

YONKERS RISING

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Colby Frias is Yonkers Rising's Player of the Year



Yonkers Force football star Colby Frias accepts the Yonkers Rising Award with Coach Dan DeMatteo and Gorton High School Assistant Principal Mr. Morales.

By Phil Foley
On Dec. 4 at Gorton High School in front of the student body, Colby Frias was awarded the Yonkers Rising Player of the Year Award. Colby, a three-year starting quarterback for the Force, is being recruited by many schools, including SUNY-Cortland.

Colby has been voted All-Section, All-League, All-Conference and League AA South Most Valuable Player. In addition to playing quarterback, Colby also played as a good defensive back. He was invited and played in the exceptional senior game for Section 1.

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Spano to de Blasio: Stop Sending Homeless to Yonkers



Cities like Newark, N.J., and Yonkers are pushing back on NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio's plan to relocate homeless populations to their cities.

In light of New York City's announcement that it is halting its program of sending homeless people to Newark, N.J., Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano demanded this week that NYC also

stop sending homeless individuals to Yonkers. Spano said he is seeking all records of pay-

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Santa Sightings in Yonkers



Photo by Donna Davis. Santa at the UPAC tree lighting, with Girl Scouts from Troop 1727.

By Dan Murphy
This is Santa Claus' busy season, and he is ready for the challenge in Yonkers. Recent sightings include the jolly one at the annual McLean Avenue Merchants Association tree lighting at Conor Park. Yonkers Junior Idol Amanda Gentile and fellow singer Cathleen McLaughlin, a sixth-grader at St. John the Baptist School, got everyone in the holiday spirit, while dancers from the Golding Academy of

Movement and Dance in Scarsdale entertained the crowd.

The Untermyer Performing Arts Council held its annual tree lighting and Caroling for a Cause event last week, with performances from the 2019 Yonkers Idols, as well as the Letterman Quartet, and Council Majority Leader Michael Sabatino lighting the tree. As always, UPAC, and Santa, used the event to collect toys

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Spreading the Miracle of the Light Builds Community, Faith



Photo (c) Robert Kalfus. Navaeh Diaz, 6, daughter of Yonkers Councilwoman-elect Tasha Diaz, shows off her menorah.

By Robert Kalfus
In a world often beset by darkness, Chabad reaches out to each precious soul to help them ignite their spark and make them feel the warmth of Judaism. The holiday of Chanukah is espe-

cially well suited to accomplish spreading the light and joy of the miracle. Numerous upcoming Chanukah events welcome the public to increase and spread the light of Chanukah to all

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Gingerbread Spectacular This Saturday at Philipse Manor Hall



Gingerbread house replicas made by La Pinata Bakery include Saint John's Church, City Hall and Philipse Manor Hall.

The Yonkers Downtown Business Improvement District has partnered with Philipse Manor Hall and La Pinata Bakery for the annual Gingerbread Spectacular, taking place this Saturday, Dec. 14 from 2 to 4 p.m. The Gingerbread Spectacular is a family-friendly event in which kids can create gingerbread houses with their families for free.

The main attraction this year will be the professionally made gingerbread house replicas made by La Pinata Bakery, of Saint John's Church, City Hall and Philipse Manor Hall.

These are currently on display at Philipse Manor Hall and will continue to be displayed through the end of the month for anyone to visit and see.

There will be plenty of kids activities, face painting, hot chocolate and live music at the event. Local businesses will be submitting their own gingerbread house creations, and it's up to you to vote for the winner. All activities for the day are free, but supplies are limited and restricted to one house per family.

This event is sponsored by La Pinata Bakery.

PAL Celebrates Christmas With People with Special Needs



Tom Nolan, second from right, attends his 14th PAL Christmas Party with, from left, his mother, Santa Claus (Dave Vilar), and his aunt.

For the 31st year, the Yonkers Police Athletic League welcomed children with special needs and adults to the PAL Walshin Center for its annual Christmas party. Every year, more than 100 friends and families gather for a day of holiday fun, and this year was no different.

During the Dec. 8 event, food was provided by Rory Dolan's and music was provided by DJ Mikey Sal, who got everyone in the spirit with songs for the season. Santa made a special ap-

pearance – as always – to wish everyone a merry Christmas and give everyone a gift, courtesy of the PAL.

Santa heard many requests for gifts, including a video game and other electronics. Several of the requests touched Santa's heart: One adult with special needs asked for peace on Earth, and another asked for her family to be safe this holiday season. Several others asked for nothing more than to be at the party.

Student Painting Fetches Nearly \$2,000 from City of Yonkers

College of Mount Saint Vincent student Brendan Ryan isn't just a college student interested in art, he's pursuing his art with a passion. Many see Brendan working on his creations around campus at the College of Mount Saint Vincent, as he frequently paints in lounges and places where the college community will stop by, chat, and watch as his work develops.

A double major in studio art and visual art and experimental media, Brendan is a gifted artist who's not only catching the attention of the Division of Communication, Art and Media, but who's making a splash in the neighborhood, including recently selling one of his creations to the City of Yonkers.

Known for his innate creativity and technical abilities, as well as his stream-of-consciousness process, his talent extends across visual arts disciplines from photographically realistic portraits in pencil, to illustrative paintings, prints and ceramics.

"I always start with one thing or idea and it continues to evolve into something else - I just let my pieces develop with wherever my mind goes," he said.

Starting up his career young, with a piece of chalk and an asphalt canvas, his drawings always seemed to catch the attention of those around him.

"I always felt connected to art," said Brendan, who got most serious with his craft during his high school years at Donovan Catholic in Toms River, N.J. "My teachers pushed me to try different mediums and I just enjoyed being able to express myself. Plus, I kind of had a knack for it. Everyone around me always supported me. I can even remember the encouragement from a childhood teacher telling my family early on: 'Your boy's an artist.'"

Through printmaking and photography, acrylic paint and permanent markers, and even wood carving and colored pencils, Brendan is always exploring new techniques. And there's no shortage of pieces he's developed throughout his career.

"Moby Dick," a 30-inch-by-40-inch acrylic painting on canvas; "Poppy," a portrait drawing of his grandfather from when he was in the Navy; and "Elephant in the Room," an 18-inch-by-24-inch piece designed with colored pencils, graphite



Mt. St. Vincent student Brendan Ryan's painting "Elephant in the Room."

pencils, and Sharpies, are just a few of his recent creations.

"Viewing Brendan's art requires active participation - it's a journey filled with many aesthetic rewards," said Professor Giordano. "That journey begins when viewing his art from a distance, when it can seem nonobjective, abstract. But as one gets up close, layers of imagery begin to emerge. The longer one looks, the more is revealed."

That's exactly what happened when "Elephant in the Room" was on display at the Blue Door Art Center in Yonkers last spring. During its run at the BDAC's annual Mount faculty and student exhibition, it caught the eye and attention of Wilson Kimball, commissioner of planning and development for the City of Yonkers, who contacted Giordano with a simple question: "How much?"

Excited, and slightly overwhelmed by the news, Brendan took the time to discuss the possibility of selling his art with Giordano - especially since this would be his first sale. He reflected on what it meant to him and his work, but also knew he felt strongly about the opportunity to leave his mark. After much consideration, he set a price and the City of Yonkers purchased the piece for \$1,850.

"Elephant in the Room" is in its new home in Yonkers City Hall.

YIDA Reports Banner Year For Economic Development

\$851M in Private Investment; 2,246 in New Residential Units



Extell Development's Hudson River project, north of the Yonkers Train Station.

It was a banner year for economic development in the City of Yonkers, with the Yonkers Industrial Development Agency providing financial incentives to nearly a dozen projects representing a total private investment of \$851 million. The developments are projected to create 2,246 new residential units, 105,430 square feet of retail and commercial space, and 1,953 construction, permanent and part-time jobs.

The year's record results build on the tremendous economic growth that Yonkers is experiencing throughout the city. According to the Department of Planning and Development, there is more than \$3.8 billion in development projects approved, under way and completed in the city. Those projects represent more than 9,100 new residential units and 2.3 million square feet of commercial space.

The development projects created approximately 2,800 permanent jobs and over 6,800 construction jobs.

"The level of private investment in Yonkers is unprecedented," said Mayor Mike Spano, who serves as chairman of the IDA Board. "With more than \$3.8 billion in development, the city is attracting investment from regional and national developers such as RXR Realty, Extell Development and Avalon Bay, who clearly appreciate the fact that Yonkers is one of the most dynamic and exciting urban centers in the entire tri-state region. In addition to the tremendous year achieved by the Yonkers IDA, the city is also looking forward to investments in our city by MGM Resorts International and Lionsgate Entertainment."

The projects receiving YIDA incentives in 2019 were:

Point Street Landing by Extell Development. Total private investment: \$502 million. Mixed-use development. Number of apartments: 1,395. Approximately 48,280 square feet of commercial

space. Jobs: 450 construction and 200 permanent and part-time.

57 Alexander St. by Rose Associates. Total private investment: \$177.3 million. Number of apartments: 440. Jobs: 631 construction and 10 permanent.

Parkledge Apartments by Parkledge Preservation. Total private investment: \$56.9 million. Number of apartments: 311. Jobs: 55 construction and 13 permanent.

Charter School for Academic Excellence. Total private investment: \$52 million. Educational institution jobs: 125 construction and 44 permanent and part-time.

