Santa Claus is out and about Yonkers, making appearances as Operation Santa Claus hosted its annual fundraising benefit for developmentally disabled children last Sunday at Fairways at Dunwoodie Golf Club. Mayor Mike Spano served as this year’s Operation Santa Claus Chairman.

“Every year during the holiday season, our city comes together for this special event that helps improve the lives of hundreds of children in our community facing difficult developmental challenges,” said Spano. “It is an honor for me to join our residents, businesses and community leaders in the spirit of giving to help support our children and their families in need.”

Operation Santa Claus is a charitable, pro-union organization made up of public officials, local merchants, civic groups and residents whose mission is to raise money for special adaptive assignment for our children not only during the holiday but throughout the year. Every dollar raised goes to providing this much needed equipment.

“We are very fortunate to live in a city that is always there to support one another,” said Spano. “This is the true meaning of community and I could not be more proud to be part of it. I want to thank all Yonkers residents and organizations for their continued good will and generosity.

Hankukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is a Jewish holiday celebrated for eight days and eight nights to commemorate the redemption of the Second Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2nd century BCE. It starts on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev, which coincides with November or December on the secular calendar.

It starts on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev, which coincides with November or December on the secular calendar. This year, Hanukkah begins at sundown on Saturday, December 8. The festival is observed by the lighting of the lights of a unique candelabrum, the nine-branched Menorah or Hanukkiah, one additional branch on each night of the holiday, progressing to light a fourth branch on the final night. The typical Menorah consists of eight branches with an additional raised branch. The extra light is called a shamash and is given a distinct location, usually above or below the rest of the lights. The purpose of the shamash is to help light a temporary light for use, as using the Hanukkah lights themselves is forbidden.

Many families exchange small gifts each night, such as books or games. Fried foods such as potato pancakes (latkes) and jelly donuts (sufganiot) are eaten to commemorate the importance of oil during the celebration of Hanukkah. Hanukkah songs are sung. A four-sided top, called a dreidel, is played.

Hanukkah, a joyous family holiday, renews the miracle of the oil but also reminds us of the fight for freedom of worship.

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins with Army National Guard Major Saldana

State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins with Army National Guard Major Saldana played a key role in hosting and attending to this event.

The PAL donated jump bounce-arounds for all of the servicemen deployed in Afghanistan. Sergeant Joseph Fusilier and Major Saldana also came to the event to try and bring some family to the children.

Mayor Mike Spano with volunteers and participants in Operation Santa Claus

By Donna Davis

A cold but a large crowd of spectators filled the center of Getty Square for the Downtown Yonkers Holiday Party for 101st Infantry Battalion of the New York Army National Guard.

The PAL donated jump bounce-arounds for all of the servicemen deployed in Afghanistan. Sergeant Joseph Fusilier and Major Saldana also came to the event to try and bring some family to the children.

By Donna Davis

Photo by Donna Davis

Families and friends joined in the countdown and the lights of LED lights revitalized the originally evening light. The children in the crowd were eager to spend time with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Letter to the Editor: Y PIE and the Future of YPS

Recently we’ve all been reading in Yonkers Rising about how Yonkers Partnerships in Education (Y PIE) is getting caught up in a disagreement between the Yonkers Federation of Teachers (YFT) and Board of Education.

Although we at Y PIE aren’t direct partners to the disagreement, the outcome could put an end to the efforts we’ve been making to help Yonkers public school children, so we thought we should write to make sure we all understand what’s at stake is no less than the welfare of our students.

Y PIE was formed more than five years ago by private citizens in such efforts to help the city of Yonkers, its schools, and children. We are helping the Board of Education.

We worked closely with the Superintendent of Schools to help the schools with the opportunity to pursue post-secondary training and education. That’s why we identified gaps in the services being provided and we’ve worked hard to fill those gaps.

We ask our mission providing every student graduating from Yonkers high schools with the opportunity to pursue post-secondary training and education. That’s why we started providing SAT tutoring to Yonkers students.

