Hey Yonkers, Meet Your New City Council!

Mayer Leading Spano For State Senate
Outcome Will Determine Future of Yonkers Politics

Mayor & Yonkers Police Donate Bikes to Kids

Jenkins Named Deputy County Executive
Latimer Keeps Some Astorino Appointees

Yonkers H.S. Hoops Off to a Flying Start

By Phil Foley

The Yonkers High School Bulldogs boys’ basketball team is off and running on a winning note. As of Dec. 19, the team sports a record of 4 and 1; the Bulldogs opened the season by defeating Byne Neck 49-34. The team then went on to the Kase Tournament and defeated Pawling H.S. 49-35 in the first round. In the second round, it defeated host Kase School in the championship game 51-39. Senior Armand Rraci was named tournament MVP. Also making the All-Tournament Team were Senior David Cruzado and Junior Derek Young.

Juniors Moises Santos and Aidan Connolly scored 12 points each and led Yonkers over Rosedale H.S. in a 56-64 nail-biter. Senior Center Amir Tazi sank two free-throws with 2 seconds on the clock for the win. Tazi finished with 10 points. Shooting Guard Armand Rraci is currently leading the team in scoring, with 15 points per game, with Cruzado and Santos averaging 11 points per game.

By Dan Murphy

Democratic leaders in the 37th State Senate District – which includes a large part of Westchester stretching from east Yonkers to Eastchester, up the Sound Shore to Rye and north to Bedford – will select their party’s nominee to run for the seat formerly held by George Latimer on Jan. 9 at the County Center in White Plains. Latimer is now the Westchester County executive.

Democratic Westchester County Executive George Latimer, who took the oath of office Jan. 1, recently named key members of his administration, keeping several commissioners who served in Republican County Executive Rob Astorino’s administration. Latimer named his core leadership team of Ken Jenkins, left; with Dr. Bettye Perkins, TSTT founder, president and CEO, middle; and State Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins. Photo by John Vecchiolla. This photo is from Today’s Students Tomorrow’s Teachers 25th Anniversary celebration.

Mayer Mike Spano and Police Commissioner Charles Gardner, with representatives from the YMCA and the Vuea Vista Community Garden Group, with happy kids and donated bicycles.

Members of the Yonkers High School Bulldogs boys’ basketball team, and coaches.
A new 42-inch-diameter, high-pressure gas pipeline near Indian Point, and the anticipated closure of the plant in 2021 leaves 45 years' worth of highly radioactive nuclear waste stored indefinitely on site. How do these multiple hazards threaten the communities and more than 20 million people within the impact radius of the plant? (Photo: Paul Vrontos)

The Charter School of Excellence hosted its first Youth Basketball Leadership Series Conference on Dec. 16, which was sponsored by the New York Knicks, the Positive Coaching Alliance and the Hospital for Special Surgery. The event was designed to provide professional development for coaches and parents regarding positive impacts on youth athletes in terms of overall character growth, as well as injury prevention with youth and high-school athletes. The event featured a “Town Hall”-style program with doctors, and professional athletes including John Wallace and Kym Hampton.

"The goal of bringing these conferences and resources here is for our coaches to be able to continue to grow as people, educators and mentors in order to have a positive impact on our children," said Athletic Director Michael DeSimone. "The Charter School of Educational Excellence would like to thank Troy Brown from the Knicks for allowing CSEE to host such an amazing and empowering event for our entire school community."

Civil War Exhibit at Philipse Manor Hall

A watercolor painting of Philipse Manor with Pvt. Francis Brownell, titled “Winter,” circa the 1860s, by Emily Stedman.

The fourth annual Indian Point Pipeline Near Indian Point Community Meeting was held Nov. 29 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Inn at the Bear Mountain Inn, 7 Shonnard Place, Yonkers.

