Yonkers Student Club Gives Back to the Community

By Dan Murphy

The Yonkers Student Club recently passed two pieces of legislation that came about as a result of the Matthew Wallace tragedy. A fiscal Bill of Rights and a measure that requires certain businesses which sell alcohol to operate surveillance cameras. The bills were authored by Council President Larry M. Manna.

The Yonkers Historical Society held its annual awards brunch Nov. 2 at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in White Plains. Owner Anthony Goncalves, a Yonkers native, stepped up to lend his support to CSEE, and helped the charter school reach its eventual goal of providing each student with a digital notebook.

The fundraiser was held and sponsored by the Charter School of Education Excellence with Principal Cindy Lopez, right, and Board Trustee Sobeida Cruz, far left, and Anthony Goncalves, left. Photo by Bayan Baker.

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Khila Giving Back to You Club members Dru Smith Belt, Pamela Sugrue, Ethel Washington (president/founder), Samantha Robinson, Joseph De Los Santos, Anderson De Aza and Holly Melkonian.

By Dan Murphy

Yonkers Rising prides itself on reporting about the positive stories, about people in Yonkers. And there are many people, community groups and organizations in Yonkers who volunteer their time to help others. Ethel Washington, a ninth-grader at Riverdale High School, is a great example of this. Washington formed a group called Kids Giving Back to Yonkers when he was a student at the Dodson School, and is expanding his public service group to include students at his high school, and an interest in every Yonkers student – and Yonkers residents – to join, get involved and make a difference.

“I saw a story about someone who died due to bullying, and committed suicide, and I wanted to do something about it,” he said. “At Dodson we were able to hold a Project Bull-Free Zone Day, and teach students about bullying. I was able to talk to the younger students and expanded on Page 8

Yonkers City Council members at a special reception with members of the Westchester PTA Council.

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Two Years Later: YPD Remembers Sandy Victims

By Phil Foley

As a citizen of Yonkers, I am very proud of the role our Yonkers Police Department played in helping people from Staten Island who were in serious trouble two years ago this November.

Last week, Lt. Patrick McCormack, communications officer for YPD, sent me the following statement about the efforts of the department on Staten Island (I couldn’t have said it better, myself):

“As many are still recovering from the effects of Superstorm Sandy, members of the YPD would like to take a moment to reflect on those residents who were affected by the storm. On Nov. 20, 2012, approximately 27 members of the Yonkers Police Department CLSA and the PBA departed the 2nd Precinct with three van-loads of supplies for the hardest hit area on Staten Island. The YPD would like to thank all our residents who donated items – the residents of Staten Island were very grateful and we keep them in our thoughts.”

I spoke with Jane Doughert McGowan who owned one of the homes YPD helped that day, who told me she only expected four people to help out. She was completely surprised when more than 20 YPD members showed up and gutted her basement.

“It was overwhelming when they did the job in two hours and very thankful to them – they were wonderful,” she said.

Speak about irony: Jane is a retired member of the NYPD Transit Police Department.

For more information on the Pajama Program, visit pajamaprogram.org.

Yonkers Stuffs Buses For Pajama Program

The Women in Business Committee of the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce spearheaded ‘Stuff-a-Bus,’ and filled a bus with pajamas and books collected. Students and Chamber women dressed up in pajamas to celebrate the day, and the support of a worthy charitable non-profit organization.

For more information on the program, visit pajamaprogram.org.
The city's State Delegation announced last week that the Saw Mill River Daylighting project was awarded $2 million by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The award will support water improvement initiatives associated with Phase Three of the Saw Mill River’s daylighted sections, which will uncover more portions of the long-buried river, including improving river banks, installing plantings, installing a large debris chamber, separating combined sewer outflows and reducing water levels.

The project is one of 154 statewide that received a combined $9.5 million in competitive state funding as part of the DEC’s Water Quality Improvement Program. The DEC program funds aquatic habitat restoration, storm sewer systems and wastewater treatment projects across New York; Yankees was awarded the third-largest amount statewide and the largest in the region.

"The daylighting of the Saw Mill River has provided a tremendous boost to Yankees’ economy, helping to spur economic development, create jobs and bring new businesses to our downtown," said Mayor Mike Spano. "With an improving economy, new businesses moving into the city and a generally positive range that ranks Yankees as the second-fastest growing city in the state, we truly are a city on the move. I want to thank Gov. Andrew Cuomo and our State Delegation for their continued commitment and investment in Yonkers." 