We are grateful that we have been selected to continue providing SAT tutoring in Yonkers for another year.

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Hanukkah, a joyous family holiday, renews the miracle of the oil but also reminds us of the fight for freedom of worship.
The new season of MSG Varsity’s award winning high school quiz show, “The Challenge,” will feature a first round match-up between Roosevelt and Clarkstown South high school on Wednesday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. on Cablevision’s Optimum, Channel 14.

Roosevelt will compete against 31 other schools from Westchester-Hudson Valley during the Regional Rounds as they look to qualify for the Tri-State Championship Playoffs.

The Roosevelt team is represented by Robert Raftery and winning teams from each region go on to “The Challenge” Championship, where they square off in a Tri-State Showdown. The school awarded the title of Tri-State Champion will receive $10,000 in prize money and each student participating in the final “Challenge” Championship game will receive $500. For more information, visit MSGVarsity.com.

In the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins is pleased to announce that New York has received $27.7 million from the federal government to put 5,000 unemployed New Yorkers to work cleaning up communities impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

The funding came from a National Emergency Grant and will be administered by the New York State Department of Labor (DOL). The DOL will work with local communities to identify potential workers for this program.

“Mitch will help rebuild our communities and provide income and work experience to thousands of unemployed New Yorkers,” said Stewart-Cousins. “Entire communities were devastated by the storm and many families continue to struggle even today, but the outpouring of support has been inspiring. This great grant fits into that support and presents an opportunity for individuals who are unemployed to help their fellow New Yorkers rebuild and rebuild better.”

Applicants must have lost their job as a result of Hurricane Sandy or have been previously unemployed for 27 weeks prior to the storm to be eligible for a job through this program. Workers will be paid approximately $15 per hour and will work on short- and long-term projects cleaning and repairing damaged infrastructure and buildings in the nine New York counties which were declared disaster areas. These are not permanent jobs, but each worker will receive assistance in finding their next job at completion.

“Please know that I will do everything possible to ensure that the necessary resources are available to help speed the recovery and rebuilding effort from this storm,” said Stewart-Cousins. “If you have any questions, concerns or if you need help, please feel free to use my office as a resource.”

To contact Stewart-Cousins, call 914-423-4033 or e-mail scousins@nysenate.gov. To apply for a recovery job, contact the DOL at 888-4-NYSDOL (469-7365) or visit Labor.ny.gov.
By Eric W. Schoen

Museum School 25 revisits 25-year-old time capsule

In November of 1987, Museum School 25 students, staff and families buried a time capsule with memorable examples of daily life, classroom learning, local news and pop culture. Twenty-five years have passed and the capsule has been uncovered.

Former staff and students were invited to share in the special celebration, during which guests viewed the capsule’s contents and reflected upon the similarities and differences between past and present.

Continuing the tradition, the Museum School 25 then filled and buried a 2012 time capsule, to be excavated in 2037.

For us, advanced care is not a goal. It’s a responsibility.

By utilizing our new, state-of-the-art Vascular Intervention Radiology (VIR) suite, our expert physicians are able to diagnose and treat patients using the least invasive techniques available, in order to minimize risk and improve overall health outcomes. The VIR suite is one of the $130 million of capital investments we’ve made across our campus within the last two years. And that’s just the beginning.

Westchester Medical Center is making groundbreaking investments to ensure the highest level of care for the 3 million residents of the Hudson Valley… so we’re ready when you need us most.

877.WMC.DOCS
westchestermedicalcenter.com

Magic in the Gilded Age

See magician Benjamin Levy’s skillful hand of performance in the Hudson River Museum’s (HRM) 19th century home, Glenview, decorated for Christmas. Glenview is the ideal venue for Levy’s performances, appropriate for kids aged 9 and older, will be held on December 14 and 16 at 3 p.m. each day. The cost, which includes museum admission is $15, $10 for members. There is a maximum of 30 participants for each show and tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. HRM is located at 511 Warburton Avenue in Yonkers. For more information or tickets, call 914-633-4550 or visit www.HRM.org.

