Crime Rates Down to Record Lows in Yonkers

Mayor Mike Spano and Police Commissioner Charles Gardner, with members of the Yonkers City Council and Yonkers police executives, recently announced the City of Yonkers crime statistics for calendar year 2018. The Yonkers Police Department strategy for reducing crime focuses department resources on five priorities: guns, gangs, drugs, pattern crimes, and the search for wanted persons.

Through extensive intelligence gathering and crime analysis, YPD is able to identify the small number of people who commit the majority of the city’s most serious crime. Simultaneously, the department deploys numerous community outreach programs and initiatives in an effort to build trust and cooperation with the community and residents.

Spano Delays State of City to Lobby Albany for More Aid

By Dan Murphy

Mayor Mike Spano delayed his upcoming State of the City address scheduled March 13 to focus all of his attention and efforts to secure additional state aid for Yonkers Public Schools. The announcement by Spano underscores the urgency for Yonkers and, for the city and state’s elected officials to act, as estimates have the VPS facing an upcoming $60 million shortfall in its budget for the next school year, starting in September.

“While every year I look forward to giving our residents updates on the transformative initiatives happening in Yonkers, I feel it is my duty as mayor to spend my time in Albany and meeting with our state leaders about the desperate needs of our schools,” said Spano. “My total focus now is to devote all my energy and resources to advocate for our students, teachers and administrators to ensure they are funded fairly and equitably.”

Sponsoring Assemblyman Corbett, who will lead passing legislation that would ban the opening of marijuana stores when and if pot becomes legal in New York State by next year, elected officials already spoke out against plans by Gov. Andrew Cuomo to legalize marijuana sales in New York. State leaders about the desperate needs of our schools, they will have to spend my time in Albany and meeting with our state leaders about the desperate needs of our schools.”

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One State Capitol has helped to fill budget gaps in the past, but the days of temporary “Band-Aids” to our city budget must end. We have been underfunded from Albany for years and there must be a permanent, structural change to the state education aid formula for the City of Yonkers moving forward.”

New York State is expected to pass its budget by April 1, giving Yonkers a month to rally its stakeholders and sell state leaders on the dire needs of Yonkers and the funding needed to avoid major cuts and layoffs to VPS. Last month, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that the state’s economic forecast for reducing crime focuses department resources on five priorities: guns, gangs, drugs, pattern crimes, and the search for wanted persons.

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Holocaust Remembrance Program Is March 11-15

Holocaust survivor Judy Altmann will return to the JCY-Westchester Community Partners Holocaust Remembrance Program. Altmann, second from the right, is pictured with Katie Murphy, left; Yonkers City Council President Mike Khader; and Janice Lubin-Kirschner.

To honor the memory of the 12 million victims of horrific genocide, JCY-Westchester Community Partner, in partnership with Yonkers Public Schools, the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center, and Congregation Vayetar Yitzchok is offering a Holocaust remembrance program from March 11 through 15. All VPS students, as well as the entire community, are invited to attend.

The Countdown to Yonkers’ St. Pat’s Parade Has Begun

The countdown has begun for the Yonkers St. Patrick’s Day Parade on March 23.

Yonkers Remains Quiet On Legal Pot Sales

Yonkers has yet to have the discussion that is underway statewide to legalize the sale of marijuana.

Captain Bob Walters Retires From Science Barge

Bob Walters, Photo by Donna Davis.

Run for City Council

By Dan Murphy

One of Yonkers’ dedicated public servants is taking off on a new path and trying to continue his service in another way. Bob Walters, director of the Science Barge for Groundwork Hudson Valley, who we lovingly called “Captain Bob” for nearly 20 years, has been instrumental in leading our organization’s many successes, and his legacy continues on Page 7.

By Dan Murphy

The countdown has begun for the Yonkers St. Patrick’s Day Parade on March 23.

By Dan Murphy

As many Westchester communities have already spoken out against plans by Gov. Andrew Cuomo to legalize marijuana sales in New York State by next year, elected officials in Yonkers have yet to take a stance. The Village of Pleasantville and the Towns of New Castle, Yorktown and Somers are all preparing legislation that would ban the opening of marijuana stores when and if it becomes legal in the Empire State; only large cities and counties can opt out of legalizing marijuana sales.

So if Pleasantville, New Castle, Yorktown and Somers want to opt-out, all of Westchester County will have to do so as well. The problem for these communities is that they will not be able to come together to protect the sale of pot if it becomes legal in the Empire State, only large cities and counties can opt-out of legalizing marijuana sales.

Continued on Page 8
Engel Votes For Background Checks in Memory of Nolan, Mackenzie

Congressman Eliot Engel remembered the shootings of two young Westchester residents whose lives were cut short by gun violence. In 2013, Michael Nolan was finally shot in Yonkers, and in 2014, 13-year-old Shamoya McKenzie was shot and killed.

