Uncovering a River
In Yonkers: Part III

HBO’s ‘Show Me A Hero’ Filming at City Hall

Montessori School 27’s Oct. ‘School of the Month’

Exchange Club Honors Civil Servant of the Year

5K Run/Walk Strengthens Police Interactions with Youth

Construction crews begin to demolish properties along New Main Street to uncover more of the long-buried river, including improving river banks and installing plantings to create a 1.25-acre open, “great” public space and a gateway to the downtown Yonkers shopping district.

“The daylighting of the Saw Mill River has provided tremendous benefits to Yonkers, helping to spur economic development, create jobs and bring new businesses to our downtown,” said Spano. “With the continuation of the daylighting project, demolition will reveal more portions of the Saw Mill River. Photo by Donna Davis.

Demolition crews began work last week by tearing down a one-story building to begin a five-building demolition project at New Main Street and Exchange Street.

Mayor Mike Spano recently welcomed across-screen Winona Ryder and actor Jim Belushi to City Hall for filming of the HBO miniseries “Show Me a Hero,” which depicts the remarkable housing desegregation crisis in Yonkers during the 1980s.

Mayor Mike Spano and actress Winona Ryder and actor Jim Belushi.

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano recently presented the October School of the Month award to Montessori School 27, joined by Superintendent Dr. Michael Yazurlo, Montessori 27 teachers, teaching assistants and students in the school’s library. Spano praised special teachers in the school he described as one of Yonkers’ most unique.

The school follows the Montessori philosophy, developed by Italian physician and educator Maria Montessori, and Montessori instructional materials allow children to learn at their own pace through discovery, activities and individu

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The school follows the Montessori philosophy, developed by Italian physician and educator Maria Montessori, and Montessori instructional materials allow children to learn at their own pace through discovery, activities and individualized work plans. Students at the school are grouped in multi-age classes, which support a non-competitive, cooperative learning atmosphere.

Montessori 27 is really one of Yonkers’ most unique schools,” said Spano. “We strongly encourage our readers to continue with more photos on page 11.

Montessori School 27’s Oct. ‘School of the Month’

From left are black box winners of the miniseries “Show Me a Hero,” including actress Winona Ryder and actor Jim Belushi with the word “thanks” printed on their shirts and a sign saying thanks to fire first responders that day.

Montessori School 27, a New York City school that has been featured in the HBO miniseries “Show Me a Hero,” will be one of the stops for the 5K Run/Walk Strengthens Police Interactions with Youth.

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano recently welcomed across-screen Winona Ryder and actor Jim Belushi to City Hall for filming of the HBO miniseries “Show Me a Hero,” which is based on the remarkable housing desegregation crisis in Yonkers during the 1980s.

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Riverside H.S. Awarded $2.8 Million Tech Grant

Yonkers Public Schools is one of 10 winners in the second round of the statewide Pathways in Technology Early College High School grant competition to form public-private partnerships that will prepare Yonkers High School students for high-skill jobs in technology, manufacturing and health care. Riverside High School, this year’s Yonkers recipient of the grant, will develop a computer information technology and electrical technology program, collaborating with business partners Verde Electric Corporation and the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce, as well as higher education partner Westchester Community College. Riverside’s program will provide an opportunity for students to earn a high school diploma, a college associate degree and the pathway to a career.

Forty students each year for six years will benefit from the grant, valued at $2.8 million over seven years — including the planning year. “Validating the success of CTE instruction, and curriculum development was undertaken by Saunders staff; their business partner Fuller & D’Angelo, PC; Architects and Planners; and high education partner Westchester Community College.”

In September 2014, the program was launched with its first eager cohort of 40 ninth-graders. Riverside will welcome the first cohort of ninth-grade students in September 2015. Yonkers has a long history with Career and Technical Education that began with Saunders Trades School where classes were held in basement rooms of YHS in 1905. Today, Saunders annually receives national recognitions and high education partner Westchester Community College.

Riverside High School students with Principal Dr. Don Solimene; Sue Naber, Yonkers Career and Technical Education administrator; Riverside H.S. teachers Preeti De, James Amodio, Nasser Ibrahim and Danny Fanek; and Thomas Stefanchik, workforce advisor at Yonkers Pathways to Success.

Visit Santa, Enjoy Music & Tree Lighting at Cross County Mall

Visit Santa, Enjoy Music & Tree Lighting at Cross County Mall

Family all together.

Food on the table.

Welcome to one of the more dangerous seasons of the year for teens.

It’s Thanksgiving time. A time to celebrate, and a time to have the conversation with your teen about staying safe this season of all year round. With college students home for the holidays, peer pressure to drink and use drugs can be stronger than ever. Power to the Parent empowers Westchester parents. Learn the facts, strategies and information to help your teens. PowerToTheParent.org.