By Eric W. Schoen

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UUP Scholarship Applications Open to SUNY Students

United University Professions (UUP), the union that represents academic and professional faculty of the State University of New York (SUNY), is inviting SUNY students to apply for a scholarship in honor of Tim Rooney, president of Empire City Casino. The UUP College Scholarship Fund has awarded grants in amounts totaling at least $18,000 annually for more than 20 years. Students who are members of UUP and who have graduated from SUNY institutions are eligible to apply. The $1,000 scholarships are available for undergraduate or graduate students who are enrolled full time and have completed at least nine credits. For more information or an application, call 800-342-4051 or visit uup.edu.

Back to the Community This Year

The Salvation Army has an important message for the holidays as it continues to fill the funding gap to ensure that countless New Yorkers have a comfortable Christmas. The Salvation Army encourages the public to consider how they can make a difference, right here in our neighborhood. To help the Salvation Army build a brighter future, please consider giving a gift this holiday season, whether it be to the Salvation Army or a charity of your choice. You can also volunteer your time and resources to help fulfill the Salvation Army’s mission.

SUNY Empire State College Holds Information Session

State University of New York Empire State College will hold public information sessions about associate and bachelor’s degree programs at its Glens Falls location, located at 200 North Central Ave. in Glens Falls, on:

- Wednesday, December 12 at 6 p.m.
- Saturday, December 15 at 11 a.m.

For more information, call 518-494-8040 or visit esc.edu.

YHSD Scholarship Deadlines Announced

The Yonkers Historical Society’s (YHS) Scholarship Committee has announced February 28 as the deadline for the Patricia Mangold Scholarship Awards.

Patricia Mangold Scholarship

Applicants are invited to submit projects about Yonkers history. First prize: $1,000; second prize: $500. Applications and projects may be mailed or dropped off at the YHS, 87 South Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701 or via email to info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org. For more information, call 914-961-8940 or visit YHS.YonkersHistoricalSociety.org.

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The community of Breezy Point, located in the Rockaways, has been devastated by Hurricane Sandy. Christ Community Church has become a shelter for national volunteers, a hub for the Breezy Point community and is in need of holiday cheer. The church has been gutted and stripped and stands to remain a central Command Center of Habitat for Humanity and the local community.

Prekindergarten to eighth grade classes at School 23 are creating Christmas wreaths and garland which will be delivered to the church as it can decorate in time for the holiday season. This information is stored in the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services database and, in the unfortunate event that a child goes missing, provides for the immediate dissemination of information among law enforcement throughout the region and state which dramatically increases the possibility of bringing the missing child home safely.

As Mayor of a city with thousands of school-aged children, I want to make sure all parents in Yonkers are aware and have access to every tool available to help protect their children.” said Spano. “Operation SAFE CHILD is a valuable resource that offers important information for parents and vital information for law enforcement should a child go missing.”

In support of this program, Spano and the YPD will be at the Ridge Hill playground (next to the Cheesecake Factory) on Saturday, December 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to provide parents with photo ID cards for their children. The cards contain important information including the child's name, date of birth, gender, height, weight, hair color, eye color and a fingerprint image. This information is stored in the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services database and, in the unfortunate event that a child goes missing, provides for the immediate dissemination of information among law enforcement throughout the region and state which dramatically increases the possibility of bringing the missing child home safely.

“Operation Safe Child is an important service offered by our Community Affairs Unit that helps keep our children safe,” said YPD Commissioner Charles Gardner. “The information which is kept on record with this program becomes essential in the event that a child goes missing and a law enforcement agency has to disseminate information quickly to the public. Parents are urged to take advantage of this program and register their children on December 8 at Ridge Hill.”

Face painting and refreshments will be provided for parents and kids in attendance. For more information, call the Mayor's Office at 914-377-6300 or visit CriminalJustice.ny.gov/pio/safechild.htm.

