

# YONKERS RISING

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## Mayor Spano Honors Five Volunteers From the Community



From left, Eva Jozsef, Councilman Michael Sabatino, Wilma Allen, Gloria Jordan, Mayor Mike Spano, Maria Ganzi, Councilman Mike Breen, Majority Leader Wilson Terrero, Jeanette Gilbert and Dora Mejicovsky. Photo by Donna Davis.

Five local volunteers who donate their time with the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Westchester were recently honored by Mayor Mike Spano, in a celebration sponsored by The Volunteer Center of United Way. All of the awarded honorees contribute to Yonkers non-profit organizations, assisting those in the local community.

Participating in the first Mayor's Day of Recognition for National Service, on Tuesday April 9, led by the Corporation for National

and Community Service, Spano joined mayors across the country in spotlighting the impact of national service and thanking those who serve in their communities.

"Today we honor those unsung heroes of Yonkers – the volunteers who give of themselves to their communities each and every day to our children, seniors, neighborhoods and civic issues," he said. "It is apparent these volunteers selfishly donate their time and

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## AMVETS Post 40's 59th Annual Communion Mass and Breakfast



From left, Council President Chuck Lesnick, Rep. Eliot Engel, Mayor Mike Spano, Rauso Post Cmdr. Sam Riti, Deacon Alfred Impallomeni, Council Majority Leader Wilson Terrero and Councilman Michael Sabatino. Photo by Ed Whitman.

AMVETS Armando A. Rauso Post 40 held its 59th annual Mass and Breakfast last week, where more than 100 people enjoyed service at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church and breakfast held at the Post Hall.

The event is held every year to honor the deceased members of the Rauso Post, with family members and widows of those lost post

members attending, to remember and honor their memory. Post 40 Commander Sam Riti read the names of the deceased members, and then thanked members and officers of the post for their outstanding work and volunteerism, not only to help veterans, but all of Yonkers.

Mayor Mike Spano presented Riti and the

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## Vietnam Recognition Day in Yonkers



Yonkers veterans join Mayor Mike Spano and elected officials for a Vietnam remembrance ceremony. Photo by Donna Davis.

Mayor Mike Spano, the City of Yonkers, the Central Committee of Veterans Organizations and the Department of Veterans Services remembered those lost in the Vietnam War with a wreath-laying ceremony April 3 at the Washington Park Veterans Memorial. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Peace Accords which ended the conflict.

John Spencer, Yonkers Central Commit-

tee of War Veterans, Chairman and former Yonkers Mayor served as Master of Ceremonies.

Presentation of the colors and a gun salute with "Taps" were made by the Yonkers Police Honor Guard and Sgt. Anthony Baiocco. "The National Anthem" was sung by Sandy Korkatzis from the Parks Department.

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## The Science Barge Reawakens This Weekend



The Science Barge, on the Yonkers waterfront.

By Molly Lindsay

Come out of winter hibernation and enjoy a uniquely fun experience when the Science Barge, a sustainable urban farm and environmental education center, reopens for its fifth year on the waterfront in downtown Yonkers, on Saturday, April 13.

At this year's opening, activities will include:

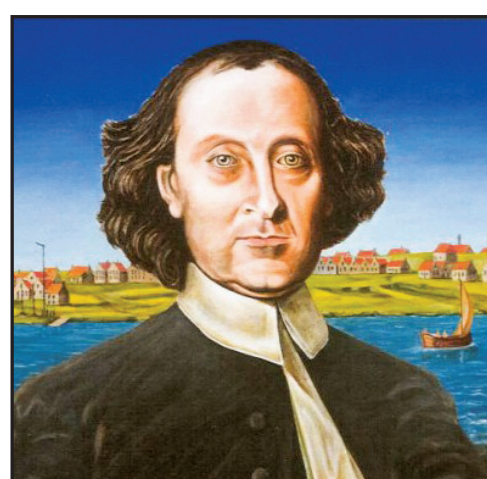
- Mayor Mike Spano welcoming guests on

board for the ribbon-cutting at 2 p.m.

- Super-high kite-flying with kite expert and nationally recognized boomeranger "Flyin'" Brian Cavallaro
- Live music from the Nepperhan Community Center Drum Corps
- Students of the India Center of Westchester performing an Indian classical dance

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## Friends of Philpse Manor Hall Returns With Dramatic Performance



Adriaen van der Donck

Philpse Manor Hall, one of Yonkers' historical treasures, is seeing a revival with the return of an active Friends of Philpse Manor Hall. The Friends will present "Adriaen van der Donck," a dramatic performance by Dr. Tom Milton, on Thursday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m. at 29 Warburton Ave. Admission is free.

The presentation will explore the conflict between Adriaen van der Donck and Peter Stuyvesant over the form of government and the type of society that should be formed in the colony of New Netherland. The colony included what is now New York, Connecticut and New Jersey, and this debate helped to shape our current govern-

ment.

Van der Donck, a lawyer, owned 24,000 acres of land that is now occupied by parts of the Bronx and Westchester, and all of Yonkers. He built a saw mill on a river whose name was then changed from Nepperhan Creek to Saw Mill River, and since he was known locally as the jonkheer (young gentleman), the name of his settlement evolved into Yonkers.

Milton is the author of eight published novels and is currently a professor of international business at Mercy College. He first became interested in Adriaen van der Donck almost nine years ago while doing research to create a new course on the history of the Hudson River. Since then he has continued to develop material on the subject.

The event will include a small reception. For more information about the performance, call 914-965-4027. To read more about Milton's novels, visit his [www.tomilton.com](http://www.tomilton.com).

The Friends of Philpse Manor will also present George Washington's Gamble on April 25 at 7:30 p.m., presented by Richard Borkow, author and Westchester historian. Admission for this event is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and students, and children under 12 are admitted free.

The museum will be open from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on both nights.

The Friends of Philpse Manor Hall is looking for new members to help support this historical site. Call 914-965-4024 to find out how you can help.

## YoHo – Yonkers' Thriving Art Community Open House April 20 and 21



Yonkers resident and YoHo artist Michael Cuomo.

By Dan Murphy

Did you know that the largest artist community in Westchester is located in Yonkers, at YoHo Artist Studios, 578 and 540 Nepperhan Ave.? YoHo is celebrating the opening of its new wing next week, with Mayor Mike Spano scheduled to cut the ribbon on the new 25-studio, gallery and community space April 17.

YoHo has transformed an old industrial

building, the former home of the Alexander Smith carpet mills, into studios for all types of artists. The spaces, with high ceilings and lots of light, make it perfect for the 50 sculptors, painters, metal workers and photographers that call YoHo their artistic home.

On April 20 and 21, YoHo artists will hold their 10th annual Open Studio Weekend, featuring

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# MIT Students Give the Science Barge a Makeover



Natasha Gunther, Kelsey Seto, and Nathan Landman help install a new hydroponic growing system



The crew poses in front of the Science Barge. Front, left to right: Science Barge Director Bob Walters, Kathy Young, Natzem Lima, Kristen Cotner, Kelsey Seto, Natasha Gunther, and Jennifer Kao. Rear, left to right: Emele Uka and Nathan Landman

By: Molly Lindsay

When you picture a typical college spring break, it probably doesn't include installing hydroponic growing systems, scrubbing a greenhouse or capturing glass eels, but for eight MIT students, working on the Science Barge was a fun and rewarding way to spend their week off. The students worked from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from March 24 to 29, prepping the Sci-

ence Barge, a floating urban farm docked on the Hudson in downtown Yonkers, for its upcoming season.

"No task was too gritty for these students. There was a lot of scrubbing and technical work," said Science Barge Director Bob Walters. Emele Uka, a freshman at the Massachu-

*Continued on Page 6*



The Nepperhan Community Drum Band once again welcomes visitors to board the Science Barge at its season opening.



Meena Chen and Deviki Arora, students of Nalini Rau at the India Center of Westchester in Elmsford, will perform a short piece in the ancient Indian classical dance form Bharatha Natyam in the hydroponic greenhouse at the Science Barge season opening event.

nally. The Science Barge is funded by grants from New York Power Authority, Con Edison, City of Yonkers, Domino Sugar, and the USDA.

### Support Science Literacy at the Barge Book Fair

Prepare to have a blast as the Science Barge hosts its first book fair Saturday, April 13 and Sunday, April 14 at Barnes & Noble, 2614 Central Ave., Yonkers. Join barge educator Jennifer Sloan from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday to pot hydroponic basil, power light bulbs on the Energy Bike, and play with composting red wiggler worms.

