From left are PAL Board Chairman Angelo Martinelli with honorees Rep. Eliot Engel, Mike Cipriani, Joe Hernandez, Carl Petrillo and PBA President Howard Herman. Photo by Ed Whitman. Additional photos are on page 9.

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and Police Commissioner Charles Gardner recently announced that the City of Yonkers has been ranked the second safest city in the country. According to the recently released “Uniform Crime Report, Part I,” crime statistics provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Yonkers moved up from the first safest city to the second safest among the top 150 cities by population. Yonkers has the second lowest crime rate of all U.S. cities with a population between 150,000 and 250,000. Yonkers has recorded four straight years (2012-15) of crime reduction. Additionally, crime and statistics released by YPD include: Yonkers has the second lowest crime rate of all U.S. cities with a population between 150,000 and 250,000. Yonkers has the second lowest crime rate of the top 25 cities in.

Continued on Page 9

PAL Celebrates 75 Years Of Community Service

The Yonkers Police Athletic League celebrated its 75th anniversary with more than 300 supporters, board members and volunteers Nov. 18 at the VIP Country Club in New Rochelle.

Continued on Page 9

Yonkers Ranked 2nd Safest City of its Size in the U.S.

The City of Yonkers is ushering in the 2016 holiday season with several neighborhood Christmas tree and Menorah lightings in November and December. Yonkers kicked off the season with the Yonkers City Hall Christmas tree lighting Nov. 20, featuring performances from Yonkers Idols, Yonkers Public Schools students and Sarah Lawrence College, and a visit from Santa Claus.

“The holidays are the most wonderful time of year to join together with family, friends and neighbors,” said Mayor Mike Spano. “I encourage all to come out and join in the festivities as events like these create a stronger and more vibrant community.”

The Downtown/Westchester Business Improvement District (Gatsby Square) lit its tree Dec. 1. The Unimymer Performing Arts Council at Untermyer Park and Gardens, 945 N. Broadway, will illuminate its tree Dec. 2 at 5 p.m., and the Colonial Heights Residents’ Association (at the St. George Parvley and

Continued on Page 2

Astorino vs. Spano

Does a contest between County Executive Robert Astorino, right, and Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano await Westchester next year?

By Dan Murphy

With the presidential election behind us, Westchester political junkies can look to 2017 and the year’s race for county executive. And while we don’t have a complete list of candidates, the contest that would have the most intrigue — County Executive Robert Astorino vs. Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano — is coming closer to becoming a real race.

The following steps still have to happen before either candidate can end the race: 1) Astorino must decide whether he will run for a third term. 2) Astorino has responded to any question on his future with, “It’s my intention to run for a third term.”

Provide Holiday Meals

Sabatino, PBA & CLSA

Council Minority Leader Michael Sabatino partnered with the Yonkers Police Benevolence Association and the Captains, Lieutenants and Sergeants Association on Nov. 22 to provide Thanksgiving dinners for the School 13 Turkey dinner raffle, run by Principle Hernandez and the School 13 Parent-Teacher Association and the Captains, Lieutenants and Sergeants Association on Nov. 22 to provide Thanksgiving dinners for the School 13 Turkey dinner raffle, run by Principle Hernandez and the School 13 Parent-Teacher Association and the Captains, Lieutenants and Sergeants Association.

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Provide Holiday Meals

Continued on Page 8

Brenda Freeman Named Civil Servant of the Year

Brenda Freeman was chosen from numerous nominations received and was selected by the screening committee of the Yonkers Public Schools Board of Trustees.

Her nomination was submitted by Principal Cynthia Eisner, along with nominations from many teachers, coworkers and parents from School 16.

Freeman joined Yonkers Public Schools in 1988 as a temporary school aide for the PEARLS program at School 32. In 1999, she earned her...
The Untermyer Gardens Conservancy, a non-profit organization working in partnership with the City of Yonkers, will host an opening ceremony for its annual "Grand Holiday Illumination" at the Walled Garden on Friday, Dec. 9 at 6 p.m.

The Walled Garden will be illuminated with festive holiday lights, highlighting the rich architectural and horticultural elements of the garden. Last year's event was a tremendous success, and the number of lights will be doubled this year. In addition, holiday music in the Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Zoroastrian traditions will be played.

The illumination will take place every night from Dec. 9 through Jan. 8 from dusk until 8 p.m. Hot chocolate will be served by various community groups on weekend and other even-nings.