"Further research confirmed Pvt. Brownell was born in Troy, N.Y., and was the first Civil War soldier to receive the Medal of Honor after shooting a man who killed his commander, E. Elmer Ellsworth, a personal friend of President Lincoln. The infantry was made up originally of volunteer firefighters from N.Y. Are these descendents of these brave soldiers? Where did their story begin?"

"The images in the show will generate historical discussions of the Civil War and its impact," continued Stedman. "There are other photos of unidentified soldiers which I incorporated into two other watercolor paintings around Philipse Manor included in the show. The soldiers are long forgotten, except in these old photos which I now use to illuminate their bravery and belief in their cause."

In addition to Stedman, two other artists — George Gabriele and Whitney Steckler — will be featured in the exhibit, which runs through the end of February.

Discuss the New Gas Pipeline Near Indian Point

A program titled “Westchester on the Front Line: Pipeline to Disaster” is scheduled Wednesday, Jan. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Greenburgh Nature Center.

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Charter School Hosts First Youth Basketball Conference

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Community Council Meets

The Fourth Precinct Community Council will meet Thursday, Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. in the Fourth Police Precinct, 55 Shonnard Place, Yonkers. Captain Cavorte, precinct commander, and his staff will be present to address matters of concern.
Yonkers’ Grosbeak Guitars Plans Expansion

Eric Schoen

This column was going to be about food. This is terrible!

The focus of this column was going to be on New Year’s Day it was all about dieting. We are with food until I began watching television when I got home on New Year’s Day. I guess I didn’t realize how mesmerized I was about the commercials for food and food-related products on TV?

Continued on Page 8
Real Estate Exec. Henry Djonbalaj Joins IDA Board

Henry Djonbalaj, a real estate broker, was recently sworn in as a member of the Yonkers Industrial Development Agency Board. The Yonkers City Council voted Nov. 28 to appoint Djonbalaj to the seven-member board to replace Robert Macurrealla.

“Henry has demonstrated his love for this city and his commitment to its economic health,” said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, who signed the legislation appointing Djonbalaj. “As vice chairman of the McLean Avenue Merchants Association, he has contributed his time and his talents to improving the business climate. We know he will bring the same energy to the IDA Board.”

Djonbalaj said he was honored by the appointment and eager to bring his ideas to the table. “It’s very exciting about it,” he said. “It’s a great, great organization and I hope I can contribute to efforts to attract development opportunities in Yonkers.”

Djonbalaj is an Albanian immigrant who came to the United States in 1974, along with his parents, two brothers and three sisters looking for a new life. He moved to Yonkers in 1986.

Djonbalaj, who started in real estate in 1984, was a successful residential and commercial real estate broker in Mahattan and the Bronx before establishing Henry Djonbalaj Real Estate in Yonkers in 1997. Since that time, the company has expanded to include two offices and a successful sales team of approximately 32 sales agents.

Former Yonkers City Council Majority Leader John Larkin said Djonbalaj has been a vocal advocate for the business community. “Henry, along with his colleagues on the McLean Avenue Merchants Association, has been successful in creating the city’s annual McLean Avenue Street Day Parade and the annual McLean Avenue Fall Festival,” Larkin said. “Both events bring a tremendous amount of business and community to our McLean Avenue.”

Minority Leader Michael Subatino said Djonbalaj’s involvement in many community organizations, like the Untermyer Performing Arts Council and the Yonkers Green City Advisory Committee, adds a perspective beyond his business expertise to the board. “He had the commitment to start a business here and become involved in our community,” Subatino said. “I can’t think of anyone who is better qualified to help other businesses to come here to Yonkers.”

Djonbalaj is optimistic about both the real estate market and the continued success and improvement of the City of Yonkers. He said one of his proudest achievements was the creation of the Sept. 11 memorial site at Center Park on McLean Avenue. The key feature at this memorial is a section of a steel beam from one of the World Trade Center’s Twin Towers. It is a permanent tribute to all of the people who lost their lives on that tragic day in 2001.

