By Robert Kalibus

Roseline Metz, a long-time Yonkers resident, recently enjoyed watching her son Robert, a 16-year-old four-year center, dominate the basketball court for Iona Preparatory School and was on the track team. He purchased or received T-shirts proudly displaying the names of teams for which he played, and kept most of those in excellent condition throughout the years.

“My son is very sentimental and loves the T-shirts he acquired,” said Metz. “Whenever the gym he possesses and remembers his life through his T-shirts. He can’t throw them out or give them away. One of his T-shirts meant so much to him, because he got it at an event with his close friend who died at the young age of 23.”

Another T-shirt is from the Knights, a youth football team, Metz needed to smuggle her son’s prized football to him, and Astorino, who did what our elected officials have as little as the clothes on their backs.

While numerous organizations are working to help bring children from this cold winter through monetary donations, many of the children are still in need of clothing.

By Robert Kalibus

Consensus County Government: A Holiday Gift for Residents

Legislator Bernie Speckman

Americans hear far too few stories of the inability of our elected officials to come together and reach an agreement, and forge compromise and understanding, and what better way to work with future leaders. In So’s good news — just in time for the holidays:

The budget that we passed tonight is a sound plan that does not raise taxes, preserves the social safety net and does not spend down on our reserve funds,” said Kaplowitz. “We didn’t get everything we wanted in the process, but the road to consensus, but we worked together to put forward a plan that we believe the people of Westchester County will support.”

Kaplowitz said the hard work that we put into this bi-partisan budget compromise should stand as an example to lawmakers in Albany and Washington that when we focus on our mutual goals and shared challenges instead of the things that divide us, we can achieve those goals and overcome those challenges.

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Sister to Sister Students Earn Youth Board Awards

Donald Trump
By Dan Murphy

Donald Trump is at it again, staking the spotlight in the debate over the new Tappan Zee Bridge and investing $10 billion as a candidate for governor. While we do not be- lieve he will run for governor, Trump lands on our front page and in other Westchester newspapers and media over the past week because of the fiscal acumen that should be in charge of financing and toll for a new Tappan Zee Bridge.

In a radio and New York Post interview with Fred Dicker, who can be heard on Westches- ter's WVOX 1460 AM Monday through Friday from 4 to 5 p.m., Trump said he was convinced that a new Tappan Zee Bridge will overturn costs as much as $10 billion – not the $4 billion figure the governor claims.

Rather, he said consideration should be given in rebuilding the existing Tappan Zee Bridge.

“The bridge is a single story, but it needs renewal, and the word renewal can be done for a tiny fraction of the – in my opinion – $10 billion bridge that they’re going to build,” said Trump. “And not only that, it’ll be no construction for many, many years. I’ll disrupt the area anywhere within five miles of the bridge and tremendously dangerous.” Trump said the toll for Tappan Zee will turn out to be $10 billion and the state will never be able to afford it.

So far, the only financing for the new bridge comes from a $16 billion federal loan. The re- maining $3.2 billion (if the project stays within budget) would be needed to cover construction through or through bonds, to be paid for by a toll in- crease.

Trump’s $10 billion figure, which he creat- ed without evidence, is in a way too low to say; the N.Y. Thruway Authority has cost overrun protection on many parts of the construction. His estimated $4 billion for the new Tappan Zee Bridge.

Trump also spoke out on the future toll, which has yet to be projected and shared with the public and the media, but he guessed it would more than $2.5 billion.

“The problem is the state has no money…I haven’t seen it yet,” Trump said. “It’s a $25 billion toll,” said Trump. “And I heard that num- ber a while ago; I’ve never heard of a $25 toll.”

Westchester residents and Hudson Valley community leaders have since the Tappan Zee Bridge to 250 people per year is still in the dark over what the toll for the new bridge will be.

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Last year, Gov. Andrew Cuomo raised a pro- posal for the Tappan Zee Bridge yet the toll will automatically rise to $12 by 2015 if the current bridge stays open and is repaired. Since the governor made those comments 16 months ago, there has been no public discus- sion on what the toll may be.

With work already underway on the new Tappan Zee Bridge, Trump asked if it was too late to move in a plan of rebuilding the current bridge.

