By Dan Murphy

Yonkers Public Schools students are graduating high school on-time at higher rates, and the district has seen consistent improvements over a five-year period. That was the message given to Yonkers by YPS Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada at a recent Board of Education meeting. Quezada presented the following data:

- Graduation rate increased by 16.4 percentage points in June, from 66.4 percent for the 2009 cohort (Class of 2013) to 82.8 percent for the 2013 cohort (Class of 2017); and increased 11.5 percentage points in August, from 72.5 percent for the 2009 cohort to 89.9 percent for the 2013 cohort.
- Regents diplomas with advanced designation for the 2009-13 cohorts; and Regents diplomas for the 2009-13 cohort over the five years, with August up 10 percent and June up 14 percent.
- The dropout rate decreased for the 2009-13 cohorts over the five years, from 3.7 percent for the 2009 cohort to 1.7 percent for the 2013 cohort — the lowest of the “big five” school districts for the 2013 cohort.

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By Dan Murphy

The selection by Westchester Democrats of Assemblymember Shelley Mayer to be the party’s nominee for State Senate in the 37th District, formerly held by now-County Executive George Latimer, has set off a flurry of activity from elected officials and prospective candidates in Yonkers to gauge support to see if they can run for the Assembly seat that may be vacated by Mayer.

Yonkers School Board Trustees Dr. Nader Sayegh and Edgar Santana are considering running for Assembly if the Yonkers seat becomes vacant.

By Dan Murphy

Three weeks ago we reported a disturbing holiday story, which had someone driving around Westchester, claiming to be a representative of Toys for Tots. It turns out that the collector of the Toys for Tots boxes was a thief collecting for an even stranger, and more unthinkable reason.

The theme, “Keeping the Dream Alive and the Night’s Honorees.” The selection by Westchester Democrats of Assemblymember Shelley Mayer to be the party’s nominee for State Senate in the 37th District, formerly held by now-County Executive George Latimer, has set off a flurry of activity from elected officials and prospective candidates in Yonkers to gauge support to see if they can run for the Assembly seat that may be vacated by Mayer.

NCC Honors ‘Heroes & Sheroes’

At Martin Luther King Dinner

The Yonkers Community Center recently held its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration with a dinner at the historic Grand Manor House in Yonkers. The event was attended by many celebrities and speakers.

Yonkers School Board Trustees Dr. Nader Sayegh and Edgar Santana are considering running for Assembly if the Yonkers seat becomes vacant.

By Dan Murphy

The discussion over the future of term limits, and the possibility of changing the City Charter once again has moved to the forefront.

By Dan Murphy

Sarmad Khojasteh, a Wharton graduate, has been named a finalist for a top government position.

New York Republicans still hold out the belief that they can retake, and win, the 37th State Senate District, which was carved out (or gerrymandered) by the state Republican Party in 2010 as a Republican opportunity district. Republican-friendly communities in Westchester, including Harrison, Eastchester, East Yonkers, North Castle and Bedford, were included in the district in the hopes that a Republican could win and join the pro-drinking GOP State Senate majority in Albany.

For the past six years, and three elections, Democratic Governor Cuomo has called for a special election to be held for Latimer’s old State Senate seat in the 37th District, which includes east Yonkers. Next, Mayer must win the special election for State Senate, against whatever the Republican candidate may be. One of those candidates, Sarmad Khojasteh, is quoted in this story.

Continued on Page 8

Continued on Page 9

Continued on Page 6

Continued on Page 9
Yonkers Idol Samantha Rentas and Yonkers Junior Idol Ada Victoria Israel will pass off their titles for a year and win $1,000, courtesy and one chorus of a song. Winners will hold their title for a year and win $1,000, courtesy and one chorus of a song. Winners will hold to qualify for Yonkers Junior Idol. First audi Yonkers Idol, or between the ages of 10 and 14 to qualify for ward to attending the finale event each year.”

“Yonkers Idol is a wonderful tradition in our city bringing together the very best singing of singers at such a young age and I look for Spano. “I’m impressed each year by the caliber "Yonkers Idol is a wonderful tradition in our city bringing together the very best singing of singers at such a young age and I look for Spano. “I’m impressed each year by the caliber talent our city has to offer," said Mayor Mike "Yonkers Idol is a wonderful tradition in our city bringing together the very best singing of singers at such a young age and I look for Spano. “I’m impressed each year by the caliber talent our city has to offer," said Mayor Mike

Search Kicks Off Feb. 3 at 9 a.m. dine Hill Community Center on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2018. Celebrating its 11th year, the three-round competition will kick off at the No