Mayor Mike Spano and the Yonkers Police Department (YPD) recently announced that the city will host Operation SAFE CHILD Day at Yonkers' Ridge Hill to raise awareness of child safety and provide parents with SAFE CHILD photo identification cards to better protect their children.

“I am a father of three school-aged children, I want to make sure all parents in Yonkers are aware and have access to every tool available to help protect their children,” said Spano. “Operation SAFE CHILD is a valuable resource that offers important information for parents and vital information for law enforcement should a child go missing.”

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Free Programs at St. Paul's

St. Paul's Church National Historic Site, located at 897 South Columbus Ave., is offering a series of special free holiday programs in December. For more information on those and others St. Paul's programs and events, call 914-687-4116 or visit www.nps.gov.

Holiday Music and the Holiday of Christmas

Join St. Paul's on Saturday, December 8 at 2 p.m. for a performance of Holiday music, featuring Alyce Racz on Flute. Also playing on French horn, with trombone and trumpet. Sister Carol Paul and Sister Barbara will be singing an excerpt from the history of Christmas: "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"… this will be open to you today from 2 pm to 4 pm.

Luncheon Series Concert

St. Paul's luncheon series concert continues on Wednesday, December 12 at 1 p.m. with Celtic Harp music by Lois Colin and company.

Holiday Organ Concert

Come to St. Paul's on Sunday, December 23 at 2 p.m. for a wonderful recital by acclaimed concert organist Kathy Jones featuring classical music on the 130 foot organ (as commissioned by our own, traditional carols and Holiday favorites. Refreshments provided.

Family Holiday Program

Open to all on December 25, 26 and 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day for history games, crafts and demonstrations, designed for children on vacation from school, as well as parents, adults and others.

MANDATORY PROGRAMS:

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Social Security Column: Questions and Answers

By Susan Solit, Social Security District Director

Mananger in Yonkers

Question

Your income is only Supplemental Security Income (SSI). My mother recently died and left me a little more. Will this extra money affect my SSI benefits?

Answer

It depends on the amount. You must report the inheritance to Social Security by calling 800-772-1213 (TTY 800-325-0778). SSI is a need-based program for people 65 and older, the blind, and disabled. Benefits are based on your resources, income and work history. We consider your information as of the date you report the death and the amount of the inheritance. We will then review your case and decide whether or not you qualify for SSI benefits.

For more information, visit SocialSecurity.gov.

Question

My mother has been in poor health for some time, and doctors have recently diagnosed her with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)—commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig’s Disease. I’ve heard Social Security has a “fast track” for people who are disabled. Can you tell me about it?

Answer

Yes. Two processes to “fast track” applications for disability benefits exist. The Compassionate Allowances initiative allows us to fast-track certain facts of cases. This includes Social Security’s list of 165 different types of disabilities that qualify for this expedited decision, including ALS and for conditions that are likely to result in death within 6 months. Learn more about Compassionate Allowances and see the full list of conditions at SocialSecurity.gov/compassionateallowances.

Another way we speed up decisions is with our Quick Disability Determinations initiative, which uses technology to identify applicants who have the most severe disabilities and allows us to expedite our decisions on those cases. Read more about Quick Disability Determinations at SocialSecurity.gov/disability/fast-track.html.

Question

I want to apply for benefits but I can’t get an appointment to apply in person. What can I do?

Answer

You can apply for Social Security online at https://www.ssa.gov or by telephone at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). There is no need to go to a local Social Security office. And remember: Our online disability application is convenient and secure. Don’t stand in line; go online at SocialSecurity.gov.

For more information, visit SocialSecurity.gov.

WJCS Recognizes Home Health Services

St. John’s and Philips Join to Manage X-ray Dose

On Friday, November 30, 2012, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence/Westchester (NCADDW), a Westchester County-based nonprofit organization, held its 10th Annual Marty Mann Awards Dinner to help support its programs of information, education, prevention and referral.

