The holiday season is all about, or should be all about, the children in Yonkers and their hopes and wishes for a merry Christmas or happy Chanukah, and their dreams for the future. Every year Yonkers Public Schools hosts dozens of holiday concerts in which students sing a few songs in front of their friends, families, teachers and staff.

Recently, students from School 17, School 18-School of Scholastic Arts for Academic Excellence, and School 30 sang holiday carols. We're wishing all of Yonkers – young and old – a merry Christmas, happy Chanukah and a happy 2017!

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By Dan Murphy

Empire City Casino recently presented nearly 1,000 toys and coats collected during its 10th annual “Christmas Spirit” drive to Catholic Charities, ensuring that New Yorkers in need have a warm coat this winter and a toy or two to put under the Christmas tree for their children.

Timothy Rooney, president and CEO of Empire City Casino, presented the annual donation to Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, and Orla Kelleher, executive director of Aisling Irish Community Center of Yonkers. Joining Rooney and Sullivan were City of Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and many other elected officials, who all reminded the public that there is need in the county. Those assembled also made their own contributions and encouraged both corporations and individuals to give back to the community.

“Social responsibility is not just for corporations, it is imperative we all do what we can,” said Rooney. “Giving back is about community and helping others move forward. There are no greater deeds than charity and service.”

The drive to help families in the community attracted some West Coast warmth, with Josh Blake, president of the California-based and family-owned company The Gander Group, donating hundreds of toys to the annual drive. This is the fifth consecutive year that Blake and his family have showered New Yorkers with their generosity. He is committed to assisting those in need. "This is the fifth year that we have been involved," said Blake. "The response has been overwhelming. We are happy to be able to help."
The Charter School for Educational Excellence’s Owls cheerleading team recently competed in its first cheer competition in the school’s history Dec. 3 at New Rochelle High School. The competition featured some of the best teams in the Rockland, Westchester and Putnam counties, and New York City.

The Owls finished in second place in the Junior High School division.

“This is a great time in CSEE athletics,” said Athletic Director Mike DeSimone. “Our student-athletes have displayed tremendous dedication, hard work and commitment throughout the season. Saturday was a product of just how hard this school community has been working. The coaches here at CSEE are second to none, putting in countless hours of coaching, teaching and mentoring for our kids.”

The cheer team is led by Head Coach Nicole Greenberg and assisted by Danielle Renzina, Krystel Lepore and Brisa Cully.

Greenberg was in tears after the competition, stating: “I am so proud of the amount of hard work and passion these girls put into this team.”

We wanted to get this recent photo from "Operation Santa" into Yonkers Rising, to wish Councilman Mike Breen, pictured here with Santa, and his daughter, Police Officer Megan Breen, a merry Christmas. Thanks to both of the Breens for their service to Yonkers, and best wishes for a Happy 2017.

‘Film Yonkers’ Brings Stars to City Hall

Actor Jack Black was filming a new movie this week in Yonkers and stopped by City Hall to say “Hello” to Mayor Mike Spano. The “Film Yonkers” department of the city continues to attract the top stars in Hollywood and entertainment. Yonkers City Hall itself has been a favorite for television and movie production for years because of its historic courtrooms and architecture.

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The city can’t, in good conscience, ignore the housing conditions and the obligation to the health and safety of these individuals and surrounding residents,” said Spano. “We will continue to monitor the conditions at 101 N. Broadway and be sure that the properties are maintained so they meet the habitable standards of the State of New York.

Moving forward, Spano plans on introducing legislation that would give these on-site operators the responsibility to eliminate fire hazards and assist in the evacuation of occupants during drills and in cases of emergency.

Send your letters and opinions to us at dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Eric W. Schoen

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23-30, 2016 - YONKERS RISING - PAGE 3

CFR (Continued)

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Eric W. Schoen
Cavanaugh Departs Yonkers

Sources tell Yonkers Rising that Yonkers Board of Education Trustee and Parking Authority Trustee Jim Cavanaugh has left Yonkers. Cavanaugh has, or will, have to resign both of his positions and the city will send out a call for replacement applicants.