Present a voucher and a percentage of sales from any purchase will go to the Science Barge. You can also shop online at [bn.com/bookfair](http://bn.com/bookfair) between April 14 and 19 using Bookfair ID 11058609.

Enter for a chance to win prizes through the book fair contest. Participants with a purchase of \$100 or

more will be eligible to receive a Nook HD or a two-hour venue rental for a Science Barge party. Select prizes will be raffled off to supporters who spend \$30 or more.

For details, visit [www.groundworkhv.org/2013/03/bookfaircontest](http://www.groundworkhv.org/2013/03/bookfaircontest).

It's a great opportunity to get your gardening books for the upcoming season, snag an eco-friendly gift for Earth Day, or simply have coffee at the Barnes & Noble café – all while advocating for science literacy and raising money for a great, green cause! All ages are encouraged to attend.

The Science Barge is a project of Groundwork Hudson Valley. It is located at 99 Dock St.

Molly Lindsay is a Yonkers resident and intern at Groundwork Hudson Valley. She is a recent graduate of SUNY New Paltz and is passionate about sustainable agriculture.

## The Science Barge

Continued from Page 1

- Hunting for glass eels
- Build-a-boat
- Riding the energy bike
- Build-your-own take-home hydroponic garden
- Light refreshments
- Free walk-on tours will be held from 2 to 6 p.m.

Each year the Science Barge grows an abundance of fresh produce for local food pantries, using solar, wind energy and biofuels, and rainwater irrigation. The only fully-functioning demonstration of renewable-energy-supported food production in New York, the Science Barge provides educational programs for young people of all ages and hosts more than 8,000 visitors an-



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## Legoland Discovery Center Celebrates Opening At Ridge Hill in Yonkers



"Bertie" smashes through a Lego wall to commemorate the opening of the Legoland Discovery Center in Yonkers.

In celebration of the grand opening of Legoland Discovery Center Westchester at Ridge Hill in Yonkers, local officials were joined by a dozen metro-area schoolchildren wearing yellow hard hats as the attraction's life-size lovable mascot "Bertie" smashed through a 7-by-10-foot wall constructed of colorful Lego bricks, revealing the entrance to a line of anxious guests waiting to enter.

"The effort to bring the ultimate interactive and creative family experience to Yonkers and beyond has been a true collaborative undertaking, one that I believe is going to have an extremely positive impact on the community," said Merlin Entertainments Divisional Director of Midway Developments James Burleigh. "We look forward to creating some wonderful memories for all the children and families visiting the attraction."

Following the colorful wall break, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, County Executive Rob Astorino and other event participants were each joined by a member of the attraction's junior construction panel to enjoy a grand opening inaugural ride on "Merlin's Apprentice" – a flying wizard ride where guests pedal faster to make their seats rise into the air.

Just the fifth such location in the nation – the first in the Northeast – Legoland Discovery Center Westchester is a \$12 million, 32,300-square-foot, indoor attraction geared toward children ages 3 to

10 and their families. Its range of educational and interactive experiences includes hands-on play areas, a 4D cinema, master classes led by Master Model Builders, two Lego amusement rides and "Miniland" – the venue's signature re-creation of landmark locations and buildings throughout Westchester County and New York City, made entirely out of more than 1 million Lego bricks.

"From a very young age children have always had the desire to build – but Lego bricks and Legoland Discovery Centers have taken things to an entirely new level – and the options are as endless as their imaginations," said Bruce Ratner, chairman and CEO of Forest City Ratner Companies. "With the opening of Merlin's wonderful and educational Legoland Discovery Center, Ridge Hill enhances its status as a premier regional location for shopping and dining and family entertainment in the great City of Yonkers, in the great County of Westchester, in the great State of New York!"

The attraction is a fun and educational destination that is also ideal for groups and school trips, providing teachers with a wide range of hands-on learning experiences, bringing the worlds of math, science and technology to life outside the classroom, according to organizers.

To purchase tickets and annual passes, or for more information, visit [www.LegolandDiscoveryCenter.com/Westchester](http://www.LegolandDiscoveryCenter.com/Westchester). For group sales, call 866-243-0770.

## Discover Your Neighborhood Walks: First Holy Yonkers Walks a Hit!



A tour group about to enter Greystone Jewish Center/Chabad Lubavitch.



A tour group outside St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church.

The first in a series of "Yonkers On the Move" free and new "Discover Your Neighborhood Walks" kicked off April 4 with a "Holy Yonkers Walk-Tour" of three houses of worship. The first took place in northwest Yonkers, which featured Sacred Heart Church, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church and Greystone Jewish Center/Chabad Lubavitch. Throughout 2013, YOM will offer walk-tours that include houses of worship and places of historical interest, dubbed "Holy Yonkers" and "Historic Yonkers" walks.

On April 4, 22 residents participated in the first Holy Yonkers walk and at the same time helped get themselves and Yonkers "on the move." One participant said she has been a parishioner at one of the churches for many years but never really knew its history and was amazed to learn so much about it.

Three knowledgeable docents told the April 4 walkers about the history, lore, legends and architecture of their respective buildings of worship, including Br. Roger Deguire of Sacred Heart Church, Marijka Kozicky of St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, and Ed Ratowsky of

Greystone Jewish Center/Chabad Lubavitch.

The Historic Yonkers walks will be similar in design and feature interesting facts about the many unique places housed in Yonkers. Many city residents are so familiar with their neighborhoods that over the years they lose sight of the interesting places right in front of them!

Yonkers has 38 neighborhoods with architecturally amazing structures, many unique houses of worships, parks/gardens/preserves, streets and buildings where historic events took place and more.

Join walk organizers Brunilda Fernandez and Carl Gessman, members of the Yonkers On the Move committee, for a "Get to Know Your Neighborhood" walk and you just may say: "Wow! Who knew?"

Those interested in future walk-tours should visit the YOM website at [www.walkyom.org](http://www.walkyom.org), or e-mail [yonkersonthemove@yahoo.com](mailto:yonkersonthemove@yahoo.com).

Yonkers On the Move is a no-cost community walking campaign for all ages, sponsored by 55Plus Yonkers Connections-Promoting Better Health One Step at a Time.

## Lecture on Untermyer Gardens: America's Greatest Forgotten Garden



Untermyer Gardens

Chairman Stephen Byrns of the Untermyer Gardens Conservancy will present a lecture titled "Untermyer: America's Greatest Forgotten Garden" on Sunday, April 14 at 4 p.m. at the Cola Community Center, 945 N. Broadway. Admission is \$15.

"This lecture was given publicly for the first time in January in Manhattan as part of the Wave Hill Lecture Series. It was sold out with standing room only, and the response was extremely enthusiastic," said Byrns. "As a result, we thought that we would give it again, this time in Yonkers."

The hour-long lecture will feature many archival images, images of garden precedents as well as current photos by local photographer Jonathan Wallen. "Untermyer Gardens were called the most spectacular garden in America in the 1920s, and its fascinating history will be brought to life," said Byrns.

The Untermyer Gardens in Yonkers is one of the hidden treasures in the city. Yonkers Rising plans on highlighting the beauty and possibilities at Untermyer in the weeks to come.

To learn more about Untermyer Gardens, visit [www.untermyergardens.org](http://www.untermyergardens.org)



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**Next Week in Yonkers Rising:  
 Mayor Spano's Proposed Budget**

## Stepinac H.S. Senior Awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award

Senior Anthony Miro of Yonkers has been honored for his exemplary volunteer service with a President's Volunteer Service Award, which recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and their country. It was presented by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program on behalf of President Barack Obama.



Anthony Miro

ber. He's also one of the key individuals collecting pictures and designing layout for this year's yearbook.

Additionally, Miro supports many of the administrative events by lending a hand in the office, and at recruitment trips, open houses and scholarship night.

"Volunteering is a great way to give back to the community while learning from different experiences," said Principal Paul Carty. "Anthony is the type of person who

will jump at any chance to help someone. We are very proud of him for his efforts."

For more information on Stepinac High School, visit [www.stepinac.org](http://www.stepinac.org).

## 7th Annual Summer Camp Fair at Yonkers Riverfront Library

Individuals and families are invited to the seventh annual Yonkers Summer Camp Fair on Saturday, April 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Yonkers Riverfront Library, One Larkin Center.

More than 20 exhibitors will be on hand to provide information on a wide variety of summer activities, including traditional, special needs and special interest programs that focus on academic arts, science and sports. This event is free and

open to all parents, caregivers and families.

