By Dan Murphy

As sports fans get ready for the National Collegiate Athletic Association college basketball tournament known as March Madness, residents will have a chance to participate in our own St. Patrick’s Day parade on McLean Avenue.

This Saturday is the 59th annual Yonkers Saint Patrick’s Day parade. Last week City Council President Liam McLaughlin held a St. Patrick’s Day event in the council chambers, where he was joined by members of the Yonkers City Council. The event was open to the public, and attendees were treated to music, dance, and traditional Irish food. In addition, Mayor Mike Spano welcomed new students to YPIE Ridge Hill Academy, held at WESTMED at Ridge Hill, last week.

Mayor Mike Spano welcomes new students to YPIE Ridge Hill Academy, held at WESTMED at Ridge Hill, last week.

Last week marked the start of the third season of Ridge Hill Academy, an innovative partnership between Yonkers Partners in Education and Forest City Ratner Companies that represents an investment in the future of the young people of Yonkers.

This year, the YPIE Academy has launched its third season with a special event for local high school students who will participate in the 3rd season workshops. This event was held at Ridge Hill Academy.

Community Efforts Make Lincoln's ESL Center Possible

The new Lincoln High School English as a Second Language Center was recently opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony that was attended by Yonkers Board of Education President Dr. Nadir Sayegh, Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Vivani, board trustees and district officials, as well as Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, additional city leaders and representatives from Yonkers Community Partners and New York Life Foundation.

Sponsored by JC Penney in conjunction with The NFL, the center is designed to address the growing need of Yonkers to provide its high school students with the essential tools they need to succeed in college and the workplace.

Continued on Page 8
The screening will be followed by a lively discussion of "Latino Americans: Prejudice and Pride," on Saturday, March 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Yonkers Public Library. For more information, call 914-375-1100.

A bargain book sale will take place Saturday, March 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Yonkers Public Library. Carry any wish list regarding the development of the proud Chicano identity, as labor leaders organize farm workers in California, or the traditional Irish toast shared by all the attendants.

Five Star Premiere Residences kicked off its St. Patrick’s Day celebration with a traditional Irish breakfast for more than 65 health care professionals in the area, on Friday, March 14 in the Community Room on the second floor. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Yonkers Public Library. For more information, call 914-375-1100.

Mrs. O’Mara School of Irish Dance and the Irish Breakfast, on Friday, March 14 in the Community Room on the second floor. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Yonkers Public Library. For more information, call 914-375-1100.

Mayor Mike Spano called for Board Of Education Applications. The mayor’s Education Redesign Team will conduct a search for submissions to fill two upcoming vacancies with the city’s Board of Education. He is asking interested applicants to apply online at www.yonkersny.gov. The mayor’s Education Redesign Team will serve as a blue ribbon panel and review all candidates, the team will gather a list of qualified applicants and provide to the mayor, who will then appoint the new board members. The Board of Education vacancies come as the result of Alma Hernandez and her small business, “The Wedge.”

The Wedge Sandwich Shop, located at 28 Warburton Ave., offers a variety of specialty sandwiches, breakfast and lunch items, as well as daily specials.

Alma Hernandez and her small business, “The Wedge,” was welcomed to Yonkers last week by Mayor Mike Spano, the Yonkers downtown BID, and members of the City Council. Located at 28 Warburton Ave., the Wedge provides a variety of specialty sandwiches, breakfast and lunch items, as well as daily specials.

Mayor Mike Spano cut the ribbon for the Wedge Sandwich Shop at 28 Warburton Ave.

The Wedge offers specialty sandwiches in Downtown Yonkers. The mayor’s Education Redesign Team will conduct a search for submissions to fill two upcoming vacancies with the city’s Board of Education. He is asking interested applicants to apply online at www.yonkersny.gov. The mayor’s Education Redesign Team will serve as a blue ribbon panel and review all candidates, the team will gather a list of qualified applicants and provide to the mayor, who will then appoint the new board members. The Board of Education vacancies come as the result of Alma Hernandez and her small business, “The Wedge.”
This, too, is Tad
Bit Insane Yonkers

By Eric W. Schoen

The powers that be need to put some plans down...
On Saturday, April 19, from 2 to 4 p.m., Sophia McCarrick, executive director of the Yonkers Historical Society, will discuss her new book, "The Yonkers Rise: A Salute to Jerry Herman," and sign copies of her latest work. McCarrick will also offer a sneak peek into the Old Stone Mill’s new exhibit, "How Yonkers #Livewestchester," which opens May 1.