Cavanaugh is a partner in the New York City lobbying firm State Strategic Planning, which is founded in Nick Spanos. Cavanaugh turned out to be an immediate member of the Village in the most importantly on the Yonkers Board of Educa- tion, where he attempted to open an office in the district’s living and spending jurisdiction, and presented a $2.5 million rebuil- ding of Yonkers schools.

Cavanaugh is the successor Wilson Kimball, com- missioner of planning and development, in 2013. Kimball remained in the post and in Yonkers.

Jim Cavanaugh

Golf Courses Close For the Season Jan. 1

The six Winchell County-owned golf courses will close for the season after play ends on January 1. They will remain open until that date, weather and conditions permitting. Details with the individual golf courses.

The courses are Duryanville (914-231-5490) and Sprain Lake (914-231-5480), both in Sprain Lake Park, and Pound Ridge (914-238-6216), both in Pound Ridge. The course in Verplanck (914-247-7250) will remain open. The course in Pawling (914-627-2400) and the one in Yorktown (914-966-6610) will both be closed.

TIAF Yellow Cab

For residents who prefer to pay their tax cabs withYellow Cabs, the cost is $6.50 for each mile plus a $2.00 surcharge with a $1.00 surcharge for each additional passenger, and a $1.50 surcharge per child under the age of 12.

Celebrate Chanukah At Upcoming Festivities

A number of Memorable Chanukah is schud- uled for Yonkers and the surrounding area.

For the 2016 Chanukah season, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano will again light the Menorah at the City Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 28 at 5 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. The Mayor’s Office of Constituent Service and the city’s tax department will be available at the above locations from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. all day to meet with residents and assist with city property taxes, which are due on Jan. 4.

“Paying your city taxes is mandatory, but the experience doesn’t have to be challenging,” said Mayor Mike Spano. “We’ve made a concerted effort to make City Hall an accessible place so residents can have a more enjoyable experience.

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Excitement was in the air as Dec. 15 at Yonkers Partners in Education welcomed 114 eighth-graders, their families, and 86 new volunteer graduation coaches into its scholar program. YPIE launched the innovative YPIE Scholars Program in 2012 to increase the number of Yonkers Public School students who graduate high school with the college and career readiness skills necessary for success in college and beyond. In collaboration with new YPIE scholars and their graduation coaches, attendees of the kickoff event celebrated the success and dedication of YPIE’s sophomore class of scholars and the 53 coaches who are committed to mentoring these students through high school graduation.

YPIE offers $30 million for repairs

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has awarded $30 million in federal grant money to Westchester County for the immediate repair of the Yonkers Joint Wastewater Treatment Plant, which was damaged during Hurricane Sandy.

The Yonkers Joint Wastewater Treatment Plant was damaged by the storm and has been unable to operate since October. The Yonkers Joint Wastewater Treatment Plant provides primary treatment to 110,000 residents of Westchester County.

The project is expected to cost about $100 million and will take two years to complete. The Yonkers Joint Wastewater Treatment Plant is currently operating at reduced capacity, and the plant’s operators are working to maintain service to the community.

YPIE Welcomes Class of 2024 Scholars & Grad Coaches

Reap Elgot Engel, a resident of Yonkers, has been named as a new YPIE graduation coach for the Class of 2024.

Engel recently graduated from Yonkers High School and is currently enrolled in Yonkers College. Engel is a member of the YPIE Scholars Program and has been actively involved in community service projects.

YPIE provides a unique opportunity for students to earn college credits while still in high school. Engel plans to take advantage of this opportunity and work towards his goal of becoming a teacher.

New York realty company for more than $150,000

In 1925, the YPIE Scholars Program was launched as a way to support and mentor high school students who were at risk of dropping out. The program works closely with all eight Westchester County high schools to recruit students, schedule meetings between scholars and graduation coaches during the school year, and assist students with their academic efforts.

“Schools are successful and students are motivated because there is a group of individuals working on behalf of our young people,” said Edwina Zupanic, interim YPIE superintendent, at the kickoff event. “In your particular case, you have someone else (your graduation coach) who is here to support you and to help you recognize that the future will only be bright if we work together. We are here because we care and value you, and we recognize that the future will only be bright if we work together.”