The Yonkers Summer Camp Fair is sponsored by the library, the Child Care Council of Westchester, Family Ties of Westchester, Westchester Community Network, Westchester Jewish Community Services and the Yonkers Public Schools. For more information, contact Eugene Howell, camp fair coordinator, at 914-375-7966 or [ehowell@ypl.org](mailto:ehowell@ypl.org).

## Teen Talent Show Auditions At Yonkers Riverfront Library

Yonkers Riverfront Library is gearing up to host its 11th annual teen talent show, Yonkers Future Stars, in June and is searching for interested Yonkers youth to be a part of it.

To audition, teens must live in Yonkers and must be 12-19 years of age. All acts must be family-friendly and free of profanity. All talents are welcome!

Auditions will be held Wednesday, April 10 and Monday, April 15 from 4 to 6 p.m., and Saturday April 20 from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Riv-

erfront Library Auditorium, One Larkin Center, Yonkers; and Saturday, April 13 from 1 to 4 p.m. at North Yonkers Preservation, 219 Ridge Avenue, Yonkers.

For more information, contact Arnaldo Torres, library technical assistant for adult/young adult services, at 914-337-1500, ext. 491; Elyse Schreiber, reference and technology librarian at 914-337-1500, ext. 489; or the "Z" teen and technology librarian at 914-375-7967 or [z@ypl.org](mailto:z@ypl.org).

## Yonkers Library to Kick Off World Book Night with Reception

More than 25,000 volunteers from Berkeley to Boston and Sitka to Sarasota will give away half a million free books in more than 6,000 towns and cities across the country on April 23, and Yonkers is getting involved!

World Book Night U.S. is an ambitious campaign to give thousands of free, specially printed paperbacks to light readers and non-readers across America on one day. Volunteer book lovers help promote reading by going out into their communities and sharing free copies of books they love.

The mission is to seek out those without the means or access to printed books.

Some of the volunteers in the local community will be picking up their books at Yonkers Riverfront Library and sharing them in locations as diverse as Van Der Donck Park at Larkin Plaza, mass transit sites, street corners, nursing homes, schools, food pantries and more.

This is the first time Yonkers Public Library is a partner in World Book Night. Join the library on Thursday, April 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. in Community Room A for lemonade, coffee, cookies and good books. Bring your library card to check out some reserve World Book Night titles which will be on dis-

play. Book givers can pick up their books at the event in preparation for World Book Night, and everyone is invited to play book bingo and answer trivia question based on the selected books.

The books were chosen by an independent panel of booksellers and librarians through several rounds of voting. The printing of the free books was possible due to generosity of the authors, publishers, and book manufacturing companies.

"In my experience, when people like what they are doing, they do more of it," said best-selling author James Patterson, who, along with Ann Patchett, is an honorary event chairperson this year. "This is the genius of World Book Night - it gets people reading by connecting them with amazing, enjoyable books. I'm honored to be a part of it."

Those interested in participating as givers in the future can sign up for the WBN mailing list for news and updates on World Book Night 2014. The free WBN editions are not available in Yonkers Public Library at any time, except for the WBN volunteers to take into the community. Copies of the books, which are part of the library collection, may be borrowed by library card holders.

## City Jail for Sale



Yonkers City Jail on Alexander Street

The City of Yonkers has issued a Request For Proposals to turn the City Jail, located on Alexander Street on the downtown waterfront, into a use more suitable for its Hudson River location. The jail, built in 1926, can hold up to 32 inmates.

Mayor Mike Spano pointed out in his State of the City address that the jail is located in the wrong place.

"The waterfront should be the jewel in the city's crown, the best place to shop, live or walk in a riverfront park. Our best real estate is not the place for a jail," said Spano, who

pointed out that inmates could be housed at the Cacace Center on South Broadway which has room for 20 prisoners, who usually only stay one night in Yonkers custody before being transferred to county prison or released.

He said the Cacace Center jail, built 20 years ago, was not being used for inmates but for storage space.

Spano and the City issued the RFPs for the old jail and will utilize the Cacace Center to its real purpose, which will also give the Yonkers police and corrections officers a better facility to work from.

## New American Art Songs: Jesse Stuart Song Recital

The Yonkers Public Library will host a program titled "Bringing New American Art Songs to Life: Jesse Stuart Song Recital and Lecture," on Wednesday, April 24 at 2 p.m. in the Grinton Will Library, 1500 Central Ave.

Admission is free and seating is in the 325-seat auditorium. The program is sponsored by Friends of the Yonkers.

Join singer Nathan Wilson and composer Daniel Gilliam for a discussion, performance and question-and-answer session about the Jesse Stuart Songs, a new American art song cycle that premiered March 10 in Corning. The culmination of three years of correspondence and hard work, the Jesse Stuart Songs were commissioned to honor Wilson's father, and is an example of how writing a 21st-century art song involves so much more than just setting words to music.

At this event, participants will be able to hear the songs performed for only the second time

in public and meet the composer and artist who brought them to life.

Wilson lives and teaches in Riverdale in the Bronx. He has performed roles with Opera New Jersey, Sarasota Opera, Utah Festival Opera, the Louisville Orchestra and Kentucky Opera, among others. Wilson's interest in art song began during his education at Ithaca College and the University of Louisville.

Gilliam is a composer of art songs, choral, orchestra and chamber music. He has been commissioned and performed by Center City Opera Theater, Arsenal Trio, The Phoenix Concerts, Seasons Music Festival, Louisville Youth Choir and Turin Philharmonic Orchestra.

Gilliam is the program director of WUOL, in Louisville; in addition, he spent most of his childhood in Chile.

For more information, call the library at 914-337-1500.

## Historical Society Names Mangold Scholarship and Award Winners

The Yonkers Historical Society's Scholarship Committee has announced the winners of the 2013 Patricia Mangold Scholarship Awards.

Honors will be presented at the Society's annual meeting Saturday, April 13 at 1 p.m. at the Will Library, 1500 Central Park Ave., Yonkers.

The Patricia Mangold Scholarship will be presented to Fordham Prep senior Sean O'Donnell, son of Patrick and Deborah O'Donnell; and the Patricia Mangold Merit Award will be presented to Maria Regina High School senior Brittany Broetsky, daughter of John and Gina Broetsky.

These awards are presented annually to high school seniors residing in Yonkers who have demonstrated both an educational and a significant personal interest in Yonkers history. Award recipients are selected by the Education Committee.

Committee members include Darryl Mack (chair), Gerard Colaio, Mina Crasson, Eddie Dee, Peg Murphy and Deirdre Rylander.

After a brief business meeting and presentation of the scholarship awards, popular author Eddie Dee will read from "Coming of Age - in Yonkers," which is being released at this program. He will speak on his experiences as told through the eyes and heart of a young boy growing up during the 1940s and World War II. This is the third book in his Yonkers trilogy.

Books will be available for sale that afternoon, and will be signed by the author. For more information, call the Yonkers Historical Society Office at 914-961-8940.

The annual membership meeting is free and open to the public.

## White Plains Hospital Birth Announcements

The White Plains Hospital Center announces the birth of several happy and healthy babies:

David and Cindy Frank of Eastchester became the proud parents of baby boy Maxwell Michael Frank, 7 pounds, 1 ounce, on April 1. The proud grandparents are, maternally, Michael and Louise Billie of Yonkers; and, paternally, Ira and

Florynce Frank of Lake Worth, Florida.

Melissa Antonio and Dawin Garcia of Yonkers became the proud parents of baby girl Mia Isabella Garcia, 7 pounds, 5 ounces, on April 2. The proud grandparents are, maternally, Ana and Jesus Antonio of Yonkers; and, paternally, Roberto and Miguella Garcia of Yonkers.

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# City Adopts 'Steep Slopes' Ordinance; Six-Year Process Completed

The Yonkers City Council on Tuesday unanimously adopted the city's first steep slopes ordinance, which now goes to Mayor Mike Spino for his signature.

The purpose of Steeps Slopes is to give the city's planning and zoning boards a tool to guide construction on hilly "steep slopes" in order to prevent the kind of environmental collapse and loss of property that occurred on Warburton Avenue seven years ago.

The new ordinance has several key components. Unlike general construction, any proposed development of sites 5,000 square feet or greater, with a grade of 15 percent, will have to comply with the new regulations. Homeowners on lots smaller than 5,000 square feet will not be impacted.

Project submission requirements will include a geo-technical engineering analysis of the site, which will help determine the kind, location and style of future construction on the site. Stormwater management, vegetation maintenance and replacement of vegetation and topsoil are emphasized. Sites cannot be cleared for construction more than 15 days ahead of the start of the project, and the emphasis is on having sites cleared in stages rather than being clear cut.