Djonbalaj serves on the boards of the Lincoln Park Taxpayers Association, the Untermyer Performing Arts Council, the Aisling Irish Community Center and the Yonkers Green City Advisory Committee. He has been a member of the Aisling Irish Community Center and the McLean Avenue Merchant’s Association St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee. It continues the grand tradition of Yonkers honoring its Irish heritage and contributions to the Yonkers community, and Saint Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland and the Archdiocese of New York.

Ambassador Anne Anderson, former ambassador to France, the European Union and the United Nations has accepted the committee’s invitation to serve as grand marshal of the 2018 St. Patrick’s Day Parade on McLean Avenue.

Anderson has been Ireland’s first female representative in all her prior postings, including her time as the Irish permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva in 1995 and the European Union in Brussels in 2001.

She was also the first Irishwoman to serve as ambassador to France, and is Ireland’s permanent representative to the United Nations in New York just prior to her service as ambassador to the United States from 2013 to 2015.

The 2018 parade will be the grand marshal are Kevin Clifford, Shannon Daugherty, Donna DeLise, Christine Kennedy O’Bourne Joan Mcginniglith, Kayla Miller, Erica Longhi and Thomas Smyth.

The official installation of the parade for the 2018 parade will take place March 10 at 6:30 p.m. at a gala in the Good Time Room at the Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway, 810 Yonkers Ave.

On March 24, prior to the start of the parade, a Mass will be celebrated at 11:15 a.m. at St. Barrabas High School Chapel on McLean Avenue. At 1 p.m., marchers will stop off on the “Emerald Mile” west of Bronx River Road.

St. Patrick’s Day Parade on McLean Avenue Honorees Named

Mayor Mike Spano swears in Henry Djonbalaj to the Yonkers IDA Board.

The 63rd annual Yonkers St. Patrick’s Day Parade will take place this year on McLean Avenue on Saturday, March 24. This parade marks the fifty-fifth marching since the merger of the Yonkers St. Patrick’s Day Parade with the McLean Avenue Merchants’ Association St. Patrick’s Day Parade. It continues the grand tradition of Yonkers honoring its Irish heritage and contributions to the Yonkers community, and Saint Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland and the Archdiocese of New York.

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Mayor Mike Spano and the Department of Housing and Buildings recently issued Yonkers’ annual heating regulations and Heat Emergency Hotline for all tenant-occupied residential buildings.

There is no denying that the cold weather has arrived, so we are once again offering these protections that help keep our home environments safe and warm,” he said. “It is important to remember that the weather is colder now and can be life-threatening if your home does not meet the basic heating requirements so that immediate action can be taken.”

The regulations require that during the period from Sept. 15 to May 31, every person, firm or corporation in the City of Yonkers is required to maintain a temperature of no less than 68 degrees. Additionally, within the aforementioned dates, whenever the outside temperature is 30 degrees or below, the inside temperature is to be supplied at 68 degrees between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m., and at 65 degrees between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. Hot water is to be maintained at a minimum temperature of 120 degrees at all times.

The Yonkers Heat Emergency Hotline – 914-684-6064 – is open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., seven days a week for residents living in reside
Jan. 10, 1942: After the OPM ordered a 30 percent consumption of wool, the Alexander Smith and Sons Carpet Company reduced the number of daily shifts from three to one. The company had been operating an around-the-clock schedule because of the war. Because of this, several thousand employees received small paychecks.

Jan. 11, 1942: The badly needed second high school for Yonkers students again was discussed at the Board of Education meeting Thursday. Although the board and the Common Council agreed on the “pressing need” for a new school, they did not agree where it should be built. Preliminary plans were drawn by the city on portion near Northbrook by Ashburton Avenue; the former Plugg's garage on Park Avenue, owned by the Sarmiento Company; the Thomas property at Webster and Elm streets; and the western corner of Warburton and Ashburton Avenue.

Jan. 11, 1942: Dr. Leo Backlund was presented the Perkins Medal for Emmeut in Industrial Chemical Research.