Continued on Page 10
Allstate Insurance Agent Ivette Ledesma, whose office is located at 661 Yonkers Ave., has received the Agency Hands in the Community Award for her commitment to volunteering in the community. With this award came a $5,000 grant from The Allstate Foundation for the Latinx Scholarship Fund at DePaul University, where Ledesma volunteers.

Ledesma is an active and respected member of the business community, protecting customers with insurance and financial services products," said Dan Robbins, New York regional sales leader at Allstate. "She also makes it a priority to dedicate time and effort to make a difference in people’s lives. Ivette exemplifies the ideal spectrum of what it means to be an Allstate agent and has truly become a name and face in the community.

Allstate believe it is very important for corporations to take an active interest in the communities they serve," continued Robbins. "Allstate is proud to support Latinx Scholarship Fund through The Allstate Foundation."

Foam Cups & Packaging Added to Recycle Program

In a major expansion of the city’s recycling program, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced last week that residents will now be able to drop off used polystyrene foam cups and packaging for recycling. The initiative is in line with the city’s goal of reducing the number six designation – which includes take-out containers, foam-block packaging found in electronics boxes and a host of other everyday items – can be dropped by business owners and residents in designated bins at the city’s recycling center. Often mistakenly referred to as Styrofoam, a trademarked name for Dow’s insulation, post-consumer foam is in high demand. These lightweight, easily recycled into useful goods, paper and plastics. Business owners and residents of Yonkers can begin dropping off their number six foam off Nov. 15 at the city’s Recycle Center, 735 Saw Mill River Road. All material must be cleaned and sorted it, as is commonly done with other plastics.

Improving the environment is a job that’s never done,” said Mayor Mike Spano. “That’s why expanding our recycling program to include polystyrene foam is so important to us. These products – things we see and use every day in the form of cups and containers – can be recycled into useful goods, paper and plastics. Business owners and residents of Yonkers can begin dropping off their number six foam off Nov. 15 at the city’s Recycle Center, 735 Saw Mill River Road. All material must be cleaned and sorted it, as is commonly done with other plastics.

In last week’s Yonkers Rising, we high- lighted the Exchange Club’s annual Fire Preven- tion Dinner, which honored the crew of the Yonkers Engine Company 306 for its heroic acts. Also at the dinner, the club posthumously honored Jef Campion, the well-liked Yonkers firefighter who recently passed away. His dear friend, firefighter Louis Velucci, accepted a plaque, which was inscribed a beautiful memorial poem titled “The Power of Our

You Can’t Forget The Day You Met
When He Joined the YFD
And What About That COOL Pose
Or Boy Was Jef Sexy
And How His Eyes Just Twinkled
When Children He Would See
BED HUG AND Hold THEM CLOSELY
And sit them on his Knee
Now When You Look Up At The Sky
And See a Painted Cloud
It Might Be One That Jef Designed
To Make You Really Proud
Some Say That You Will Meet Again
In Heaven Up Above
It’s There That You Can Let Jef Know
You’ll Always Have Your Love
By Ann Muro

Golf Discounts Offered at County Courses This Fall

The air is crisp, the leaves are gorgeous and the discounts are great — so grab your clubs and head out for some leisure golf and take advantage of the discounts that began Nov. 3 at Westchester Country Club.

For seniors age 60 and older, Park Pass holders pay $32 and non-pass holders pay $54; valid all day Monday through Friday only includes cart rental.

“Back Nine” is offered for $17 for pass holders walking and $25 with a nine-hole cart; non-pass holders pay $20 walking and $35 in a nine-hole cart.

Dinner off, polynomial foam products will be picked up by the Dart Container Corporation and shipped to its recycling facility in Lebanon, Pa. These plans will prepare the foam for a second life as one of a score of products used in daily activities.

Yonkers now joins cities and communities across the country in a movement aimed at using polystyrene foam from the waste stream and recycling it, as is commonly done with other plastics.

The poem reads:

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The poem reads:
Nov. 12, 1952: The last trolley run was made in Yonkers.

Thursday, Nov. 13

Nov. 13, 1925: The new Immaculate Conception Church (St. Mary’s) was dedicated by Archbishop Currie.

Nov. 13, 1993: Free Yonkers representatives were allowed to take their seats on the Westchester County Board of Supervisors after being denied admittance for more than 10 months.

Nov. 13, 1928: More than 1,000 people paled after the laying of the cornerstone of the new Jewish Community Center at South Broadway and Guinea Street. Mayor Fogarty and Judge Charles Boote were among the speakers.