Dayspring Commons/Dayspring Community Center by Westhab. Total private investment: \$43.4 million. Number of apartments: 63. Jobs: 80 construction and 28 full- and part-time.

222 Lake Ave. by Momentum Realty. Total private investment: \$7.4 million. Approximately 55,000 square feet of commercial space. Jobs: 40 construction and 140 permanent and part-time.

9-11 Riverdale Ave. by Erin Construction & Development. Total private investment: \$6.5 million. Number of apartments: 29. Retail: 2,150 square feet. Jobs: six construction and 14 permanent.

969A Midland Ave. by Yonkers Contracting. Total private investment: \$2.6 million. Construction equipment storage facility. Jobs: 25 construction and 17 full- and part-time.

78-80 Morningside Ave. by 78-80 Morningside LLC. Total private investment: \$1.5 million. Number of apartments: eight. Jobs: 15 construction.

987 Central Park Ave. by Maple Realty Management LLC. Total private investment: \$1.4 million. Small retail building. Jobs: 50 construction and 10 permanent.



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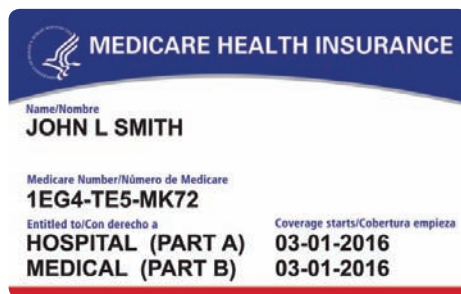
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Wallet Hub Ranks Yonkers The 2nd Safest City in America

This month, WalletHub released its 2019 Safest Cities in America report, which compared more than 180 cities across 41 key indicators of safety from assaults per capita to unemployment rate to road quality.

Each metric was graded on a 100-point scale, with a score of 100 representing the highest level of safety. Across the three key dimensions – home and community safety, natural disaster risk and financial safety – Yonkers scored 84 percent, which ranked the city as the second-safest in America!

The study also showed that Yonkers was helped by its number-four ranking for fewest traffic fatalities per capita.

According to Wallet Hub writer Adam McCann: "People encounter hazards every day, some serious, others rare and innocuous. But we fear certain kinds more than others. According to Gallup, nearly half of Americans fear being a victim of a mass shooting or a terrorist attack. Many also worry about falling victim to hate crimes or sexual assault. The list goes on, and these sentiments often are expressed in response to recent headlines. "But people can feel unsafe in other ways,

too. Besides the types of hazards that can cause bodily injury or other physical harm, taking out an unaffordable second mortgage, forgoing health insurance or even visiting unsecured websites are also ways people run into danger. At the top of the list of worries is the availability of affordable health care, which 80 percent of Americans worry about either a 'great deal' or a 'fair amount.'

"No one can avoid all danger, however, and we take on a certain level of risk based on where we choose to live. Some cities are simply better at protecting their residents from harm. To determine where Americans can feel most secure – in more than one sense – WalletHub compared more than 180 cities across 41 key indicators of safety. Our data set ranges from assaults per capita to unemployment rate to road quality."

The top five safest cities in the nation, according to WalletHub, are: Columbia, Md. – 85.33 percent; Yonkers – 84.80 percent; Plano, Texas – 83.54 percent; Gilbert, Ariz. – 83.44 percent; and South Burlington, Vt. – 83.33 percent.

Thank you to Yonkers Police Department for keeping us safe!

County Board OKs 52% Pay Hike for the Holidays

How Yonkers' Legislators Voted; Jenkins Also Gets \$40K Raise

By Dan Murphy

The Westchester County Board of Legislators ignored the recommendations of many of their constituents, unions, indivisible members and colleagues in county government Dec. 10 and voted to increase their salaries by 52 percent, from \$49,000 per year to \$75,000 per year.

The final vote for the pay raises was 10-6, with 10 democrats voting "yes" and six legislators – three democrats and three republicans – voting "no." Yonkers' two republican county legislators, David Tubiolo and Gordon Burrows, voted "no." Democratic county legislator Christopher Johnson voted "yes," and Democrat legislator Virginia Perez was absent and therefore did not vote in what will be her last county board meeting.

Many Westchester residents and homeowners had called for the county board to cut its proposed salary increase in half, to 25 percent. The calls to reduce the salary increase also came from inside the county office building in White Plains, to no avail.

Local unions have also spoken out about the salary increases. Representatives of Civil Service Employee Association Westchester County Unit 9200 released a statement, with President Karen Pecora saying: "We believe that everyone – regardless of whether you're union, non-union or elected – is deserving of a fair salary. However, the proposed raises for legislators and management are highly excessive compared to the incremental raises our members and members of other county bargaining units negotiated. It took seven years for our union to settle a contract that calls for modest annual increases. The proposed salary increases are over the top and insulting to the thousands of unionized employees who make Westchester County work each and every day."

Burrows, in his final meeting, led the call against the 52 percent salary increase. "I'm genuinely shocked at the proposed salary increase – 52 percent is ludicrous," he said. "I'm also upset about the process. This was done in a very clandestine way. I didn't hear about any increases until it was proposed in the newspaper. That's not transparent at all, and there was no notice to the public before the election... I don't

think public service is about compensation. I agree we work hard, but \$75,000 is a lot of money. This is supposed to be a part-time job. This is not supposed to be for money."

Legislator Damon Maher read a letter from Indivisible Westchester, which he said characterized the reasons he was voting "no" on the salary increase. The letter reads, in part: "We believe the proposed raises are being rushed through with no discussion and appears not to be transparent. We believe raises are overdue and everyone should earn a competitive wage. But transparency is a good government practice, and it is crucial that the citizens believe in their elected officials, and solicit feedback from the community at large. Public perception matters."

Legislators Nancy Barr and Terry Clements said they voted "no" because of the lack of discussion and the timing of the vote. Legislators John Testa and Tubiolo also voted "no," but did not comment on the pay hikes.

Raises for county commissioners and other high-level positions in Westchester government were already factored into County Executive George Latimer's proposed 2020 county budget.

Also slated to get a raise is Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, who will now earn \$197,125 in 2020.

Latimer did not take a salary increase and explained why to Rising newspapers: "I was the only one (out of his staff and county commissioners) who was elected, and I never said anything about a raise. I ran, and this is the salary I ran on. I need the raise as much as anyone but I will take the same pay for my four-year term."

"I have seen the work that our commissioners and staff do, many have taken a pay cut to serve in county government, so I don't have a problem with the salaries of all of my staff and commissioners," he said. "I don't want to lose talent, and I stand behind my people... And I have always believed that the Legislature has the prerogative to set their own pay."

County Clerk Tim Idoni will also get his first raise since taking office eight years ago, with his salary reaching \$195,000.

'The proposed salary increases are over the top and insulting to the thousands of unionized employees who make Westchester County work each and every day.' CSEA Westchester President Karen Pecora

Holiday Tips & Gift Guide

By Eric W. Schoen

Can you believe Christmas and Chanukah are less than two weeks away? Have you finished your shopping? Have you started your shopping?

This week, some tips to make your holidays merry and bright!

"Frozen II." If you haven't taken your kids to see it yet, you should double lock yourself in your house like Scrooge did. "Frozen II" is the big movie this year, and everything related to the movie is hot. And believe me, there are plenty of "Frozen II" toys out there.

Speaking of toys, every major retailer at all price points is loaded with toys. Why? Retailers are working hard to get a piece of the shuttered Toys 'R Us market. The quality of toys that retailers sell has vastly improved. The Melissa and Doug toys favored by parents and educators and F.A.O. Schwartz toys with their touch of nostalgia are available from TJ Max to Century 21 (and I have found that Century 21 prices are lower than many stores).

Speaking of prices, get those zillion Bed, Bath and Beyond coupons you are saving and have had texted to your phone ready for use. Harmon, Bed, Bath and Buy Baby coupons can be used in any one of the three stores. I find health and beauty department items cheapest at Harmon and the Bed, Bath and Beyond stores with Harmon in them, particularly when you add the coupons.

The best time to shop is early in the morning or late at night. Most stores are open until 10 p.m., and after 8:30 p.m., things seem to calm down. Now, there are many of you who do all your shopping online, which you can do 24 hours a day. But watch out for porch thieves.

Have your packages delivered to work, to a friend who will be home, or to one of those bright, yellow Amazon boxes – like the one in front of the 7-11 on McClean Avenue or in the Whole Foods at Ridge Hill. You put a lot of time into selecting the right gift so you want to make sure it arrives safely.

If what you are buying has a rebate, it's not a bargain unless you complete the rebate. Stores bank on most people not filling out the rebate forms, which are relatively easy. Some people purchase the rebated item and have the rebate sent to the person who got the gift. This way, they have a little check to spend a month after the holidays. Don't forget that rebates are one per household, so you can complete a rebate for yourself and someone else who does not live in the house.

There are so many unique gifts out there! Send a picture of your dog or cat to etsy.com and you will get a cookie cutter with your animal's face on it. How cute is that? There are wallets for men and women that protect scanners from using credit card readers to walk past you and scan your credit cards. These wallets provide RF shielding and are useful and important holiday gifts – particularly if someone has stolen your credit cards before.

Electronics are always hot, but be realistic in the size of the television you buy. That is, of course, unless you spend your whole day in front of the television. In that case, a 70-inch television might be useful.