Jan. 12, 1942: State Health Commissioner Matthew Nacci announced that two Yonkers chemicals companies—Stauffer and Pyridyl Companies—and the Children's Village at Dolfis Perry Farm planned to eliminate their contributions to pollution along the Yonkers waterway. Stauffer and Pyridyl drew plans to prove their waste matter would go elsewhere, said Dr. Stabor of the Department of Environmental Conservation. Children's Village was to be in sewage treatment when the sewer was taken out of the plant.

Jan. 12, 1942: Yonkers Electric Company announced its plans to drop Saturdays from its electric off. As of Dec. 15 as part of a general curtailment of service, the Yonkers system will have 150 customers, a vast increase from 1934. In the next few months, the company will replace old meters with new ones.

Jan. 13, 1942: Mayor Mike Spano recently announced that the city has approved the final design plans for the construction of Yonkers Firehouse No. 1—Station 1 on School Street. The City of Yonkers released the approved design plans of our city’s latest capital project.

Jan. 14, 1942: George T. Kelly was appointed superintendent of the department bureau of the Board of Commissioners.

For more information on the Yonkers history, link to the homepage and upcoming events, visit: www.yonkers.net/yonkerhistorical. The site contains over 12,000 entries and an interactive map of the city's timeline.

“Today is a great day for the Yonkers Fire Department and the citizens we serve,” said Mr. Spano. “We are proud to provide our firefighters with a new, modern facility that will increase public safety both in this community and beyond.”

Tower Ladder 71 and Rescue Station Company will be located at Station 1 once completed. The Tower Ladder and Rescue Station were demolished in 2015 after the original Station 1 was condemned and closed due to unsalvageable building conditions and was deemed economically obsolete.

The old Station 1 is slated to be demolished and select elements will be salvaged and incorporated into the new building. Construction of Station 1 is estimated to take 12 months from the time of the awarding of the bid.

Visit the Yonkers Animal Shelter seven days a week between 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 201-613-5215 for more information.

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 SCORE Westchester has been providing free and low-cost business mentoring services since 1986. More than 75 percent of its 15,000 clients have increased their sales, generated new contracts, obtained new clients, and have become more successful.

SCORE Westchester counselors have direct business experience in business start-ups, manufacturing, publishing, chemicals, financial services, marketing, pharmacueticals, legal, banking, hospitality, restaurants, insurance, and engineering. SCORE counselors provide low-cost and free counseling to anyone seeking to start a business.

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For the forty-first year in a row, SCORE Westchester has received the highest client rating possible, the Platinum award.

To obtain the Platinum award, a chapter must perform well in more than 20 categories, including operating, finance, ethics, leadership, sustainability and chapter growth. SCORE district directors review all chapters annually.

“Of all our volunteers, we are proud that our chapter has achieved Platinum status for the fourth consecutive year,” said Richard Feldman, SCORE Westchester chairman. “We are even more proud, however, of our clients’ achievements.”

SCORE Westchester has enjoyed impressive growth. Over the past 12 months, the number of volunteers small business matters has increased by 15 percent. These business mentors provided services to more than 900 individuals and clients, and more than 4,700 individuals attended 908 educational workshops.

 SCORE Westchester counselors have direct business experience in business start-ups, manufacturing, publishing, chemicals, financial services, marketing, pharmaceuticals, legal, banking, hospitality, restaurants, insurance, and engineering. SCORE counselors provide free and cost-effective counseling to anyone seeking to start a business.

Visit SCORE Westchester for more information.

If you are interested in volunteering with SCORE Westchester, please complete the volunteer application online.

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ReWalk, stand and sit independently, walk with basic and advanced skills required to ultimately re-enter his world. He then began the process of learning the device with the help of a physical therapist and a ReWalk certified instructor. "At Burke, I was able to improve my quality of life by changing my perspective from sitting in a chair looking up at the world, to now being again able to stand and see it on my own two feet — something I had not been able to do in the last five years," said Rusty.