"It's taken several years, many meetings, and lots of study and analysis to finally bring this vital legislation to a vote, but here we are at last," said Terry Joshi, chair of the Yonkers Green Policy Task Force. "The GPTF is delighted that the City Council, through several changes of personnel, has remained consistent in its insistence that better zoning guidelines are needed in a city known as one of the hilliest in the nation. Yonkers is full of steep slopes which, if handled properly, can be built upon and not cause the type of environmental degradation that has happened along Upper Warburton Avenue. This is a triumph for the quality of life for everyone in Yonkers."

"I applaud all of the volunteers of the GPTF and those legislators who have worked on this ordinance for many years," said Council President Chuck Lesnick, who also chairs the Council's Smart Growth and Environmental and Historic Preservation Committee. "I want to especially thank former members of the City Council Dee

Barbato, Patricia McDow and Joan Gronowski, who attended tonight. The work they set out to do that was passed tonight is important and will ensure that new hillside structures are better constructed so that safety and property will not be threatened in the future."

Councilmember Michael Sabatino said he is happy the ordinance is moving forward.

"It was with great pleasure that I cast my vote for this ordinance, which will help the City make sure we have smart and safe development projects going forward," he said. "I also thank all those involved over the years who worked so hard in making this a reality. Personally, I have been working on getting this legislation passed prior to my election to office, when at the time I was a community advocate with the River Community Coalition of Yonkers and the Yonkers Committee for Smart Development."

Minority Leader John Larkin added: "I am happy and pleased that we have finally passed a steep slope ordinance which will afford residents a measure of protection. Many years ago I saw firsthand the type of destruction and problems that occurred when developing on steep slopes. Now, some of the very issues that were brought to light during that time will be addressed before construction begins. I thank all those involved in getting us to this point and special thanks to our former Council people who initiated this effort and were here tonight to witness the passage of this very important legislation."

While last week's vote was completed within minutes, the process to get to the Council floor took more than six years. In 2012, the Council sent the current legislation to the Yonkers Planning Board for its formal review. The final language in the ordinance was drafted last summer by the city's corporation counsel based on the working document created by a team that included landscape design architect and consultant Tim Delorm of Terra Noble Design in Pennsylvania, Planning Director Lee Ellman, Special Counsel Christian DiPalermo, Joshi, city engineers and the mayor's office.

The Planning Board conducted its first public review at its September 2012 meeting, at which point it was referred back to committee and finally approved earlier this year.

# This, Too, is a Mess from Queens Through Yonkers to Albany

By Eric Schoen

"You can't get anything without the f--cking money. That's politics." (Queens Councilman Dan Halloran)

"If half the people up in Albany were caught for what they do, they would probably be in jail. So who are they bulls---ing?" (State Assemblyman Eric Stevenson)

All I could think of when I watched U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara standing at the microphone not once but twice last week announcing the latest corrupt clowns in the New York circus is the song "Money" from the musical Cabaret:

"Money makes the world go around, the world go around, the world go around!"

Money makes the world go around. It makes the world go 'round."

Two things struck me as events unfolded last week: The limp response from the former so-called "sheriff of State Street" (Albany's main boulevard) Gov. (and presidential hopeful) Andrew Cuomo; and, if all these charged characters are doing the stupid things they supposedly are (or are trying to do) for peanuts on the dollar, imagine how much money is changing hands from Queens through Yonkers to Albany for real legislation?

The first response from Cuomo after the initial announcement from the U.S. Attorney: "People do stupid things, frankly. People do illegal things. People in power abuse power. And that's part of the human condition. We do everything we can to stop it."

Is that the response you expected to hear from a man who knows Albany from the days of his father's tenure through today? Is that the response you want to hear from a candidate for president?

As the week went by and Cuomo started to realize that the New York State mess was impacting his presidential ambitions, he changed his tune. Cuomo told The Capital Pressroom earlier this week: "You can make major reforms when you have the people's attention and I think we have the people's attention and that's a good thing. The corruption crisis is opportunity to reform."

Does Cuomo really think he has the public attention now more than in the past? How many paddy wagons do we need to bring from Queens through Yonkers to Albany to clean up our government? Does this sound like what we should be hearing from the sheriff?

At this point you are probably asking yourself: How does this corruption affect me? Why should I care?

You know how it affects you? Your taxes go up, from income taxes to property taxes to the taxes you pay for your bagel smeared with cream cheese. Pre-kindergarten for your child is cut from full day to half day. Roads have more potholes causing your tires to go flat and throwing your car out of alignment. Road tolls go up and up. Corruption takes dollars away from what we need to what the "pay to play" politicians want.

Adult day care centers {subhead}

This is very important with the aging population and to relieve caregivers. Assemblyman Stevenson allegedly received close to \$20,000



Eric Schoen

from shady businessmen to sponsor legislation giving them the monopoly on adult day care centers. If you believe this legislation could pass even dysfunctional Albany, I have a bridge in Brooklyn to sell you!

Senator Malcolm Smith wanted the Republican nomination for mayor of New York City. Unless you have the persona of a Giuliani or a Bloomberg, the nomination and \$2.50 will barely get you on the subway — particularly when you are

running against leaders with good track records like Gristedes Food Chairman Catsimatidis or former MTA guru Lhota.

Payoffs from \$15,000 to \$38,000 to political operatives to get a meaningless nomination. How much does it cost to get something that is real?

I have two favorites out of last week's slime:

A simple Google search will tell you that one of the government's cooperating witnesses, Moses "Mark" Stern of Monsey, is accused of stealing \$126 million from Citibank. Yet the Spring Valley mayor and deputy mayor still thought it was prudent to do business for their struggling village with this guy. Would you do business with someone who you knew owed Citibank \$126 million? Doubt it!

And Joseph and Esther Markowitz from Monsey, who have been linked to Mose "Mark" Stern; in 2010 they donated \$100,000 to Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's campaign. Schneiderman, to his credit is donating the money to charity. But, if Joseph and Esther Markowitz or anyone else donates \$100,000 an elected official, do you not think they expect something in return?

Empire Wine Merchants has donated more than \$100,000 to New York political campaign coffers over the last four years. Sen. Jeff Klein, Gov. Cuomo and other elected officials are being encouraged to pass a law requiring wine to be warehoused for one day in New York before being sold in New York stores. If I haven't convinced you so far how "pay to play" New York politics and all this mess affects you, this bill could raise the price of your favorite bottle of wine \$7 per bottle!

What's the answer to the New York State corruption crisis? If I could answer that I would be a millionaire.

Not all politicians in New York State are corrupt. But remember, friends, it is "we the people" who put these folks in office — and it is "we the people" who can take them out.

And if "we the people" don't do something, expect Preet Bharara to keep marching to the indictment podium; and expect less money to be in your wallet or pocketbook.

We conclude with a few more lines from Cabaret's Money:

"A mark, a yen, a buck, or a pound, as all that makes the world go around!

That clinking clanking sound can make the world go 'round."

This, Too, is a Mess from Queens through Yonkers to Albany!

Reach Eric Schoen at [thistoisonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistoisonkers@aol.com)

# Events at Sarah Lawrence College

Sarah Lawrence College has several events coming up:

The 2013 Sarah Lawrence College Poetry Festival will present readings by poets from around the world, as well as panels, a small press fair and a launch party for LUMINA, the literary magazine of the College's master of fine arts program, from Friday, April 12 to Sunday, April 14, at 7 p.m. each night, at 1 Mead Way, Yonkers.

Some of this year's featured poets include Jon Sands, Eduardo C. Corral, Dawn Lundy Martin and Joyelle McSweeney.

To see a full schedule of the free events, visit [www.slc.edu/news-events/events/poetry-festival](http://www.slc.edu/news-events/events/poetry-festival), and for more information, call 914-395-2412.

The Sarah Lawrence String Orchestra will perform "Concerto Grosso for String Orchestra with Piano Obligato" by Ernest Bloch and

"Flute Concerto in G Major, QV 5:174" by Johann Joachim Quantz, featuring soloists Andrea Rivera and Caleb Jaster on piano, Sunday, April 14 at 4 p.m. at the Reisinger Concert Hall. This event is free.

The film "Precious Knowledge" follows students and teachers at Tucson High School and their fight to bring back ethnic studies programs that were eliminated by state lawmakers who felt the programs promoted "racial solidarity" and anti-Americanism, and a screening will take place Monday, April 15 at 6 p.m. in the Donnelly Film Theater in the Heimbold Visual Arts Center.