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The laughs keep rolling at Empire City Casino as Comedy Night series continues with Westchester-born stand-up Paul Virzi headlining the Jan. 31 show. Virzi’s love for his family, cigars, and having pointless sports arguments with friends helps make his audience feel comfortable with his hard-hitting but personable comedic ap proach. His 2013 debut comedy album “Night at the Stand" reached number one on iTunes and number five on Billboard. Top 100 Virzi has made appearances on an array of television pro grams including TruTV’s “Comedy Knockout," AXS TV’s “Gotham Comedy Live," the NFL Network’s “Good Morning Football," FOX’s “Rivals," and has also written for the ESPN ESPY Awards. He was first attracted to stand-up comedy at age 9, when he watched Eddie Murphy’s “Raw.”

Joining Virzi is Latin comedian Luz Pa zos, who has been performing in festivals across the country and was the opening act for Americas Funniest Dino in 2017. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are sold at the door the night of the show. Admission is $3 for Empire Club members and $25 for non-members; non-mem bers can stop by any promotions booth prior to the show and join the Empire Club for free. Elite Club and President’s Club members gain free admission. All attendees receive a complimentary drink ticket. While visiting Empire City, patrons can try their luck on the IGT Wheel of Fortune Triple Stars slot machine, where the record jackpot – only available at Empire City – recently surpassed the $2.7 million mark.

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Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Poem/Video Contest Launched

By Eric Schoen
The Yonkers City Council, at its Jan. 16 meeting, announced the 2018 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Poem/Video Contest launched the following day. Mayor Mike Spano and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edwin Quezada recently launched the 2018 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Poem/Video Contest.

"This annual celebration of Dr. King’s contributions to civil rights for all people regardless of their diverse background, as well as the color of their ticket and resistance, are important lessons for all of our students," said Spano. "This is an exemplary teachable moment that provides an opportunity for students to creatively demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the contributions of African-Americans to our country, and the world."

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Poem/Video Contest is open to all primary and secondary Yonkers students, only one poem/video may be submitted per student. Guidelines and specifications for the contest can be found at www.yonkersny.gov. Poem and video submissions are due between Feb. 2 and Feb. 15 and will be displayed at City Hall and online for Yonkers residents to enjoy.

Winners will be presented with a certificate from Spano and will be asked to present their work at the city’s annual Black History Month celebration Thursday, Feb. 15 at 6 p.m at City Hall.

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Funds GrandPower Advocacy Project

families, in partnership with WJCS. These included every entertaining.
branches to enjoy our rich collection of informa
city throughout the year. In 2017 we: Public Library engaged with all members of our community throughout the past year. The YPL has big plans in the works, and we are always looking to work with people who love libraries as much as we do.

The advocates – most of whom are raising tens of thousands of dollars per child every year, compared to cost of foster care, which would otherwise be incurred if they were not able to care for their grandchildren. It is imperative we take the time to recognize the importance, and the cost to our society, of the role grandparents and kinship caregivers play in the lives of children, and the important impact they have in supporting families in need.

The GrandPower Advocates are a volunteer team of 195, age 55 and over; who have over the past 11 years successfully put the needs of children and families first in our nation.

Their advocacy efforts with public officials such as Assemblywoman Shelley Mayer and State Senator John Testa, and others, have resulted in the designation of FSSY through the “umbrella” of FSSY’s successful kinship care program, the assistance these advocates have provided to their local communities, and the increased awareness of the needs of kinship caregivers and their children in their care.

The GrandPower Advocacy Project was originally developed as an ancillary program under the “umbrellas” of FSSY’s successful Kinship Care Program. For more than 15 years the Kinship Support Program has sponsored the creation of training programs and services for kinship families and are frequent collaborators with local, county and state organizations that address their needs.

Congressman Eliot Engel, a top member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, recently announced that the U.S. Administration for Children and Families Office of Refugee Resettlement has awarded a $2.2 million federal grant to Leake and Watts, Inc., in Yonkers, for its Passage of Hope Program.

The Passage of Hope Program helps unaccompanied children who have crossed the border by providing them with housing and supportive services after their grueling journey.

The program’s goal is “to provide these courageous children, who have experienced incredible trials, with the support, nurturing and care they need to move forward with their lives and to thrive.” These services include clinical, therapeutic, educational and case management services, while working to link the children with their families or other family members or other support in the United States.

“Leake and Watts’ Passage of Hope Program has helped many unaccompanied children establish new lives for themselves here in America. It was a natural step for us to extend this important federal new non-profit federal funding will go a long way toward helping us continue our mission to help these children move from fear to hope.”