Remember the old Polaroid cameras where you would take a photo and the picture would automatically pop out? They are back! I have seen them as low as \$50. How often do we take pictures with our phone or digital camera and do nothing with the pictures? Watch how popular these cameras will become at weddings and bar mitzvahs. You take the picture and it comes right out of the camera. I guess everything old is new again!

Food items are always good gifts. I noticed an abundance of food baskets of all varieties at Homegoods yesterday. For years, Harry and David has delighted recipients with gifts of fruit. I have never met a person who did not like a Harry and David fruit package, and there are plenty of discounts around for them – particularly their famous pears with the insides so soft you can eat them with a spoon.

Most grocery stores have little Halo oranges and tangerines in mini-crates, which are on sale and are considered "add on" gifts for your host or



Eric Schoen

hostess to enjoy.

We played a game last year at the annual Christmas Eve Day party I have attended for more than 50 years at our friends the Costantini's house. Everyone bought a gift and you would go around the room and exchange gifts for something you saw and wanted... Or you can end up with a squatty potty, which was my gift as part of the game. People to this day are talking about the Squatty Potty, so if you want to be a hit at your Christmas gift exchange, you might consider this popular device!

Then there's the 2020 People of Walmart calendar chock full pictures of the fascinating people who patronize this unique store with great prices. Most of the pictures are of folks in the heartlands of America. Walmart is their life and they buy everything they need from lawn mowers to Paula Deen cakes at the store.

Murray's Cheese Bar on Bleecker Street in Manhattan has a cheese of the month box of assorted cheeses for the epicurean in your life.

One company is event selling "wine condoms." Simply tear open the package and slip it on the mouth of the bottle. It's hilarious and functional, keeping unfinished wine bottles fresh.

Air fryers, which cut the grease when you are frying foods, have been joined this year by the instant pot. You toss all your ingredients in the instant pot, turn it on, and you have whatever meal floats your boat. I have seen the instant pot for less than \$50. Just ask yourself: Are you really going to use it, or will it sit on your cupboard next to the air fryer you bought last year?

Be realistic with your gift giving. Kids love waffles made on a character waffle maker like the "Frozen II" waffle maker currently out. I gave a Hello Kitty waffle maker to my friends' kids probably eight years ago and they still use it. I was concerned that the inexpensive machine would break, so for all these years I had a backup Hello Kitty waffle maker in case of emergency.

One company will sell you six ready-made Cinnabons for \$50. I think that is a little bit crazy and although they are delicious, I would rather go online, look for a Cinnabon-type recipe and buy all the ingredients, which with the pan will probably be less than \$50.

Wine and spirits are always a difficult thing to buy, so if you plan on gifting them, I suggest asking your host or hostess what they enjoy drinking. Stew Leonard's at Ridge Hill, anyone will tell you, has the best wine and spirit prices.

If you are shopping for wine for personal consumption, tell the salesperson what you like in a wine – red or white, sparkling or not sparkling, sweet or dry, fruity or whatever else you like to taste when drinking wine. Don't ask for Wine Spectators #1 wine or the biggest seller wine. You want wine to have the aroma and taste you want or one that will go with the meal you are having.

Lottery scratch-offs or tickets are always good stocking stuffers. Gift cards are great if they are for the store your recipients shop at. And just like you should do your rebates right away, if you don't patronize the store where the gift card is from, turn to sites like gift card granny or other sites who will pay you cash for unwanted gift cards.

Avocado tree-growing kits. Environmental-friendly straws. Pack your gift in a reusable shopping bag... Burlington, TJ Max and Marshall's have beautiful ones for \$1 each.

If you see someone on the street asking for money, find a grocery store and buy him or her some food rather than give them cash. Speaking of cash, don't forget that every time you see the Salvation Army kettle, to put a dollar in it. It's something my father did and a tradition my sister and I still carry on. Count your blessings!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistoosyonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen and Dan Murphy on the Westchester Rising Radio Show on Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m. on WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream, or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

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Holiday Events at County Parks

There are a number of events coming up at Westchester County parks and nature centers.

From Friday, Dec. 13 through Sunday, Dec. 15, Westchester's Winter Wonderland will take place at Kensico Dam Plaza, 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla. Hours are 5 to 10 p.m. Friday, 4 to 10 p.m. Saturday, and 4 to 9 p.m. Sunday. This is a one-of-a-kind holiday experience featuring Santa's Village, amusement rides, unlimited skating on an outdoor ice rink (skates included), the Winter Wonderland Holiday Circus, food and beverage options, and a light show. Admission is \$20 ages 3 and older. The program runs weekends through Jan. 4. For a full schedule and tickets, visit wwinterwonderland.com. For more information, call 914-231-4033.

On Friday and Saturday, Dec. 13 and 14, Muscot Farm on Route 100 in Somers will present "Muscot Farm Christmas Carol," from 5 to 6 p.m., and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday. This is a magical adaptation of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." Tickets are \$12 for children and \$20 for adults. Tickets are limited; call 914-864-7286.

On Saturday, Dec. 14, make winter wildflower arrangements at the Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary at Playland Park in Rye, from 1 to 3 p.m. Make a festive centerpiece for the holidays. Bring your own vase and volunteers will help you make a beautiful winter bouquet using dried plants and natural objects. Suggested \$5 donation. 914-967-

8720.

Also on Saturday, make holiday crafts from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Lenoir Preserve, 19 Dudley St., Yonkers. Make nature holiday crafts and enjoy refreshments. 914-968-5851.

From 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, make holiday crafts at the Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Cross River. Take a break from holiday shopping and make a holiday craft to take home. Refreshments provided. 914-864-7322.

The Marshlands Conservancy on Route 1 in Rye will host a pre-holiday get-together Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m., featuring gifts, food and fun. 914-835-4466.

On Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 14 and 15, Croton Point Nature Center in Croton-on-Hudson will host a Project Feeder Watch program from 9 to 11 a.m. Identify and count birds at the feeders with volunteers from Saw Mill River Audubon. All ages and skill levels are invited to enjoy this indoor activity, which also takes place Dec. 21, 22, 28 and 29. 914-862-5297.

On Sunday, Dec. 15, Muscot Farm on Route 100 in Somers will host a story time from 1 to 2 p.m. Hear some holiday stories on the farm. 914-864-7282.

For more information about Westchester County parks and nature centers, visit parks.westchestergov.com.

Yonkers Woman Joins Legal Services of the Hudson Valley

Maureen Fox of Yonkers has joined Legal Services of the Hudson Valley as chief development officer.

LSHV is currently a \$19 million organization with 165 staff member, committed to providing comprehensive civil legal services to those that cannot afford an attorney when their basic human needs are at stake. LSHV is the only civil legal services provider serving all seven counties of the lower and mid-Hudson Valley, including Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Rockland, Orange, Ulster and Sullivan. Last year, the organization handled more than 15,000 cases, impacting more than 35,000 household members across its service area.

As chief development officer, Fox is responsible for the strategic fundraising and communications avenues of the organization in order to further the mission of Legal Services of the Hudson Valley.

Fox has spent her career dedicated to im-



Maureen Fox

proving the communities in which she lived and worked through raising funds and awareness for many important causes. Having begun her career as a paralegal in the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, she decided to devote the remainder of the non-profit sector after graduate school.

Fox has more than 25 years of experience as a non-profit executive and communications professional with a demonstrated history of working in the social service sector. Her

previous role was as vice president of external relations and communications at Little Flower Children and Family Services of New York, where she was responsible for building partnerships and collaborations with local government, schools, community members and individuals. Prior to this she was director of development, in which she built a strong fundraising and communications department to meet the needs of the organization.

PUBLIC NOTICE

A GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 37 ENTITLED "PLASTIC STRAW FREE YONKERS"

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Yonkers has adopted the abovementioned legislation that seeks to reduce the use of plastic straws, except upon request by customers. The penalty for violation of this ordinance is as follows:

§ 37-5 Penalties.

Any Covered Establishment found to be in violation of the provisions of this Chapter, shall be liable for a civil penalty. Such a penalty will be imposed upon the findings of an investigation by the City of Yonkers Consumer Protection Bureau following notice of a potential violation. Such a penalty will be payable to the City of Yonkers pursuant to the following penalty structure:

- A. Any Covered Establishment found to be in violation of the provisions of this law a first time shall be issued a written warning.
- B. Any Covered Establishment found to be in violation of the provisions of this law a second time shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed \$100.00.
- C. Any Covered Establishment found to be in violation of the provisions of this law a third time shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed \$250.00.
- D. Any Covered Establishment found to be in violation of the provisions of this law a fourth time shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed \$500.00.
- E. For each subsequent violation, daily fines of \$100.00 shall be instituted and applied for violations of this Chapter until compliance is achieved.

All fines collected for violations of this Chapter shall be used to offset any costs of compliance and oversight of adherence to this Chapter or to address the costs to the City associated with waste removal and recycling.

The complete text of the ordinance is on file with and may be examined at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 40 S. Broadway, Yonkers NY 10701.

Dated: December 11, 2019

Vincent Spano
City Clerk

Stepinac Student Commits to Felician Baseball Program

Chris Antonelli of Yonkers, a student at Archbishop Stepinac High School in White Plains, has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball at Felician University.

Antonelli pitches and plays third base for Stepinac. The 6-foot-1, 188-pounder was a 2019 Perfect Game Honorable Mention All-American for the PACOY Dragons Showcase Team. He is undecided on a major course of study.

"Chris dominates the strike zone in the upper 80s (miles per hour), topping off in the low 90s," said Felician Recruiting Coordinator Dustin Javins. "He also has the ability to change a game as a position player."