On Dec. 9, former Mayor Angelo Martinelli will preside over the actual illumination, with speeches given by Mayor Mike Spano and other dignitaries. The event is sponsored by Tony Schwartz, Deborah Pines and the Energy Project, a Yonkers-based special thanks also go to Sound Associates. The Untermyer Gardens Conservancy was founded in 2011 and funds six gardeners working at Untermyer Gardens. In addition to external landscape improvements, it has completed two major capital projects – a mile-long deer fence in 2015 and the restoration of the Temple in 2016.

There has been major media coverage of the improvements to what was called "America's Most Spectacular Garden" in the 1920s, including Martha Stewart Living, New York Times and The Wall Street Journal. It is estimated that approximately 60,000 people visited the garden this year.
By Robert Kalfus
Two members of the Lincoln Park Jewish Center recently returned to Yonkers after spending several weeks in Israel, during which time they prayed at the Kotel, also re- turned to as the Western Wall in the Western Wall, the exterior Wall of the Holy Second Temple remaining after the conquering of Jerusa lem by the Romans.

They continued an ancient custom of commenting kriat knas, notes containing written prayers and requests, into the crevices of the huge foundation stones. Jewish law forbade reading any part of the more than 1 million notes placed every year in the Western Wall. Twice every year, before the holidays of Passover and the Jewish New Year Rosh Hashanah, men using long woodence sticks scoop out the notes. These prayers to God are considered holy and are respectfully buried, instead, in the nearby Mount of Olives cemetery, Har Zeitim.

The Jewish mystical kabbalah teaches that personal individual prayers and the soulful requests beseeching God in the notes are ascended to Heaven through the Temple Mount, fulfilled requests beseeching G-d in the notes as they are buried, unread, in the nearby Mount of Olives.

G-d are considered holy and are respectfully scooped out the notes. These prayers to God are considered holy and are respectfully buried, instead, in the nearby Mount of Olives cemetery, Har Zeitim.

For the last two years, on the holidays of Passover and the Jewish New Year Rosh Hashanah, the Western Wall has overflowed with the more than 1 million notes placed every year in the Western Wall. Twice every year, before the holidays of Passover and the Jewish New Year Rosh Hashanah, men using long woodence sticks scoop out the notes. These prayers to God are considered holy and are respectfully buried, instead, in the nearby Mount of Olives cemetery, Har Zeitim.

To date, the notes had their origin in the 19th century. Today, they are placed every year and are considered holy notes.

One might ask, who read such notes? Thousands of G-d fearing people, who pray on the Western Wall. One might ask, who read such notes? Thousands of G-d fearing people, who pray on the Western Wall. One might ask, who read such notes? Thousands of G-d fearing people, who pray on the Western Wall. One might ask, who read such notes? Thousands of G-d fearing people, who pray on the Western Wall. One might ask, who read such notes? Thousands of G-d fearing people, who pray on the Western Wall. One might ask, who read such notes? Thousands of G-d fearing people, who pray on the Western Wall. One might ask, who read such notes? Thousands of G-d fearing people, who pray on the Western Wall. One might ask, who read such notes? Thousands of G-d fearing people, who pray on the Western Wall. One might ask, who read such notes? Thousands of G-d fearing people, who pray on the Western Wall. One might ask, who read such notes? Thousands of G-d fearing people, who pray on the Western Wall. One might ask, who read such notes? Thousands of G-d fearing people, who pray on the Western Wall.
The Yonkers Animal Shelter received a call Nov. 17 about a dog in distress, which was found on the street across from St. Van Cortlandt Park. When responders arrived, they found a brindle-colored pit bull mix wandering in jackets and near trash from apparatusation. Despite volunteer burns’ efforts, the pit bull mix — whose legs, ears and paws were visible through skin — never regained consciousness.

On Nov. 28, Ernest Lungaro, director of the Human Law Enforcement Unit of the SPCA of Westchester, in partnership with Officer William Pitt of the Yonkers Police Department, arrested Christina Harris, 23, formerly of 41 Cliff St. He was charged with two counts of abandonment and animal cruelty.

During the investigation, it was also discovered that a car had been left behind in the area on Cliff Street by Harris. “This senseless and cruel death could have been avoided if someone reported the cruelty,” said Shannon Lakhtik, executive director of the SPCA of Westchester. “If you suspect that an animal may be abused or abandoned, we encourage you to call the SPCA’s 24-hour confidential hotline at 914-941-7797.”

