Mayor Calls for City Board Of Ed. As Pierorazio Retires

Superintendent Bernard Pierorazio talks with students recently.

By Dan Murphy
The news last Friday that Yonkers Pub-

lic School Superintendent Bernard Pierorazio

would be retiring in 30 days, after 40 years of

service to parents and students, came as a

complete surprise to most everyone in the city.

Pierorazio is a beloved and capable leader

called the Superintendent of the Year in

New York in 2015) in a school district that educates

20,000 students every year, with 2,000 teach-

ers, and has a yearly budget of more than $500

million.

Continued on Page 8

Health & Fitness Fun Day Draws Residents to YWCA

The YWCA held its Health and Fitness Fun Day on Jan. 18, to encourage and outweigh Yonkers residents young and old about nutrition and exercise, and to celebrate the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday and inspire vol-

unteerism and help of others.

Instead of taking the day off for the holi-

day, many volunteers used the day to work for

others.

The day started with an hour of jumping

jacks, chasing balloons and bubbles, hula hoops, jumping rope, sit-ups and other aerobic activity

for children in the gym. At the same time, the

assistant from Dannon Yogurt gave away sam-

ples of their new product to kids.

Continued on Page 9

Yonkers Firefighters Local 628 Donates $5K to Yonkers YMCA

Yonkers Firefighters Local 628 President Barry McGee, second from the right, and members of YFD present a check for $5,000 to YWCA Executive Director Yejide Okunribido, second from the left. Photo by Donna Davis.

Members of Yonkers Firefighters and In-

ternational Association of Firefighters Local

628 on Jan. 18 presented a check for $5,000 to the YMCA during its health and fitness day.

The donation was made by Yonkers; brav-

er-in-honor and remembrance of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and to encourage oth-

ers to honor his memory and give back and

make a difference in the community.

Continued on Page 10

Essay Contest Winners Awarded At Annual MLK Jr. Breakfast

Mayor Mike Spano, right, with Board of Education President Nadir Saffayeh and MLK Essay Contest winner Spencer Lavonne and her mother. Photo by Donna Davis.

The Nepperhan Community Center held its 24th annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast last week.

Dr. Jim Bowie welcomed everyone in atten-
dance, including Mayor Mike Spano, State

Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assemblymember

Shelley Mayer, and other dignitaries.

Yonkers students and Groundwork Hudson Valley volunteers Afrina Accosta, Nathan Martinez and Willie Faulkner.

Groundwork was recognized last week in Washington, D.C., where Executive Direc-
tor Rick Magden, Deputy Director Curt Col-
lizer and three Yonkers High School students accepted the Pantries in Conservation Award from Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on behalf of all of the Groundwork trusts across the country.

The award honors Groundwork’s out-

standing contribution to conservation nation-

wide through community engagement and cooperation with local, state and federal part-

ners.

Continued on page 8 with more pics.
Area Students

Continued from Page 1

“We are truly honored to have been selected by the National Park Service for the work we have done over the last decade to transform the lives of young people in their own communities and on public lands,” said Jewell.

The Yonkers teens representing Groundwork’s youth programs included Green Team member Alivia Acosta, a senior at Lincoln Riverside High School; Farm Team member and Yonkers High School sophomore Kira Lopez; and Riverside High School senior Nathan Martinez, who worked for Groundwork’s Green Team and Farm Team this summer, and was then selected to travel to Yellowstone in August with Groundwork’s Green Corps.

Groundwork Hudson Valley is one of 19 trusts in the Groundwork USA network nationwide, and representatives of a number of these trusts were on hand for the Partners in Change Initiative, which recognizes those who have heeded the president’s call to help develop the discipline and skills associated with employment for our nation’s youth.

In 2013, Groundwork Hudson Valley employed 37 teens in its Green Team, Farm Team, Wilderness Stewards and Science Flange programs.