The YPIE Scholars Program will officially begin in January, when graduation coaches and scholars will have their first school-based mentoring meetings and the new YPIE College Zone opens its doors.

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Notice of a Proceeding under Article 6 of the Family Court Act

Joseph Mcgonigal, Petitioner -against- Catherine Steward, Respondent

Docket No.: V-16055-05/16
V-16056-05/16

Supreme Court of the State of New York, Westchester County

In the Matter of a Proceeding under Article 6 of the Family Court Act

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Docket No.: V-16055-05/16
V-16056-05/16

Summons

In the Name of the People of the State of New York to the County Clerk of Westchester County, New York:

You are hereby summoed to appear before this Court at 100 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York 10701, at 10:00 a.m. on the 2nd day of June, 2013, and to answer the complaint of the People of the State of New York, and the further proceedings are required to be had in the said cause.

On your failure to appear as herein directed, a warrant may be issued for your arrest.

Dated: September 23, 2013

Maria Garcia

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A Nurse's Checklist for Caregivers During Holidays

By Janet Kappelmeyer, RN

The holiday season is an important time to focus on health and wellness—especially if you’re caring for an elderly loved one.

An AARP and National Alliance for Caregiving poll found that 34% of caregivers have nearly 25 hours per week providing care, with one in four caregivers spending 41 hours or more per week. According to the poll, 17% of caregivers have 40 or more hours per week providing care to an elderly person they care for, the study shows, also tallied by the National Alliance for Caregiving.

For many Americans, family caregiving has become a full-time job, often in addition to other employment and parenting responsibilities.

As a registered home care nurse with Visiting Nurse Service of New York in Wooton Count-

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Saint Barnabas High School students are enrolled in the holiday season’s live performance of "Christmas Spirit." 

The Rising Stars Performing Arts Center dance team is looking to leave Yonkers this summer to perform at Walt Disney World in Orlando, politicians and community leaders submitted a video showcasing their plans for a new park and shopping center in New York City for collecting new and used coats.

The students have been practicing for many months, taking technique classes in handstand, tap, lyrical, and hip hop. This week, they are preparing for a dress rehearsal.

"It’s exciting to see the students work so hard for something," added dance team coach Lauren Russo. "The trip will be filled with lots of fun and providing performing opportunities like this is a wonderful experience." The team will return home with a lasting treasure.

"We are proud of our students and their volunteer work during this holiday season," said Principal Frances Dziuma. "They are demonstrating their love for their fellow people of Yonkers." 

"Nick is looking down and smiling on us all," said Nick Sprayregen, CEO of RXR. "We are so proud to be part of this special project and are thrilled that our project will play an important role in the rebirth of this great city, providing a beautiful and safe environment for future generations of Yonkers people." 

"This is my favorite time of year," said Blaine Badillo, a freshman at St. Barnabas. "It is truly the joy of giving. I have been fortunate; I have a wonderful family, a wonderful home, food on the table, and everything I try to give back and spread that love to others." 

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Human Rights Commission Hosts Awards Breakfast

The Yonkers Commission on Human Rights held its annual breakfast Dec. 10 at the Castle Royal, honoring several people and organizations that serve the mission of the YHRC, which is to actively promote human rights awareness and outreach in the community.

Honorees included the Food Bank of Westchester, ShopRite of Tuckahoe Road, and Nathan Hunter and Kurt Collier, both from Groundwork Hudson Valley. Several Yonkers high school students were recognized for their submissions in the essay contest under the topic “equality for all.” For more information on the Yonkers Human Rights Commission, visit the City of Yonkers website or find the YHRC on Facebook.

Mayor Mike Spano congratulates honoree Michael Rebic with a city proclamation.

Homeowners Joanne Robinson, right, and Ardina Seward, in front of photos taken by Donna Davis of their Halcyon Place Historic District neighborhood in Yonkers.

Happy New Year to All Yonkers Rising Readers - See You in 2017!

Photos by Donna Davis
Season’s Greetings from Yonkers Rising

Wishing all of our readers, advertisers and more than 100 drop locations for our paper in Yonkers a merry Christmas and a happy Chanukah. Also, thanks to our many volunteer reporters and photographers, and our staff, for helping us deliver a true local newspaper for another year.

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