Honoring Yonkers’ Deceased African-American Police Officers

Editor’s Note: Special thanks to YPD Detective Anthony Davis for compiling this tribute.

The Yonkers Police Department, founded in April 1871, is Westchester County’s largest police department. YPD is rich with talent, accomplishment and pride, all of which are built on a tradition of excellent service to our community.

Not everyone can work as a police officer. It requires special training and qualities unique to the role. But once an officer becomes part of a police department, the possibility of death every day, and constantly dealing with the extent of how the Yonkers City Code targets the homeless. Section 43-71-H states that any agency providing “social services” cannot be called “emergency shelters,” excepting shelters for the homeless or health-care facilities and shall not provide any sleeping accommodations or health-care services.

In Yonkers, however, the problems are coming from the city. Yonkers has been a quick, ruthless quest to drive the homeless community out of the downtown area. A little bit this has leaked over to the public, however the full story has not been told.

A little background: The Sharing Community at 1 Hudson St. (St. Gertrude) runs a drop-in for men (or it did) and women, a residential shelter, transitional housing and a day program. A drop-in.

Continued on Page 8

Councilwoman Pineda and Husband Introduce Son

By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to City Councilwoman Corazon Pineda on the recent birth of her son, Rohan William Issac, who was born on Feb. 22, 2015 at 7:44 p.m. at Lawrence Hospital, weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces and measuring 22 inches. Councilwoman Pineda is the second district of Southwest Yonkers.

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and Councilman Christopher Johnson joined the City Council in kicking off Black History Month with a celebration in the Ceremonial Courtroom at Yonkers City Hall.

A welcome address was delivered by Hope Hollowsworth Cousom, and remarks were made by Spanos and Johnson.

“Black history is American history, and this month is an opportunity to expose people of all races, ethnicity and creed to the many contributions African-Americans have made to our great city and nation,” said Spanos.

The program featured sponsors called “Hopes,” read by Chelsea Deloucci, a performance of “Poet’s Me” by NAMBRK (Never Judge a Book By Its Cover), and a lyrical dance performance of “If You’re Out There” by Eliza Sokhow/

The three winners of the mayor’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Essay Contest were Anponsah, Karla Garcia and Ray Trayfors. Photo by Donna Davis.

Rohan William Issac

Gorton High School's FLIGHT graduates.

Early graduation for seniors from Gorton High School’s FLIGHT Program provides an opportunity to “lift off” on post-secondary opportunities and graduate a semester early. The third annual FLIGHT graduation ceremony was held Feb. 4 at Yonkers Riverfront Library for 28 seniors and their families.

Future Leaders Inspired and Getting a Head Start on Tomorrow graduates completed all academic and Regents graduation requirements by the end of their junior year. With this flexibility, students in the FLIGHT program have the ability to begin post-graduate studies or work opportunities early, saving both time and money.

“Throughout the district, our administrative team and the entire administration and staff’s commitment to integrating special-needs students with the entire student body is nothing short of inspiring.”

The vision of School 29 is to educate every student.

Continued on Page 9

Gorton Students Get Jump Start on College

Students and staff at Westchester Hills School 29 with Mike Spano and YPS Superintendent Michael Yarzulo.

The councilwoman and husband, proud father Jonathan Issac, are enjoying the new baby.

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Councilwoman Pineda and Husband Introduce Son
Participants. There will be a $5 suggested donation. To register, email YonkersArtGallery@gmail.com with your name and the number of participants. Art supplies, by emailing YonkersArtGallery@gmail.com with your name and the number of participants. The exhibition includes numerous representations of their various companion animals.

The exhibition includes numerous representations of their various companion animals. Also shown is a multi-screened video display of the "Painted People" in mysterious adventures. Frohawk Two Feathers, who brings light-hearted interpretations to history with his colonial portraits and scenes. Stitch a sampler inspired by these works, paired with pop-culture references in text or images. The program will be led by Sarah Divi.

This program is free with museum admission. Additional "Crafting Community" events will take place March 14, April 11 and May 9. Students on school break can join artist Winnie Huang and junior docents for creative activities and planetarium shows Monday, Feb. 16 through Friday, Feb. 20 in the Rivarama gallery. Participants will also explore the effects of pollution on the lower Hudson Valley and make a timeline of Hudson River history that winds like the river itself.

"The Sky Tonight" will take place at 2 p.m. in the planetarium; and "One World, One Sky: Big Bird’s Adventure" will take place at 3:30 p.m. This event is free with museum admission; students must be accompanied by a caregiver.

"Promoting the President" will take place March 17, when Gilbert Stuart’s famous painting “George Washington” will be on display at the museum, in addition to a print, stamps, coins and currency show featuring Washington in images that are beautiful, respectful and, sometimes, humbling — made to frame the vision of him and charge patriotism. Washington in images that are beautiful, respectful and, sometimes, humbling — made to frame the vision of him and charge patriotism.

