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Read about these topics and more on the Rising Times blog at YonkersRising.com

DioGuardi Joins Rethinking County Government | More on McLaughlin & City Council President Race | Mayor Phil Amicone's Budget - 7.8% Tax Increase

City Council and Public Review Details of Revised \$500 Million SFC Plan



A rendering of SFC's proposed River Park Center

By Dan Murphy

After a weeklong delay of a public release of the negotiated Land Disposition Agreement (LDA) between Mayor Phil Amicone and developers Streuver Fideleo Cappelli (SFC), the document became public after a presentation to the City Council on Thursday.

Continued on Page 10

YOHO Arts: A Thriving Artist Community in Yonkers



Yonkers artists Arthur Dworkin (above) and Carole Nagger (at right) in their YOHO studio lofts

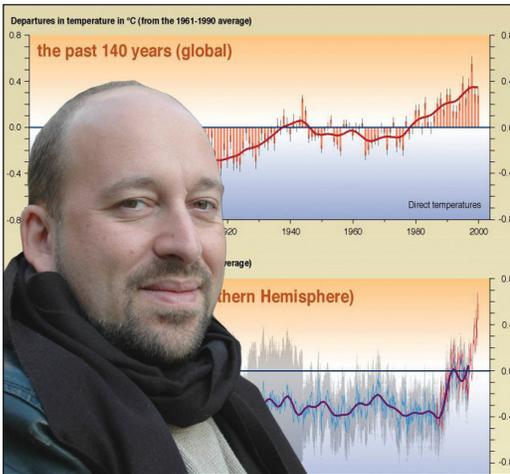


By Dan Murphy

Many Yonkers residents may not have heard about the thriving artistic community in downtown Yonkers. Called YOHO Arts, this "family" of 50 artists practices their craft in more than 40 loft studios at 578 Nepperhan Ave., in the former Alexander Smith Carpet factory building.

Continued on Page 14

Yonkers Goes Green for Earth Day!



Dr. Gavin Schmidt (above) will discuss climate change at the Hudson River Museum, in honor of Earth Day

See story on Page 5 and the Yonkers Green Calendar of Events on Pages 7 & 11

McLaughlin Jumps into Race for City Council President

City Council Minority Leader Liam McLaughlin kicked off his campaign for City Council president on Wednesday, April 15. McLaughlin, a Republican completing his 10th year on the council representing the Fourth District, will seek the Yonkers GOP nomination at their convention to be held at the end of the month.

McLaughlin, a 30-year resident of Yonkers, brings a wealth of experience — politically and professionally — to this race. An attorney and CPA, his years on the council include serving as the chair of the council's Budget Committee, and in building consensus and forging workable majorities.

Over the past two years, McLaughlin has joined a "working majority" on the council that includes mostly Democrats, including Council President Chuck Lesnick, who McLaughlin might end up running against in November.

McLaughlin's announcement, rumored heavily for a few days, was still a surprise to many in Yonkers. The other announced Republican in the race, first time candidate Jim Castro-Blanco, excited Yonkers Republicans with his early announcement. With McLaughlin now in the race, the question becomes whether or not he can hold onto the rank and file Yonkers Republicans at the convention. Castro-Blanco held a fundraiser this past Thursday.

McLaughlin is a proud member of former Mayor John Spencer's inner circle, and served as the point person on the council during some of the Spencer years. For the first two years in the Amicone administration, McLaughlin served a similar role. But a split with the mayor, and a sub-



Minority Leader Liam McLaughlin

sequent truce between the two, has resulted in an uneasy relationship over the last two years.

The key to a McLaughlin/Castro-Blanco matchup first comes down to who has the support of the leadership of the Yonkers GOP. So far, Chairman John Jacono has been quiet about all of the council races. Who Jacono supports, and who the ward leaders and factions close to Amicone and Nick Spano throw their support to, is an unknown and is now being added up by both sides.

Democratic City Council president candidates include incumbent Chuck Lesnick and former Councilman Dennis Robertson.

Read about this story and more and post your comments at the Rising Times blog at YonkersRising.com.