In addition to creating jobs, Groundwork Hudson Valley provides a variety of programs to make Yonkers communities more livable and sustainable, including Our Folks, which helps older adults age in place; the Community Garden Network; the Saw Mill River Day-lighting and additional river parks being created; ImprovTents; Free-A-Tree, which preserves the health of the Saw Mill River by organizing volunteers to cut invasive vines each month; and Get Fresh Yonkers Farmers Market, a weekly market that makes local, affordable produce available to urban residents.

“Legacy in this country forward in a way that’s sustainable for the people that come after us,” said Jewell.

Acosta, Lopez and Martinez met Jewell, as well as National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, and then were treated to a VIP tour of the Department of Interior building, with its impressive collection of original artwork. Later, the group toured the Smithsonian Museum.

This is the second time in six months that Groundwork has received national attention. The Groundwork network was among 30 organizations across the country invited in September to the White House to participate in President Obama’s Youth Jobs Champion of Change Initiative, which recognizes those who have heeded the president’s call to help develop the discipline and skills associated with employment for our nation’s youth.

In 2013, Groundwork Hudson Valley employed 17 teens in its Green Team, Farm Team, Wilderness Stewards and Science Flange programs.

“We aim to inspire, motivate and instill a love for learning in all children”

A Public School with a Private School Setting

INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS
• Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at 10:00 am
• Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at 2:00 pm
• Thursday, March 20, 2014 at 5:30 pm

260 Warburton Avenue
Yonkers, NY 10701

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2014

FOR AN APPLICATION OR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 914-476-5070 Ext. 13

Page 2 - Yonkers Rising - Friday, January 24, 2014

Make Rising Media Group a part of your advertising plan. Call today! 914-965-4000
By Eric W. Schoen

We start this work with a quick public relations lesson. Follow this advice and you, my friend, you too can become a PR guru in government or the private sector:

If you want a story to get theatrically in the press, you release it late on a Friday afternoon. If you really want to get it to be real, you release it late on a Friday afternoon at the start of a three-day holiday weekend; everybody is gone, and there is no one for the press to talk to.

If the release contains the words "we wish him well," or anything like that, you have the separation between public and private that you are looking for.

This legislation has the potential to save our local governments $50 million which would save state and local governments $50 million. The Republicans senators in the state and federal offices in June, and a state and federal primary election in September. Holding a local primary election in September. A gigantic concrete building called Yonkers High School opened up in Janu-

By Dan Murphy

I actually received one release at 4:26 p.m. and one at 4:33 p.m. I didn’t notice much difference in the two releases, but that’s neither here nor there.

The year was 1974. A gigantic concrete building called Yonkers High School opened up in Jan-

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2014 - YONKERS RISING - PAGE 3
By Dan Murphy

A recent Gallup Poll found a record-high level of trust in government. Americans have identified as Independents while Democratic and Republicans have been identified as Independents. The popularity of Independents has increased in recent years, and the breakdown of party affiliation has been changing. As a result, more people are identifying as Independents. This trend has been observed in recent elections.

According to the Gallup report, the percentage of Americans identifying as Independents has increased from 35% in 2012 to 47% in 2019. The percentage of Democrats has decreased from 38% in 2012 to 32% in 2019, while the percentage of Republicans has also decreased from 37% in 2012 to 27% in 2019. These changes suggest that a growing number of Americans are leaning towards Independents.

The Independent Party was founded in the United States in the early 20th century. It was initially founded as a protest party, advocating for the separation of church and state and the abolition of the income tax. The party has had various iterations and has seen periods of success and decline. One of the most famous leaders of the Independent Party was President Theodore Roosevelt, who left the Republican Party to form the Progressive Party in 1912.

Today, the Independent Party is a minor political party in the United States, with a presence in many states. It is not a major party in the traditional sense, and its influence is limited. However, it remains an important voice in American politics, and its supporters continue to express dissatisfaction with the major parties and participate in independent political organizations and movements.
School Suspensions Too Probable to Ignore

Submitted by Student Advocacy

According to a recent report, more than 5,000 Westchester students were suspended that school year. The data suggest that school discipline must begin with students and their families. School staff strives to understand behavior and promote communication and partnership with parents.