St. John’s Riverside Hospital has just announced a new initiative designed to produce superior quality medical images with the lowest amount of radiation exposure necessary. While their comprehensive approach to medical imaging is based on the hospital’s Philips CT and X-ray systems, it includes techniques, programs and practices to ensure optimum image quality while minimizing radiation exposure to patients and the hospital’s clinical staff.

Recently featured in the news, the radiation exposure has become a concern to many individuals with disabilities and their families.

For more information, visit WJSCHS.org.

Social Security Column: Questions and Answers

By Susan Solit, Social Security District Director

Manager in Yonkers

Question

I need to apply for disability benefits. Where do I start?

Answer

Begin by looking at our Disability Starter kit and at 10th Annual Marty Mann Awards Dinner to help support its programs of information, education, prevention and referral.

Proceeds from the dinner will support NCADDW’s new educational initiative known as the Disability Starter Kit. It has been proven effective in teaching children to set goals, make decisions, take action, identify and manage emotions and to communicate effectively—all skills that are recognized to be important in promoting self-sufficiency.

For more information, visit NCADDW.org.

Yonkers Gladiators Head to the Young Tackle National Championships

The Yonkers Gladiators have qualified to represent the northeastern region in the prestigious championship games, held from December 2-5 at the Young Tackle Football League National Championships in Tampa, Florida.

The Yonkers Gladiators team has qualified to represent the northeastern region in the prestigious championship games, held from December 2-5 at the Young Tackle Football League National Championships in Tampa, Florida. The team’s Junior Midget team was successful in winning the national championship in their division. This weekend, the Gladiators will travel to Florida to participate with the opportunity to demonstrate their skills against top teams and their players from all over the United States in their same weight and age categories.

The Gladiators are currently seeking donations from the public to help defray the cost of their trip, which is estimated to be around $20,000. If you would like to sponsor a player or contribute to the Gladiators, all donations are tax-deductible, since NCADDW is a 501-C-3 nonprofit organization.

Jim Donio is Executive Director of National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence/Westchester (NCADDW). His President & CEO, St. John’s. Riverside Hospital has just announced a new initiative designed to produce superior quality medical images with the lowest amount of radiation exposure necessary. While their comprehensive approach to medical imaging is based on the hospital’s Philips CT and X-ray systems, it includes techniques, programs and practices to ensure optimum image quality while minimizing radiation exposure to patients and the hospital’s clinical staff.

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Manager in Yonkers

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Yes. She must report a change in living arrangements within 10 days of moving. The change must be either an increase or a decrease in resources.

For more information, visit SocialSecurity.gov/compassionateallowances.

Social Security Column: Questions and Answers

By Susan Solit, Social Security District Director

Manager in Yonkers

Question

In most cases, recipients of Extra Help are limited to $13,070 (or $26,120 if married and living together). Recipients must report a change in resources. If the amount of resources is less than $2,000, the benefits will not be changed. However, if the amount of resources is more than $2,000, the recipient’s benefits will be changed. If the amount of resources is more than $3,000 in total resources, the recipient will not receive benefits.

For more information, visit SocialSecurity.gov/extra-help.

Social Security Column: Questions and Answers

By Susan Solit, Social Security District Director

Manager in Yonkers

Question

Yes. The disability starter kit will help you a copy by calling 800-772-1213 (TTY 800-325-0778). The Disability Starter Kit will help you disability/disability_starter_kits.htm or you can receive a copy by calling 800-772-1213 (TTY 800-325-0778).

For more information, visit SocialSecurity.gov/applyforbenefits.

Social Security Column: Questions and Answers

By Susan Solit, Social Security District Director

Manager in Yonkers

Question

In social security, a person with more than $2,000 or a couple with more than $3,000 in total resources cannot receive social security benefits.

For more information, visit SocialSecurity.gov/applyforbenefits.