An arrest has been made in the death of an abused dog found in Yonkers.

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The Yonkers Historical Society announced recently that the historic Sherwood House Museum, the 276-year-old example of a colonial ten apartment on Cliff Street by Harris.

The Sherwood House is located at 340 W. Main Street, Yonkers, next to the southbound entrance ramp to the Sprain Brook Parkway.

This year, for the first time, YHS will be collecting canned goods for the food bank at St. Peter’s Church. Volunteers are invited to bring their own can or box to place in the box.

The Yonkers Animal Shelter has many pets available for adoption. Shi is a shy 3-year-old who would benefit from a home because of her demeanor. Shi is a little timid with new people, but she knows you, she is friendly and affectionate.

Staff are not sure of her mix, but a good guess would be an American pitbull mix with some type of hound. Shi loves other dogs and would do well in a home with a canine companion. Children should be 10 and older.

To join the Exchange Club of Yonkers contact Vice-President David Tubiolo at 646-596-3375.

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To join the Exchange Club of Yonkers contact Vice-President David Tubiolo at 646-596-3375.
Volunteers from the Aisling Irish Community Center delivered 300 Thanksgiving meals to the homeless in New York City on Nov. 21.

Every Monday for more than 20 years, Aisling Irish Community Center has been feeding the homeless. Volunteers come into the center on McLean Avenue in Yonkers every week to prepare sandwiches, drinks and a dessert for hundreds of homeless people, and the crew of dedicated volunteers give time each week to help pack up the food. Then every Monday evening, another crew picks up the food and drives to bring them to several locations throughout the city, including 515 Avenue where hundreds of homeless people seek shelter by night on the steps of churches along the avenue.

It comes together like clockwork, making sure the program happens each and every Monday. The crew rises at 5 a.m. to a scene of what needs to be prepared; all the way from setting up the prep stations to delivering in the city, they know how important the program is for those in need and have invested not only their time, but their hearts in giving back.

The Thanksgiving meal is special, and the volunteers for the Fund the Homeless Program step up their game every year. They secure additional donations and recruit additional volunteers to prepare a Thanksgiving feast to bring down to the city for the homeless.

Thanksgiving in America's second most populous city is a special meal that is prepared and served to the homeless people throughout the city on a day dedicated to giving thanks. The Feast of Thanksgiving occurs on the fourth Thursday of November every year, and is a time to reflect on the blessings of the past year.

The Aisling Irish Community Center has been feeding the homeless in Yonkers for over 20 years. Every Monday, volunteers come into the center on McLean Avenue to prepare sandwiches, drinks and a dessert for hundreds of homeless people who come into our center and benefit from our services.

In New York City, a city of 8.5 million people, more than 90,000 homeless men, women and children sleep in shelters and on the streets every night of the year. One in every 100 New York City residents is homeless. When looking at the enormous number of homeless, the center’s programs serve a small number, but it is important to each and every person the center is able to help.

The annual cost of the Aisling Center’s Fund the Homeless program, $25,000, is mostly raised through donations from restaurants in the area. For more information on membership in YHS, contact the Aisling Irish Community Center at www.aislingcenter.org or 914-337-5121.

Feeding NYC’s Homeless This Thanksgiving

On This Day in Yonkers History

President William Taft made several visits to Yonkers.

By Mary Bloor
President emeritus, Yonkers Historical Society

Monday, Dec. 5

Dec. 5, 1915: Several Presbyterian Pastors John Fogarty among sermonists for Newkerk Manor, who was a renowned speaker, with the loss of three points of dynamics and its detractors in his pocket. Appar- ently the turnout has been reported to have been an 85% turnout and there was an explosion in force, terrorizing the passengers onboard.

Dec. 5, 1918: For the first time in the City of Yonkers’ history, the budget was submitted to the Common Council before the opening of the fiscal year up until this time, the budget had been submitted in April.

Tuesday, Dec. 6

6, 1905: John Kendeigh Barry was ap- pointed editor of the Metropolitan Magazine and the Daily Telegraph. Harper Brothers had pur- chased both publications.