The question is how do we approach this issue? School discipline must start with understanding the causes of misbehavior that are individualized, consistent and appropriate must be provided.

The best planned by each school community.

Data from national research and from Westchester schools shows that schools can perform academically without broad use of school suspensions; suspension has a 15 times more likely to be suspended than students with disabilities.

Thank you for your excellent article about how can we Approach School discipline?

* School discipline must begin with student engagement; Policy, philosophy and practice for school discipline must be a continuum addressing the causes of misbehavior that are individualized, consistent and appropriate must be provided.
Notice of sale: Supreme Court, County of Westchester, Hudson City Savings Bank, Plaintiff vs. Lawrence Maniero, et al., Defendants. Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale duly dated 11/2/13, the undersigned Referee will sell on Saturday, January 25, 2014, at 10:00 AM, at public auction in the lobby of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, N.Y. on the premises known as 135 Lake Avenue, Yonkers, N.Y. 10703. Said property lying and being in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester, State of New York on 02/18/2014 at 10:00AM, at public auction in the lobby of the court house, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., White Plains, N.Y. on the premises known as 135 LAKE AVENUE, Yonkers, NY 10703. All that certain plot piece of land in the Town of Yonkers, County of Westchester, State of New York, containing 75, Zone: BR

Notice is hereby given that a
Health Program Helps Seniors ‘Live Well’

Information sessions in January will help you improve quality of life and reduce costs as a result of chronic health conditions. Participants will learn about chronic health conditions, enhance their quality of life, reduce their health care costs, and possibly lower their health care costs at the rate of $15.00 per visit.

In January, there will be six sessions, each lasting one hour. It is important that you register for the sessions in advance to reserve your spot.

Seniors’ Health Forum Rescheduled to Jan. 29

St. John’s Riverside Hospital will host a seniors’ health forum on Wednesday, Jan. 29 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Hudson River Museum, 511 W. 3rd St., Yonkers.

The event will be rescheduled from an earlier date due to inclement weather.

The forums will provide hands-on information about managing chronic conditions, making sense of Medicare, and planning for the future.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their questions about the latest information on chronic health conditions and their management.

The forum will include a presentation on the importance of staying active, healthy eating, and stress management.

Learn Osteoporosis Awareness

Osteoporosis is a bone disease that affects many people, especially women. It is characterized by low bone density and an increased risk of fractures.

The risk of osteoporosis increases with age, and it can lead to serious complications such as fractures of the hip, wrist, and spine.

Youth activities, healthy eating, and stress management.

Medical LaMagna is a partner at Helwig, Henderson, Ryan, LaMagna and Spinoff, with special expertise in the management of osteoporosis, including prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

Hot Topics in Health Care:
Nursing Home Costs

By Michael LaMagna, Esq.

Hotline: (914) 488-4999

We have managed thousands of personal injury cases and have a proven track record of success. We are committed to getting the best results for clients. We have extensive experience in all areas of personal injury law.

Our team of attorneys offers personalized service and attention to detail. We take the time to understand your unique situation and tailor our approach accordingly.

Contact us today to schedule a free consultation. We can help you get the compensation you deserve.

Job offers and deals are subject to change. Please check the website for current information.

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I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.

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Registered Dietician Fernanda Almeida of ShopRite led the kids and adults in making "snowpeople" with bananas, apples, grapes and pretzel sticks. ShopRite Store Manager Tony Silvestre was also on hand, and took part in dancing with the elected officials in attendance. Katie from The Volunteer Center of the United Way and her group of volunteers were a big help and kept the day moving along with fitness instructor Lisa Avellino, who mixed in yoga with aerobic dance moves.

