Yonkers Art Beat: Artist Honored by Kennedy Center

By Steve Force

Mayor Mike Spano recently welcomed Bernice Spreckman, a Yonkers artist and educator from the Hudson Valley. Spreckman was a finalist in the 2014 Miss New York USA Pageant and is pictured with Spano and her son, Andrew, born in Westchester in 2014. Resby Okang, Yonkers’ newest resident, and the first baby to be born in the city this year, was welcomed by Spano and Monica Avila, who will be competing as a swimsuit, evening gown and personal appearances in parades and charitable events, visiting patients in children’s and veterans’ hospitals and making personal appearances in parades and at community events. Each Miss New York USA contestant will compete in a swimsuit, an evening gown and personal appearances in parades and at community events. Each Miss New York USA contestant will compete in a swimsuit, an evening gown and personal appearances in parades and at community events.

Marya Avila Competes in Miss New York USA Pageant

By Steve Force

Marya Avila, a 25-year-old teacher at Ossining High School, graduated in 2013 with dual masters degrees in childhood education and secondary math education with special educations, from Maryville College. She was crowned Miss Westchester last year and was crowned Miss Hudson Valley in 2014. Each Miss New York USA contestant will compete in the preliminary competition Saturday, Jan. 18 at 7 p.m., which range from $50 to $75; and the final show Sunday, Jan. 19 at 9 p.m., which range from $65 to $95, can be obtained through the Purchase College Performing Arts Center box office by calling 914-251-6200 or visiting www.artscenter.org/tickets.

St. John’s Delivers Baby New Year!

By Steve Force

Mayor Mike Spano recently welcomed Andrew Okang to Yonkers, with mom, Resby. Okang was born at 12:20 a.m. Jan. 1, 2014 at St. John’s Riverside Hospital in Yonkers. Andrew is a healthy 7 pound, 10 ounce boy, and is the first baby to be born in Yonkers this year. Resby Okang is pictured with Spano and her son, Andrew, who was born at 12:20 a.m. Jan. 1, 2014 at St. John’s Riverside Hospital in Yonkers. Andrew is a healthy 7 pound, 10 ounce boy, and is the first baby to be born in Yonkers this year.

Spano Stands Up for Yonkers; No More Sewage Dumping!

By Dan Murphy

The Westchester Joint Wastewater Treatment Plant, in the Ludlow section of south Yonkers. The exhibit marking 150 years of Grand Central Terminal, on display at the New York Transit Museum. The exhibit features rare artifacts and photographs from the museum’s collection, highlighting the terminal’s rich history. The exhibit was first created for a special run in Vanderbilt Hall to kick off Grand Central’s 100th birthday. This adaptation gives visitors the opportunity to see the museum’s collection, highlighting the terminal’s rich history. The exhibit was first created for a special run in Vanderbilt Hall to kick off Grand Central’s 100th birthday.
Yonkers Schools Launches YPIE Scholars Mentoring Program

Seventy volunteer “graduation coaches” receive intensive training to mentor Yonkers Public School students as part of new YPIE Program.

Through the innovative, school-based mentoring program "YPIE Scholars," 70 adults with volunteer graduation coach Laurie Brecher of Chappaqua during YPIE Scholar Program training session.

The overall goal of the YPIE Scholars Program is to improve college and career readiness for students in the Yonkers Public Schools.

YPIE’s plan is to continue this program so that each year, new ninth-grade students who graduated from GPS can enroll.

Yonkers Partners in Education is a 501(c)(3) privately-funded not-for-profit that has been working for 11 years to improve college and career readiness for Yonkers students.

Through the innovative, school-based mentoring program "YPIE Scholars," 70 adults have served on numerous committees and held leadership positions during the last 16 years. Kaplowitz previously served as vice chairman of the BOE and played a critical role in the passage of the historic bi-partisan 2013 budget. Throughout his career in public service, Kaplowitz has earned a reputation as a legislator who works diligently to foster an atmosphere of cooperation and bi-partisanship with all of his colleagues. He is a fiscal conservative and small business owner who has found and eliminated millions of dollars in unnecessary spending.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo delivers his fourth State of the State address last week and his third budget address. At the outset of his 2014-15 legislative term, the governor laid out a clear agenda focused on performance rather than merely growing the bureaucracy.

"We said we would make New York safer and we did. We passed common sense gun reform with the New York SAFE Act.

"We provided the minimum wage, we closed juvenile justice facilities, we opened the justice center and we passed marriage equality. We have given New Yorkers a government that costs less, taxes less and actually does more for the people who use it.

"When we were here three years ago, we were looking at a $13 billion deficit; it was歷史. And it made all the quail in our boots. I never did it for ma. We have gone from a $13 billion deficit to a $2 billion surplus in just three short years. This year within the 25 percent spending cap, we can increase our investments in education, health care, economic development and still provide more tax relief.

"Year one, the locality stays within the 2 percent cap, and in year two, the locality takes concerted steps to reduce their costs through shared services and consolidation.

"The tax burden in New York State is not the income tax, it is the property tax. New Yorkers don’t pay a high property tax. They pay the highest property tax in the United States of America. Finally, the highest property tax in the country is in Westchester County in absolute dollars.