Dec. 6, 1905: Mayor John Cox was inaugu- rated. He verbally attacked the Yonkers Rail- road Company because of its insufficient and antiquated transit system to his imagined address, pointing out the need for more lines and wider rail. From Elm Street to Park Hill and down to McLean Avenue; another up the Nepperhan River Valley to Napier Park and Uniontown, and another on McLean Avenue to Beecroft Avenue. Dec. 6, 1907: Ahlborns proposed a considera- tion of the American Scenic and Preservation Socie- ty in purchase of Philipse Manor Hall for $50,000.

Wednesday, Dec. 7

7, 1905: Samuel Levenson was made an honorary Camel at the annual Camel Club meeting at Murray’s Hall.

Dec. 7, 1909: Leo Baekeland patented his “bi- oplastic,” the first thermoplastic.

Dec. 7, 1918: Former President William Howard Taft spoke at the British Day celebration at the American Legion’s headquarters.

Dec. 8, 1918: After meeting with the Board of Education, Philipse Manor Council visual the proposal of building a school on Muelbury Street. Several admirers said that since the building would be built in a hollow on upland, children would be in danger of contracting malaria.

Dec. 8, 1907: Yonkers’ Aldermen’s Commis- sion of the Whole approved the sale of the Mar- sel Hill and in favor of the $40,000, which was to go to the State of New York. The state agreed to appro- priate $10,000 for advancing the purchase of the blocks.

Friday, Dec. 9

Dec. 9, 1905: Capt. C. S. Amos, popularly known as “Pop” Amos, appeared at a local Yonkers theater. A few moments, Amos was the first captain of the Chicago White Sox and was the only man to have maintained a batting aver- age of .358 for 25 years, arguably being the first to tally more than 3,000 career hits. He led the team to five National League Pennants in the 1890’s. His appearances in vaudeville shows was a musician, written by George Crab, and a Red Sox.

Saturday, Dec. 10

10, 1905: Several bankers reported that $500,000 silver certificates were still in circulation in the city. Top The word “money” was puffed “money” on the notes. For more information on the Yonkers His- torical Society, Sheepscot House and upcoming events, visit www.facebook.com/YonkersHistori- calSociety or LinkedIn and Twitter @YonkersH- istoricSociety. For more information on membership in YHS, call 914-943-6090 or email jayla@aislingcenter.org.

Yonkers Ranked

Continued from Page 1

New York State: Yonkers has the lowest crime rate among New York State’s “big five” cities (New York City, Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse), with the lowest crime rate among Westchester County’s big cities (Mt. Vernon, White Plains and Yonkers).

President Yates leads by example,” added

Yonkers Police. “Yonkers Police leads by ex- ample,” added Skip. The police department’s goal is to be efficient with the resources provided to them as per the mission statement (Yonkers Police Department). We believe that Yonkers remains a safe city to live, work and play. Yonkers Police.

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STATE OF NEW YORK, SUPREME COURT, COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

The Bank of New York Mellon FBA the Bank of New York as Trustee for the Certificate Holders of CIV, Inc. Asset-Backed Cer-

tificates, Series 2000-B, Registration No. 9082-0002-0015

v.

Erich J. Haffling, if living, and if he be dead, his respective heir, devisee, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, creditors and successors in interest, and generally all persons having or claiming any interest in or lien upon the premises hereby foreclosed (Defen-

dent).

Filed: 04/23/16
Index No.: 88746/2015

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS AND NOTICE

Court: Supreme Court of Westchester County

County Clerk: County of Westchester

City of Yonkers

12 Yonkers Avenue
White Plains, (Town of Greenburgh) NY 10607

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

You are hereby summoned to answer the complaint as above entitled ac-

tion and to serve a copy of your Answer on Plaintiff within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, the exclusive day of service, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service through any person where service is made in any other manner than personal delivery within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a Defendant in this action, shall be served within sixty (60) days of service hereof. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief prayed for in the complaint.

NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT

The object of the above captioned action is for foreclosure of

Mortgage bearing the date of February 25, 2013, executed by

Brenton D. Haffling, to

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as nominee for America's West-

chester, Lender.

Plaintiff designates Westchester County as the place of trial. The basis of venue is

in the County in which the Mortgage is situated. The place of service

shall be:

Yonkers, New York

STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF NEW YORK, CITY OF YONKERS

The Notice of Intent to Foreclose Real Estate is hereby given to the above-named

Defendants, that the Notice of Intent to Foreclose Real Estate is a substitute notice to suit, and is hereby served in lieu of a Complaint for Foreclosure.

WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. SCHEDULE A LEGAL DESCRIPTION

ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Town of Greenburgh, Westchester County, New York, being the following described:

BEGINNING at a point on the Northerly side of Yosemite Avenue, distant 125 feet East of the SW corner of the 1.10 acre tract of land, being Lot 23, Block 170, Section 3, on Farmington Avenue, owned by Joseph A. Tetsch and Mrs. Joseph A. Tetsch; thence North 89 degrees 03 minutes 18 seconds 47.4 feet to a point on the Northerly side of the same street; thence East 76 degrees 16 minutes 40 seconds 67.6 feet to a point on the Northerly side of Yosemite Avenue; thence South 71 degrees 49 minutes 09 seconds 70.1 feet to a point on the Northerly side of the same street; thence West 00 degrees 30 minutes 10 seconds 70.0 feet to a point on the Southerly side of the same street; thence North 00 degrees 30 minutes 10 seconds 70.0 feet to the place of beginning, containing 0.304 acres, more or less.

Note: This notice is being given to you in lieu of serving a Complaint for Foreclosure. If you do not wish to be served with a Complaint for Foreclosure, you must contact your attorney to find out what action you must take to avoid losing your property. Otherwise, you will be served with a Complaint for Foreclosure. The Court will consider whether you have made sufficient payments to avoid losing your property.

Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

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Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Seniors and Health Care

While Shopping Online, Visit Social Security Website

By Elise Hayes

Social Security district manager, Yonkers

Black Friday and “Cyber Monday” may have come and gone, but with the holidays season upon us, many are people who are taking advantage of the convenience of online shopping. You’re smart, and you probably already know that there’s more than one way to find value on the Internet. For example, Social Security offers many online services to the public – and they’re free and instant. Doing business online with Social Security is also very safe. The feeling of instant gratification is like clicking “submit” on your online shopping cart.

Following are some of the most popular online services you’ll find at www.socialsecurity.gov:

* Need a replacement Social Security card? You may be able to request your replacement card without visiting a local Social Security office. Still working and wondering what future Social Security benefits you might receive? The online Social Security statement is a smart service that is a hit with the millions of people who’ve used it. Your online Statement provides you with a record of your past earnings along with projected earnings online. The Statement is a personalized record of your Social Security earnings history. It’s available online to the public – and it's free and convenient. Still working and wondering what future Social Security benefits you might receive? The online Social Security statement is a smart service that is a hit with the millions of people who’ve used it. Your online Statement provides you with a record of your past earnings along with projected earnings online. The Statement is a personalized record of your Social Security earnings history. It’s available online to the public – and it’s free and convenient.

* Retirement Estimator is another easy way to get an instant, personalized estimate of your benefits, such as starting or changing your retirement date. You can enter basic information and the estimator will use information on your Social Security record, along with what you input, to give you a benefit estimate on the spot. You can even experiment with different scenarios, such as changing your future earnings and retirement date.

You can also find the estimator in English at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator, or in Spanish at www.segurosocial.gov/calculadora.

* The online retirement application is the most convenient way to apply for Social Security retirement benefits – it’s convenient and secure. In fact, you can apply online in as little as 15 minutes. In most cases, after you submit the application electronically, you’re done. There are no fees involved. No information is required. Social Security will process your application and contact you if any further information is needed. When you’re ready to retire, apply at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyingfor.

* Business Services Online is our one-stop shop for small business owners. The site allows organizations and authorized representatives to conduct business transactions online, and partners can submit information and requests. Employers can use it to file W-2s for their employees the fast, convenient and paperless way. Visit Business Services Online at www.socialsecurity.gov/bso. For example, Social Security offers many online services to the public – and they’re free and convenient. Still working and wondering what future Social Security benefits you might receive? The online Social Security statement is a smart service that is a hit with the millions of people who’ve used it. Your online Statement provides you with a record of your past earnings along with projected earnings online. The Statement is a personalized record of your Social Security earnings history. It’s available online to the public – and it’s free and convenient.

* Learn about all you can do online at Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov/online services.

Social Security’s online services continually receive the highest customer satisfaction ratings in both the public and private sectors. Each site uses social security.gov to keep your information secure. Learn more about all you can do online at Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov/online services.

* Social Security will process your application and contact you if any further information is needed. When you’re ready to retire, apply at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyingfor.