Felician is a member of NCAA Division II and competes in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference. In 2019, Head Coach Chris Langan's 16th year at Felician, the Golden Falcons (31-23, 24-8 CACC) won the CACC South Division regular-season championship, its fourth consecutive such league or division crown, and earned the program's fourth NCAA Tournament appearance.

"Our coaching staff assessed that in this year's class we needed to retool offensively and become more athletic," said Langan. "These young men give us a more dynamic offense and the athleticism to keep us competitive in the CACC and regionally for years to come."

Community Council Meets

The Third Precinct Police Community Council will meet Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Chema Community Center, 435 Riverdale Ave., Yonkers. Residents and merchants of the southwest Yonkers area at urged to attend this important community meeting. Quality-of-life issues will be discussed with

Captain Pat McCormack. Unwrapped toys will be collected for a deserving child in the southwest Yonkers area. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact President Bob Stauf at 914-476-2284 or McCormack at 914 377-7427.

Visit With Santa at Ridgewood Savings Bank

The season of good deeds and goodwill is upon us, and Ridgewood Savings Bank wants to multiply those efforts! The bank is hosting family-friendly holiday open houses at its New Rochelle and Yonkers branches in Westchester County. Children and adults are invited to stop in at either branch for complimentary refreshments, giveaways, and a chance to win a \$50 gift card.

In addition, parents can take photos of their children with Santa.

"The holidays are a wonderful time of the

year to show our appreciation to our customers and community," said Carlos Sanchez, senior vice president and chief banking officer of Ridgewood. "We know our customers by name and value each and every one of them."

Ridgewood's Westchester holiday schedule is as follows: Thursday, Dec. 19 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Yonkers Branch, 670 McLean Ave.; and Saturday, Dec. 21 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the New Rochelle Branch, 382 Pelham Road.

To learn more about Ridgewood Savings Bank, visit www.ridgewoodbank.com.

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American-Irish Association Of West. Celebrates 45 Years



Honorees Dympha Tully, Kevin Fitzgerald and Father Willem Klaver with a supporter.

The American Irish Association of Westchester held its annual Mass of Remembrance and dinner dance, celebrating its 45th anniversary, in late fall at Fairways.

This year's honorees were Dympha Tully of Tully Travel as Irish Woman of the Year; Kevin Fitzgerald, popular Yonkers photographer, as Irish Man of the Year; and Father Willem Klaver, a Mill Hill Missionary priest now new pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Church in White Plains, who was honored with the American Irish Community Worker Award. The United Irish Counties were honored with the Irish American Achievement Award for 2019.

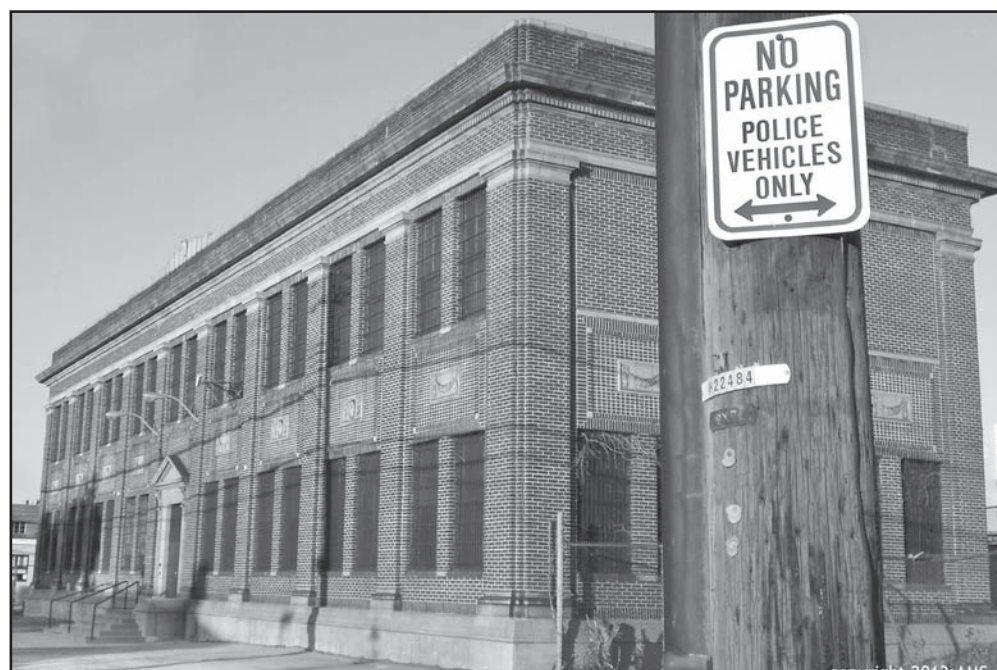
The Presentation to Tully was made by Eileen Carey, the presentation to Fitzgerald was made by Bob Stauf and Judge Tom Daly, the presentation

to Klaver was made by Bob Stauf, and the presentation to the United Irish Counties was made by Cathy Marshall and Carol Daly.

Music was provided by the Tara Gold band and performances were made by the Deirdre O'Meara School of Irish Dance, the New York Studio of Irish Step Dance, and Owen McCarvill, Piper.

There were about 120 people in attendance, including many elected officials who presented proclamations to the honorees, including Congressman Eliot Engel, State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, State Sen. Shelley Mayer, Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, Mayor Mike Spano, City Councilman John Rubbo, County Legislators Gordon Burrows and David Tubiolo, Congresswoman Nita Lowey, and the Conservative Party of Westchester.

On This Day in Yonkers History...



The Yonkers City Jail, built in 1924 on Alexander Street.

**By Mary Hoar
President Emerita,
Yonkers Historical Society**

Monday, Dec. 16

Dec. 16, 1930: Because Yonkers wanted to widen Palisade Avenue, a giant sugar maple that had stood on the Getty property at Palisade and Ashburton Avenues for more than 70 years was moved across the street and planted on the grounds of St. John's Hospital.

Dec. 16, 1942: Private Lloyd Reed, son of Ethel Reed Birdsall of Yonkers Avenue, was awarded the title of "Prize Private," conferred by the Fort Knox newspaper. Although only in the Army for a month, he had made his mark as both a tractor mechanic and a motorcycle mechanic.

Dec. 16, 1955: The NYS Thruway opened between Yonkers and Suffern.

Tuesday, Dec. 17

Dec. 17, 1922: Three prohibition agents with guns drawn forced their way through a crowd of basketball fans watching a game at Columbus Hall to arrest two men for unlawfully selling liquor.

Dec. 17, 1935: Corporation Counsel Leonard McAneny notified Mayor Joseph Loehr that it was his legal opinion that Common Council President-elect Frank Cotter was not a member of the council, and could not vote for a new city clerk in case of a tie. If a tied vote resulted, City Clerk William McCabe would continue in office.

Dec. 17, 1937: The Club Transportation Company opened a new bus line through Park Hill, the first bus service in the neighborhood.

Wednesday, Dec. 18

Dec. 18, 1919: More than 1,500 people gathered in front of Yonkers First National Bank at 7 p.m. to receive their Christmas Club money.

Dec. 18, 1924: Hollywood movie director Hobart Henley predicted sensational and melodramatic pictures would be replaced by simple and natural movies. Henley was in Yonkers visiting relatives on Valentine Lane at the time of the interview.

Dec. 18, 1930: Les Hart, former Gorton High School football star and captain of the Colgate football team, did not spend his Christmas holidays at home. Instead, he left for San Francisco to start as halfback with the All-Star Eastern team. He went on to play professional football for the Staten Island Stapletons in 1931.

Thursday, Dec. 19

Dec. 19, 1919: The Neustadter Foundation at McLean and Central Park Avenues opened a

convalescent home with rooms for 50 patients.

Dec. 19, 1919: The Navy Department notified Ensign William Lally of Lamartine Avenue he had been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his outstanding World War service. Lally served as commander of Submarine Chaser 101.

Dec. 19, 1924: Alderman McGeory raised an objection to the proposed erection of a city jail on the city's dock property on Alexander Street. At the aldermanic meeting in City Hall, he pointed out that trains passing on the nearby New York Central Railroad probably would disturb the prisoners' sleep.

Friday, Dec. 20

Dec. 20, 1911: The Yonkers Statesman reported that the "Turkey Trot" had invaded Yonkers' most exclusive dancing circles and would be the rage of all the winter dances. Apparently many members of the "younger set" were taking lessons in turkey trotting.

Dec. 20, 1933: A Yonkers man was the first listing in the newly released Westchester Phone Directory. While Mali Aakrann of Illinois Avenue nabbed the first spot, Caryl Avenue's D. L. Zyve was the very last listing.

Dec. 20, 1942: Genung's Department Store took its employees' loyalty too seriously. To show appreciation, the store presented each worker employed for at least six months with a War Bond. Former workers serving in the armed services were sent a money order, mailed early enough to ensure the servicemen received them by Christmas.

Saturday, Dec. 21

Dec. 21, 1915: Prospects of a "wider social life" in Yonkers – and in the city jail – opened up. A man who was in jail because of nonpayment of his alimony announced his plans to start an "Alimony Club," and said he hoped to include any and all men imprisoned on the charge. He planned to "petition the court to have a section of the jail detailed and furnished especially for them."