**Valentine’s Day**
Saturday, February 14th, 2015
10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

**THE TECHNOCOLOR TRAVELS OF THE PAINTED PEOPLE**

The Yonkers Art Gallery is featuring Wilkinson in “The Technicolor Travels of the Painted People” the entire month of February. In 2001, she began documenting the adventures of the “Painted People,” a Palo-Postmodern indigenous clan of formal Barbie, Ken and GI Joe figures and their various companion animals. She is attracted to the colors and dynamic forms of nature, and is also aware of current environmental change, apocalyptic and natural magic. Also shown is a multi-screened video display of the “Painted People” in mysterious adventures. After receiving her bachelor’s degree in art and art sculpture, Jeanne Wilkinson attended Pratt Institute as a graduate student and now teaches art at Kingsborough Community College (CUNY). She is attracted to the colors and dynamic forms of nature, and is also aware of current environmental dilemmas and concerns that are at times reflected in her artwork.

Frohawk Two Feathers, who brings light-hearted interpretations to history with his colonial portraits and scenes. Stitch a sampler inspired by these works, paired with pop-culture references in text or images. The program will be led by Sarah Divi.

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City to Expand Rent Benefits For Seniors & the Disabled

The City of Yonkers is poised to become one of the first municipalities outside New York City to utilize state legislation to raise the maximum income limits from $29,000 to $50,000 for the Senior Citizen and Disabled Rent Increase Exemption programs. The legislation passed unanimously at the Jan. 29 City Council meeting, allowing eligible seniors who are seniors on a fixed income to rent.

To qualify for the subsidy, senior and/or disabled residents must live in emergency, Tenant Protection Act of 1974 housing, use more than one-third of their income on rent and have an annual income of less than $50,000. Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano is expected to sign into law, Yonkers will nearly double the income that would not be able to afford it. Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano is expected to sign into law, Yonkers will nearly double the income limits from $29,000 to $50,000 on rent.

The maximum income limit "and their continued support of tenants as we enter another cycle of discussions on the continuation of rent regulation in the state," said Gloria Jordan, a member of Community Voices Heard and an eligible tenant resident, thanked Yonkers for its leadership. "This means a lot to seniors struggling to make ends meet," she said. According to the Rev. Emma Lofthus-Williams, a tenant representative to the Yonkers Rent Guidelines Board and advocate for the program who praised Yonkers for its leadership, "There are approximately. By the time you reach the age of 60, you can expect to spend 90 percent of your time in your home. Mayor Spano pointed to the fact that while Yonkers continues to see economic improvements, it is hard to remain focused on ensuring that Yonkers remains affordable for all seniors.

"Now Yonkers is poised to become one of the first municipalities outside the City of New York to utilize state legislation to raise the maximum income limits from $29,000 to $50,000 on rent. This is a key piece of housing policy that enables eligible seniors to live a life of dignity, free from worry that they will be priced out of their apartment by increases in rent."

City Manager Mayor Mike Spano and the city's Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation announced last week that the city is searching for the next great young singers in the 8th Annual Yonkers Idol competition at www.register.communitypass.com/yonkers.

Winners will hold their title for a year and receive $1,000, courtesy of the United Way of Northern Westchester and the Town of Yonkers. The title winner will receive $1,000 and their continued support of tenants as we enter another cycle of discussions on the continuation of rent regulation in the state.

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The first auditions will take place on May 9, which is free and open to the public.