What's Inside

- PAL Easter Egg Hunt - Page 2
- Yonkers Vets Bring Cheer - Page 2
- Education Summit 2009 - Page 3
- Putt for \$1,000 at Empire City - Page 3
- In Your Backyard - Pages 3-7
- City Tax Liens - Pages 7-12
- Jennifer Aniston Narrates Children's Books - Page 12
- Summer Camp Fair at Riverfront Library - Page 13

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Mr. Met: A Big Hit at Downtown Citibank



Mr. Met with two young Yonkers Mets fans

See story on Page 2

Superintendent's Budget Preserves All Programs: Does More With Less

By Dan Murphy

If you have read the *Journal News*, or have watched News 12 over the years, you have heard about the dire budget conditions in the Yonkers Public Schools (YPS) and the layoffs and deep program cuts. With a limited amount of dollars due to the economy, most have planned on another doomsday budget from the Board of Education this year.

Consequently, you may not have heard the good news from the media listed above — yes, good news! — about the upcoming 2009-2010 budget from YPS. Superintendent Bernard Pierorazio has presented a budget that preserves all of the programs that have resulted in recent successes throughout the district, while increasing spending at a historically low 1.18 percent.

"I hope the community realizes how Herculean this was and
Continued on Page 10



Superintendent Bernard Pierorazio



YOHO artists prepare for their open house, to be held on April 18 and 19



Yonkers artist Lanny Lasky in her YOHO studio

Yonkers PAL Easter Egg Hunt



L to r: James Vetrano, PAL vice president; the Easter Bunny; Alexandra Salierno, Golden Egg winner; and Ret. Police Officer Chris Palandra, chairman of the Easter Egg Hunt

YOHO Artists Continued from Page 1

This classic, red brick former industrial building has been transformed into high ceiling, large windowed studios ranging in sizes from 400-2300 square feet.

Yonkers Rising recently met with artists at YOHO to find out the reasons for their success. "This is one-of-a-kind, a building filled with artists," said Carole Nagger, an abstract artist who has been at YOHO for nine years.

"It very assessable [Nagger lives in the Bronx] and convenient, and the rents are affordable, especially when compared to Manhattan." Many of the artists in YOHO have come north to Yonkers, for cheaper rents and much larger studio spaces.

Vic Rothman, a stained-glass restoration artist, who moved to Yonkers from Manhattan, said "I've got three times the space that I did in Manhattan. It's also great to be around other artists, we feed off each other's energy."

There are a wide array of artists at YOHO, including sculptors, visual artists, three different piano repair studios, photographers and a few musicians, including Eli Yamen, a jazz and blues musician who recently moved into YOHO last November after finding it on Craigslist. "It's inspiring to be around other artists, and it's the best space, with old qualities and good light."

Lanny Lasky, who creates wonderful pieces of art from old

fail bits of fabric, wood and metal, has been at YOHO for 10 years. "When I first arrived, there was no one here, but now it's turned into something special."

Kevin Gordon, a commissioned portrait artist whose clients include author Mary Higgins Clark and many CEOs, moved from New York City to Yonkers, and moved into YOHO last year. "While art is a solitary profession, it's good to have the camaraderie and get opinions from other artists. The synergy is great, the ceilings are high and the light is fabulous."

Arthur Dworkin, an abstract painter from the upper west side of Manhattan, had a studio in downtown Manhattan and move to YOHO last year. "This is a beautiful place in a secure building. I had a big studio in Manhattan, so I had high hopes, and I love my studio and the good feelings we have here."

Sculpture artist Ruth Gilbert is the elder statesman, with 11 years at YOHO. "It's a great place to work, and the open houses we have help showcase all of the wonderful artists we have."

George Huang is the driving force behind YOHO's successes. "We have created an integrated and dynamic artistic community that we hope to spread through these old carpet mills. We want to promote the great artists at YOHO and make this a Yonkers Arts Center."

YOHO is having its next open house on Saturday, April 18, and Sunday, April 19, from 12-5 p.m. The public is invited to attend free of cost.

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