Social Security Column: Questions and Answers

By Susan Solit, Social Security District Director

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The Disability Starter Kit will help you application and interview. Proven effective in teaching children to set goals, make decisions, take action, identify and manage emotions and to communicate effectively—all skills that are recognized to be important in promoting self-sufficiency.

For more information, visit NCADDW.org.

Seniors and Health Care

NCADDW Holds 10th Annual Mary Mann Awards Dinner

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Spano and YFD Provide Holiday Fire Safety Tips

Try not to leave the kitchen while you’re cooking, and make sure the kitchen is clear of flammable items, other than the food you’re cooking. Keep anything that can catch fire away from the stove while you’re cooking. Never use lit candles or lit products that will burn when touched. Don’t let candles burn when unattended. Make sure candles are placed on a stable surface and away from anything that can catch fire.

Candles
Candles are widely used in homes throughout the holiday season; December is the peak month for home candle fires. More than half of all candle fires start because the candle was too close or too hot to catch fire; if it catches fire, it burns rapidly and may spread through the room. If you extinguish a candle, use a candle extinguisher. Avoid using candles in the bedroom, under the heat of a stove or oven, or near other sources of heat.

Use candles that are steady, without a flame or a wick, on a nonflammable surface. Avoid using candles in the bedroom, under the heat of a stove or oven, or near other sources of heat.

Never let wax dripping from a candle tip over. To extinguish candles, use a candle snuffer, which is a piece of metal that you press onto the wick and then lift to extinguish the candle. Leave at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn and remember to keep them away from your mouth or nose.

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YPIE and the Future

Continued from Page 1

High school juniors — something that the school system had never been in a position to do. That's why we set up Naviance, a web-based system to help students research and apply to the post-secondary school of their choice — something that the school system had never been in a position to provide.

But helping with SATs and college counseling wasn't enough. We realized years ago that if we were really going to help Yonkers students pursue a post-secondary education, we had to have some specialists work with them in these schools. Those people would help guide them to the range of possibilities open to them, help them with their applications and help them fundraise badly needed financial aid — again, something that the school system had never been in a position to provide. That's why we now have the YPIE “College and Career Centers” in six Yonkers high schools.

The results have been dramatic. In 2012, there have been more than 7,000 visits by Yonkers high school seniors to our centers; there have been more than 16,000 visits by younger students. Financial aid and scholarship awards have risen from $23 million in 2010 to almost $50 million in 2012. The intention of Yonkers graduating seniors to pursue post-secondary education went from about half to more than 75 percent between 2010 and 2012. The results have been more than 16,000 visits by younger students.

We've heard it said that things aren't that bad; that if YPIE goes out of business, the school district will just hire YPS-represented employees to do what YPIE has been doing. But make no mistake: This won't happen. YPIE raises about $3.5 million from private donors each year to fund the centers.

Under the terms of these grants, this money must be spent by YPIE to administer the specific programs that the donors have signaled off. YPIE cannot simply turn the funds over to the Board of Education, the YFT or anyone else. If YPIE is forced out of the schools, it will have to return the money to the donors. And, given the state of the finances of the Yonkers Public Schools, no one can expect it to be replaced.

This would be a tragedy. It would be a strong signal to the business and charitable community that Yonkers is not interested in their help in a time of enormous need. It would be a strong message about YFT's priorities. But in the end, this isn't about YPIE, the school board or YFT. This is about the school children of Yonkers. They will be the ones who suffer, not any of the quibbling adults.

We can only hope that all of us grownups can put our differences aside and put the interests of the students first.

David Westin
Chair, Yonkers Partners in Education

agreement is a full-blown contract with the YFT, which has been working without a contract for a year and a half. Negotiations have continued for two years but with no agreement.

YFT President Pat Puleo has stated that “Not coming to an (APPR) agreement before the deadline is positively something we want to see happen, but at the same time the district has to be serious about what we're asking for.”