**West. Community Foundation Funds GrandPower Advocacy Project**

The grandpower Advocacy Project is now accepting applications for two positions of trustee of the Yonkers Public Library to serve a five-year term beginning this month and ending Dec. 31, 2022. Among other duties, trustees are responsible for keeping the library financially sound, for the management and monitoring of the library budget, and the development of personnel policies governing terms of employment, salary schedule and employee benefits. Applications should evidence a strong interest in the library and the community, recognizing the library’s importance as a center of information, community culture, recreation and continuing education. Trustee serve without compensation.

This internship should be a cover letter, and resume to Janet Cabassa, secretary to the Yonkers Board of Education, 183 East Main Street, Yonkers, NY 10701. Applications are available at the Yonkers Board of Education. For more information, call 914-376-8803.

The deadline for receipt of completed app

**Grant Supports Leake & Watts’ Passage of Hope Program**

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**Applications Accepted For Library Trustee**

Rev. Steve Lopez, President of the Yonkers Board of Education, announced that the Board is accepting applications for two positions of trustee of the Yonkers Public Library to serve a five-year term beginning this month and ending Dec. 31, 2022. Among other duties, trustees are responsible for keeping the library financially sound, for the management and monitoring of the library budget, and the development of personnel policies governing terms of employment, salary schedule and employee benefits. Applications should evidence a strong interest in the library and the community, recognizing the library’s importance as a center of information, community culture, recreation and continuing education. Trustee serve without compensation.

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The Rotary Club of Yonkers-East Yonkers is sponsoring a project to build 100 clean cookstoves in the Mukono District of Uganda to create a safe, smoke-free environment.

Partnering with the Cookstove Project, this Rotary project is one of the most impactful projects of the club and will benefit nearly 400 residents. These stoves replace the open fires that kill 4.3 million people each year, through deepening indoor air pollution. Among the leading causes of death globally, this ranks higher than the number of annual deaths due to malaria, HIV/AIDS, or tuberculosis.

People in developing and newly industrialized countries are most impacted by this issue. According to the National Institute of Health, indoor air pollution is the only health risk factor that can be prevented. These clean cookstoves bring sustainable solutions to those in need.

In honor of Dental Health Month, Dr. William Li- mengelli is offering free dental treatments to anyone who needs treatment. This January, Feb 26 during six annual Free Emer- gency Dental Treatments.

Dr. Li-mengelli schedules the first 25 callers ev- ery Thursday and Friday for an initial screening needed treatment that they have simply put off in these difficult economic times. He performs a few rou- ples ranging from cleanings, to fillings, to extractions. On this day, first-time visitors will receive a free, full-mouth x-ray.

This is one of many events Yonkers spons- ors to benefit the community. He offers an ex- ample for other health care providers to begin similar initiatives.

For more information or to make an ap- pointment, call 914-666-2277.

Dr. William Li-mengelli

Bring Yulino Home Today

The Yulino Animal Shelter has many pets available for adoption. Luis and his wife, Barbara, are looking for Bull- dog Terrier mix who weighs about 55 pounds. She arrived at the shelter when her family had internal problems that caused her to be left behind. She would like to be the only pet in her home. Lulu makes up for it by being very curious and loves children. She lived with her former owner for 7 years and was a loving companion to them.

Visit her between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. for more information, call 914-398-1215.

Dr. William Li-mengelli

While Mary Howard has never run for office, her 40-year stint on the board of directors for the Yonkers Historical Society has certainly put her in the know.

This January, the museum, now located at 221 Broadway, is offering a free admission to those 18 and under, making it a great opportunity to visit.

On This Day in Yonkers History...

Thursday, Jan. 25

Jan. 25, 1977: Assemblyman Albert B. Spitzer was granted an order of Protection from the State of New York Supreme Court to prevent his ex-wife from coming near him.

Jan. 25, 1926: The Bush Cheese Company announced that President Bush of Food Marketing was awarded the contract for the sale of cheese to the government.

Jan. 25, 1920: The first meeting of the New York State Women’s Suffrage Association was held in Albany.

Jan. 25, 1914: The Yonkers Daily News announced that the paper would be printed in Yonkers.

Jan. 25, 1909: The Board of Estimate and Apportionment opened two proposals for instal- lation of an elevator in the new City Hall.

Jan. 25, 1907: The Police Department appointed a new detective to the force.

Jan. 25, 1906: Samuel Untermyer applied to the New York State Department of Health for permission to buy insurance outside of New York City.

Jan. 25, 1893: The Yonkers’ Common Council ordered the construction of a new City Hall.