* The online retirement application is the most convenient way to apply for Social Security retirement benefits – it’s convenient and secure. In fact, you can apply online in as little as 15 minutes. In most cases, after you submit the application electronically, you’re done. There are no fees involved. No information is required. Social Security will process your application and contact you if any further information is needed. When you’re ready to retire, apply at www.socialsecurity.gov/applyingfor.

* Business Services Online is our one-stop shop for small business owners. The site allows organizations and authorized representatives to conduct business transactions online, and partners can submit information and requests. Employers can use it to file W-2s for their employees the fast, convenient and paperless way. Visit Business Services Online at www.socialsecurity.gov/bso.

While Shopping Online, Visit Social Security Website

Stewart-Cousins and Mayor discussed possible avenues by which these issues could be addressed, via policy, advocacy, and funding. They committed the president-in-the-2016-17 state budget, which provided $3.2 million to support in-home caregiver services, representing an increase of approximately 10 percent over last year’s budget. They also stressed the importance of addressing issues like overcrowding, and noted the importance of funding for programs like New York’s State’s Kinship Navigator program and referral network, for which the state provided $325,000 in funding for this year.

They also acknowledged the serious challenges of limited affordable housing in Westchester County, and limitations in the Section 8 program that severely inhibit housing for the unique needs of these families. “New York State can do even more of these caregivers– their gratitude and admiration,” said Mayer. “They have stepped in to raise their grandchildren and relatives and provide them the love and support that every child needs. Yet we have not made a single commitment of resources and housing options that recognize their special needs. Housing that recognizes their needs can help us to continue our advocacy on their behalf, and we will work toward finding policy solutions that help to meet their needs.”

The responsibility you as grandparents and caregivers bear is enormous,” added Stewart-Cousins. “But the power of family love is transformative, and the role you play in the lives of your children is enormously important. We came here today to listen to your concerns so we can fight for the housing and resources you need and deserve.”

The above is typical of the comments we get about Community Home Health Care’s top-rated aids and the services they provide. So is “The most responsible, loving aide I’ve ever had for my mother.”

With top-rated Aides and over 33 years of delivering highest-quality, private pay services to the region, Community stands out at the forefront of Westchester County’s home care providers. At Community, we make sure that your loved ones get a personalized, unbeatable experience, summed up in 4 words.

Compassion • Trust • Expertise • Reliability

Community can help your family by providing affordable care, assistance with applying for and arranging payments by Medicaid, and accepting credit cards for maximum convenience and the ultimate in peace-of-mind.

Any day, any time, when you need us, we’re there for you!
Brenda Freeman

Dear readers,

I am honored to extend a heartfelt thank you to the community of Yonkers, ArtsWestchester and ArtsWestchester’s Wonder Women award recipients for their recognition of my service and commitment to the arts in Yonkers. As an advocate for the arts, I am proud to have contributed to the revitalization of the city, as a Westchester County legislator, where I authored and passed landmark legislation including the ArtsWestchester Commission Act of 2002. This act marked a significant step forward in ensuring the availability and access to arts programs throughout the City of Yonkers.

I have always been a supporter of the arts, and I am pleased to have been a part of the ArtsWestchester community for many years. As a past Board Member, I have seen firsthand the impact that the organization has had on the community. ArtsWestchester has played a vital role in promoting the arts and culture in Yonkers, and I am grateful to have been a part of this important work.

I want to express my gratitude to ArtsWestchester for their continued support of the arts in Yonkers. I am proud to have been a part of this organization and I will continue to support their efforts in promoting the arts in our community. Thank you once again for your recognition of my service and commitment to the arts in Yonkers.

Sincerely,
Brenda Freeman
that belong to the National PAL. They hold nations. Now there are approximately 700 PALs, including boxing, baseball and basketball tournaments. At the same time, the parents of kids involved in PAL programs.

PAL Celebrates

PAL Board Chairman Angela Martinelli celebrates the 70th anniversary of PAL, with the help of N.J.; and Philadelphia, Penn. – became founding members. The PALs exchanged information, and through the years, the ragamuffin parades at Halloween have drawn audiences of more than 900,000 kids and families would be with PAL events would never happen and thousands of Yonkers kids and families would be without an Easter egg hunt, holiday party or the poster contest.

But it is also the many volunteers at PAL who were recognized and deserve mention, because without their donation of time and skill, many great PAL events would never happen and thousands of Yonkers kids and families would be without an Easter egg hunt, holiday party or the poster contest.