Stilt walkers are only part of the holiday fun at the Cross County Shopping Center.

Visitors line up for a chance to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus.

“Pathways to Success.”

“P-TECH is one more opportunity for Yonkers students to pursue college credit and acquire workforce skills while in high school,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Yazurlo. “Yonkers P-TECH students will graduate with a Regents diploma or a Regents diploma with advanced designation and a career and technical endorsement, a career associate degree from WCC, and the skills required to secure high potential jobs in a global workforce. Our country’s future will be in great hands.”

Cross County Shopping Center in Yonkers invites local families and visitors from the region to experience the holidays in a magical setting. With a wide array of events and attractions scheduled through Christmas Eve, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

“The holidays are such a festive time of year that we just can’t keep the excitement to ourselves,” said Liz Pollack, senior marketing manager for Cross County Shopping Center. “We love to share this season with our shoppers. “Continued on Page 6
This, Too, is Christmas & Chanukah in New York City

By Eric W. Schoen

The weather outside is frightful—what do you expect? It’s November in New York! Thanksgiving is only a week away, Chanukah is three weeks after Thanksgiving, and, yes, Christmas falls exactly four weeks after Thanksgiving Day.

Friends ask us as we live as close to all the action in New York City. My friends are always asking me how to score tickets for hot Broadway shows over the holidays. Tune to start the celebration with my annual column chock full of tips to make your holidays bright and save a couple of dollars along the way.

Let’s start with Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. Families make it a tradition of going to see the balloons inflated on Thanksgiving eve. The balloons are inflated near the Museum of Natural History with entrance on Central Park West between 77th and 81st streets. The fun starts at 5 p.m., and most of the balloons have started to take shape, and between 9 and 10 p.m. the area is closed off to the public—so plan accordingly.

Unlike you have connections or know someone who works for Macy’s, you won’t be able to score a seat on the bleachers on 34th Street. You can see the balloons inflated on Thanksgiving eve. It sounds like a lot of money, but not when you consider most hotels along the parade route have two- or three-night minimums at $400 a night. Windows give you a bird’s eye view of the parade. It starts at 77th Street and Central Park West, goes down Central Park West, turns right on Central Park South, turns right on 6th Avenue and follows 6th Avenue to 34th Street, where it turns right to Macy’s.

Best viewing locations are the streets between Central Park South and 34th Street on the east and west sides of 6th Avenue. Where it turns right to Macy’s. If you haven’t gone to the parade in several years, the parade route has changed drastically. It starts at 77th Street and Central Park West, goes down Central Park West, turns left on Central Park South, turns right on 6th Avenue and follows 6th Avenue to 34th Street, where it turns right to Macy’s.

If you are going to the theater, here’s a very important note: Make sure you check the time your Broadway show is starting. Evening shows start as early as 7 p.m. and as late as 10 p.m., and matinees start from 1 to 3 p.m. I have been at the theater many times when folks come in at show time, as they assumed a show starting at 7 p.m. actually started at 8 p.m.

I prefer orchestra seating at Radio City. If you ask the ushers at the music hall they will tell you the best place to sit is in the front mezzanine.

Programming note: “Fosse/Verdon” from Netflix is on Broadway in “If/Then”—a great show for adults, but not for children. Dining with kids near Radio City? Bill’s Bar and Burger in Rockefeller Center offers something new and different.

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Metro-North is investing in numerous station enhancements and renovations to make your travel experience safer and more comfortable.

Stations with recent upgrades include:

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For details visit mta.info, or call 511.

And download the free Metro-North Train Time app for what’s new. In CT, call 877-890-5114.
Family Dental Group and Saw Mill Dental Care.

Mayor Announces Expansion of Missing Persons DNA Program

Mayor Mike Spano and Yonkers Police Commissioner Charles Gardner announced last week the expansion of Yonkers’ Missing Persons DNA Program to include non-military families nationwide. "There is a strong need to better understand how families talk to each other about the time their family member, and a family member age 8 to 25 years old, are deployed to Iraq and or Afghanistan, another adult is employed on military families, although it is known that military spouses are at elevated risk for combat-related mental health issues such as PTSD, depression and substance abuse. Individuals with drug or alcohol addictions and psychiatric issues, with young men, in their 20’s, are at high risk for missing every day, including both adults and children," said "In 2012, Westchester became the first county in the U.S. to establish a Missing Persons DNA database for missing adults. Since then, hundreds of thousands have been added to the database, illustrating how proactive our residents are in this area. This is not fair; we pay our garbage pickup company to come and take our garbage out every week. This means that 12 weeks this year we have had no garbage pickup. This is a terrible situation for Yonkers. For more information and directions to the Yonkers Public Library, call 914-964-5750.