As a pioneer in rehabilitation medicine for more than 100 years, Burke remains at the forefront by incorporating cutting-edge technology during patient rehabilitation journeys. Rusty’s story is one chapter in a long legacy of Burke getting patients back to the lives they love.

ReWalk Robotics is a non-profit, acute rehabilitation hospital in White Plains. Founded in 1915 through an endowment from philanthropist John Masterson Burke, it is the only hospital in Westchester dedicated solely to profit, acute rehabilitation in White Plains. As a pioneer in rehabilitation medicine, Burke offers both inpatient and outpatient services. To learn more about Burke Rehabilitation Hospital and ReWalk, visit burkehospital.org/rewalk.
January Events at the Hudson River Museum

Trion Real Estate Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Falippo and Ferraro Milano, with Carmelo Falippo, left, president of Trion Real Estate Management.

Join Elaina Smoloff in recreating images of the Hudson Valley in paintings and drawings at the Hudson River Museum, Jan. 6 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The session is especially geared toward adults. Tickets are $15 for members and $20 for nonmembers.

Cheryl T. Latimer has hired Catherine Cioffi as her communications director. Ms. Cioffi previously served in the County Executive’s Office. “Catherine Cioffi will be a wonderful addition to Latimer’s official team,” said Latimer. “Latimer has been down that road and knows all the ins and outs of how it is done. She has actions and actions. He will bring practical assistance and real-world experience to the community.”

On Sun., Jan. 14, 2 p.m., enjoy a complimentary glass of wine or apple drink and be merry with a painting lesson and general admission to the museum. Saturday, Jan. 6 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., explore the Hudson Riverama Environmental Gallery with the museum’s junior docent. The museum is open daily from 10 a.m., with doors opening at noon.

In celebration of their 40th anniversary, Trion Real Estate Management and Holdings is hosting a series of events to recognize its success and community involvement and investments with offices in Manhattan and Yonkers, recently celebrated its 40th anniversary on Jan. 14, 2018. The company’s growth over the past 40 years, starting with the purchase of a single property, to expanding in portfolio to include more than 3,000 units, is a testament to the company’s dedication to providing quality living spaces, while serving the community.

Trion’s portfolio consists of more than 35 buildings and 2,000 units with a value of more than $350 million. The company celebrated in milestone with a cocktail and dinner party at the River Cafe in White Plains, attended by the real estate elite, media, friends, family, and Trion executives and staff.

“We are so thankful to the Trion staff and the members of the Hudson River Museum community for the growth our company over the past four decades,” said an attorney of Trion Management and Holdings. “We are grateful for all their hard work, talent and dedication.”

The story of Trion’s growth is too long to tell when his parents, Filippo Falippo Milano, bought their first Fifth Avenue (a site multi-family property) in 1977, with a budget of $4 billion. Prior to that, she was commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development and Neighborhoods throughout New York State and Metro-North Railroad. She currently serves as principal of Strategic Management Solutions and continues her focus on infrastructure and economic development.

Ms. Cioffi has served as a New York City public defender and has been an attorney for 27 years. Ms. Cioffi has served as a New York City public defender and has been an attorney for 27 years. 

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Catholic Basketball Teams
Honor Coach Kareem Smith
Sacred Heart

The varsity basketball teams from Sacred Heart High School in Yonkers and Cardinal Spellman High School in the Bronx met in the fourth annual Kareem Smith Memorial Game, played at the Sacred Heart gym in Yonkers.

In the game, Sacred Heart defeated Spellman 87-68.

The annual event is co-sponsored by Yonkers Mayor Michael Spano and the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Jewish Affairs.

The mayor also praised Smith for his leadership on the court.

We look forward to serving the council and appreciating the unanimous vote of approval.

We thank the council for its designation and support of Yonkers Rising as the official weekly newspaper.

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