“Absolutely that’s true. You could do it tomorrow,” he said. “You could do it in 24 hours. You could do it in five hours. You could do it in one day. You could do it in two days. You could do it in three days. You could do it in five days. You could do it in 10 days. You could do it in 30 days.”

But Trump says he will dismiss the current Tappan Zee Bridge is “mass transit ready,” no option that the new bridge does have, which he believes is currently causing traffic jams.

Trump’s radio interviews also included a reference to a possible run for governor this year. You’re going to see the wheels start turning and it if you’re going to be able to bring jobs back and get people working again it’s going to $16 billion or $10 billion or $5 billion more in jobs by designing a new bridge.

“New York is the most important state indeed. We have the most states in the country. We have the most in New York, I think it’s the only state in which we have jobs are the only state that is doing well,” Trump, who admitted that it would be difficult for a Republican to defeat Cuomo, who has a 20-point Democratic enrollment margin.

Trump has dipped his toe into the political water repeatedly, considering a run for president in 2012, before holding out. If he does go again this time, the Trump décor is becoming even more non-believable than he is with the voting public.

But Trump’s dalliances with a run for gov- ernor get the attention of New York Republici- ans, who have asked GOP chairman across the state to hold off on their gubernatorial endorse- ments until the end of January, to allow time to see what Trump decides to do.

The problem with Trump’s governor’s trial balloon is that is the deciding ticket to which Republican candidates for governor to step forward the party in the Westchester County Executive Rob Asto- rino, who has solicited the endorsement of the Republican County Party, got the attention of New York Republi- cans, who have asked GOP chairman across the state to hold off on their gubernatorial endorse- ments until the end of January, to allow time to see what Trump decides to do.

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Yonkers Art Beat: Urban H2O Begins Fifth Season

By Steve Force

The third Saturday evening of every month visitors can hear the liveliest, sweetest sounds in the Hudson Valley—music in Yonkers. By performing in all places—the Sarah Lawrence Center for the Urban River at Beacon, located at 33 Alexander St. on the Hudson River just north of the pumphouse smokestacks, and across the street from the city jail—these are not casual or occasional performers, these are truly American music to Yonkers. These are traditions. It’s traditional American music in a gorgeous fusion of European and African folk with blues, jazz, gospel and English and Irish ballads, reflecting Beczak’s riverside setting and Schneider provided the series its name, Urban H2O. The music is larger, more widely-accessible venue. Miller had started putting on small concerts in his Park Avenue apartment and across the street from the old city jail. The motivation for creating the series was straightforward: Improve the quality of life in the neighborhood, turn it around, and across the street from the Hudson River just north of the pumphouse smokestacks, the atmosphere is casual and family-friendly and there are plenty of opportunities to mingle with the performers and your neighbors. Parking is free.

Don’t Miss

- Friday, Jan. 2 at 11 a.m., an opening reception for the sixth annual juried exhibition at the Blue Door Gallery; www.bluedoorcenter.org.
- Sunday, Jan. 12 at 2 p.m., a concert titled “An Afternoon of Barbershop Harmony” at the Blue Door Gallery; www.thegayladies.com.
- Sunday, Jan. 12 at 12:20 p.m., a concert featuring the Phidellos Philharmonic Orchestra at Sanders High School; www.yonkersphilharmonic.org.
- January 17, 25 and 26 at 8 p.m., the musical “Once on This Island” at the Little Radical Theatrics, Grinton I. Will Library Branch; www.littleradicaltheatrics.com.

This, Too, is Yonkers: A Positive Health Care Story

By Eric W. Schneider

If you are looking for an Urban H2O concert, look elsewhere. You won’t find it in this story. This story is about the wonderful health care that we have in Yonkers and southern Westchester County, about the staff of our wonderful health care workers that train us. We’re lucky! It’s true. A few years before Christmas and a relative had been feeling well and everything was normal. As the relative had prior to having blood drawn on the Saturday before Christmas, a person for a regular check-up, the announcement was made that the testing was somewhat related to low blood sugar.

Yes, the relative is diabetic.

A call to the relative’s doctor brought a quick call back from the doctor where the doc- tor said we were fine. Drink two glasses of orange juice and bring the relative immediately to the Westchester Urgent Care Center at Ridge Hill. Plants are just as a precaution to make sure nothing was wrong.