The Yonkers PAL was incorporated Sept. 13, 1944, with its first president, Police Officer John O’Hare, who was instrumental in starting the organization after talking to the New York City PAL and Teckahaw PAL, with the blessing of the Yonkers Police Association. A captain, two sergeants, two police officers, and 15 citizens formed an advisory committee to foster the spirit of understanding between youngsters and police officers to develop a respect for law and an appreciation of good citizenship. PAL rose to prominence after talking to the New York City PAL and the Yonkers PAL.

In 1944, six PALs – the National PAL; NYC/N.H.; and Philadephia, Penn. – became founding members. The PALs exchanged information, and through the years, the parents of kids involved in PAL programs.

The motto was: “PAL gives kids a start to develop their potential.” PAL has grown to include baseball and football, basketball and track, and other activities. The PAL is an emergency center for the city’s Children and Youth Bureau.

In 1958, Capt. Bernard Melnick, president of PAL, wanted to create a PAL center in the heart of the city, but it was never accomplished. The PAL office was located in room 102 of the health building at 87 Nepperhan Ave.

Then in 1977, the late Sgt. Michael D’Ambrosio and his staff, including police officer Bob Martin, Bob Blair, Chris Palandra and Sal Corrente, started to back PAL programs, starting with baseball, basketball, boxing, track meets and even more.

The first PAL center was the Naval Training Center at 21 Alexander St. Despite the terrible conditions, PAL succeeded in the youth division and PAL for 27 years. Successful championships in boxing, baseball, basketball and track were activities in the building.

When the Police Commissioner Joseph Forbush was closing down PAL in 1983, he said it was due to manpower shortage, and the four police officers were scheduled for reassignment. The public outcry was intense, with public protests planned for any national disasters. During Hurricane Sandy, more than 90 victims were sheltered in the facility for two weeks.

The PAL boxing program, under the guidance of retired police officer Corrente, has become another option, and a venue for young Yonkers kids to focus their energies and talents and stay off the streets.

The anniversary of PAL could not have come at a better time, this holiday season, to be commanded and highlighted in Yonkers Rising. We are fortunate to have the pleasure of serving on the PAL Board for several years, and I consider it a privilege to present its services for those in Yonkers Rising. Here’s to another 75 years!”

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2016 - YONKERS RISING - PAGE 9
Football players and cheerleaders at the Charter School of Educational Excellence.

Congratulations to the Charter School for Education Excellence Owls flag football team for bringing home its first CSAA Region 1 Championship recently by defeating its arch rival, the OWNCS Falcons, by a score of 24-12.

The Owls’ victory was led by touchdowns from Mykel Kelley, whose smooth performance in his first start, as Giovanni Vilchez, who kicked three field goals, and the defense that played its strongest game of the season, as Giovanni Vilchez had an interception and a fumble recovery for the Owls. The Owls’ victory was led by touchdowns from Mykel Kelley, who kicked three field goals, and the defense that played its strongest game of the season, as Giovanni Vilchez had an interception and a fumble recovery for the Owls.

Cross Country Shopping Center, an iconic Yonkers destination for holiday shopping and entertainment, officially kicked off the 2016 season with a community parade, a live lighting ceremony and a concert with the New York City Swing Band on Nov. 19.

Azns residents were invited to be front and center as nearly 1,000 people marched in the 2016 Holiday Spectacular Parade, followed by the lighting of the community’s 40th Christmas tree, which was marched down more than 70,000 bright lights and ornaments. Strolling among costumed characters (with walkers and live music) added to the night’s festivities.

This year’s festivities are always looking for new activities to bring about the holiday season and wishes them the best of luck in their upcoming competition Dec. 3. However, this year’s festivities are always looking for new activities to bring about the holiday season and wishes them the best of luck in their upcoming competition Dec. 3.

On Dec. 3, as they continue their quest to win the CSAA New York City Championship. It was a total team effort and the coaches, along with the school community, are proud of this team’s accomplishments thus far. However, their work is not done yet, as the Owls now move on to play Reggie 2 Champion Invitational Academy on Dec. 5, as they continue their quest to win the CSAA New York City Championship.

The flag football team also thanks the CSAA difficulty facing the Owls for all its support throughout the season and wishes them the best of luck in their upcoming competition Dec. 5.