Earlier this year, to comply with School Improvement Grant (SIG) mandates, the YFT and YPS came to an agreement on APPR for the two Yonkers public schools that receive SIG funding; APPR for the Cross Hill Academy and the Yonkers College and Career High School were agreed to by April.

“Is unacceptable to think that we could sacrifice funding so critical to this district,” said Puleo. “The Board [of Education] and YFT reached an agreement last year for our SIG schools and we meet now commit to upping our students' education in our classrooms and our classrooms remain employed.”

After two years of massive cuts, the YPS — and 26,000 students — simply cannot afford the loss of $15.7 million, YFT's $1.7 million of which is already lost. The union funding breaks down as follows:

• $9 million in state funding — The law states that any district that does not have an approved plan in place by January 17, 2013, will lose its supplemental state aid, and $9 million for YPS; and
• $7.7 million in competitive funding — This funding, earmarked for teacher professional development and overtime costs, breaks down further, as follows:
  • the $5.2 million SEDST already lost last week from
  • $300,000 already lost when YPS was not awarded the Model Induction Program Grant;
  • $480,268 in Race to the Top for funding;

• $2 million in a School Improvement Grant for Early College High School;
• funding for SIG schools $8.7 million in competitive funding the YPS could lose; and
• $7.7 million in competitive funding the YFT could lose.

Stay tuned.
The tree is lit at Getty Square

The Yonkers YMCA gym transformed into a MMA ring

CAPTURE THE MAGIC OF THE SEASON WITH A SANTA PHOTO!

Santa is available for photos and visits at his winter wonderland house, located near Gap. Each child who visits with Santa receives a FREE gift! And, don’t miss nightly Tree Lighting events also at the Santa Village beginning at 5pm and continuing each half hour after.

HOLIDAY PHOTOS WITH SANTA
NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 24

A CHANUKAH CELEBRATION
will be held in the Yonkers City Hall Rotunda on Wednesday, December 12 at 4 p.m.

Join us for a late afternoon gathering to light Chanukah candles and to share holiday greetings, lights, refreshments and a short program of special Chanukah music led by Cantor Lisa B. Segal and Cantorial Students from The Academy for Jewish Religion and Members of the Yonkers High School Band, led by Andy Seligson.

Sponsored by Mayor Mike Spano, The Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Jewish Affairs, Rabbi Rigoberto Emmanuel Viñas, Chaplain of the Yonkers Police Department and JCY Westchester Community Partners’ President Ron C. Selvar and Executive Director Janice Lubin Kirschner.

Mixed Martial Arts at YMCA

The Yonkers YMCA hosted a Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) competition on November 17, sponsored by MAK Fitness Center in Ossining. The event was well attended, with many cheering and showing their support for their fighter. This event was part of the Elite Cage Challenge, founded by Michael A. Kulp, owner of MAK.

“I formed this league to provide an outlet for our local amateur MMA fighters to have a place to compete and apply the skills that they have learned from our local MMA gym in the lower Hudson Valley Area,” said Kulp. “No longer will we have to travel down to Jersey or over to PA to get our fights to compete. The Elite Cage Challenge will be a place where the New York MMA fans can come out and support their local fighters.”

Mike “Smooth Moves” Lopez and Carolina Lopez were the men’s and women’s winners, respectively, at the Yonkers Y.

Photos by Donna Davis

Santa and Mrs. Claus hand out candy canes at Santa’s workshop

Photos by Donna Davis

Volunteers handed out hot chocolate and churros near Santa’s bright red house. For a while, Mayor Mike Spano was as popular as the Clauses, as many parents shook his hand and snapped photos of him with their children.

Mayor Black USA 2012 Selena Watkins attended with her niece, Jayla Watkins, who only had eyes for the Clauses.

Yonkers Idol Alexis Newman, Junior Idol Maya Lisbon and Roxy’s All Star Revue provided the musical entertainment.

DWBID Getty Square
Continued from Page 1

who were handing out candy canes and listening to everyone’s holiday wishes.

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