Congressman Eliot Engel, a member of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, said he is happy to see H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019, pass through the House.

“Today’s vote on H.R. 8 is a significant shift in how the House does business under a new Democratic leadership,” he said. “After years of obstruction and inaction from Republican leaders, our legislative body has finally passed a major piece of meaningful gun-violence prevention legislation to help calm our nation’s gun-violence epidemic. And it is just the start for us.

“It’s nice to be able to move the ball forward on gun safety without having to take over the House floor in protest, as we were forced to do three years ago while in the minority,” continued Engel. H.R. 8 is a bipartisan, commonsense bill that will require a background check for every gun sale or transfer, with only very explicit exceptions. It is supported by a wide range of gun-safety advocates and gun owners groups, and has long been championed by the medical and educational communities.

“More than 90 percent of the American people support universal background checks, and more than 80 percent of gun-owning households. The only people who don’t want this are the eight wing extremities in the NRA, who hold a stronghold on the House by way of their stranglehold in the GOP leadership. But Congress doesn’t work for the NRA. We work for the American people, and today House Democrats have made that clear. Gun violence has torn our nation apart for far too long,” concluded Engel. “The American families have paid for Congress’ inaction is un-rememorable. We have a moral obligation to act, and H.R. 8 is exactly the type of legislation we needed. I hope we can soon see fellow by-passing us with a new assault weapons ban.”

Engel said his vote in support of the legislation was in honor of Michael Nolan from Yonkers and Shamoya McKenzie from Mount Vernon, who were killed by gun violence. He tweeted:

“Today we passed historic legislation to require universal background checks, and I cast my vote for H.R. 8 in honor of 2 of my constituents: Shamoya McKenzie & Michael Nolan, 2 promising young lives cut tragically short by GunViolence. We honor them & the memories of thousands.

Engel and Democrats in Washington are un-able to pass gun law legislation because of op-position from Republicans in the U.S. Senate and President Donald Trump. New York State recently passed a package of bills to reduce gun violence, prevent gun sales to kids, and keep firearms from falling into the wrong hands, including a bill by Assemblymember Amy Altyn to increase the time interval before a firearm, shotgun or rifle is sold, and a new law that strengthens a federal background check requirement. A new assault weapons ban and a new assault weapons registration program has a $30

Portfolio by Wells Fargo

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T:10.5"
Yonkers police are actively investigating both incidents, and residents are reminded to secure their doors and windows and report suspicious activity by calling 911.

On Saturday, March 9, from 7 to 10 p.m., HRM presents "And I Think to Myself, What a Wonderful World!"...
Sen. Mayer Adds Staff Member

As the NYS senator representing a di-
verse district stretching from Yonkers to Bed-
ford Hills, the Senator’s office is an impor-
tant resource for constituents. The office al-
lso engages with a wide range of requests for assistance ranging from flyovers on a late 1535 or for a lost STAR refuel check, to difficultly navigating government services such as senior programs and Medicaid.

On my team I have three full-time staff members who are dedicated to responding to requests, making recommendations on best steps forward, and informing constituents of the resources available.

I am pleased to welcome to my team our newest constituent services staff member, Per-
erto Zuniga Arellano. A resident of Port Chester, Mr. Zuniga is fluent in English and Spanish. He will be connecting with and cultivating the Hispanic community throughout the 75th Sen-
ate District. Please don’t hesitate to introduce yourself and set up if you see us at local events.

The 73rd Senate District is comprised of the Villages of Brillidge, Larchmont, Har-
sum, Mamoroneck, North Castle, Mount Kisco and Tuckahoe; the Towns of Bedford,East-
chester, Harrison, North Castle, Mamaroneck and Rye; the Cities of Yonkers, White Plains, Rye and New Rochelle; and the unincorporated
villages of Katonah, Bedford Hills and Armonk.

Calling All Artists

The deadline to submit a sculptural art-
work to be featured at the Son Mill River
village of Mamaroneck will be extended to March 31 at noon. The city is col-
sulting with the Department of Planning
and Development to enhance this artwork specifi cally created by residents of
Yonkers. For specifi c details and requirements, visit www.YonkersNY.gov/Sculp.

Maple Sugaring & More
At County Nature Centers

On Saturday, March 9, participate in morning farm chores from 8 to 9 a.m. at Mus-
cocot Farms on Route 23 in Somers. Learn what it takes to be a farmer! Help the farm staff do their daily chores. Register and make payment by calling 914-835-4466. Then from noon to 3 p.m., watch maple sap be turned into syrup. Registration: 914-898-1300. On Saturday, the Lenoir Preserve in Ossining will have “Maple Sugaring & More.” Participants will learn the steps of maple sugaring.-register online. You will be informed if the weather allows, gowns can be used.