Upcoming Library Programs – Feature Music and More

Glò Club Performance

Glò Club Performance will present “An Afternoon of Beautiful Music” on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 1 p.m. at the Yonkers Public Library, Gwin Room. Admission is free of charge and no tickets are required, seating will be on a first come first serve basis. The concert features music from Broadway shows, popular standards and American classics.

The Yonkers’ Male Glò Club is in its 37th year of providing great music to the New York metropolitan area. The conductor is Robert Snow. For more information, contact tyiatras@careydanis.com.

Clio Club Performance

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This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Yonkers Public Library. Admission is free of charge and no tickets are required.

Pebble Piano School was founded in 2002 by Namie and Alexander Buddenhoeft, classical pianists from Russia, and provides professional musical training for students of all ages and levels. The school’s focus is on classical piano, some of its students study accompaniment, music theory, music history and composition.

Family Dental Group is a four-office, general and family practice, located in Greenburgh, Pelham, Scarsdale and Purchase.

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Stony Brook Rd., Stony Brook, NY 11790

Feature Music and More

By Phil Foley

The second Tuesday of every month is the best day of the month for a group of residents of Yonkers Public Library. The conductor is Robert Snow. For more information, contact tyiatras@careydanis.com.

When is Our Garbage Going to Be Picked Up?

By Phil Foley

"When is our garbage going to be picked up?" is a question that often comes up among those who live around the garbage pile up during the holidays. Maybe the mayor should appoint a "think tank" committee to advise him on all the possibilities. Submitted by Philip Foley, an opinion writer for Yonkers Rising, and can be reached at philfoley4rules@gmail.com.
The SPCA of Westchester announced last week that an arrest has been made in connection with the discovery of 25 dead cats found hanging from a tree in the city earlier this year.

According to Shannon Laugan, executive director of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Westchester, the department’s Humane Law Enforcement Unit and the SPCA of Westchester arrested Rene Carcamo, 60, of 25 Overlook Terrace, Yonkers, for allegedly dumping dead cats by placing them in plastic bags and hanging them from a tree on his street, a violation of environmental conservation law.

Laugan is also charged with two-counts of animal cruelty for failure to provide medical attention for two kittens, discovered in his possession by the HLE Unit during its investigation in July.

Ernie Langen, director of the Humane Law Enforcement Unit, and two members of SPCA staff Carcamo following an exhaustive investigation conducted by the SPCA, the police and the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office.

On April 24, Langen was called to the Yonkers location after Department of Public Works employees discovered the bodies of 25 cats hanging from a tree, and several dead kittens on the ground. The SPCA and police conducted interviews with residents in the neighborhood and placed fliers. Carcamo was questioned on several occasions by authorities regarding the dead cats at Overlook Terrace.

In his interview, Laugan instructed Carcamo to get rid of the kittens by spraying them with a pesticide, and a search warrant was later served on the suspect’s residence on Nov. 18.

“The SPCA of Westchester is pleased that an arrest has been made in connection with the discovery of 25 dead cats found hanging from a tree in the city earlier this year,” he continued. “I commend the Yonkers Police Department and SPCA of Westchester for conducting a thorough investigation and bringing a suspect into custody for animal cruelty for failure to provide medical attention for two kittens, discovered in his possession by the HLE Unit during its investigation in July.

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AHEPA Chapter 51 of Yonkers Honors Mayor Mike Spano

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Social Security Q&A

By Julissa Javier

Social Security assistant district manager, Yonkers

Question: I applied for a Social Security card for my child at the hospital and the card arrived. However, the first name is misspelled. What should I do?

Answer: If the first name is misspelled, you can simply request that the Social Security card be reissued. You can do this by contacting the Social Security Administration or visiting their website. They will need to verify the information and issue the corrected card.

Yonkers On the Move

Some of the YOM WALK 20 Challenge II participants who contributed miles received the new challenge T-shirt and YOM certificate at a recent event. They will also receive an invitation to the 2015 Yonkers Rosh Hashana keynote event. For more information, call Vaibhav Dingare at 914-964-4218.

Classes are held Fridays at 3 p.m. at St. John’s Hospital, Andreas Pavilion, 967 North Broadway, Yonkers. For more information, call Viabha Dingare at 914-964-4218.

Yonkers Take Challenge II, Walk 20 Miles!

Yonkers Put 6,000 Miles – and Counting!

For more information, call Vaibhav Dingare at 914-964-4218.