Friday, Nov. 14

Nov. 14, 1878: Saint Andrew’s Golf Club of Yonkers-on-the-Hudson, the first golf club in Westchester County, was opened.

Nov. 15, 1930: Six men and one woman were arrested as members of Westchester’s “largest bootleg ring.”

Saturday, Nov. 15

Nov. 15, 1930: Six men and one woman were arrested as members of Westchester’s “largest bootleg ring.”

Sunday, Nov. 16

Nov. 16, 1851: Archbishop John Hughes blessed Immaculate Conception Church and gave Confirmation.

Nov. 16, 1889: Weil & Weil, Yonkers’ largest dry goods store at 5 North Broadway, was destroyed by a gas main leak. It rebuilt in the same location.

For more information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood Inn and upcoming events, visit www.facebook.com/YonkersHistoricalSociety. For information on membership in YHS, call 914-961-0940 or email yhsociety@optonline.net.
**Bringing Your Home to Life**

Harley is a young male dog younger than 2 years and weighing about 55 pounds. He is affectionate and very active. Harley has long legs and likes to stretch out by walking along a long wall or running in the play area. If you play with him long enough, he will give you the ball back with no problem.

Harley is smart and has learned some basic commands at the shelter. He is dog-selective, so he would have to meet any dog that he might be living with. He would be good with older kids and while not a house dog, a room would be great for him.

Visit Harley at the Yonkers Animal Shelter, 1500 South Broadway, between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays, or noon and 4 p.m. weekends. For more information, call 914-377-0370 during hours of operation or 210-911-2430 at any time, or email koilij47@gmail.com.

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**Medicare & Health Care**

**Coverage for Seniors Explained**

A free presentation of the Westchester Library System's Seniors On Speaking & Singing, "Demystifying Medicare," is being given a member of the community.

A free presentation of the Westchester Library System's Seniors On Speaking & Singing, "Demystifying Medicare," is being given a member of the community. It will be held on Monday, November 10, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Scarsdale Public Library, 287 Mamaroneck Avenue. Students are welcome, but pre-registration is required at 914-312-3326. Additional dates and locations will be added to the WSOS calendar at www.westlibrary.org/socialsecurity-information-centers, which also gives the location where the fraud took place; when

*If someone contacts you claiming to be from Social Security and asks for your Social Security number, date of birth or other identifying information, beware. Don’t provide your personal security information without first confirming Social Security by speaking with an authorized representative.*

Call Social Security’s toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to report.

*You should be suspicious if the caller tries to get you to go to a particular website or if the caller asks for personal information.*

By Julissa Javier

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**Being Aware of Fraud is First Step to Avoiding It**

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By Julissa Javier
By Hilary Johnson

Most of us will never know what it feels like to receive a standing ovation from 500 people, but that’s just what happened recently for some young people from Groundwork Hudson Valley. A large-scale anti-bullying organization received an award from the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck on the evening of Oct. 24.

The Young People’s Trust, which is a part of the club, which is the center of attention, and it was terrific for them to see it, speak out about it and confront the bully.

Washington is a dynamo! His efforts to help all kids get off the streets at Groundwork Hudson Valley are truly inspiring.

Council Passes Continued from Page 1

“Those bills passed unanimously and will not have been possible without the efforts of the Welfare Family,” said McLaughlin. “It is our goal to make sure our city has a great team of leaders we can look at, and it is also important to keep our gun control programs in place.”

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Yonkers Resident Frank Riti Honored by Kiwanis

Mayor Mike Spano presents a proclamation to Frank Riti.

Yonkers resident Frank Riti, who has served as the lieutenant governor of the Bronx-Westchester-South Division of Kiwanis International since 2013, was recently honored for his leadership of Kiwanis and his service to the community. Mayor Mike Spano presented Riti with a proclamation at the event, held at Westchester Manor.

Over the 2013-14 year, Riti has successfully led the 12 Kiwanis Clubs in his division. The clubs are: Bronx Shore, East Yonkers, Fordham, Hartsdale, Joseph Michael Wuest Club of Morris Park, Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon Golden K, North East Bronx, Parkchester, Riverdale, Westchester Village and Yonkers.

Riti said he believes in Kiwanis because it is an organization of volunteers whose members give of their time and energy to give back to their communities.

To aid in fulfilling the goal of Joseph Aiello, governor of New York State Kiwanis District, Riti encouraged all of his clubs to participate in the Governor’s Project, centered on Autism Awareness. They also supported the first lady’s project of working with Treats for the Troops, which sends gift packages to young men and women serving overseas.

