkers. The YHA working with the City of Yonkers is hopeful this is the year we finally receive the monies we need to make lasting repairs.

Palisade Towers has needed work for some time on its critical systems like boilers and condensers. The YHA has reached out to federal, state, county and city elected officials about these needs. We have applied for grants. We have spoken to our RAD (Rental Assistance Demonstration) development partners at L & M Development. We will continue to bring the needs of Palisade Towers to the fore as we go through 2024.

Walsh Road is equally in need of major repairs. We understand that and we continue to work to secure the monies for these repairs as well as for enhancements to the campus. We have worked with the New York School of Interior Design (NYSID) to re-imagine the front entrance ways, the back patios, the common areas and the community room. All of these improvements cost money, but we believe the money will be well spent on these improvements that make the space feel more like a home and less institutional.

You can help make these changes! Below is a list of elected officials who have access to the monies we need. Please take the time today to reach out to them via e-mail or phone and ask them to support you and your housing. They can't just hear it from me. They need to know you share our concerns about where and how you live. Please ask them to Fund the renovation at the Yonkers Housing Authority Now!

Senator Chuck Schumer	ryan_eagan@schumer.senate.gov	202-224-6542
Congressman Jamaal Bowman	quantel.bazemore@mail.house.gov	202-225-2464
County Executive George Latimer	ce@westchestercountyny.gov	914-995-2900
County Legislator Jose Alvarado	Alvarado@westchesterlegislators.com	914-995-2846
County Legislator Shanae Williams	Williams@westchesterlegislators.com	914-995-2829
County Legislator James Nolan	Nolan@westchesterlegislators.com	914-995-2830
County Legislator David Tubiolo	Tubiolo@westchesterlegislators.com	914- 995-2815

### Wilson Kimball

*President & CEO*

Municipal Housing Authority for the  
City of Yonkers

## Yonkers Housing Authority Gets \$1 Million Federal Grant for Environmental Justice Initiatives

*(Continued from page 1)*

addressing the negative impact of climate change. These initiatives include adding green spaces to reduce flooding and combat the heat island effect that causes temperatures to rise in urban areas that have little shade and vast stretches of paved surfaces.

Key to the success of the project is creating jobs in the community that will allow residents to participate in implementing solutions to bring about change, said Wilson Kimball, President and CEO of the Yonkers Housing Authority.

“We are excited to continue the training and empowerment of residents at five affordable housing developments to facilitate community-led climate resilience action, education, and stewardship. The residents will promote environmental justice and integrate equity into the decision-making process,” said Kimball.

Under the grant, YHA and the Mulford Corporation, Groundwork Hudson Valley and Family Service Society of Yonkers (FSSY), will undertake the projects at five properties. These are in addition to properties where work has already been done.

- The Andrew Smith Townhouses at 91 Trenchard St. in the southeast part of the city.
- The Judge Albert Fiorello Townhouses at 38 Clark St, Yonkers in Lincoln Park.
- The Lawrence Christopher Townhouses at 350 Midland Ave. in Lincoln Park.
- The Hon. A. J. Doran Sr. Townhouses at 27 Wrexham Rd. in Lawrence Park.
- The Valentine Townhouses at 162 Helena Avenue in Colonial Heights.

The grant will continue the work already started with Groundwork Hudson Valley.

## Wilson Kimball Named New Executive Director of Statewide Public Housing Organization

Wilson Kimball has been named as Executive Director of the New York State Public Housing Authority Directors Association (NYSPHADA). NYSPHADA is New York State’s leading organization in providing information to New York State Housing Authorities by providing networking opportunities through communication, training and education. She will serve in this new role while remaining as President and CEO of MHACY, helping to bring her experience and knowledge to the rest of New York! Congratulations to Wilson. To learn more about NYSPHADA, please visit <https://nysphada.org/>



## Ginger Contest Bread Winners

Congratulations to members of the maintenance staff at MHACY for winning the annual gingerbread decorating contest. Their snappy decorations showed some tasty creativity.



## High School Students Looking for Scholarships?

The Mary Lou Manzie Memorial Scholarship fund is looking for student applicants. Mary Lou Manzie was a woman who dedicated her career to providing safe, decent and affordable housing. She was always willing to look at new and effortless ways to achieve that goal. A member of the National Leased Housing Association from 1975 until her death in 2006, she served as an Officer and Director of NLHA for many years. This scholarship is to benefit a non-traditional student by providing eligible applicants who demonstrate both merit and need, a chance to pursue higher education or other training that will lead to better employment opportunities. Applications and more information available at <https://nlhascholars.communityforce.com>.

## First Responders Disability Registry

Yonkers residents with special needs can now register with Yonkers first responders to reduce emotional trauma, fear and conflict when police or fire personnel enter homes in emergency situations. Specialized information is entered into a database to be accessed, with alerts, to Yonkers Police and Fire Departments and EMS services in the event of an emergency located at a resident's home.

Here are some examples of those who might benefit by registering for the program. People with:

- Physical and medical challenges
- Developmental challenges, mental illness, PTSD
- Vision and hearing challenges
- The elderly, people with language barriers, hoarders, service animals, etc.

Enrollment in the registry is dependent upon self-reporting. Privacy concerns are recognized and addressed.

Enrollment forms available at Yonkers Public Libraries, Yonkers City Hall and online.

Questions?

Contact [mdab.yonkersny@gmail.com](mailto:mdab.yonkersny@gmail.com)