A discussion on the film, with Jose Gonzalez, a teacher featured in the film, and filmmaker Eren McGinnis will follow. This event is free, and more information can be found at [www.slc.edu](http://www.slc.edu).

View your favorite paper online!  
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## MIT Students

Continued from Page 2

sets Institute of Technology and a Mt. Vernon native, volunteered on the Science Barge during high school. He organized the five-day volunteer trip through the Alternative Spring Break Program at MIT.

"I was glad that I could bring a group of MIT students to the place that offered me countless memories," he said.

The MIT program aims to help communities by offering an opportunity for students to participate in community service trips during school breaks.

The students installed four hydroponic systems within the greenhouse. The nutrient film technique is the quickest hydroponic method on the barge and was donated by American Hydroponics. It is used to grow greens such as lettuce, basil and bok choy. The other installations include the Verti-Gro, which holds 48 plants in a 1-foot-by-3-foot space, the Ebb and Flow aquaponics system, and the Beto Bucket - used to produce vine crops such as tomatoes and peas.

They also helped repair the barge's wetland, the Living Machine.

"This doesn't feel like mindless volunteering because of the cause. It has been a great opportunity for me to learn more about urban agriculture, which is something I want to see more often in cities in the future," said MIT sophomore Nathan Landman.

The week was a mix of work and fun as the students spent time off exploring New York City and downtown Yonkers. They supported Yonkers businesses by hitting up the local eateries for meals. On the list of favorites were Wholesome Goodness, Khangri Japanese and Giovanni's Pizza.

To cap off the week, Walters demonstrated how to hunt for baby glass eels. The group fished out seven tiny eels using a mop that mimics their natural habitat. The eels never fail to amaze as their beating hearts and inner workings are visible through their transparent skin.

Each student was presented a framed 2013 Science Barge Crew Certificate, which Walters hopes they will hang next to their MIT diploma. "We're sad to see them go, but they had such a great time. I'd have them back in a heartbeat," he said.

The Science Barge, a sustainable urban farm and environmental education center docked along Yonkers' waterfront, is funded by grants from New York Power Authority, Con Edison, City of Yonkers, Domino Sugar, and the USDA. Each year the Barge grows an abundance of fresh produce for local food pantries, using solar, wind energy and biofuels, and rainwater irrigation.

The only fully-functioning demonstration of renewable-energy-supported food production in New York, the Science Barge provides educational programs for young people of all ages and hosts more than 8,000 visitors annually. The Science Barge is a project of Groundwork Hudson Valley.

Molly Lindsay is a Yonkers resident and intern at Groundwork Hudson Valley. She is a recent graduate of SUNY New Paltz and is passionate about sustainable agriculture.

# Westchester Community College to Open its New Culinary Arts Labs



Chef Peter X. Kelly

Notable Chef Peter X. Kelly will help Westchester Community College open its new culinary arts labs during a special presentation April 10 at 11 a.m. in the Student Center Building on the main campus, 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla.

As part of the \$19 million expansion and renovation of the Student Center, new labs for food service administration students will be unveiled at the opening event, which will include remarks by the chef and tours of the new facilities.

For nearly three decades, Chef Kelly has set the standard for dining in New York State. He is a talented, successful entrepreneur, operating some of the most critically acclaimed restaurants in the Hudson Valley. His Contemporary American cuisine brings dining to a new level by providing his guests with exquisite

food coupled with superb service.

The chef owns Xavier's at Piermont, The Freelance Café and Wine Bar, Restaurant X & The Bully Boy Bar, and X2O Xavier's on the Hudson. His various restaurants have received popular praise and some of the industry's most coveted awards.

Kelly has been featured in numerous national publications including New York Magazine, Esquire, USA Today, and Gourmet.

The Student Center building at WCC has been expanded by approximately 9,000 square feet and now features a new cafeteria, coffee bar, classrooms, expanded student lounge space, new offices, and the new state-of-the-art culinary arts space including labs for students in this academic program.

Other features include a meditation room and expanded special event space.

## Legal Notices

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of L T CONSTRUCTION & WOODWORKING LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/5/2012. Office location: Westchester County. The street address is: 72 LAMARTINE AVE. Yonkers, NY 10701. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. Purpose: any lawful act.

#6383 3/8 - 4/12

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of FRATTO CONSULTANTS, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with Sec. of State 02/26/2013. Off. loc.in WESTCHESTER Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: SARAH FRATTO, 1155 WARBURTON AVE, #2J, YONKERS, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful business.

#6394 4/5 - 5/10

### Notice of Sale

Supreme Court: Westchester County T10 Funding v John Forma et al, Defts Index 10998/11 Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated March 14, 2013, I will sell at public auction at the Lobby of the Westchester County Courthouse 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd White Plains NY on May 3, 2013 at 9:00 AM premises known as Section 2 Block 2426 Lot 24.25 in the City of Yonkers. Sold subject to the terms of sale and filed judgment of foreclosure. Martin F. Hayes Esq. Referee

#1181 4/5 - 4/26



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# Seniors and Health Care

## Hot Topics in Health Care: Medicaid Planning Tool Ruled Valid

By: Michael LaMagna, Esq.

For those of you who have placed a family member in a nursing home, you already know the costs are astronomical. In the Westchester area, most nursing homes run \$14,000 to \$16,000 per month, and even more in New York City.

In order to qualify for Medicaid to pay for your nursing home bill, you either spend-down all of your assets, or use a Medicaid crisis planning tool called a promissory note, where in many instances you can gift almost half of your money, which would otherwise go to the nursing home. This method should be explored only by a qualified lawyer skilled in elder law matters.

A promissory note allows a nursing home resident to loan a sum of money to another person with specific written repayment terms detailing the interest rate, the amount of principal and interest to be paid each month, and the term of the note. This loan must be made in conjunction with a non-exempt transfer or gift of assets which causes a period of ineligibility ("penalty period") for that person.

The end result is that the Medicaid applicant should be eligible to receive institutional Medicaid benefits ("nursing home Medicaid") upon the expiration of the term of the note and the penalty period, saving almost half of the money that would otherwise be lost to the nursing home.

As you can imagine, there have been chal-



Michael LaMagna

lenges to this Medicaid loophole. Last week a U.S. District Court in Oklahoma upheld a promissory note as a "valid form of Medicaid planning" and the state cannot penalize the applicant for taking advantage of a lawful loophole that Congress has not foreclosed. The result was that the note was not considered a resource and does not subject the Medicaid applicant to a transfer penalty. (I would be happy to explain more about this strategy in a

legal consultation.)

A better method of preserving assets is to start the Medicaid planning process several years prior to the entrance into a nursing home. However, if you do not have the opportunity to plan ahead, the promissory note is certainly a valid and acceptable Medicaid planning technique, which can save you hundreds of thousands of dollars that would otherwise go to the nursing home.

*This article is provided for informational purposes only. Nothing in this article shall be construed as legal advice or should be relied upon as such. Michael LaMagna is a partner at LaMagna and Associates, PC, practicing health care regulatory, elder law/probate/disability/wills, trusts and estates, Social Security and general legal practice in both New York and Connecticut. He has been appointed to the ACO Task Force of the American Health Lawyers Association. Email him at Mlamagna@nyandctlaw.com, call 914-437-5955 or visit www.nyandctlaw.com for more information.*

## Social Security Q&A

By Susan Sobel

**Social Security District Manager in Yonkers**

**Question:** I applied for my child's Social Security card in the hospital but have not received it. How long will I wait?

**Answer:** On average, it takes about four to five weeks from the time you apply in the hospital until you receive your child's Social Security card in the mail. However, it can vary depending on the state in which you live. If you have not received your child's card within six weeks, you should visit your local Social Security office. Be sure to take with you proof of your child's citizenship, age and identity, as well as proof of your own identity. And remember, we cannot divulge your child's Social Security number over the phone.

**Q:** Is it illegal to laminate your Social Security card?

**A:** No, it is not illegal, but it's best not to laminate your card. Laminated cards make it difficult, if not impossible, to detect important security features. Also, your employer may refuse to accept it.

The Social Security Act requires Social Security to issue cards that cannot be counterfeited. We incorporate many features to protect the card's integrity, which include highly specialized paper and printing techniques – some visible to the naked eye and some not. Further, we continue to explore and adopt new technologies that hamper duplication.

Keep your Social Security card in a safe

place with your other important papers; do not carry it with you.

**Q:** I'm planning to retire next year. I served in the Navy back in the 1960s and need to make sure I get credit for my military service. What do I need to do?