For more information, call 914-374-4700.
Spano to Make State of the City Address April 9

Mayor Mike Spano to Address the City April 9

The Yonkers Chamber of Commerce will host its 22nd Annual Women of Excellence Luncheon on Wednesday, March 26 at The Radisson in Downtown Yonkers. The distinguished winners for 2014 include: Edward A. Hymowitz, executive director of the Access Insurance Agency, who will be receiving the Entrepreneur Award; Shravan Kumar, president and chief executive officer of Yonkers Family YWCA, who will be receiving the Public Service Award; and Soorkia Tarjani, executive director of the Thomas J. Coury Arts Center, who will be receiving the Thomas J. Coury Award.

The event begins at 11 a.m., and lunch begins promptly at noon. The cost is $57 per person.

Women of Excellence to Be Honored at Luncheon

The Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra will present its annual Spring Gala concert for the 2013-14 season Sunday, March 23 at 3 p.m. at Sadler Hall on the campus of the College of New Rochelle.

The concert will feature the world premiere of composer-choreographer Diane Paulus’ new work, "Walk the Dogs: A Carnival of Dreams.” The orchestra will be joined by members of the Dancesisters Project, a new incubator for contemporary dance companies in the New York metropolitan area. The 15-piece dance troupe of the Dancesisters Project will perform a new work created by professional dancer Tina Nuttall. The work, titled "The Hidden," will be performed at the concert.

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Ammir Rabadi, MD, Medical Director at Saint Joseph Medical Center, said that the facility will participate in the October 22nd National Kidney Foundation’s “Kidney Walk” in Yonkers. It will take place at 5 p.m. at the 17 Riverdale Ave.

"Stop by for a tour, a swim, an exercise class, sports demonstrations, raffle prizes, children's activities, and diabetes information," said the website. "It's open to all ages, so bring your family and participate in the activities.

The event is part of Saint Joseph’s outreach effort to inform the community about ways to prevent heart disease and diabetes, and to live healthier lives," said Catherine Rink, RN, Yonkers Medical Center’s director of marketing.

"We are encouraged to see the participation of our community to the ‘Kidney Walk’ and the awareness it brings," said Rink. "We encourage people to participate in the ‘Kidney Walk’ as a step to healthier living."

Get a grip on arthritis and the pain associated with this common joint disorder Friday, April 4 at The Westchester in White Plains as part of the Fit Mall Walk program. Dr. Guadalupe Gutierrez, a rheumatologist in White Plains will discuss arthritis and un-derstand how to relieve the pain associated with handling arthritis pain. A massage chair will be available for those who require it. For more information, go to www.westch.com or call 914-231-4645.
The Yonkers Animal Shelter has a number of pets available for adoption. Ace is a mixed breed about two years old, and weighs about 45 pounds but can live about 10 more. However, he is stressed by other dogs and needs to live with owners who are patient with him. He also needs to look at the window. He would be fine as a family pet if he could have a fenced yard (due to the energy level), and would love a house with a yard where he could chase a ball or a frisbee. He is neutered and house trained, and can be visited at the Yonkers Animal Shelter.

The Yonkers Animal Shelter is a refuge for homeless and abandoned pets, and is always in need of new adopters. If you are interested in adopting a pet from the Yonkers Animal Shelter, please contact them directly for more information.

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A lawsuit filed by the leaders of the Westchester Independence Party claims that their party's 2013-14 and 2014-15 platforms were diluted by thousands of new members, who were not properly vetted, in order to benefit those who were trying to "pump and dump" the party. The lawsuit argues that the party's platform was being infiltrated by supporters of the Westchester Republican Party, and that the party's leaders were attempting to "sabotage" the party by approving new members who were not properly screened.

The lawsuit claims that the party's leaders were trying to "pump and dump" the party in order to benefit their own political ambitions. The party's leaders, who are members of the Westchester Republican Party, have been accused of attempting to "pump and dump" the party in order to benefit their own political ambitions.

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By Robert Kalfus

Members of the Lincoln Park Jewish Center and the wider community recently joined in celebrating the holiday of Purim, which began at sunset Saturday, March 15.

Jews traditionally celebrate the holiday in costume, and Rabbi Rigoberto Emmanuel Viñas, who selected “medieval” as this year’s theme, appeared as one of the Three Musketeers. Maid Marion, Robin Hood and assorted wizards, jesters, knights, princesses and grand viziers could all be seen listening intently to the reading of the megillah – the entire Purim story, written on a scroll, exactly as it was written thousands of years ago in the biblical Book of Esther.