I hope you never have the need to go there, but the Westchester Urgent Care Center is just like a hospital emergency room without the discomfort, however slight, associated with going to an emergency room at a hospital. They have the diagnostic capabilities of a hospital, including diagnostic x-ray, ultrasound and lab testing. Long story short, the relative’s hemoglobin level was supposed to be 12 and it was 4.7. the relative was severely anemic and there was no history of this in his four months family medical history. The kindest Westmed Urgent Care doctor told us to go immediately to St. John’s emergency room. Fortunately, one of the occasions to go to St. John’s emergency room was more than 25 years ago. The relative was goaded to the hospital the same night.

Every patient was treated like he or she was someone special. Emergency rooms are not a fun or pleasant place to visit. Even patients with minor ailments were checked on constantly to make sure they were comfortable.

The relative was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit at St. John’s (three times for him leading up to four total) began. Whether its ICU or a regular hospital room in the hospital the relative got moved to another hospital a few days later, the doctors were all- inclusive and specifically treating the patient, were always available, explained everything in detail and took his time to talk to the patient – even on Christmas Day.

That relative can attest to everyone who was there that the care was wonderful. That relative has never forgotten that tragic day.

If you or someone you love is likely to live to 80 years of age at the time of this event the relative memories still alive 46 years later. One of those who lived in the tragic event as a young girl, my friend and they are all in agreement about that tragic day. They never forget who lost their lives in the tragic fire at the Jewish Community Center on South Broadway in Yonkers on Dec. 26, 1965. We pray that tragedy like this never happens again in our lifetime.

Eric Schoen at thisisyonkers@ g-mail.com or follow him on Twitter @fireynocom.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2014 - YONKERS RISING - PAGE 3
Yonkers IDA Assists With Ferncliff Manor, Metlife Projects

The Yonkers Industrial Development Agency has approved initial action to provide incentives for Ferncliff Manor to rebuild its campus for children with developmental disabilities and at its present Yonkers location, thus preserving 290 jobs in the city.

Ferncliff must now seek approval from the state for the plan.

In another action, YIDA gave initial approval to provide construction financial assistance to Metlife building on Palmer Road to a 61-unit loft-style apartment building.

In a third action, YIDA approved the plan for those children who live at Ferncliff and the people who care for them can continue to stay in Ferncliff, "said Mayor Mike Spanos, who chairs the IDA. "Ferncliff Manor currently serves 679 disabled children with many developmental

Yonkers Alderman and Ferncliff board member, Kathy Hern, and other community organization.

Auditions for ‘Mary Poppins’

A club for children in the 6-12 range of age male or female children, but those children will only be cast from current Stepinac students.

Audition and callbacks for "Mary Poppins" will take place at the Major Brown Auditorium at Stepinac High School, 616 Mill River Road, Yonkers. The estimated $16 million project will be subject to approval by the state Bond Commission.

The Metlife project’s principals are Ker-ry and Don Wellington, who have previously worked on the Acclaim project at the Metlife building on Palmer Road to a 61-unit loft-style apartment building.

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The IDA, voted to initially authorize $707,000 in sales taxes exemptions on construction materials, as well as $375,000 mortgage exemption on the purchase of the property.

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"Never Judge a Book By its Cover" explores the definition of others. The stage production of "Never Judge a Book By its Cover" will be presented

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The Hoff-Barthelson Music School will also conduct clothing drives in honor of the occasion and award the Saturday night grand prize winner of Dr. King's historic "I Have a Dream" speech. Youths will be asked to reflect on King's words and write their own speech, expressing how they hope the world will look 50 years from now. "The words of Martin Luther King Jr. changed the course of our nation in the journey toward our present-day quality," says Spa. "I'm excited to hear how our youth plan to further the dream of Dr. King in our city, and how they plan to turn their dreams into reality."

Submissions from the contest will be displayed at City Hall and online for Yonkers residents to read and select, and Spa will announce the winner on January 31. A cash award from the Common Council President’s Office of $1,000 will be presented to the selected entrant, and each participant will receive a certificate of recognition.