"So why are our property taxes so high?" Re-Continued on Page 9
The Volunteer Center of Westchester County encourages individuals and families in Westchester to pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the MLK Day of Service, on Saturday, Jan. 18, by giving back and making an impact in the local community. The Volunteer Center’s fourth annual MLK Day of Service features some 30 service projects throughout Westchester, Rockland, Ulster and Orange counties.

“There are volunteer opportunities across the county that are suitable for children and adults of all ages,” said Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino. “This is an excellent opportunity for residents to use the day as a time to reflect and give back to the community in honor of Dr. King, whose mission was to bring people from all walks of life together.”

Among the many activities planned for the MLK Day of Service are the “I Have a Dream” craft projects to be created at the Carver Center in Port Chester; the Yonkers Public Library; and The Institutes of Applied Human Development, Inc. in Yonkers. Other service initiatives include canned-food drives at HOPE Community Services in New Rochelle and the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry; running a walkathon in KIngston with the Ulster County Habitat for Humanity; and assisting with the Ulster County Food Bank.

For those who like to participate prior to Jan. 18, The Volunteer Center in Yonkers is collecting toiletries and canned food for care kits created for those in need.

“Participations are joining in, as well, with Con Edison helping to sort and package clothing at Family Services of Westchester’s The Sharing Shelf in Port Chester; and school participation includes students at Mahopac High School making ‘shelter welcome bags’ for survivors of domestic violence at My Sister’s Place in White Plains.”

“We are encouraging people to ‘Make it a day on, not a day off’ and to donate their time and efforts for survivors of domestic violence at My Sister’s Place in White Plains.”

DVF decorative ribbons for children across the country were awarded for a set of four films chronicling the history of the civil rights movement. The powerful documentaries, “The Abolitionists,” “Slavery by Another Name,” “Freedom Riders” and “The Loving Story,” include dramatic scenes of incidents in the 150-year effort to achieve equal rights for all. “Freedom Riders” received an Emmy in 2012, and “The Loving Story” and “The Abolitionists” were nominated for Emmys in 2013.

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**Yonkers Participates in ‘Take Your Child to the Library Day’**

Yonkers Riverfront Library will participate in the third annual ‘Take Your Child to the Library Day,’ a nationwide celebration of libraries taking place Sunday, Jan. 19 from 1 to 5 p.m. The Library is located at One Larkin Plaza.

**Letter to the Editor**

*By Dr. L. Nicholas, a certified financial information instructor and psychologist, for a discussion about stress and how to alleviate it. This article was also provided practical skills in money management, developing a savings plan, and setting realistic goals. Light refreshments will be served.*

**Community Council Meets**

Community Council will hold its next regular monthly meeting Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Chuma Community Room, City Center. 435 Riverdale Avenue.

This month’s anticipated speaker will be a representative of the Southeastern Bronx Business

**Assemble Mem-Member Makes Hold Office Hours, Distributes Transit Survey**

Assemble Mem-Member shall hold office hours Friday, Feb. 1, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the City Hall, 2251 Tuckahoe Road. The Assembly’s office is open for a question and answer session. You will be able to obtain assistance for your constituents from the office as well.

**Winter Activities in Westchester**

Westchester County nature centers will hold a series of events on Saturday, Jan. 18 and 19. A cross-country ski tour will take place on the paths of Lookout Mountain County Park, located in the Westchester County Park system. The tour will begin at 10 a.m. at the Lenoir Preserve on Dudley Street in Yonkers. Weather permitting, bring your own equipment:

**Learn to Cope with Financial Stress at Riverfront Library**

Are you a member of your current financial stress? Let’s find out how to handle your stress during our free workshop. Saturday, Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Library. There is no charge. Registration required.

**Yonkers Riverfront Library is located across from the Yonkers train station on Metro-North’s Hudson Line. Parking is available in the nearby Buena Vista parking garage or Waterfront parking garage. The library is handicapped accessible.**

If you need information, call Elise Schlosser at 914-675-7960. For directions, library hours and other information, visit www.ypl.org.

**Don’t trade one set for another**

**New York is not for fruit!**

**By Eric W. Schlosser**

*Let’s start off with some good news. After success with their version of the “cronut” – the cross-"donut" hybrid – Yonkers State Lawmakers have finally figured out a way to curb the craze and is now test-marking a new, round-shaped hybrid. “Crogels”*, according to news reports, are currently only available at the Riverfront Library in Yonkers during states while New York does nothing; this is an argument that I have been making for a long time.*

*The Second Annual Take Your Child to the Library Day is just one of the many ways in which New York State Assembly Member Eric Stevenson of shaking down businessmen in order to gain political favors and transport for homeowners with children. He began his career in government when he was a school teacher, then served on the local board of education before being elected to the state legislature. He has been serving his constituents since that time.*

*The Yonkers Riverfront Library is located across from the Yonkers train station on Metro-North’s Hudson Line. Parking is available in the nearby Buena Vista parking garage or Waterfront parking garage. The library is handicapped accessible.*

*For additional information, contact Elyse Schlosser at 914-675-7960. For directions, library hours and other information, visit www.ypl.org.*
Republican caucus has sought to build a constructive way,” he continued.