**A:** You don't need to do anything to apply for the special credit for your military service – it is added automatically. For service between 1957 and 1967, we will add the extra credits to your record at the time you apply for Social Security benefits. For service between 1968 and 2001, those extra military service credits have already been added to your record.

For more information, read our online publication "Military Service and Social Security" at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10017](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10017).

**Q:** I have young children at home and I plan to retire next fall. Will my children be eligible for monthly Social Security checks after I retire?

**A:** Monthly Social Security payments may be made to your children if they are unmarried and under age 18; age 19 and still in high school; or age 18 or over, who became severely disabled before age 22 and continue to be disabled.

In addition to biological children, legally adopted children, dependent stepchildren and grandchildren could be eligible. For more information, read "Benefits for Children" at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10085](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10085).

## Mayor Spano Honors

Continued from Page 1

demonstrate excellence, leadership and integrity within their community, serving as role models for other residents."

Spano recognized the following volunteers for their years of service in Yonkers:

· Dora Mejicovsky of the Jewish Community Partners of Yonkers volunteers for five of the six literacy programs for JCY, including SMART, Reading Buddies After School, Summer Reading Buddies, Intro2America and its Holocaust Remembrance Program. She mentored 40 children and donated more than 200 hours of service in 2012.

· Gloria Jordan of Family Service Society is a FSSY GrandPower Advocate who educates the public and elected officials about the unique needs of kinship caregivers, as well as assists other caregivers to receive the services and benefits they need to keep children with their families and out of the foster care system. She is also a volunteer with the CFAA Intergenerational Fun and Fitness Program for second-grade students at Thomas Cornell Academy.

· Maria Ganzi, 85, has been a volunteer at St. Joseph's Medical Center for more than 43 years. She volunteers more than 40 hours a week in many areas and departments of the Center, including Silverspoons, which helps feed nursing home residents; an occupational and physical therapy transporter and rehabilitation assistant; a Eucharistic Minister; and gift shop newspaper delivery assistant. Ganzi is also active in her community, volunteering

at community churches such as Mt. Carmel Church, St. Margaret's of Cortona and at St. Anne's Sodality.

· Eva Jozsef of the Hudson River Museum has volunteered for the Docent Council of the Hudson River Museum in Yonkers for the past five years, and currently acts as the Council's president. A highly educated scientist from Hungary, she assists the museum's staff to administer the corps of 40 volunteer docents. Jozsef leads inquiry-based, content-filled tours in art and history, as well as science, conceptually connecting all the disciplines.

· Wilma Allen of the Foster Grandparent Program has been a city resident for more than 40 years, during which time she has volunteered for the Foster Grandparent Program, specifically at Yonkers Public School No. 9. She works one-on-one with children who need extra assistance in the classroom. Allen also volunteers each week teaching Sunday School at her church, as well as leading bake sales for the Charter School of Educational Excellence.

"Last year, RSVP of Westchester's 850 members gave more than 93,000 hours, and that service has been valued at \$2.5 million," said Jeanette Gisbert, The Volunteer Center's senior director of volunteer and corporate engagement. "More than a quarter of the hours were contributed right here in Yonkers. It's a sizeable contribution and we thank Mayor Spano for recognizing the significant work of these volunteers."

Residents of all ages can register and volunteer with The Volunteer Center of United Way by visiting the City of Yonkers website at [www.yonkersny.gov](http://www.yonkersny.gov).

## White Plains Hospital Gears Up For Neighborhood Health Fair

More than 500 adults and children from White Plains and neighboring communities are expected to receive free health screenings at the 36th annual Neighborhood Health Fair, on Saturday, April 20 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Thomas H. Slater Center, located a few blocks from White Plains Hospital Center at Fisher Court, near Quarropas Street and the courthouse.

A collaborative community undertaking, the health fair will bring together the resources of the hospital, El Centro Hispano, Inc., Cavalry Baptist Church, the Eastern Division of the American Cancer Society, the Thomas H. Slater Center and the White Plains Housing Authority.

The day-long event will include screenings

for diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma, breast and prostate cancers, and HIV testing. Lab tests will be done for sickle cell disease and high cholesterol, and experts will be on hand to pass out information and answer questions on various health topics.

"For 36 consecutive years, our hospital has been working with our community partners to provide our neighbors with the medical care they need," said Jon Schandler, hospital president and CEO. "In the true spirit of volunteerism, the physicians, nurses and other members of our hospital's remarkable family are to be commended for having made the health fair the great success it is."

## Sticking With What Works: Medicare Lessons for Politicians

By Douglas E. Schoen

The Democratic and Republican congressional budget plans proffered by House and Senate budget committee chairs must be viewed more as acts of political theater than serious fiscal roadmaps.

Even though symbolic votes have taken place, neither plan has a chance of passing the other chamber or becoming law.

Making moderate spending cuts while preserving key pro-growth investments in job creation, infrastructure, health care and education is critical. However, getting the calculus right requires necessary balance and making a point to replicate what's already working. In many ways, this is the key to moving beyond symbolism and ideology in our governing process, and enacting legislative proposals that the American people can rally behind.

Consider the example of Medicare, which will be a focal point in every budget debate for the next several years. There are ways to drive cost savings in Medicare while delivering high-quality services for seniors and those with disabilities.

This has already been tested and proven under the newest major part of Medicare: the Part D drug benefit, which provides prescription drug coverage to millions of seniors and disabled Americans. It relies on private sector competition, has a 90 percent approval rating among seniors and is on track to cost more than \$340 billion less during its first 10 years than originally forecast.

And that's one major place where I've seen problems with various proposals in recent weeks – some of them are focused on gutting Part D. While this often constitutes a talking point both in Washington and on the campaign trail, Republicans and Democrats would be wise to rec-

ognize the political value of sticking with what works in Medicare.

Turning it into a voucher system, despite significant savings over time, isn't the solution as millions – especially those under 56 – will be negatively impacted.

Baby Boomers already in retirement and those about to turn 65 are by most accounts paying closer attention as Medicare dominates political news cycles.

The same governing principle also applies to the need for comprehensive fiscal and budgetary reform, as well as an overhaul of the tax code to reduce rates and minimize or eliminate deductions.

All should happen in a balanced fashion, but Americans will reward those policymakers who address our nation's fiscal challenges head-on without going overboard and pursuing policies that will result in greater economic uncertainty.

This will be increasingly important as the job market continues to improve and the economy finds its footing. In aggregate, the Democrats' vision presents a more practical approach to the country's future. But members of my own party should take into account the importance of striving for balance, without disrupting what's already working.

For both parties, offering a sincere, realistic and innovative vision for how we drive cost savings will send a signal that Washington is serious about enacting common sense reforms.

Five months into the new campaign cycle and with the economy beginning to turn around, this can't be discounted.

*Douglas Schoen is a political strategist and author of "Hopelessly Divided: The New Crisis in American Politics and What it Means for 2012 and Beyond," published by Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.*



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## Westchester Families Share March of Dimes Stories



Charlotte and Marty Ball.

By Dan Murphy

The March of Dimes, one of our country's great long-serving nonprofit organizations celebrating 75 years, and founded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, is holding its annual Walk for Babies on April 28, starting at the Saxon Woods Pool in White Plains.

The March of Dimes and the Walk for Babies helps provide funding for the more than half a million babies born too soon each year; help moms have healthy, full-term pregnancies; and funds research to discover the genetic causes of birth defects, to promote newborn screening and to educate medical professionals and the public about best practices for healthy pregnancy.

Since 2003, the organization's fight to save babies has been strongly characterized by its Prematurity Campaign. The rising incidence of premature birth has demanded action, and the March of Dimes has responded by initiating an intensive, multi-year campaign to raise awareness and find the causes of prematurity.

Two Westchester families have shared their stories, which should make all of us in Westchester make a contribution or participate in the walk.

### The Ball Family (By Charlotte Ball)

Marty and I have been involved with the March of Dimes for the last four years. We both got involved through our jobs, never thinking about the impact the organization would eventually have on our lives.

In early 2010 we found out I was pregnant with twins. We were very excited and, of course, nervous! We knew that premature labor and bed rest were real possibilities but tried not to worry about it too much. Because of my twin pregnancy, I was seeing a doctor every two weeks and after every appointment we were surprised how well it was going.

I was feeling good! I got all the way through my 24-week appointment without a problem. We were sailing along smoothly and getting the nursery ready at home.

Then I went to my 26-week appointment and everything changed. During my exam, the doctor noticed that I was showing signs of premature labor and put me on modified bed rest at home.