Dec. 21, 1939: The Committee of 100 demanded Board of Education trustees and Yonkers Common Council members reveal their fraternal memberships; they further charged that they suspected potential bias in the board's possible purchase of the Elks Club building on South Broadway for \$65,000.

Dec. 21, 1944: Gorton High School students created a new way to boost their sale of war stamps. Spectators at their intramural basketball games had to purchase a War Stamp to

Continued on Page 8

Jingle All the Way to Stop & Shop Holiday Event

Santa Claus is coming to a town near you! Children of all ages are invited to meet Santa at select Stop & Shop locations in Westchester on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., including the Stop & Shop at 111 Vredenburg Ave., Yonkers.

The merriment continues as little ones are also invited to decorate holiday sugar cookies – or for a healthier snack – a snowman cheese

stick, with their fellow elves for the day. Cookies and decoration supplies will be provided. Santa Claus will also hand out candy canes to all the children who take photos with him.

While in the store, don't forget to take photos with Stop & Shop's hazard-monitoring robot, Marty, who will be wearing his finest ugly sweater! Make sure to use the hashtag "#MerryMarty" when posting on social media.

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State of New York
Office of the State Comptroller
NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE CASH COLLECTION OF THE CITY OF YONKERS FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING ON JULY 1, 2015 AND ENDING ON JUNE 30, 2017 HAVE BEEN EXAMINED BY THE OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER AND THAT THE REPORT OF EXAMINATION PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER HAS BEEN FILED IN MY OFFICE WHERE IT IS AVAILABLE AS A PUBLIC RECORD FOR INSPECTION BY ALL INTERESTED PERSONS. PURSUANT TO SECTION THIRTY-FIVE OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW, THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE CITY OF YONKERS MAY, IN ITS DISCRETION, PREPARE A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF EXAMINATION PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER AND FILE ANY SUCH RESPONSE IN MY OFFICE AS A PUBLIC RECORD FOR INSPECTION BY ALL INTERESTED PERSONS NOT LATER THAN (LAST DATE ON WHICH RESPONSE MAY BE FILED - 90 DAYS AFTER PRESENTATION OF REPORT TO GOVERNING BOARD).

Dated: November 26, 2019

Vincent E. Spano
City Clerk

Note: General Municipal Law, §35 provides that this notice must be given within 10 days after the filing of the report of examination with the clerk or secretary. If the board has made a decision to respond to the report prior to publication of this notice, the following sentence may be substituted for the last sentence of the above notice:

PURSUANT TO SECTION THIRTY-FIVE OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW, THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE CITY OF YONKERS HAS DETERMINED TO PREPARE A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF EXAMINATION PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER AND WILL FILE SUCH RESPONSE, WHEN COMPLETED, IN MY OFFICE AS A PUBLIC RECORD FOR INSPECTION BY ALL INTERESTED PERSONS NOT LATER THAN (LAST DATE ON WHICH RESPONSE MAY BE FILED - 90 DAYS AFTER PRESENTATION OF REPORT TO GOVERNING BOARD).

Legal Notices

Formation of Abraham Properties LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/22/19. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Johnson Abraham, 34 Algonquin Rd., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Bridge Pest Control, LLC filed with SSNY on August 14, 2019. Office: NY County. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to LLC: 261 Glenhill ave Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: provide pest control services on a commercial & residential level.

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS IN A TAX LIEN FORECLOSURE ACTION-Index#:57515/2018 SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER T11 FUNDING, Plaintiffs, against THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, LEGATEES, DEVEISEES AND/OR REPRESENTATIVES OF RUTH W. HOWLEY, AND ALL PERSONS THAT MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY REFERRED TO IN THE COMPLAINT BY, THROUGH OR UNDER ANY OF THE FOREGOING (THE AFORESAID UNKNOWN HEIRS, LEGATEES, DEVEISEES AND/OR REPRESENTATIVES BEING ALL SUCH HEIRS, LEGATEES, DEVEISEES AND/OR REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR THAN THOSE SPECIFICALLY NAMED AS A DEFENDANT HEREIN- THE IDENTITY AND ADDRESSES OF ALL THE FOREGOING NOT BEING KNOWN TO PLAINTIFF), JUDY HOWLEY GALLIGAN INDIVIDUALLY AND AS HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF RUTH W. HOWLEY, THOMAS FITZGERALD INDIVIDUALLY AND AS HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF RUTH W. HOWLEY, SHARON TUFO INDIVIDUALLY AND AS HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF RUTH W. HOWLEY, KATHY HOWLEY INDIVIDUALLY AND AS HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF RUTH W. HOWLEY, RICHARD HOWLEY INDIVIDUALLY AND AS HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF RUTH W. HOWLEY, MARY JANE BROWN INDIVIDUALLY AND AS HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF RUTH W. HOWLEY, RUTH MORRISON DEE INDIVIDUALLY AND AS HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF RUTH W. HOWLEY, ROBERT HOWLEY INDIVIDUALLY AND AS HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF RUTH W. HOWLEY, JOAN HOWLEY JACKOWIAK INDIVIDUALLY AND AS HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF RUTH W. HOWLEY, And if any of the aforesaid defendants be dead, such persons' respective heirs-at-law, next of kin, distributes, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest, and generally all persons having or claiming under, by, or through such person, if such person be dead, whether by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise, including any right, title or interest in and to the real property described in the complaint herein, all of who and whose names and places of residence are unknown to the plaintiff, CREDIT SOLUTIONS OF AMERICA , UNITED STATES OF AMERICA , NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE , CITY OF YONKERS , "JOHN DOES" AND "JANE DOES" said names being fictitious and unknown to the Plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the fee owners, occupants, tenants, persons or entities, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the liened premises if the aforesaid individual defendants if living, or if said individual defendants are dead, their respective heirs -at-law, next-of-kin, distributes, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by, through, or, against the said defendants named as a class, of any right, title or interest in or lien upon the premises described in the verified complaint, Defendants- To the above named Defendants: You are hereby summoned to appear and Answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your Answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's attorneys within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or, within 30 thirty days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner than by personal delivery within the State. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. WESTCHESTER COUNTY is designated as the place of trial, the basis of venue is the location of the premises that is subject of the tax lien. NOTICE- YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE TAX LIEN HOLDER WHO FILED THIS FORECLOSURE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AND YOU CAN LOSE YOUR HOME. SPEAK TO AN ATTORNEY OR GO TO THE COURT WHERE YOUR CASE IS PENDING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW TO ANSWER THE SUMMONS AND PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY. SENDING A PAYMENT TO PLAINTIFF/TAX LIEN HOLDER WILL NOT STOP THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (TAX LIEN HOLDER) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Hon. Linda S. Jamieson J.S.C., dated October 8, 2019 and a modified order dated November 22, 2019. Nature and Object of Action-The object of the above action is to foreclose City of Yonkers Tax Lien covering the premises located at Section 2 Block 2174 Lot 10 and also known as 92 Vineyard Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10703 Dated: September 30, 2019
GLENN FINLEY & ASSOCIATES
Attorneys for Plaintiff
By: Glenn Finley, Esq.
2024 Williamsbridge Road
Bronx, NY 10461
(718) 828 4888



MAYOR MIKE SPANO

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12/29 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	12/30 9:30 am - 12:30 pm 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	12/31 11:00 am - 2:00 pm	1/1/2020 11:00 am - 2:00 pm HAPPY NEW YEAR!			

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Come one, come all....

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Yonkers, NY
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Sunday Worship 11:30 a.m.

Wishing you a blessed December and a 2020 full of Peace, Love, Hope and Joy.

-Your friends at South Presbyterian Church

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How Bloomberg Could Win the Suburbs... and Become President

By Dan Murphy

Since making his announcement that he was once again exploring a run for president in 2020, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg has been taking a beating in the media, and from progressive Democrats who don't support even the idea of his attempts to occupy the White House in 2021.

The opposition centers on his wealth, his enactment of stop-and-frisk in NYC in the 2000s, and his opposition to some of the progressive and impractical ideas presented by Democratic presidential candidates Senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders.

As a proud member of the independent-moderate block of the American electorate, there is a path, and a way that Mayor Bloomberg could become our next president. First, let me outline the reasons I believe Bloomberg is exactly the candidate our country needs at this time.

1.) He is running on competent public service and government. During his 12 years running New York City, Bloomberg turned an ungovernable city into a city that actually saw the trains run on time, a drop in crime to record lows, improvements in education and an overall improvement in the quality of life for all New Yorkers – and for the millions of suburban New Yorkers who work in the city, or who use the economic engine of NYC to improve their lives in Westchester, Nassau, Suffolk, Rockland and Putnam counties.

2.) Bloomberg does have Democratic principles that he can run on, and issues that he has used his billions to lobby for, including environmental advocacy to combat climate change and the creation in 2006 of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, and his calls for stricter gun-control laws.

3.) Regardless of what side of the aisle your politics may be, most Americans believe our national government in Washington, D.C., is failing us, and not working to solve the important issues facing our nation. Gridlock in Washington has only worsened since the election of President Donald Trump.