Riti’s career has centered around health care. He was the head of occupational therapy in nursing homes located in Westchester and the Bronx, and many years of service to this field and is now retired and living in Yonkers. He has a large family of six siblings and many wonderful nieces and nephews.

‘Green’ Walking Tour Shows Off Yonkers’ Sustainability

Underground at 66 Main St.

Mayor Mike Spano welcomed a large crowd of attendees to the second annual Yonkers Green City Walking Tour last week, which started at the train station. For the first time, it was hosted in conjunction with the newly-created Yonkers Green City Advisory Committee, an 11-member committee formed by Mayor Mike Spano under Executive Order No. 15.

The committee serves as the city’s environmental advisory body, provides guidance and recommendations to the mayor, engages residents and community stakeholders, and advocates for and supports the implementation of sustainability policies.

Committee Chairman Brad Tito, the city’s director of sustainability, led the walking tour to visits of the Groundwork Hudson Valley Science Barge, the Sarah Lawrence Center for the Urban River at Beczak, a large-scale solar rooftop at i.Park, mixed-use geothermal lofts at 66 Main St., and Van der Donck Park.

Brad Tito, Yonkers’ director of sustainability, led the tour.

Science Barge Capt. Bob Walters with a large gourd that was grown on board.

Riti with brother Sam, and family.

Riti with Rosemarie Cornacchio from the Kiwanis Club.

Photos by Ed Whitman

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Photos by Ed Whitman
Hollywood Comes to The Olde Stone Mill

The beautiful Olde Stone Mill Restaurant in Yonkers, overlooking the banks of the Bronx River, was recently chosen as the location for the filming of the upcoming movie "Ricki and the Flash," starring Meryl Streep, Rick Springfield, Kevin Kline and Sebastian Stan.

In the film, Streep plays a pottery shop owner trying to reconnect with her children.

It was four years ago that location directors visited the Olde Stone Mill, seeking possible venues for future film shoots. This year, because of its ambiance and exceptional scenery, the Olde Stone Mill provided the perfect setting for this Meryl Streep film.

The Olde Stone Mill was converted to a French Bistro overnight for the film’s dining scenes, and Chef Michael Gallo even prepared French cuisine for the stars.

We are all looking forward to this film’s release, scheduled for June 2015.

Phase II

Continued from Page 3

Supported this work, and I commend the City of Yonkers for its vision to see it to completion and the DEC for its support.”

The Daylighting of the Saw Mill River is a multi-phase project that will restore the river and parks through the center of downtown Yonkers. Phase One the daylighting, known as Van der Donck Park, has earned national, state-wide and regional recognition, including the “National Recognition Award” by the American Council of Engineering Companies, “Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award,” by the New York State Society of Professional Engineers, “Project of the Year” by the Westchester-Putnam Chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers, “Project of the Year” by the Construction Management Association of America, “William White Award” by the American Planning Association, and the “New York Honor Award” by the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Phase Two, which broke ground in March 2014, will create a 20,000-square-foot park. Known as Mill Street Courtyard, the park will uncover 100 feet of the river and transform an alleyway into a European-style piazza. The park will also include a pedestrian and vehicle bridge, bike path, public artwork from local artists and a new pedestrian gateway that will provide seamless access to and from Van der Donck Park.

Phase Three of the project will create a 2.25-acre park in an area of the city known as “Chickens Island,” the site of a future large scale development project. The city has already purchased and will soon demolish several properties to expose the currently inaccessible river, which is also blocked off by a large fence and invasive plant life.

The project, which has secured millions of dollars in state and city funding, is expected to create 100 construction jobs.

The daylighting is funded by grants from New York State Empire State Development, state DEC, NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation and the City of Yonkers.

Charter School

Continued from Page 1

Photos by Bayan Baker

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Charter School

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provide their students with the tools, and technology to succeed.”

The media center is named after Anthony’s mother, Mary. The Charter School of Educational Excellence, Westchester’s first charter school, is a kindergarten-through-eighth-grade public school that has nationally-acclaimed teachers, and has received accolades for its literacy program. The school was named a Reward School for 2014 by the New York State Education Department. CSEE has been awarded the International Reading Association Exemplary Reading Program Award and is a validated school for Best Practices in Literacy by NYS Education Department.

CSEE continues its efforts to expand and improve the lives of students in Yonkers and beyond, and hopes that in the future it can build a charter high school in Yonkers.

There is a waiting list for parents who wish to have their students enrolled at CSEE, which is a tuition-free public school. For more information, visit: www.charterschoolofeducational Excellenz.org or call 914-476-5070.