The deadline for the Yonkers Idol registration is Thursday, Feb. 26.
One of the issues of great concern to many in our community is the erosion of New York’s manufacturing jobs. Over the past several years, many of the agreements, most manufactured in China, Mexico and across the globe have been lost. Fortunately, the residents of Westchester worry the end of manufacturing is not imminent. The town of Massena, located on the Canadian border, New York town of Massena, located on the Canadian border, is the closest city to our area. Massena’s best days have been in years past, when the town had a GM plant, an Alcoa plant and a Reynolds Aluminum plant. Today, however, the town no longer has a GM plant, and local citizens are left with a Reynolds plant and a laptop manufacturer, but even the small plant is facing threats. The town has been in a recession level. To get the same feeling about Albany. We’re in a recession level. The state with higher Medicaid spending in America is enough. The state with higher Medicaid spending in America is enough. The state has more than 20 percent higher than a New Jersey. The law would allow local and state governments to reduce or suspend unemployment benefits from relocating out of New York. Titled “Sister to Sister International Hold Membership Meeting” Westchester-based Sister to Sister International, Inc. will host a “sister gathering” in honor of Black History Month on Saturday, Feb 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Belden Community Center, 342 Warburton Ave., Yonkers. Food parking is available. During this “sister gathering,” members and guests will hear about Sister’s recent and planned 2015 activities; participate in a fun and informative “Black History Family Feud” with prizes for the winning team; hear about the “game changers” to assist parents with ensuring students succeed academically, presented by Dr. Angela Campbell and the Rev. Marcia White-Wilkinson. The event is free and light refreshments will be served. Sister Membership dues are $50 for individuals, $30 for seniors 65 and older, and $15 for students who are 22 years old and younger. There is a special mother-daughter membership for only $60. Founded in 1994, Sister to Sister International is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that links women and girls of African descent locally, advance and strengthens them. This link is through advocacy, education and the promotion of African culture. Developing healthy lifestyles is a cornerstone of the organization. Sister holds special commemorative status for the United Nations Economic and Social Council, is affiliated with the Department of Public Information, and collaborates with the United Nations Organization on health campaigns. Those wishing to attend should RSVP by calling 914-972-6819 or emailing sisterint@yahoo.com no later than Feb. 18. Sister is a membership organization guided by a Board of Directors, with Louise Johnson as its board chairman. It is headquartered at 1200 N. Broadway, Yonkers. For more information, visit sisterint.org, “like” the organization on Facebook and “follow” it on twitter.com/govoyage."
Based on television’s “Shark Tank,” the Stacks Initiative is launching the “Fish Tank” program Thursday, Feb. 19 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Seidenberg School.

Budding entrepreneurs, now is the time to bring your dreams to fruition! Pitch your ideas with the “fish” with the potential of making your dream a reality. Each participant will receive 10-15 minutes to present, 2-3 minutes on a “speed dating” style, and 3-5 minutes of audience questions. Each group will have a mentor to help guide the process, and create a business plan. Attendees and entrepreneurs will be paired up for a presentation that will result in a judgment of the group. Best “fish” will receive $2,500 in cash prizes as well as up to five paid summer fellowships, mentorship and exposure from the Seidenberg School.

Entrepreneurs, Pitch Your Ideas at Yonkers Library

The Seidenberg School at Pace University and the David and Minnie Berk Foundation are ideal partners for this program, which provides funding for the Seidenberg School’s Smart Mobile App Development Bowl. The initiative is geared toward those who are interested in learning more about user-centered design and design thinking, and to the “fish” with the potential of making your dream a reality.

The Seidenberg School at Pace University has established a world-class mobile app development program in Westchester County, where the school serves as a mentor to several incubators and companies. Seidenberg has won several awards in this area, an initiative that supports health care information technology entrepreneurship; and a multi-million-dollar in-kind contribution from the David and Minnie Berk Foundation for a remote patient monitoring program.

Additionally, the Seidenberg School has secured partnerships with multiple industry partners to pursue various telehealth initiatives, such as data analysis, interoperable electronic health records, telemedicine, social media and clinical trials. This program will be conducted in two parts: The first part is a 10-day entrepreneurship boot camp, the second part is an online boot camp mobile app for Alzheimer’s disease and dementia patients. Further competitions will be geared toward developing applications that can serve other groups.

More information and registration details, contact: Kevin M. Kalin, director, Development, Seidenberg School at Pace University at email kkalin@pace.edu or call 914-924-4422.

Unreserved special equipment auctions

Complete dispersal from Tetra Tech Construction (New York) at 914-377-6274 or Ivy at 914-329-8847.

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Let’s help you make your vision a reality of course, that you were following the goal to stay over rules and help teams prepare for the contest. The School of Health and Medical Sciences has provided the quality of health care to underserved and vulnerable populations, such as Alzheimer’s and dementia patients. Pace is proud to be adding technology expertise to make this event a success for the teams.

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Get your business ideas into the “Fish Tank.”

Please note: The above text is a condensed version of the full text. For more information, please visit the Seidenberg School’s website at seidenberg.pace.edu.

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Historical Programs at St. Paul's Church National Historic Site

Several free special programs will take place this month at St. Paul’s Church National Historic Site, 977 Columbia Turnpike, Mount Vernon.

A program recognition of Black History Month in cooperation with the National Black Lawmakers Caucus will be held Saturday, Feb. 14 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The theme for this year’s observance is “Black Patriots in the Revolutionary War.”

By Julissa Javier

Great Election of 1733 at St. Paul’s.”

The debate continues.

“General Washington” and “President Lincoln.”

Lisa Keller of SUNY Purchase will examine the best-selling author – who is buried at St. Paul’s.

Then on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 1 p.m., the mid-week program explores early American political life and issues of freedom of the press and religion through a presentation and discussion about the famous election of 1733 held at the Church.

For more information, call 914-677-4118 or visit www.nps.gov/opa.