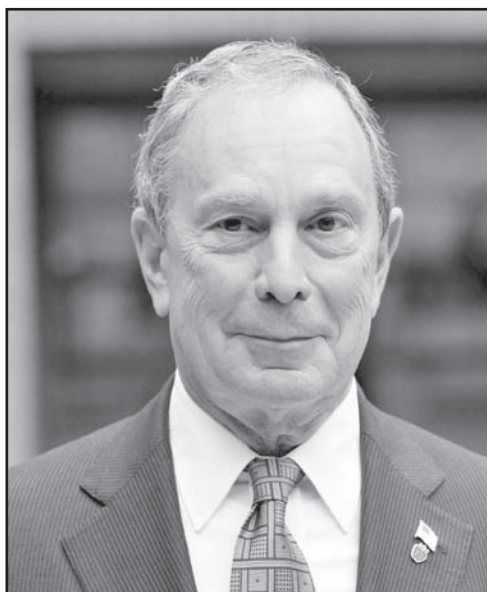
Our leaders in Washington have stood by as our national deficits have reached \$1 trillion per year, and our national debt now exceeds \$21 trillion. A large swath of Americans do not want to ruin their children's and grandchildren's futures by borrowing on their tab.

Now, here's the pathway to a Bloomberg 2020 presidency, and it runs through the suburbs like Westchester County.

Step 1: Bloomberg runs for the Democratic nomination for president, but skips the Iowa Caucus and the New Hampshire and South Carolina Democratic primaries. Mayor Pete (Buttegeig) wins Iowa, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren wins New Hampshire. Former Vice President Joe Biden is a damaged presidential candidate beyond repair by the time he gets to South Carolina, which ends up splitting their votes between Biden, Warren and whoever is left in the race.

Next up on the Democratic primary calendar is Super Tuesday, where 15 states – including California, Texas, Maine, Virginia and Colorado – with about 40 percent of the Democratic delegates at stake. By this time, many of the democratic hopefuls will be out of money to fund a 15-state campaign on television – except for Bloomberg, who comes in heavy with a \$100 million media buy to get out his message of competent government, standing up to the NRA, and being the guy who can defeat Trump.

The Super Tuesday strategy is what the Bloomberg campaign has drawn up. But here's where I take it a different way that gets



Former NYC Mayor and presidential hopeful Michael Bloomberg.

to the same result, the White House:

Democrats are unable to reach a consensus nominee by the time the Democratic Convention happens in Milwaukee in July. This results in a "brokered convention" with progressives winning the day and nominating Warren over a draft Hillary Clinton and a draft Michele Obama convention vote.

Now Bloomberg has to consider what a general election will look like with Warren as the Democratic nominee and Trump as the Republican nominee. Over the summer, a "draft Bloomberg as an independent for president movement" has resulted in Bloomberg being placed on the ballot in all 50 states as an independent, at a cost of \$30 million.

Realizing that Warren cannot beat Trump, Bloomberg enters the race as an independent, and targets his appeal to the "Never Trumpers" who make up 10 percent of the electorate, moderate Democrats who fear Warren can't beat Trump who make up 10 percent of the electorate, and 20 percent of the electorate who are independents who held their nose in 2016 and voted for Hillary or Trump. Add on another 5 percent who voted for Gary Johnson (this reporter) and Jill Stein in 2016, and you have the 35 percent needed to win a three-way race for president.

Bloomberg would also have the financial wherewithal to try and attract the more than 100 million American voters who didn't vote for president in 2016. This group of untapped voters could give Bloomberg the presidency.

Suburban voters will be the key to a Bloomberg victory in 2020, with both Hillary and Trump getting 45 percent of their votes from the suburbs in 2016. That's about 50 million votes Bloomberg can tap into – and he can start with suburban women who would listen to his message about bringing the country back to sanity, discussing the issues in the hopes of getting things done, and, most of all, getting guns off the streets of America.

Suburban voters have a vested interest in the American economy succeeding, through their 401Ks and through Wall Street. And while they see both of these economic indicators increasing under President Trump, they don't see it continuing under Trump's second term. They are fearful that one day, Trump will finally go too far and say or Tweet the final straw that will begin the spiral down for the American economy.

Suburban voters – more than most Americans – have "Trump fatigue" and want a return to political civility and normalcy, for their futures and the futures of their children. Michael Bloomberg is the calm, competence

Continued on Page 8

9-Year-Old Collects Bottles For Stranger's Surgery

World Kindness Day This week



Abigail Moen collected 6,600 bottles to donate \$300 to Operation Smile.

It all started in September 2018 when 9-year-old Abigail Moen was watching television with her dad. "A commercial came on and it made me cry," she said. "There were kids who needed surgery so they could smile and be happy."

Moen, a student at Anne Hutchinson School in Eastchester, said she felt compelled to act. "I always want to help people. It feels good," she said.

The fourth-grader came up with a plan to raise money. "I decided to collect bottles because I knew the ocean had too much plastic and I thought recycling bottles could help the ocean and help a kid get surgery," said Moen.

After one year, Moen collected enough bottles to help pay for the surgery of a child, like the one she saw in that commercial. "I collected 6,600 bottles – that's \$330," she said.

Moen donated the money to the organization profiled in that commercial, Operation Smile. The global nonprofit offers free surgeries to children born with a cleft lip (tear in the lip) or cleft palate (gap in the roof of mouth). The condition makes it difficult for a person to eat, drink, speak and smile. The cost for surgery is

around \$240.

"I didn't know what a cleft lip or cleft palate was until I saw the commercial," she said. "I started telling people at school and they brought in bottles for me. Every weekend my parents would take me to the machine to cash in the bottles."

The pre-teen, who enjoys playing soccer and the piano, said she wants to be a surgeon when she grows up. In the meantime, her fundraising efforts continue. "I plan on having a bake sale and yard sale," said Moen. "I'd also like to make bracelets and sell them to raise more money to help children. We all can be kind and help others."

Abigail Moen's act of kindness should make us all examine ourselves, and how we can help others this holiday season. And thanks for reminding us that Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."

For more information on Operation Smile, visit operationsmile.org.

Send your letters and opinions to us at dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

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On This

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see the game... and so did all the players!

Sunday, Dec. 22

Dec. 22, 1924: Patrolman James Hollis stepped into the Park Hill Lunch Café at 232 S. Broadway because a car was left running outside; he found a pair of men robbing the night man. The patrolman, ordered at gunpoint to go to a back room in the restaurant, whirled around halfway to the storage room and fired five shots with his service revolver. The robbers returned fire and ran out of the restaurant to their car... that immediately stalled. They carjacked a passing taxi, but Hollis followed them.

Thirty shots were fired, destroying many

windows in the area, as the trio conducted a wild shoot-out. They ended up in Van Cortlandt Park, where Hollis captured one of the robbers at the point of an empty revolver. When brought before Judge Boote, the bandit was ordered held on \$20,000 bail.

Dec. 22, 1941: The Defense Council's Salvage Committee reminded Yonkers residents not to throw away Christmas gift wrappings, but to reuse the wrappings for scrap paper for the war effort.

For more information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and upcoming events, visit www.facebook.com/YonkersHistoricalSociety or LinkedIn and Twitter @YonkersHistoric. For information on membership in YHS, call 914-961-8940 or email yhsociety@aol.com.

Spreading the

Continued from Page 1

corners of Yonkers.

Chanukah, the Festival of Light, remembers the miracles of a small outnumbered band of Jewish guerilla fighters defeating the overwhelming Syrian-Greek forces, liberating the Jewish nation and bestowing independence. It also celebrates the miracle of the single cruze of undefiled oil, sufficient for only one day of kindling the lights in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, lasting for eight days – the length of time necessary until new pure olive oil could be pressed.

Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz of Chabad of Yonkers/Greystone Jewish Center welcomed more than 200 people to Home Depot's annual menorah building workshop in Yonkers on Dec. 8. Children, with the help of adults and Home Depot associates, received work aprons and used free materials to build and paint menorahs with their choice of colors to use during Chanukah, making the mitzvah of lighting the menorah personally fulfilling and exciting.

"Judaism is not a religion to be practiced just in the synagogue," said Hurwitz. "Judaism is a way of life, a religion which informs all our actions wherever you are. We have our event at Home Depot, a secular place, where building a menorah makes for a more meaningful activity. While helping people make their menorah. You can buy a menorah, but making it brings a lot more excitement and meaning to a child. They look forward to lighting the menorah they built, not just anticipating receiving gifts.

Spreading the light of Chanukah as she helped others make menorahs, Hurwitz was blessed to hear a Home Depot associate singing the well-known tune "I had a Little Dreidl, I made it out of clay," and asked him how he knew the song.

Chris Bradley replied: "I always heard my mother and grandmother singing it. My mother is Jewish. My grandmother was Jewish. Her name was Tannenbaum. I celebrated the holidays at home; Pesach, and Chanukah. The holidays were very special to me."

Bradley, 36, was never Bar Mitzvah, he told Hurwitz. He said he decided to celebrate his Judaism and affinity with the Jewish people by putting on tefillin at Home Depot, a secular place now imbued with holiness where another of the scattered sparks of Judaism were found and ignited. Bradley put tefillin on his arm and forehead, signifying dedicating his strength and his intellect to the service of G-d, and said the Shema Yisrael (Hear O Israel) prayer.

Bradley said he is thankful to Home Depot Manager Trevor Meinke for hosting the Chanukah menorah building workshop, without which Bradley would not have made this connection. He said he "may no longer be available to work on Saturday (the Jewish Sabbath)."

Hurwitz, his wife Rebbetzin Chanie, and their children distributed free chocolate donuts and bottled water, danced with Dreidl Lady Shelly Josephson, and invited all to spread the miracle of the light of Chanukah, and to participate in upcoming Chanukah activities in Yonkers.