It was a setback but not the end of the world. I was able to work from home and stay off my feet, and I was given the OK to go back to work after a week or so as long as I didn't overdo it.

At 29 weeks I left work for a doctor's appointment and told my coworkers I would be back in a little while. Little did I know I wouldn't be back until after maternity leave!

Marty met me at the doctor's office and I had my normal ultrasound and the doctor looked at me and said he was admitting me to the hospital. The doctor said I was to stay there on bed rest for three weeks.

We were shocked and upset but for the health of the babies, I could do three weeks.

During those weeks I was under constant monitoring and experienced contractions that had to be stopped with medication. I got a new specialist, I had a whole bunch of ultrasounds and I never knew from one day to the next if I was going to get an IV for contractions. Eventually the contractions were coming so regularly the doctors put me on the medicine twice a day, every day. My hospital stay kept getting extended and the doctors finally admitted what we knew early on - that I would not be going home before the babies were born.

As I got into the fifth and sixth weeks of my hospital stay my contractions were coming every night. My water broke at midnight at 35 weeks and just less than three hours later the babies were here. Charlotte came first, at 5 pounds, 7 ounces, followed 2 minutes later by Martin at 4 pounds, 14 ounces.

They had trouble regulating their breathing so they were taken to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and the doctors originally told us they would likely come home when I was released in five days, but they ended up needing two weeks

in the NICU for help with breathing and eating. We were able to see them within a few hours but we weren't able to hold them for a few days.

Imagine the pain of finally having your babies after months of preparation and waiting, only to be told that you couldn't hold them. Leaving the hospital without our babies was the hardest thing we ever had to do. We spent two weeks visiting the babies that should have been home with us.

I know this isn't the usual story you hear when you hear about the March of Dimes, and that is why we wanted to tell it. Women are being treated for preterm labor and disastrous outcomes are being avoided every day due to the research the MOD does and the information and resources that doctors now have. If I wasn't getting the prenatal care that I was, our babies could have come at 26 weeks and there could have been a much different outcome.

We will continue to support the MOD's great work so that one day parents won't have to see their babies hooked up to machines, won't have to wait days to hold their babies, and won't have to go home without their babies like we did.

This is why we will continue to support the March of Dimes and hope that you will join us with your support.

As a father, Martin Bell, who is vice president at Customers Bank, has taken on the role of Westchester March for Babies chairman to raise awareness and important funding to provide for babies who are born premature or with birth defects. Martin has made the commitment to raise \$855,000 with the help of the committee, and walkers and teams in the county

March for Babies, the March of Dimes' largest fundraiser, helps fund lifesaving research and educational programs aimed at helping moms have healthy babies. Last year in Westchester, more than \$800,000 was raised. This year, Martin will focus on recruiting new companies to participate and lead the community in making a difference for the health of moms and babies.

Customer's Bank has committed a Gold Sponsorship level of \$10,000.

"As a business leader, this campaign gives me and my company a unique opportunity to help the community that I love. And as a father, I can't think of a more important cause than our babies," said Martin, who will be visiting local businesses to request their support in the coming months. "One in nine of our babies are born premature, and that's just not acceptable. It takes leaders in our community working together to ensure moms have healthy pregnancies."

### The Santoliquido Family

Isadora and Michael Santoliquido have three healthy, active children, but each one of them was born premature and started their life in a hospital's NICU.

Eight-year-old Gabriella weighed just 1 pound, 4 ounces when she was born 16 weeks before she was due. She spent four and a half months in the hospital enduring procedures and fighting for her life, before being able to go home with her parents.

Isadora and Michael's second daughter, Samantha (now 7), was born when Isadora was 35 weeks pregnant, and their son Michael Jr. (who is now 2) was born four weeks early. Samantha and Michael each spent one week on the NICU, before joining the rest of the family at home.

The Santoliquido family is grateful to the March of Dimes for the work they do to prevent premature deliver, birth defects and infant mortality. They are proud to share their story and hope to help the March of Dimes in their mission.

Westchester residents can sign up today at [www.marchforbabies.org](http://www.marchforbabies.org) and start a team with co-workers, family or friends. Last year, more than 4,000 people attended the event, which will be held this year on Sunday, April 28 at Saxon Woods Pool. It is a 5-mile walk toward White Plains. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the walk starts at 10 a.m. It ends back at the pool with food and festivities.

## What County Gov. Isn't Doing: Sprain Ridge Pool Isn't Ready for Summer



From left, Councilman Michael Sabatino, BOL Chairman Ken Jenkins, Council President Chuck Lesnick, and County Legislators MaryJane Shimsky and Bill Ryan.

By Dan Murphy

Members of the Westchester County Board of Legislators called on County Executive Rob Astorino last week to move forward with the long-delayed pool renovations at Sprain Ridge Park.

More than \$1 million has been spent on design costs and construction costs that were previously approved by the BOL, but the Astorino Administration has yet to budget on making the pool renovations.

The Sprain Ridge Park pool has been closed for the last two summers as a result.

"Westchester residents pride themselves on having great parks and recreational facilities for their use, and here, in one of the county's major population areas, we have a project ready to go, the design entirely completed, yet construction entirely stalled at the whim of the county executive," said Legislator MaryJane Shimsky. "The project should be a high priority, and I implore the county executive to forgo the politics and instead think of the people who have not been able to use this pool, their pool, for the past two years."

The pool renovation project will involve reconstructing the existing pool complex at Sprain Ridge Park in a series of smaller pools, slides and play features that are popular in recreational facilities as such these days. Work will include pool mechanics, piping, structure, coping, decking, landscaping and a concession area, plus associated site work. New fencing will be added to establish the pool area, as well.

"The pool renovation project will make countless residents and families happy on hot summer days in years to come, but it will also create much needed construction sector jobs in the meantime," said Legislator Bill Ryan. "You

would think that a project like this would get the green light all the way through."

After investigations showed that the original pool was leaking, the Spano Administration and BOL began working collaboratively in 2001 to rehabilitate the existing pool area into a leisure pool facility in-line with a national trend to boost attendance and revenue at municipal pools through the country. That year, \$680,000 was spent to replace the aquatic playground system, and in 2006, another \$500,000 went toward the design for the total project.

In 2011, the BOL unanimously added \$8.8 million to the 2011 capital budget in order to begin reconstruction of the Sprain Ridge Pool facility. Astorino Administration officials have trotted out a number of explanations as to why they have not moved the project forward, even though the county's Park Department has published a report in which south county residents indicate swimming as a leading activity, with a wish that more facilities for swimming be built or expanded.

"Our residents depend on elected officials to do the right thing when it comes to making proper investments in infrastructure and properly maintaining the facilities they use," said BOL Chairman Ken Jenkins. "A number of my colleagues have raised the matter that here, at Sprain Ridge Park, our residents are being let down, and we will continue to call for this work to get started. No more excuses."

The Westchester legislators were joined also at the press conference by Yonkers City Councilman Michael Sabatino and Council President Chuck Lesnick, who noted that the Council unanimously endorsed the pool renovations two years ago.

## Yonkers Puppy Dies from Dog-Fighting Wounds



A 9-month-old male pit bull puppy was euthanized by a local veterinarian last week after sustaining life-threatening wounds and excessive blood loss from a dog attack.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Westchester's Humane Law Enforcement Division was contacted by Yonkers Animal Shelter after it received a call that a badly injured puppy was found on a walkway between Somersville Road and Edwards Place in Yonkers.

According to division Director Ernest Lungaro, the animal sustained such severe injuries that veterinary intervention was not possible.

"The puppy was taken to a local animal hospital. At the time, his breathing was extremely labored," said Lungaro. "The veterinarian who examined him reported that the pit bull had severe multiple bite wounds and abrasions about his face, muzzle and head. He was extremely emaciated and neglected and was mostly likely used as a bait dog in a fighting ring. The veterinarian also noted the animal had old scars from

previous attacks."

The term "bait dog" often refers to dogs that are used to train other dogs to fight. They are almost always puppies, weaker or older dogs, or females who can no longer breed.

They are further rendered defenseless by having their teeth removed or being tethered.

"Although dog fighting is a crime in New York State, we are constantly on the lookout for clandestine groups who fight the animals in Westchester County," said Lungaro. "If anyone has any information on this puppy or the existence of dog fighting in their city or town, we ask that they contact our confidential animal cruelty hotline at 914-941-7797."

The SPCA of Westchester, Inc., is a no-kill, non-profit animal shelter located in Briarcliff Manor. It is the only organization in Westchester County that is mandated by New York State to enforce its animal cruelty laws.