In addition to the MLK Day essay contest to celebrate the nation’s past, but also understand how his non-violent approach opened the door to a new era of civil rights that was the beginning of the most important leadership of one of our country’s most important leaders, of our country’s past, but also understand how his non-violent approach opened the door to a new era of civil rights that was the beginning of the most important leadership of one of our country’s most important leaders, of our country’s past, but also understand how his non-violent approach opened the door to a new era of civil rights that was the beginning of the most important leadership of one of our country’s most important leaders, of our country’s past, but also understand how his non-violent approach opened the door to a new era of civil rights that was the beginning of the most important leadership of one of our country’s most important leaders, of our country’s past, but also understand how his non-violent 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As part of its commitment to give back to the community it serves, A.G. Williams Painting Company, Ltd., is a proud sponsor of the Westchester County Council’s Support A-Walk, held every year in Yonkers. Paul Viggiano, director of business administration and marketing, represented the company, walking for the third consecutive year and successfully co-chaired the event. The idea for the Support A-Walk came from Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, who created the event to raise money for those in need. The purpose of the event is to raise funds for those in need and to bring awareness to the community about the services offered by the Westchester County Council’s Support A-Walk.

During the event, A.G. Williams Painting Company, Ltd., had a booth where visitors could learn more about the company’s services and products. The booth was staffed by knowledgeable representatives who were able to answer any questions visitors might have. In addition, the company’s products were displayed, including its wide range of painless facilities and services, such as regular and emergency painting services, as well as its commitment to quality and customer satisfaction.

The event was a great success, with many people coming out to support the cause. The company was pleased to be able to contribute to the event and support the community.

Michael Lafraga
CONFIDENTIAL

To: The County Legislature of Westchester

From: The Mayor of Yonkers

Date: March 15, 2014

SUBJECT: County Budget Proposal

Dear Legislators,

I write to you today about the County Budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year. This budget is carefully crafted to balance the needs of our residents with the prudent management of our funds. It has been developed after thorough deliberation and with the input of various stakeholders.

The budget includes significant investments in education, particularly in our schools, which continue to be a top priority. We have allocated additional funding for subsidized child care programs and are committed to ensuring that all children have access to quality early education.

We are also addressing concerns about property taxes, which have been a major issue for many of our constituents. The budget reflects a commitment to maintaining the property tax rate at a level that is fair and affordable.

I understand the importance of budget constraints and the need for fiscal responsibility. However, I believe that investing in our community now will lead to long-term benefits for all Westchester residents.

Thank you for your consideration of this budget proposal. I look forward to working with you to ensure its passage.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
Mayor of Yonkers

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YONKERS RISING

Proudly serving the City of Yonkers

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The Yonkers Police Athletic League recently held its 29th annual Christmas party at the PAL’s Walshin Recreation Center. The original date for the party, which provides more than 300 adults and children with mental and physical disabilities with a day of holiday fun, had to be canceled because of the weather. Thanks to the dedication of many PAL volunteers who were firm in their belief that “the show must go on,” the party was rescheduled for Dec. 28. Santa Claus agreed to make one final visit of the year and delayed his vacation to Aruba, giving every attendee a gift.

PAL issued a special thanks to the Mary and Edward Doyle Foundation for sponsoring the party, and to Santos Bakery, Giulio’s Restaurant and Metro Dairy for providing the food, beverages and desserts. DJ Sal Corrente provided the dance music and special guest singer and actress Linda Miller entertained the crowd.

PAL President Angelo Martinelli welcomed Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and City Councilmen John Larkin, Christopher Johnson, Michael Sabatino and Mike Breen thanked all of the volunteers and sponsors for their help and dedication in making sure another PAL Christmas party occurred.
A large crowd joined together at the Yonkers Riverfront Library recently for a rousing Kwanzaa celebration. Ujima, meaning "standing for collective work and responsibility," was the principle of the day’s festivities. Masters of Ceremonies Robert and Regina Winstead imparted the history of Kwanzaa to those gathered, including all children who joined in the lesson. Performers provided original spoken word compositions, gospel hymns and of course plenty of drumming and dancing. The founders of the Association of Community-Based Artists of Westchester, Inc., were honored with the Nguzo Saba Award for their continued work in bringing the arts to underserved communities in Westchester since 1976. The event was sponsored by the Yonkers African American Heritage Committee, the YMCA, Yonkers Public Library-Children’s Department, ShopRite at Greenway Plaza, and Sister to Sister International. Next year’s Kwanzaa celebration may have to be moved to a larger venue, as every seat was taken this year.