Yonkers On the Move is collecting miles (steps submitted online and via Mile Cards for the WALK 20 Challenge) and the city-wide total of this as of this press release is 6,337 miles! Challenge III ends Nov. 5.

The Yonkers WALK 20 Challenge consists of three combined walk challenges from April through Nov. 5. Everyone who walks, walks or walks in Yonkers can have some fun and take part. YOM is inviting everyone to make walking a regular part of their day, prove age or citizenship, you cannot use it as proof of identity. Social Security needs evidence of the child’s existence after birth. An acceptable document must show your child’s name, identifying information, and proof of citizenship photograph. Your child must be present unless the document certifies your child’s biographic information (age, date of birth and parent names). We generally can accept a non-photo ID if there is enough information to identify the child. We prefer to see the child’s U.S. passport, but if that document is not available, we may accept a non-photo ID. Social Security needs evidence of the child’s existence after birth. Social Security needs evidence of the child’s existence after birth. Social Security needs evidence of the child’s existence after birth.

Social Security Numbers For Children,” available at www.socialsecurity.gov, where you can learn what documents you need, fill out and print as an application, and then bring the information to us. You may also want to read the publication, “Social Security Numbers For Children,” available at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Care Department is offering Sahaja Yoga Meditation classes held Fridays at 3 p.m. at St. John’s Hospital, Andreas Pavilion, 967 North Broadway, Yonkers.

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To find out more, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber, where you can learn what documents you need, fill out and print as an application, and then bring the information to us. You may also want to read the publication, “Social Security Numbers For Children,” available at www.socialsecurity.gov.

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Answer: If the first name is misspelled, you can simply request that the Social Security card be reissued. You can do this by contacting the Social Security Administration or visiting their website. They will need to verify the information and issue the corrected card.

Yonkers On the Move is collecting miles (steps submitted online and via Mile Cards for the WALK 20 Challenge) and the city-wide total of this as of this press release is 6,337 miles! Challenge III ends Nov. 5.

The Yonkers WALK 20 Challenge consists of three combined walk challenges from April through Nov. 5. Everyone who walks, walks or walks in Yonkers can have some fun and take part. YOM is inviting everyone to make walking a regular part of their day, prove age or citizenship, you cannot use it as proof of identity. Social Security needs evidence of the child’s existence after birth. Social Security needs evidence of the child’s existence after birth. Social Security needs evidence of the child’s existence after birth.

To find out more, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber, where you can learn what documents you need, fill out and print as an application, and then bring the information to us. You may also want to read the publication, “Social Security Numbers For Children,” available at www.socialsecurity.gov.

By Julissa Javier

Social Security assistant district manager, Yonkers

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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF TAX LIENS BY CITY OF YONKERS, NEW YORK

BY ACTION IN REM

TO THE PARTY TO WHOM THE ENCLOSED NOTICE IS ADDRESSED

City of Yonkers

Please note that on the 10th day of November, 2014, JOHN LISZEWSKI, Com-

Pursuant to XIX of the Charter of the City of Yonkers and Article 11, Title 3 of the Real Prop-

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Pursuant to the General Ordinance, to wit:

A GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING GENERAL ORDINANCE 4-2000, ALSO KNOWN

TAX LIENS

Please note that on the 10th day of November, 2014, JOHN LISZEWSKI, Com-

The undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the

Pursuant to the General Ordinance, to wit:

A GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 43 OF THE ZONING CODE OF THE

The undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the

Pursuant to XIX of the Charter of the City of Yonkers and Article 11, Title 3 of the Real Prop-

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A GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING CHARTER OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, NEW YORK

Pursuant to the General Ordinance, to wit:

A GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, NEW YORK

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Special thanks – as always and every year – was expressed to Perstine Wesley, owner of Harry’s Shoe Repair, who created the idea of encouraging positive relationships between the children of Yonkers and began the “Wesley and Friends” 5k walk/run.

Now in its eighth year, the race was another success, with runners and families joining in the event.

Yonkers Deputy Mayor Steve Levy took first place in the 5k, with PAL boxer Brian O’Shea finishing second and PAL Boxer Tony Harris finishing third.

The City of Yonkers and the PAL thanked everyone who volunteered at the event and participated in the run/walk.

Mayor Mike Spano and honoree Carol Ann Ford.

Steve Lopez, vice president of the Yonkers Board of Education; Dr. Michael Yazurlo, superintendent of schools; and Judith Ramos-Meier, Board of Ed trustee.

Judith Ramos Meier and Vice President Steve Lopez, joined Mayor Michael Spano in honoring and commending Ford. Assemblywoman Shelley Mayer joined in, as well.