The SPCA of Westchester is not affiliated with the ASPCA.

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# AMVETS Memorial Breakfast



From left, Stanley Fortuna, Mayor Mike Spano and Frank Fortuna.



From left, Joe Greco, Mayor Spano and Len Spano.



Mayor Mike Spano gives Rauso Post 40 Commander Sam Riti a proclamation for the post.



From left, Mayor Spano, Mary Bisaccia, Bob Bisaccia who sang "God Bless America," and Gloria Bisaccia.



From left, breakfast chefs Louis DiCarmino, Sam Oliveri, Joe Mac, Rich Birrittella and Charles Nola. Not pictured is Head Chef Giulio Notaro.

Photos by Ed Whitman

## AMVETS Post 40's Continued from Page 1

Post with proclamations for their work with veterans in VA hospitals in the region. Congressman Eliot Engel also attended and spoke about the work done in Congress to bring more funding to veterans.

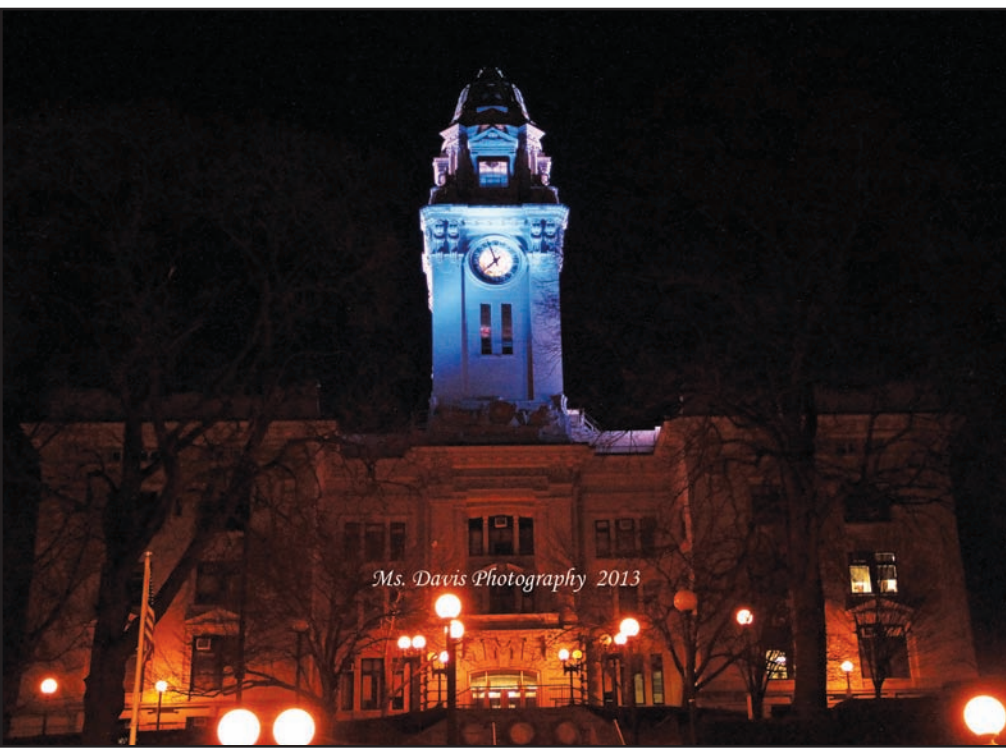
Also in attendance were City Council

President Chuck Lesnick, Minority Leader Wilson Terrero, Councilmember Michael Sabatino, and Robert Voorheis, representing Assemblymember Shelley Mayer.

In the kitchen, head chef Giulio Notaro of Giulio's restaurant and his team served up a great breakfast.

Post 40 member Bob Bisaccia closed the event with a rendition of "God Bless America."

# City Hall Lights Up Blue For Autism Awareness Day



Ms. Davis Photography 2013

The clock tower at Yonkers City Hall glimmered in blue April 2 in recognition of World Autism Awareness Day, to help shine a light on autism as a growing global health crisis, and the need to increase and develop world knowledge of the autism epidemic and the importance of early diagnosis and early intervention.



From left, Joe Lorenz, Mariann Lorenz, the mayor, Eleanor McCaffrey and Frank Riti.

# Greyston Bakery Has A Recipe for Societal Change



Greyston Bakery CEO Mike Brady

Greyston Bakery is announcing the release of its 2012 Annual Benefit Report and is further innovating on the social enterprise business model it established more than 30 years ago.

Last year Greyston became the first company to utilize New York State's new law that permitted companies to register as Benefit Corporations. Lawmakers took a bold stance in enabling the legislation and allowing businesses to consider the welfare of its employees, their community, and the environment in addition to a focus on financial gain.

The new law requires all Benefit Corporations to create an Annual Benefit Report that documents an organization's commitment to its social justice and environmental goals, shows the organization's outcomes to date and establishes benchmarks for the future. It is this transparency that will shape the future of the economy as business and consumers make informed purchasing decisions based on the operating values of an organization.

"Last year, benefit corporations opened New York for business in a huge new way," said Sen. Daniel Squadron, who sponsored the legislation to bring benefit corporations to New York. "Benefit corporations like Greyston Bakery understand that profitable business and social responsibility can – and should – go hand-in-hand. It's clear Greyston has got the recipe down for this new socially-minded approach to entrepreneurship, and I

look forward to seeing it continue to rise here and throughout New York."

Greyston's ABR highlights the accomplishments from 2012, including the creation of 32 new manufacturing jobs and the bakery's new energy efficiency initiatives. All of its products will now be manufactured with the help of 36 solar panels from Green Mountain Energy, including the brownies for its values-led partnership with Ben & Jerry's.

"We have spent the last year carefully assessing our community impact and challenging ourselves to achieve organizational targets focused on creating economic opportunity for the City of Yonkers," said Greyston Bakery CEO Mike Brady. "We are proud to be New York State's first Benefit Corporation and we want to set the example for other socially conscious businesses to follow."

There is a growing community of more than 700 Certified B Corps from 25 countries and 60 industries working together toward one unifying goal: to redefine success in business and to create prosperous corporations that act with a conscience. As of December 2012, 12 of the 50 states have recognized the positive impact that these companies can make on their economies and have introduced Benefit Corporation legislation into state law.

The digital report is available for download at [www.GreystonBakery.com/BenefitReport](http://www.GreystonBakery.com/BenefitReport).

## Vietnam Veterans Recognized



Veterans salute the flag.



Yonkers Veterans Affairs Deputy Director Dan Morea and Mayor Spano lay a wreath at the memorial.



Guest speaker Joe Navarro at the podium, with Mayor Mike Spano, members of the City Council and Yonkers Central Committee of War Veterans Chairman John Spencer looking on.

Photos by Donna Davis

### Vietnam Recognition Continued from Page 1

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Eli Vetrano, Dept. of Veterans Services, and the invocation was given by Daniel Morea, deputy director of the Dept. of Veterans Services.

Mayor Mike Spano commented on the many Vietnam veterans from Yonkers who served and many who died serving the country. He placed a wreath at the memorial to

make sure Yonkers never forgets those heroes.

The guest speaker was Louis Navarro, first vice chair of the Central Committee of Veterans, and "God Bless America" was performed by Robert Bisaccia

Also in attendance were State Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Council President Chuck Lesnick, and Councilmembers John Larkin, Wilson Terrero and Christopher Johnson.

Each Veterans Post in Yonkers was given a proclamation to hand out and share with their members.

## YoHo Artists



Painter and sculptor Adam Shultz



Painter Noel Hennelly.



Yonkers resident and painter Meghan Orbeil



Sculptor David Fischweicher

### YoHo - Yonkers' Continued from Page 1

dozens of professional artists, sculptors, craftspeople and musicians, exhibiting their work for the public from noon to 5 p.m.

The public is invited to tour the artists' studios to see new work and where it is all created. Live music, food and drink will be available.

Additional information including directions and a roster of participating artists is available at the YoHo artists' page at [www.Facebook.com](http://www.Facebook.com) and [YoHoArtists.com](http://YoHoArtists.com).

YoHo was the vision of property manager George Huang, whose real estate company purchased the property in 2005 and, with patience, has turned the studios into a Yonkers success story.

We've been to YoHo and will visit again next week. So should you.



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**Many of the pictures submitted by our photographers that don't make the paper will now be posted on Facebook. We are in the process of posting the many photographs from Donna Davis of the McLean Avenue St. Patrick's Day Parade.**