A younger speaker also lifted up the crowd with her essay on King. Eighth-grader Lavonne Spencer of the Yonkers Montessori Academy is one of three winners of Mayor Mike Spano's MLK essay contest, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Rev. King's "I Have a Dream" speech. During the event, Spencer recited her essay, which is printed on page xx. The other two winners of Spano's essay contest are fifth-grader Jessica Costello of Montessori 31, and junior Ayesha Asghar of Yonkers Middle-High School.

Yonkers students were asked to reflect on King’s words and write their own "I Have A Dream" speeches, expressing how they hope the world will look 50 years from now. A student from each of the Yonkers elementary, middle school and high school grade levels were selected by Spano from among more than 300 essay submissions.

"I was very impressed to read the submissions from our Yonkers students and to learn how our youth plans to further the dream of Dr. King in our own city, and how they plan to turn their own dreams into reality," said the mayor. "Our job is to help provide them the opportunities to put them on the right path to fulfill those dreams."

"Mayor Spano’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest was an outstanding competition that is helping to keep awareness of the many great contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. alive and in the minds of our students," added Bostic.
Yonkers PAL
Continued from Page 1

Yonkers PAL has been able to use its connections with several NFL football players over the years to help the PAL in its many fundraising efforts. This year, with the Super Bowl coming to the New York/New Jersey area for the first time, Faulkner was able to secure two tickets to the big game Feb. 2 for the PAL to raffle off. Tickets for the raffle were $100, and everyone who bought a ticket was able to attend the big game Feb. 2 for the PAL to raffle off. Thanks to Willie Faulkner for his contribution of two Super Bowl tickets, which made the call to Costible, who was overjoyed at winning. Thanks to Willie Faulkner for his contribution of two Super Bowl tickets, which made the call to Costible, who was overjoyed at winning.

It is with great sadness that we report on the death of Yonkers Firefighter Jef Campion, who died last week at the age of 52. Campion was a born and raised Yonkers resident who graduated from Yonkers High School and was a member of Yonkers’ bravest for more than 25 years. In addition to serving honorably with the YFD, Campion spent six weeks at ground zero in New York City after Sept. 11, 2001. His physical and mental health was affected by his dedication to help New York and Yonkers come back from that event, and his service to all of us will not be forgotten.

But Jef Campion was much more than a firefighter and 9/11 first responder; he was an artist with a loft in downtown Yonkers showing his works. He was also an avid anti-War advocate, and combined his love of art and his opposition to war with his “Give Peace a Chance” creations, of a boy holding a grenade, which he placed all over New York City and Yonkers. A few years ago, Campion created a “new baby” on a Main Street property owned by Rising Development, the parent company of Yonkers Rising, and employee Greg Baldwin made a trip down to Campion’s Yonkers loft to discuss his latest creation on our building.

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Campion also donated his time and artwork to children, including painting hospital walls and the Ronald McDonald House with Disney characters. He loved children and worked to help those kids who needed it most.

His nickname was “Army of One” because of the work he did for peace. He was named Firefighter of the Year in 2012 and served at Engine Company 303 on Van Street.

Yonkers Firefighters Local 628 President Barry McGrooy praised Campion for his service. “The physical toll (from 9/11) made it difficult over the past several months,” he said. “He could have retired years ago, but loved being a firefighter.”

Campion was a born and raised Yonkers resident who died last week at the age of 52. Campion’s death was a loss for Yonkers and all of the PAL, board members who volunteer their time, effort and money to give back to the kids and people of Yonkers.

Two-young PAL visitors watch a playoffs game to see who goes to Super Bowl.

Remembering Jef Campion

Piper is a 4-year-old mixed-breed dog who weighs about 50 pounds. She showed up as a stray one day about six weeks ago. Piper is a calm, quiet dog who walks like a lady, right beside you. She likes to learn, and seems to listen to everything you say to her.

**Adopt Piper Today!**

Piper needs a loving home.