On Wednesday, Dec. 18 starting at 5:30 p.m., Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano will welcome Hurwitz and Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, to Yonkers City Hall. A choir will lead spirited singing, and the traditional dreidl spinning game may be played while enjoying traditional Chanukah sufganiot jelly donuts.

On Thursday, Dec. 19 at 11 a.m., the next pre-Chanukah event will be a children's Chanukah book reading at Barnes & Noble, 2614 Central Park Ave., Yonkers.

On Sunday, Dec. 22 from 1 to 4 p.m., last year's "Chanukah Village" at the Ridge Hill Shopping Center will grow to the size of this year's "Chanukah City," at 1150 Market St., Yonkers. The world's first Chanukah virtual reality experience will feature rides, music and entertainment, a magician, a holiday train ride, iceless ice skating, a "touch a truck" experience, crafts, a photo booth, special Chanukah donuts, Chanukah gelt (chocolate coins) and a giant chocolate fountain, a Lego stop-motion Chanukah robotics and 3D printing, and more.

After the sun sets, the first light of Chanukah will be lit.

Ridge Hill Chanukah City is sponsored by Chabads of the Rivertowns, Briarcliff-Ossining, Bronxville, Scarsdale and Pelham, and the Greystone Jewish Center/Chabad of Yonkers. The Jewish holiday of Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, this year starts after sunset Sunday, Dec. 22, when the first light of the eight-day holiday will be lit.

On Monday, Dec. 23 at 6 p.m., a Chanukah lighting and celebration at the Cross County Shopping Center, 8000 Mall Walk, Yonkers, will feature free traditional Chanukah food including kosher sufganiot donuts, hot latkes (potato pancakes) and chocolate gelt coins, along with music from the Whats Up band!

On Thursday, Dec. 26, Hurwitz will lead a Chanukah procession meeting at 4:30 p.m. at Yonkers City Hall, 40 S. Main St., and heading through Yonkers streets with a police escort, destined for a Chanukah party at Nahmias et Fils Distillery, 201 Saw Mill River Road. As occurred last year, many cars with "Happy Chanukah" signs and a menorah on top will illuminate Yonkers with a parade of menorahs and music. Chabad of Yonkers will make available a limited number of magnetically-attached menorahs that will not damage your car. Register at Rabbi@JewishYonkers.com or call 914-963-8888 to reserve a Menorah for your car top.

On Sunday, Dec. 29, Chabad of Yonkers will host a grand Chanukah party from 2 to 4 p.m. at Chabad of Yonkers/Greystone Jewish Center, 600 N. Broadway, featuring a kosher catered Chinese buffet, traditional sufganiot donuts, hot latkes, chocolate Chanukah gelt, music and dancing. There is a suggested donation of \$15 per person. To reserve a spot, email Rabbi@JewishYonkers.com or call 914-963-8888.

Following the Sunday, Dec. 29 party, all are welcome to see a giant menorah lit with all eight Chanukah lights overlooking the sun setting over the Hudson River, on the eighth night of Hanukah, at majestic Untermyer Park. However you prefer to spell the many transliterated names of the holiday, Hurwitz asks for volunteers to climb the ladder to light the menorah's Tiki torches, to publicize the miracle of Hanukah and to spread the light.

Singing Maor Tzur and traditional Hanukah tunes, and spinning dreidls, all will enjoy a large variety of jelly and chocolate donuts.

The lighting is dedicated in memory of Marty Rochelle, known as "Mr. Parks," who will always be remembered for his love and concern for his fellow Yonkers residents; and for his wife, family, children and his many friends. Rochelle served in the U.S. Air Force; created a network of bail bond companies; served as Yonkers city manager before the advent of a city mayor; was chairman of the Yonkers Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department, and also the Westchester County Parks Recreation and Conservation Board; president of the New York State Recreation and Parks Society Board of Commissioners; city marshal to the Yonkers City Court; commissioner of the Ninth Judicial Independent Screening Commission; and host of a Tuesday evening radio show heard on WVOX-1460 AM.

Rochelle passed Nov. 23, 2014 at age 78 after having greatly contributed to his family, friends and community.

With joy, Chabad of Yonkers takes seriously this message and mission to spread the light and joy of Chanukah to all corners of Yonkers, and plans these numerous Chanukah events for the public to enjoy and to participate.

'Made in New York' is An International Enterprise

By Nancy McLernon

Alongside traffic and coffee, news radio is a staple of my morning commute. As I flip through the stations, I'll sometimes hear a pundit lament that "Nothing is made in America anymore."

In reality, there are nearly 13 million manufacturing workers in the U.S., including thousands in New York. Some of these folks are employed by U.S.-based firms. Many others work for companies headquartered abroad.

These international companies employ more than 499,000 New Yorkers. That includes 72,600 employees in manufacturing jobs – or nearly 15 percent of all New York jobs created by international companies.

According to the latest government data, the number of New York jobs created by international companies jumped by 20 percent over the past five years. For comparison, the number of private-sector jobs overall in New York increased by 10 percent.

New York isn't an anomaly. International companies created 62 percent of new manufacturing jobs in the U.S. over the past five years, according to the latest available government data. More than 1,500 different international companies employ New York workers. Many of them are household names, including BP, L'Oréal and Heineken.

International firms pay better. Americans who work for global companies earn 26 percent more compensation than the average worker in the same geographic area, according to a new analysis from the National Bureau of Economic Research.

International companies benefit all workers, not just the ones they employ directly. When an international firm sets up a manufacturing plant and creates 1,000 new jobs in America, workers in that geographic area at domestic firms experience a collective \$16 million boost in wages. So for every local job that an international firm creates, the wage pool for employees in the area increases to the tune of \$16,000 annually.

International companies also benefit U.S. small businesses. Over the past decade and

a half, international companies increased the amount of business they do with U.S. suppliers by nearly 30 percent – jumping from \$1.5 trillion to \$2.4 trillion, after adjusting for inflation.

In the manufacturing sector, business between international companies and domestic suppliers rose by nearly 70 percent during that same period. That is more than 14 times greater than the overall growth rate achieved by all U.S. businesses.

The economic well-being of local communities depends on international companies and their relationships with suppliers in the U.S. For example, Honda operates manufacturing facilities across Ohio that directly employ more than 13,000 residents. It also relies on a network of more than 600 suppliers across the Midwest, almost a third of which are based in the Buckeye State.

In fact, Honda spends \$10 billion in Ohio annually to obtain intermediary goods from regional suppliers.

Sourcing locally is important for reasons beyond just economics – it allows U.S. small businesses to demonstrate a commitment to social equity and environmental sustainability. For instance, French food company Danone's American division, Dannon, is the leading U.S. yogurt producer. Seeking to establish a more sustainably-sourced array of products, Dannon formed partnerships directly with seven family dairy farms and two dairy co-ops across the U.S., which now supply all of the milk Dannon uses in its products.

In doing so, Danone set high standards for animal welfare and sustainable agricultural practices that must be upheld by their suppliers.

As we celebrate local manufacturers statewide, let's recognize how international companies catalyze local economic growth – giving a whole new meaning to "made in New York."

Nancy McLernon is president and CEO of the Organization for International Investment.

Spano to

Continued from Page 1

ments made to Yonkers landlords under NYC's controversial Special One Time Assistance program, which has impacted cities across the country, including Newark and Yonkers.

SOTA provides homeless individuals or families who have been in a shelter for at least 90 days with one year's pre-paid rent into housing within NYC or another state. New York City sent people to dilapidated housing in Newark, leading Newark to sue NYC in federal court. New York City, despite previously promising to notify Yonkers before moving people into buildings, has not disclosed any information about where, who, and how many individuals have been sent to Yonkers.

"New York City continues to keep Yonkers in the dark about the impact its SOTA program has on our city," said Spano. "We repeatedly have asked New York to provide us information so we can make sure people aren't being dumped into substandard housing or buildings with violations, but they continue to stonewall us."

"Now that they have agreed to stop sending people to Newark, we are concerned they will simply step up the number of people they send to Yonkers. We already have a homeless population we struggle to take care of, and we need to make sure New York City isn't adding to the problem by putting people in substandard housing then walking away, as they did in Newark."

As part of a Freedom of Information Law request, Yonkers is asking the NYC's Department of Human Resources and its Department of Finance to provide all records evidencing applications for residential housing within Yonkers, all records evidencing lease agreements for residential housing units within Yonkers, and all records evidencing payments, including but not limited to rental payments, for residen-

tial housing units within Yonkers.

"We need to ensure these families are in safe and habitable housing and their landlords are in good standing," said Spano. "It is also essential to know what long-term impacts these families have on our already overcapacity school district in which the local taxpayer share exceeds \$10,000 per student."

The Westchester County Department of Social Services manages the care and well-being of the county's homeless population, who are often sent to Yonkers for overnight sheltering and daily intake services.

"While we are sympathetic to the needs of these individuals, Yonkers serves as the county's largest city and is already overly burdened by the county's homeless," said Spano. "We are asking that New York be transparent with us, from one government to another, so we can collectively work together to solve the needs of our most vulnerable population."

Yonkers Councilman John Rubbo added: "Yonkers is a diverse city with families from many different socioeconomic backgrounds. As a partner to the Westchester County Department of Social Services, we work hard to assist our existing homeless residents. The fact that Mayor de Blasio wants to now transition New York's homeless population out of its city to Yonkers and other local communities is a gross negligence of his social and moral responsibility to the homeless of New York City. As such, I will be proposing a resolution to the Yonkers City Council calling on New York City to effectively put programming in place that properly serves its homeless population, instead of shipping them out to other cities and states. These families deserve better."