From 3 to 5 p.m., on Saturday, the Trail-
side Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation at Routes 35 and 221 in New City on the Greensill Road will host a “Sugaring Off Party and Friendraising.” Enjoy winter’s sweet reward – at this annual celebration, gather maple syrup, music and sugaring demonstrations all day. This event is co-sponsored by the Trailside Nature Museum. 914-644-7322.

On Saturday, the Wildlife Sanctuary at Playland Park in Rye will host Creature Connections from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday discover how animals and their habitats are linked as you explore the food web for yourself. Come celebrate this exciting relationship in this live animal program presented by naturalist Anthony Cogswell and sponsored by the Friends of the Rose Sanctuary. 914-967-8720.

On Saturday, March 10, the Marshlands Conservancy on Boston Post Road in Rye will host a vol-
unteer work project, inspecting Ossipee Island, on Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. This is a great for any type of service credit hours. Bring work gloves; all tools will be provided. 914-
835-4466.

On Tuesday, March 13, Mac MILL Farm in Somers will have “Sugaring Off” from 1 to 3 p.m.
On the last day of sugaring at MacMill, enjoy the maple festival as you watch the sug-
ing process, taste some maple treats and hear about sugaring. 914-644-7282.

From 2 to 3 p.m. on Saturday at Lauden Park, Arborview and Venues Memorial on Route 35 in Somers, participate in “Get Growing with Greenpeace Propagation.” Indoor plants have already started active growth in response to increasing daylight. Explore a new propagation techniques that will help you to increase your houseplant collection. Registration: 914-835-6010.

Also on Sunday, the Marshlands Con-
servancy in Rye will hold “Sea-plore the
room on the fourth fl oor. The deadline to submit a nomination is March 28 at 6 p.m. at Rye Town Hall. The award ceremony will be held Thursday, March 28 at 6 p.m. at Rye Town Hall. The award ceremony will be held Thursday, March 28 at 6 p.m. at Rye Town Hall.
First Measles Case Recorded in Westchester

Make Sure You & Children are Vaccinated

Last week, the Westchester County Health Department was notified of a confirmed case of measles. According to the New York State Department of Health, the patient lived in Westchester County. The patient is an adult male. The investigation is ongoing and the county health department is working with state health officials to determine how the patient contracted the virus.

New Trade Deal Will Create American Energy Jobs

By Andrew Langer

As the Trump administration recently finalized the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, a new era for American energy has arrived. The agreement is a significant win for American workers and the broader energy sector.

One of the Trump administration’s key goals is to re-establish America’s energy dominance on the global stage and the US-MCA is a crucial step in that direction. This new trade deal will ensure that American companies continue to have access to the Latin American market.

In particular, the US-MCA will help American and Canadian companies expand their presence in Mexico. The agreement includes provisions that will improve market access for US and Canadian energy products and services.

New Mexico's demand for natural gas is expected to increase by nearly 15 percent by 2026, according to the US Energy Information Administration. This growth will create new opportunities for American energy companies to tap into the Mexican market.

The agreement also includes provisions that will promote energy cooperation between the three countries. This will include joint ventures and investments in energy infrastructure.

As a result, the US-MCA is a significant win for American energy companies. It will provide new business opportunities and will help to secure a secure and reliable energy supply for American consumers.

Battle of Meade, at which he lost his arm. At his military academy at the Florida State University, he was at the top of his class. After he passed away, there were eight lively Civil War re-enactors from the 58th New York Volunteer Infantry – a unit based in Kitching – who led the funeral procession.

New York’s Amanda Clarke Morris, for many years the leading American dramatic actress, crossed her 62nd birthday this week. Morris was born in Yonkers, New York and is one of the most recognized and respected actresses in American history.

On March 14, 1942, after hearing about the progress of the German invasion in Europe, Mayor William Vallone came up with one of his most famous ideas: To sponsor the City of Tones of Europe.

The IRCS office located at Yonkers Hall announced it was out of juice. The relief item on the list was water. It is known that water was not available in years to come. The Yonkers Hall announced it was out of juice. The relief item on the list was water. It is known that water was not available in years to come.

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Get Your Social Security Benefits Statement

By Elia Boggs
Social Security District Manager, Yonkers
This season is a perfect time to check your Social Security
account, whether you're earning it now or preparing for when
you can. You can get a copy of your 1099 anytime and
anywhere you want, using online services.

A Social Security 1099 is a tax form Social Security
issues to taxpayers who have received Social Security benefits.
It records the total amount of benefits you received during
the tax year. You can use this form for your tax return.