Jan. 24, 1917: The Rotarian Club of Yonkers-East Yonkers presented a new stove to the Woman’s Institute, his presentation was il- lustrated by lanternslides “manipulated by Mrs. John Spargo, National Socialist Party leader. He did “the right thing” by supporting the Allies, he collaborated with Allies in the war effort and later became an American citizen. During Roosevelt’s tenure as president, he was on the short list to be named secretary of state.

Yonkers Rotary Helps Send Smoke-Free Stoves to Uganda

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Jan. 24, 1916: The Chippewa Club presented Thomas Brogan with a 5-foot tall bush- home when he attended his first Chippewa meeting in South Warland.

Jan. 23, 1953: The Yekko Echo announced that it would present Pateron Austin Ball, who saved five people from drowning in Pokka Lake, as the Erie Model for Police Heroes.

Jan. 23, 1946: The Chippawa Clippers presented Brownie Grogan with a 5-foot tall bush- home when he attended his first Chippewa meeting in South Warland.

Jan. 20, 1925: The Yekko Echo announced that it would present Pateron Austin Ball, who saved five people from drowning in Pokka Lake, as the Erie Model for Police Heroes.

Jan. 23, 1906: Twenty-year-old Margaret Mellon, missing from her New York home for a week, was found wandering on Main Street by one of “Yonkers’ finest.” To police headquarters, she claimed no knowledge of where she arrived in Yonkers, her local police thought she acted like she was under the influence of drugs. When she was picked up by her mother and taken home, a reporter from the Evening Tribune checked out her address. She found the hashbush had moved in there.

Jan. 23, 1916: A Speaking at a Socialist Party meeting in Library Hall, national party leader John Spargo said the European war would prevent any aggression toward the United States, but spending money on armaments was wasteful.

Jan. 23, 1920: The Yonkers Animal Shelter has received $30,000 from the foundation for a new building.


Jan. 22, 1946: The Chippewa Club presented Brownie Grogan with a 5-foot tall bush- home when he attended his first Chippewa meeting in South Warland.

Jan. 22, 1945: South Yonkers Board of Trade. The members at- tended the first meeting of the Yonkers Board of Trade.


Jan. 22, 1906: Samuel Untermyer applied to the New York State Department of Health for permission to buy insurance outside of New York City.

Jan. 22, 1925: The Yonkers Elks announced their support for a new building.

Jan. 21, 1901: The Yonkers Police Department announced that a new police station would be built.

Jan. 21, 1900: The Yonkers Police Department announced that a new police station would be built.

Jan. 21, 1899: The Yonkers Police Department announced that a new police station would be built.

Jan. 21, 1891: The Yonkers Police Department announced that a new police station would be built.

Jan. 21, 1890: The Yonkers Police Department announced that a new police station would be built.

Jan. 20, 1925: The Yekko Echo announced that it would present Pateron Austin Ball, who saved five people from drowning in Pokka Lake, as the Erie Model for Police Heroes.

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it is and can’t change, but it needs to change.

SAYEGH.

Election is called for the Senate race, which is no
do it, and have encouraged me to run, but I have

as a leader in the Indepen-
dent Democratic Caucus for many years before changing his

democratic Chair Tom Meier.

dated service to Yonkers on

the 'big five' school districts and the Yonkers

service as a leader in the

have a big name to do it, like Liam, but this is an op-

Yonkers Democrats to

including City Council President Liam McLaugh-

WSDL, Linux, Maven, JAXB, RESTful web ser

tial design thru testing while providing strate

Despite the obstacles and possible delays

instruments, coins, watches, gold, comics, sports

Computer Science, Engineering (any), or related

VERDIER (PURCHASE, N.Y)

Newspaper in Yonkers, Westchester County and the

that on which the tax lien is to be sold together

financial aid for qualified students. Job placement


In addition to the foregoing Tax Sale Notice and Statutes therein described,

including the street address thereof, on which the tax lien is to be sold to the lien and for any tax lien that was

the New York State Tax Law, additional clarifications are provided

The name set forth is that of the person, corporation or legal entity appearing on

The name of the responsible Tax Liens Agent is: The LLC, C/O Yasmil

FURTHER ON ADDITIONAL TAX SALE NOTICE

In addition to the foregoing Tax Sale Notice and Statutes therein described, the

Inc., Mortgage Asset-Backed Pass-

mation to be the Secretary of the Commission,

as a member of the

the Assembly seat, previously held by Repub-

and was due and payable prior to December 18, 2017 with all penalties thereon

be served. SSNY shall mail

as agent upon which proces-

and were due and payable prior to December 18, 2017 with all penalties thereon

Of the 10 pieces of Real Estate listed below, the city of Yonkers, New York, hereby

City of Yonkers, at its office in the City Hall, Yonkers, New York.