"A message to Mayor De Blasio: Be a leader and help the people of your city. Just because you can't solve an issue does not mean you can pass the buck. As a Catholic, I want to help the less fortunate, but as an elected representative of Yonkers, my charity will start at home."

Colby on his award and football career, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors!

Congrats to Coach Dan Dematteo on another fine job with the Yonkers Force in 2019!

If you have a nominee for a Yonkers High School sports team that you think is worthy of our Yonkers Rising Player of the Year Award, email us at pfoley14@aol.com.

Colby Frias

Continued from Page 1

Colby is graduating in January (early) in Gorton's Flight Program, which is for highly-motivated academic students to get a jump start on college. We at Yonkers Rising congratulate

How Bloomberg

Continued from Page 7

and reliability they want leading our country.

Is this an unreasonable political prediction? Perhaps. But it's not as unreasonable as any other political scenario out there. As CNN commentator and Sirius XM Radio host Michael Smerconish likes to say, "We are in uncharted political waters like never before." If that's the case, why not Bloomberg in 2020? Crazy things have been predicted

or suggested.

Before we return to the political realities of impeachment hearings by Democrats, and Ukraine interference and Hunter Biden coming from Republicans, let me take you back to the summer of 1992 – June 1992 to be exact – when a Gallup poll found 39 percent of Americans ready to vote for Ross Perot for president over George HW Bush (31 percent) and Bill Clinton (25 percent).

Twenty-eight years later, in 2020, we might be in that same political place, only with the name Bloomberg leading the polls.

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YOHO Feature Artist

South-Asian Artist Creates Politically-Charged Digital Media



YOHO Artist Shayok Mukhopadhyay, and an example of his work.

By Ameara Ditsche

Shayok Mukhopadhyay grew up in India and came to the U.S. as a young adult. He had been interested in movies throughout his entire life, but really began filmmaking upon moving to the states.

“What struck me was the degree of industrialization and consumerism,” he said. “I needed to react to that and say something out loud.”

Mukhopadhyay works primarily with film and photography, including video and photo installations. He has also created a feature-length film, “Gautam & Buddha.” He is currently featured in an exhibit in Connecticut featuring artists from South Asia. For this exhibit, he collaborated with another artist to make a piece commenting on the political turmoil in Kashmir.

Mukhopadhyay studied photojournalism

at the International Center of Photography in New York.

He has been featured in galleries around the Westchester area, and received a grant to take portraits of citizens of Portchester, which were displayed in the Modern Families Exhibit for ArtsWestchester, as well as the laundromat in Portchester.

“I knew the laundromat would be more accessible to my subjects than a gallery,” said Mukhopadhyay.

In addition to his prior politically-charged work, Mukhopadhyay said he hopes to produce pieces commenting on climate change, specifically how it impacts the lives of people living in India.

For more information on Shayok Mukhopadhyay and to learn more about YOHO, the largest artist community in southern Westchester, visit www.yohoartists.com.

Note to Politicians: Remove Your Signs!



Now that Election Day is more than one month behind us, we still see the political signs of candidates as we travel around Yonkers, and Westchester County. What is also interesting to note is that both the winners and losers on Election Day have leftover signs. This is unacceptable to our readers, who have complained about the lack of respect from candidates who don't clean up. The photo above shows City Council candidate Mike Breen collecting his signs after Election Day.

Farmers' Market Vendor Enjoys Yonkers Rising



If you travel around Yonkers enough, you will find someone reading a copy of Yonkers Rising. At the recent farmer's market, held every year at St. John's Episcopal Church in Getty Square, we caught one of the vendors, an Amish farmer, catching up on the events in the city. Thanks for reading!

'The Irishman' Brings West. to the Small Screen



Al Pacino, left, portrays Jimmy Hoffa, and Robert DeNiro plays Frank Sheeran in the Netflix movie "The Irishman," which filmed in Yonkers.

By Dan Murphy

Martin Scorsese's blockbuster movie "The Irishman" debuted over Thanksgiving weekend on Netflix, and most of us in Westchester have the streaming service and watched some of the movie – which is great but, at three and a half hours, is a bit too long, even to watch in the comfort of your own home.

But to watch Robert DeNiro, Joe Pesci and Scorsese reunite, this time with Al Pacino included, is always a treat. Pacino plays Jimmy Hoffa, but does not deliver the best performance of the three. DeNiro plays the lead role of mafia hitman Frank Sheeran, who is the main character in the book "I Heard You Paint Houses," which is the basis for the movie.

Pesci is getting Oscar buzz for his understated performance as aging mob boss Russel Bufalino.

The Irishman also uses new "de-aging" technology that allows Pesci, De Niro and Pacino to play their characters throughout the five decades that the film spans. De Niro, who was 74 at the time of filming – with many scenes in Yonkers – had to be filmed from age 25 to 75. Instead of hiring a young Frank Sheeran, De Niro, with de-aging filming, was able to play young, middle-age and older Sheeran.

The same goes for Pesci and Pacino in depicting their characters.

You may notice several Westchester locales while watching "The Irishman." In 2018, the big three of Scorsese, De Niro and Pacino were seen filming at Yonkers City Hall, in the old courthouse that is constantly used for television series and movies because of its classic, historical and ceremonial look.

The same threesome were also seen on Lake Avenue in Yonkers, filming another scene of a streetscape in the 1950s where Hoffa (Pacino) and Sheeran (De Niro) were walking. And a memorable scene has Sheeran throwing a gun away in the Hudson River. That location is on the northern shore of the Hudson River in Yonkers near the Greystone train station.

Sheeran had just killed Crazy Joe Gallo, who was brilliantly portrayed by comedian Sebastian Maniscalco. St. John the Baptist Church on Yonkers Avenue was the location of Bill Bufalino's wedding.

Bufalino was played by Ray Romano.

The claims made by Sheeran in his book, and in the film, include knowledge of who killed President John F. Kennedy and Jimmy Hoffa. While those claims are not believed by all, the film is certainly worth your time, and if you can't sit for the three and a half hours, you can walk away after three hours – when somebody is killed.

I won't spoil it for you.

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Riverfront Art Gallery Presents 'im MIGRATION'

By Rose Aviles

The current show "im MIGRATION" is catching attention of many across Westchester County, including Hudson River Museum Director Masha Turchinsky.

"Immigration is not a new phenomenon in the United States; the fact of the matter is we have always been a nation of immigrants and their descendants," she wrote in the Westchester County Business Journal, Art News. "Westchester County is a reflection of that reality."

The exhibition at the Riverfront Art Gallery at Yonkers Public Library will be on view through Jan. 24 during library hours. The exhibit shows a range of mediums such as installation, photography, sculpture, painting and more, exploring the work of many artists who either immigrated to the United States or whose families came here searching for a better way of life, or who had no place else to go if they wished to survive.

"Artists are the culture carriers and transmitters of their own cultural identities, from their country to America, which is why American culture is so rich in celebrations, foods, music and much more," said curator Haifa Bint-Kadi.

On Thursday, Dec. 19 from 6 to 8 p.m., join Bint-Kadi, whose work is also in the exhibition, as she facilitates an intriguing talk between all of the "im MIGRATION" artists regarding their immigrant histories and how it relates to their



The current art show "im MIGRATION" at the Riverfront Library.

art practice.

Then Saturday, Dec. 21 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Riverfront Art Gallery, paint along with featured artist-in-residence Shanequa Benitez to create a vibrant take-home fabric art patch that can be added to clothing, bags and furniture.

On Saturday, Jan. 11, enjoy a free fashion show, music, and light refreshments from 2 to 5 p.m. The "No Sleep x LBKA Winter Fashion Show" will be hosted by the NEO Society. NEO is an organization of 40-plus teen artists coming from every Yonkers High School that meets weekly in the Riverfront Art Gallery.



Santa at the MAMA tree lighting with two of Yonkers' finest.

Photos by Donna Davis



Jack Toone of Rising Ground with UPAC teen volunteers and collected toys.

Santa Sightings Continued from Page 1

and gifts for those who need a little help this holiday season.

The Downtown Yonkers Business Improvement District held its annual tree-lighting in Getty Square, where Santa and Mrs. Claus welcomed a large crowd, with Mrs. Claus hand-

ing out candy canes with the help of a few elves.

The 20-foot tree was lit in the middle of Getty Square, with lively holiday music and other entertainment, and free hot chocolate.

Santa has set up shop in Getty Square and at the Cross County Shopping Center, where you can tell him what you would like to find under your tree. Take a photo of Santa and friends at your tree-lighting and email it to d Murphy@risingmediagroup.com.

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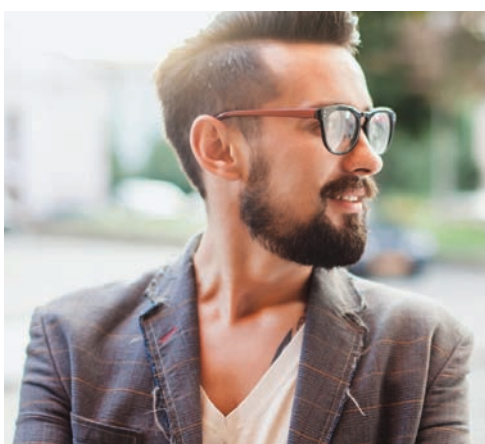
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