YPSD runners head to the finish line.

Photos by Ed Whitman

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Steve Lopez, vice president of the Yonkers Board of Education; Dr. Michael Yazurlo, superintendent of schools; and Judith Ramos-Meier, Board of Ed trustee.

Carol Ann Ford (where she currently is working) and Marwan Sayegh, principal of School 30, who nominated Carol with others.

Members of the Woodlawn Track Team with family and Police Commissioner Charles Garde and Perstine Wesley.

Mayor Mike Spano and honoree Carol Ann Ford.

Photos by Ed Whitman

Everyone who volunteered at the event and participated in the run/walk.

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Uncovering a Continued from Page 1

at New Main Street, we are providing an open urban civic space that provides residents and visitors greater access to our downtown area and revitalizing city.”

The daylighting of the Saw Mill River has been a long but successful journey for the city and its future. Spano has continued to move the city forward on the positive image and enthusiasm the daylighting project has created: “Today marks another exciting moment in the rebirth of downtown Yonkers. I am proud that not only the daylighting project, but Yonkers as a community, has brought notice to Yonkers as a new arts/culture destination-location. The next step for the city will be to find the suitable developer or investor who can transform the Gay Square-Chicken Island area around the river into Phase III into a retail, residential or entertainment destination-location.

Host your Holiday Party with us!

Bring Our Jobs Home

A Website dedicated to restoring the American dream by holding US Corporations and our elected officials accountable and help bring manufacturing jobs back to the USA

Visit our website at bringourjobshome.com and aoafa.org

Uncovering a Continued from Page 1

New Main Street between Nappanee Avenue and Ann Street. The downtown will expose the currently inaccessible Saw Mill River, which is blocked off by large concrete and invasive plant life. Plans for the space will provide for pedestrian pathways as well as improved river water quality, improved marina habitat and enhanced water/sewer performance.

“Gov. (Andrew) Cuomo, along with our state delegation, has been instrumental to the success of not only the daylighting project, but Yonkers as a whole,” said Spano. “With an improving economy, new businesses moving into the city, and a growth rate that ranks Yonkers as the second-fastest growing city in the state, we are truly a city on the move. I want to thank them for their continued commitment and investment in Yonkers.”

State Sen. Andrew Stewart-Cousine, the Democratic conference leader, has supported the project from the start, in 2007. “The Saw Mill River daylighting project is designed to serve as a catalyst for new opportunities, sparking renewed interest and investment in downtown Yonkers,” she said. “I was happy to lend my support to the city’s efforts to secure high-ly competitive state grants through the Regional Economic Development Council to make this on-going project possible.”

State Assemblymember Shelley Mayer added: “Today marks another existing moment in the rebirth of downtown Yonkers. I am proud that not only the daylighting project, but Yonkers as a community, has brought notice to Yonkers as a new arts/culture destination-location.”

Mayor Spano at the controls of a crane.

Photos by Donna Davis

Assembly member Shelley Mayer receives a “wrecking ball” from Mayor Spano.

Mayor Spano at the controls of a crane.

As the saw-tooth public space is located on New Main Street between Nappanee Avenue and Ann Street. The downtown will expose the currently inaccessible Saw Mill River, which is blocked off by large concrete and invasive plant life. Plans for the space will provide for pedestrian pathways as well as improved river water quality, improved marina habitat and enhanced water/sewer performance.

“The Saw Mill River daylighting project is a multi-phase project that includes a new urban river park and paths through the center of downtown Yonkers. The project is funded by grants from New York State Empire State Development. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation and the City of Yonkers.”

Phase I of the Saw Mill River daylighting, known as Van der Donck Park, has earned nation-wide recognition: “William White Award” by the American Society of Landscape Architecture, and the “New York Honor Award” by the American Society of Landscape Architects.

The next step for the city will be to find the suitable developer or investor who can transform the Gay Square-Chicken Island area around the river into a retail, residential or entertainment destination-location.

Uncovering a Continued from Page 1

Mayor Spano, center, with State Assemblymember Shelley Mayer, to his right, joins city officials for New Main Street demolition.

A view from above of New Main Street properties to be demolished, with the river running underneath.
Twenty years ago two guys right out of college started their own IT service company in Yonkers with a few clients and big dreams. Today, Progressive Computing has hundreds of clients throughout the Metropolitan area and keeps growing. When it comes to starting and growing a business, Yonkers has it all. Convenient location, diverse workforce and a business-friendly environment.

Robert Cioffi & Ugo Chiulli
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Progressive Computing
Yonkers, NY

“"We’re glad we started out in Yonkers. Yonkers is great for attracting young people which is critical to our business.""