As noted above, in order to choose among the many qualified vendors, a

the sale of the real estate as described above, or any other part of

that the real estate is to be sold as described in the

The assessor, therefore, recommends

Notice is hereby given that if default be made in such payment, the lien of

In

That

OCTOBER 18TH

2017

MCCABE, WEISBERG & CONWAY, LLC

of Org. filed with the

THE LLC, C/O YASMIL MIRA-

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A new low-dose CT lung cancer screening program at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, New York, offers a new early detection method to help identify high-risk Hudson Valley patients who have already been diagnosed with lung cancer, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Current and former smokers, people with a strong family history of lung cancer, and those with a history of asbestos exposure are at an increased risk for the disease.

WMCH's low-dose CT lung cancer screening program is staffed by a board-certified, subspecialty-trained team that includes a thoracic radiologist and surgeon, pulmonologists and oncologists, in addition to a dedicated patient navigator trained to guide the patient through his or her journey from screening and diagnosis to treatment. The program also assists patients in needed care and support following diagnosis— all available through the WMCH network at Hudson Valley locations close to home.

WMCH's low-dose CT lung cancer screening program can be reached at 845-451-2980. The Advanced Imaging Center is located at 19 Broad Ave., Suite 100H, Hawthorne.

For more information about WMCH/WMHealth, visit WMCH.org.

The Westchester County Board of Health wants to recognize volunteers whose time and talents this past year made outstanding contributions to public health in Westchester, and encourages community leaders, educators, health professionals and leaders of local organizations that serve county residents to nominate their unselfish volunteer heroes for these annual public health service awards through Feb. 11.

To vote for the Dr. Harold Kelz Distinguished Public Health Service Award at WMCH/WMHealth, visit wmchealth.org/publichealthawards. The awards will be announced and presented in April to spotlight National Public Health Week, and the honorees and their achievements will be featured on the health department's web pages. Recent youthful winners have included individual and family mental health care, healthy eating habits.

The westchestergov.com/health.

For more information about WMCHealth, visit WMCHealth.org.

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Our campaign for Senate will be focused on making New York a great place to raise a family, and I believe the 37th Senate District is an area where that is possible for all New Yorkers. For all New Yorkers. - and all New Yorkers. It's what's best for all New Yorkers, and it's what we will stand up for in the 37th Senate District. For all New Yorkers. And for all New Yorkers. It's a campaign for New Yorkers. It's a campaign for all New Yorkers. And it's a campaign for our children.

We are the voice of the people. We are the voice of those who are being left behind. We are the voice of the working families of the 37th Senate District. We are the voice of all New Yorkers. It's time to make New York a place where everyone can thrive. It's time to make New York a place where everyone can succeed. It's time to make New York a place where everyone can belong. It's time to make New York a place where everyone can be heard. It's time to make New York a place where everyone can be counted. It's time to make New York a place where everyone can live.

As the voice of the people, we will be the voice of those who are being left behind. We will be the voice of the working families of the 37th Senate District. We will be the voice of all New Yorkers. It's time to make New York a place where everyone can thrive. It's time to make New York a place where everyone can succeed. It's time to make New York a place where everyone can belong. It's time to make New York a place where everyone can be heard. It's time to make New York a place where everyone can be counted. It's time to make New York a place where everyone can live.

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The dropout rate for YPS high school students has dropped to 3.4 percent, the lowest in the low 70s (percent), said Board of Education Trustee Dr. Nader Sayegh. “Yonkers has seen a proud” — Mrs. Rosa Almodovar, Superintendent of Schools. “We have made steady progress in reducing the dropout rate over the past five years, and we are committed to maintaining this trend.”

Quezada also shared data that showed the percentage of students with disabilities increased by 16 percentage points, from 81.8 percent in 2014-15 to 90.2 percent in 2016-17.

“Many urban school districts look at the ‘big five’ school districts, but we are looking to compete with neighboring school districts. We are not only way ahead of the ‘big five’ school districts, but we are looking to compete with neighboring school districts in Westchester. And the fact that we can do this with our needs and concerns shows the efforts are working.”

Some of this would be impossible without everyone from parents, clergy, teachers, business owners, community leaders and elected officials remaining committed.

The honorarium for the night were: Yonkers PTA/PTSA, represented by President Sally Pistone; Faison for Life Juice Bar with Festus Neufville and co-owners Jason Phillips and David Style; artist/sculptor Vinnie Bagwell; and Bishop-Clayton Nelson of Inner Faith Church.