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The debate continues.
Westchester Hills

Continued from Page 1

dent to become "today’s learners and tomorrow’s leaders." Emphasis is placed on creating a
grouping, integrated and safe learning environment in which all students become problem-solvers, crit-
crucical thinkers and valued members of the commu-

Yonkers’ Homelessness
Continued from Page 1

The city’s reasoning was that there was no
certificate of occupancy. But there were people sleeping
in the basement after Holy Cross’ close-

As Christina Gilmartin, the mayor’s press
secretary, told me in an email: “The zoning ordi-

open since the 1930s, most people believe it is

It is inexcusable when there are several


When asked about Holy Cross, Mrs. Kimbrell

she would make the city’s few valid complaints void,

**Yonkers Today**

Yonkers’s Homeless Crisis

continuing story.”

"You can’t get those kinds of students...the

Mrs. Lyons, director of the Community

As for the county, Mrs. Redline, the
director of Community Services, said she was

As for the city, the mayor’s press

Each time this is brought up the city has

As for the county, Mrs. Redline, the
director of Community Services, said she was

In other words, a church (or anyone else, re-

In any case, there is a definitely a plan to get

As for the county, Mrs. Redline, the
director of Community Services, said she was

On the revisions were made later.)

(Apparently, according to other sources, some of

A member of that board, speaking on the con-

In the winter we are picked up at the day

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and shop owners took down the signs, but only fully protesting in Birmingham, Ala., to remove a little more research about MLK Jr. with my dad. I wanting to give a good answer, I decided to do a figure we might as well help keep it clean. litter and leave broken bottles and cigarette butts on the ground and sidewalk. We don’t want chil "people’s park" and unfortunately, some people ing my mom in the kitchen. My dad and I clean on the first grade, I heard older kids say some racial comments. I’ve also seen kids being made fun of because they’re poor. I made sure to tell him to avoid the side of a teacher. I think today, being a fifth-grader, I found those comments, I’d be more likely to say something directly to the person who was making those offensive comments. When I think of what I can do to improve my city for others and honor the great things people fairly, equally and like my brothers and continue to set the finest example of treating all can only think of one thing. That one thing is to prove that my neighborhood doesn’t limit my potential. I’ve demonstrated that growing up in this country into even more success. a team has completed a great season with confidence and a star playmaker and was able to win two of the tournaments and was featured in a "Coaches vs. Cancer Tip Off" tournament at the Webster County Center next week. Saunders coach Anthony Nicodemos has brought his team together into a working unit that has won 15 games in a row this year and was able to win two of the tournaments that Dr. King started. Saunders won the Yonkers City Tournament by defeating Palisades Prep 49-45, giving the aide or a teacher. I think today, being a fifth- By becoming an accomplished researcher, I’ll prove that my neighborhood didn’t limit my potential. It all of my points and rebounds. Felder scored with my dad. I clean on the first grade, I heard older kids say some racial comments. I’ve also seen kids being made fun of because they’re poor. I made sure to tell him to avoid the side of a teacher. I think today, being a fifth-grader, I found those comments, I’d be more likely to say something directly to the person who was making those offensive comments. When I think of what I can do to improve my city for others and honor the great things people fairly, equally and like my brothers and continue to set the finest example of treating all can only think of one thing. That one thing is to prove that my neighborhood doesn’t limit my potential. I’ve demonstrated that growing up in this country into even more success. a team has completed a great season with confidence and a star playmaker and was able to win two of the tournaments and was featured in a "Coaches vs. Cancer Tip Off" tournament at the Webster County Center next week. Saunders coach Anthony Nicodemos has brought his team together into a working unit that has won 15 games in a row this year and was able to win two of the tournaments that Dr. King started. Saunders won the Yonkers City Tournament by defeating Palisades Prep 49-45, giving the aide or a teacher. I think today, being a fifth-
The Royal Hanneford Circus is coming to town this weekend and will be celebrating its 40th anniversary at the Westchester County Center. Children in the county’s foster and homeless programs will be able to enjoy this great Westchester tradition free of charge, thanks to a generous donation of tickets to the Department of Social Services for the third year in a row from Titan, a leader in transit media and a longtime advertising partner of Westchester County.

The Royal Hanneford Circus will perform nine shows Feb. 14, 15 and 16 at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. each day. Tickets are available at the Westchester County Center Box Office, 198 Central Park Ave., White Plains; or via Ticketmaster or by calling 914-995-4050.

The Yonkers Fire Department promoted five lieutenants to the rank of captain last week in the Ceremonial Court Room in City Hall. Many friends, family and fellow members of YFD were on-hand to celebrate with the honorees. Mayor Mike Spano gave the Oath of Office and congratulated the captains and their families, while Commissioner John Darcy congratulated and gave words of encouragement to the new ranks. The new captains range from 15 years to 21 years of experience and they have all collectively received many awards for outstanding service. They will remain in their current assignments for the next month, and then be utilized throughout the department in various positions.