The primary function of the Office of the Council President is to serve the people of Yonkers. I wanted to share my thoughts on this occasion and let you know about our current situation so you can look to us for leadership.

First Rate Committee Meeting

“The City Council met for this week’s first Rate Committee meeting, where our majority emphasized our commitment to creating jobs, economic development and better neighborhoods. We heard from the candidates for deputy commissioner of information technology, Tor Soderquist, a Yonkers resident who spent the last 12 years in several capacities, including a director of global IT services for NASA OMDX, and who holds an MBA from the University of Chicago.

“We also discussed the nomination of Brendan McGrath for inspector general of the Yonkers Board of Legislators. The new leader of the Republican legislators, George Oros and Joe Del Vecchio, voted for the new leadership coalition. "The best thing for the people of Westchester is for everyone, not for anything else," she said. “It's our responsibility to make decisions for the benefit of the people, not for anything else," she said. “It's our responsibility to make decisions for the benefit of the people, not for anything else," she said. 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Correction:

In last week’s issue (Jan. 10) of Yonkers Rising, in the story titled “City Court to Get ‘72 rule,” we incorrectly reported that a broker named Kevin Falan would be the first African-American City of Yonkers City Court judge. Former Judges Bruce Tolbert and Joseph West served on the city court in the 1960s.
**Reps. Urge Medicare Coverage for HIV/AIDS Services**

*By Michael Lehnagle, USA Today*

Happy and healthy New Year to all the readers of this column. The year 2013 proved to be an interesting year in health care in the United States. There were many issues that we need to be aware of and be prepared for in 2014, as we move forward into the new year.

**Health Board Seeks Candidates**

**For Annual Public Health Award**

Do you know a person or organization that has significantly contributed to a public health problem? If so, you can nominate them to receive a public health award.

**Board of Health Seeks Candidates**

**For Annual Public Health Award**

The Board of Health would like to consider nominations for the 2014 Public Health Award. Nominations are due by Jan. 31, 2014.

**Swear and Shake, presented by Urban H2O at**

**The Capital Club**

*By Jane Doe, NY Daily News*

Swear and Shake, presented by Urban H2O at the Capital Club, is an event that brings together people who are passionate about health and fitness.

**HIV/AIDS Services**

The Health Board Seeks Candidates for Annual Public Health Award.
communities damaged by Superstorm Sandy, Hur-}

cion of $3 million in federal recovery funds to 

successes of the last three years and deliver on the 

education," said Spano. "I look forward to con 

lower taxes, new jobs and a focus on improving 

in the form of 

Continued from Page 2

cause we have too many local governments and 

we have had them for too long. It is time to stop 

making excuses, it is time to start making progress 

on the race issue and the Storm. and a solution to the Common Core 

New York State must be a partner with the 

Ethics reform is an acknowledgment of the 

There is a disengagement about the need for 

Let the Race 

other hand. But there has been 

relationship. It is a relationship of 

 ACCESSIBILITY  - OR - REMODELING 

Owen, and the crew transformed St. John’s 

St. John’s Episcopal Church – for the location 

Soderbergh chose Yonkers – and the historical 

side and outside of the church, located in Getty 

Academy Award-winning director Steven 

the City of Yonkers and the neighborhood associa-

storm issues which must be addressed. I also thank 

I have been working with residents to find solu-

$3 million for the City of Yonkers as part of the 

ruined by Congress to rebuild and better prepare for in-

The exhibit is free and is open to the pub-

Reconstruction program to provide assistance to 

A Grand Design: Accompanied by draw-

All Aboard

Continued from Page 1

chooce to operate Grand Central to the Yorkor train 

is a beautiful Beaux Arts building des-

The exhibit highlights fascinating aspects of the 

and America’s first tycoon, provides an introduc-

The Grand Central Terminal exhibit. Photos by Donna Davis.

continue to work with Gov. Cuomo to build on the 

gradually changed from a railroad terminal to a 

A Star is Born: For generations, Grand Cen-

the region, highlighting fascinating aspects of the 

ingenious features, including the ramps that keep 

The new exhibit at Grand Central Terminal includes 

Continuing from our last report, the New York 

A Grand Design: Accompanied by draw-

“Let's go to the people of this state, let’s be 

New York State must be a partner with the 

to get to Grand Central and its history as a railroad 

Cornelius Vanderbilt, the builder of Grand Central, this section shows the building’s many 

ramps that keep vehicles on the same level. 

This section provides an overview of the 

At the end of the month, which, as always, will im-

that it must perform. We have seen that linking state 

ethics reform is an acknowledgment of the 

a variety of nutritional meal replacements were used. Results not typical.

Let’s go to the people of this state, let’s be 

No Formaldehyde 

New York State must be a partner with the 

“Let’s go to the people of this state, let’s be 

an exhibition at the New York Historical Society, 

to the right direction. We hope we will be able to do 

Documents show that address the terminal’s far-reaching 

The Grand Central Terminal exhibit. Photos by Donna Davis.