If you live in the United States and you need a replacement
Social Security 1099-S SA-1042S, go online and request an instant, printable replacement
form. You can also request Social Security 1099-S SSA-1042S by mail. For more information, visit
Social Security online, on your time – like get a copy of your 1099 anytime and any-
where you want, using online services.

The CountDown
Continued from Page 1

Saint Joseph’s Medical Center
Center for AFWCARE & HANDYBARC MEDICINE

At our wound healing center, we treat all wounds.
Our approach to wound care is aggressive and comprehensive, coordinating traditional and
innovative therapies to achieve the most rapid healing.
Our center is staffed by a multidisciplinary team of physicians and nurses with advanced training in wound care.

For you that means faster healing time, longer-lasting results, decreased amputation rates and increased mobility.

To learn more about our services, please call:
(914) 378-7900

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By Sally C. Pipes
Health care is a basic need for all Americans. Medicare,
your “Social Security” account is also the best way
to get your benefit verification letter, check your
benefit and payment information, change your
beneficiary, change your direct deposit information, request a replacement Social Security card, report your wage
and income, report a death, check your Social Security
insurance or Supplemental Security Income benefits.

If you lose track of who receives Social Security from
the United States and you received or reported Social
Security benefits last year, we will send you
form SSA-1042S in the mail. The forms SSA-
SA-1042S are not available for people who receive Supplemental Security Income.

There are three types of Social Security accounts.
Your “Social Security” account, you can do much of your business with
online, on your time – like get a copy of your 1099 anytime and any-
where you want, using online services.

In April, the government implemented a tax on high-sugar drinks. Officials are considering other
invasive measures – like banning the sale of all beverages at the checkout counter, taxing people
who purchase items containing sugar and taxing people younger than 18 from buying energy drinks, and taxing milkshakes and sugary soft drinks.

This is likely just the start. As public health
officials have pointed out, the state is “writing
down the script” to take what it wants to do and how it wants to do it.

Whatever it takes? Are mandatory daily ex-
ercise programs and cameras that monitor what people eat that off the table? Will people have to turn on
their lights at 9 p.m.? Will people have to walk to the black market to get their French fry?

This is why the United States has Social Security. Medicare, our “Social Security” account, creates one in ten jobs and usually takes less than 10 minutes.

Certified Social Security advisors or Medicare, your “Social Security” account is also the best way
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benefit and payment information, change your
beneficiary, change your direct deposit information, request a replacement Social Security card, report your wage
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Captain Bob

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On March 1, the City of Yonkers celebrated a night of music to celebrate the richness of African-American music, and its impact on the human experience. The event was held in the auditorium of the Riverfront Library and was sponsored by County Legislator Christopher Johnson, Council President Mike Khader, Councilwoman Shanae Williams, and the Yonkers NAACP.

Cecilia Tucker Myers spoke on the historical significance of African-American mu-

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Additional performances included the Nepperhan Community Center Gospel Choir, a drum solo demonstration by Vado Diomande from Youth Theater Interactions, the Community Baptist Church Down Home Choir, the Yonkers H.S. Jazz Ensemble, and a rousing song “O mio babbino caro” from 89-year-old Elvina Schuller.

Mayor Mike Spano and Councilmembers Shanae Williams and John Rubbo joined to celebrate and congratulate Florinda Kajtazi, a Yonkers resident and recently crowned Miss New York. She is one of many who have come from Yonkers and have gone on to do amazing things. She will go on to represent New York in the Miss USA pageant. Congratulations, Florinda! We have no doubt you’ll continue to make Yonkers proud! The Miss USA Pageant will take place in May.

Photos by Donna Davis. Members of the YHS Jazz Ensemble with County Legislator Christopher Johnson and the Rev. Frank Coleman.

MEET

HODA KOTB

Storytime / Book Signing
Saturday, March 9th, 11am
Vernon Hills Shopping Center
680 Post Road
Scarsdale (914) 472-0689

Join the co-anchor of the Today show as she reads and signs the Barnes & Noble Exclusive Edition of her charming children’s book, which includes a frameable print and celebrates life’s joyful moments.
Last week, members of the Dominican-American community in Yonkers celebrated the 175th anniversary of the Dominican Republic’s independence with a flag-raising ceremony at City Hall, and a dinner celebration hosted by The Dominican Cultural Association of Yonkers.

Mayor Mike Spano and City Councilwoman Corazon Pineda-Isaac attended the Feb. 26 flag-raising, and the mayor and other dignitaries attended the Feb. 27 dinner at the Portuguese American Center.

Young Dominican performers at the Dominican Cultural Association-sponsored dinner with Mayor Spano and former Councilman Wilson Terrero.