Both Jewish and Persian history tell the story of Purim, which celebrates the day on which Queen Esther thwarted Haman’s plan to exterminate all Jews. Haman was the wicked second-in-command to King Achashverosh, usually identified as Xerxes, who ruled over 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia during the fourth century BCE. Greek sources describe him as a powerful but temperamental and indecisive ruler, inordinately influenced by his principal advisors and given to excesses of wine.

The megillah describes the confrontation between two ancient enemies: Haman, a descendant of Agog, King of the Amalekites, who plots to exterminate all Jews – young, old, men, women and children due to his feeling disrespected by Mordecai, a descendant of King Saul, leader of the Hebrew nation.

King Achashverosh, unaware that Esther is Mordecai’s adopted daughter, chooses her to be his queen. This places her in a position to inform the king of Haman’s false accusations against his loyal Jewish subjects.

Haman’s plans to exterminate the Jews boomerang when the king orders him hanged from the very gallows he had erected for Mordecai.

Following the megillah reading, a joyous party was enjoyed by all, with a juggler, musical entertainment and swordplay re-enacted by Medieval Scenarios and Recreations, using actual armor, helmets and swords several centuries old. Children and teens using wooden swords and maces were encouraged to try their battle skills against the armored knights, who defend themselves with short knives and shields.

Gemstone Catering served hearty food medieval style, and pitchers of strong ale and wine were also enjoyed.

Photos © 2014 Robert Kalfus

Mayor Mike Spano
City of Yonkers
Central Committee of Veterans Organizations & Department of Veterans Services

Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day

March 29, 2014
11:00 a.m.
Washington Park Veterans Memorial
40 South Broadway
Yonkers, NY

"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another..."
The career-exploration program, funded by Forest City Ratner as part of a $100,000 grant to YPIE, teaches participating Yonkers Public School students about managing careers in the shopping center retail industry, including retail and restaurant management, health care, professional skills and education, and public relations and marketing. The initiative is built on YPIE’s commitment to provide students with the information and tools they need to launch into college and career paths that will result in a fulfilling and stable future.

“The Ridge Hill Academy is a shining example of how public and private partnerships can result in the vital growth of our students and communities,” said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. “I applaud Forest City Ratner and YPIE Partners in Education for this innovative effort in providing our Yonkers public students with the real-life experience needed to assist them in making educated decisions about college and beyond.”

YPIE’s mission is to increase the number of Yonkers Public School students who complete a post-secondary program that prepares them for a successful career. YPIE partners with the Yonkers Public School District, business and philanthropic communities, and higher education institutions offering a wide range of programs to students and families in Yonkers.

YPIE’s Ridge Hill Academy is one of the few programs designed for sophomores and juniors to learn about the opportunities in the retail and shopping center industry, as well as the professional skills and educational requirements needed to succeed in business. RH Academy requires an application process and students are accepted from a variety of local high schools.

Each week of the 10-week program will focus on a different area of retail and shopping center management.

Speaking to the incoming class of students, two recent graduates spoke of their experience:

“ar out to walk to the shopping center every week with some new knowledge.”

“Not only did this program educate me about businesses, it helped improve my inner confidence,” added Imari Stanton, a junior at Lincoln High School.

In addition to learning from FCRC and operational partners (Whole Foods, AMUSE, Westfield, Saks, Forever 21, Curitas USA, Lazar, LAZ, and H&M) about areas like marketing, retail center security, parking traffic and maintenance, students will meet with management professionals at partner organizations like T.J. Maxx (retail management), Forever’s Goodie Shop (food retail operations), the Chelsea Craft Factory (restaurant management), WESTMED (medical center management), and National Amusements’ Showcare Cinema de Lux (theater management). Whole Foods will also be acting as “snack sponsor.”

“We are very excited with the feedback we have gotten from the graduates of the first two sessions,” said Executive Vice President and Director of Retail Development for FCRC Kathryn Welch. “The students seem to agree this is a unique experience that generates many thoughts about the variety of career opportunities available to them and the training they need to pursue those careers. The Ridge Hill Academy is building on what Yonkers Partners in Education is already doing to help students prepare for life after high school.”

The 10-week program will enable participants to rotate among vendors and retail establishments at Ridge Hill to learn about various careers and the educational paths needed to get there. They will also participate in a series of job readiness and skill-building workshops focused on resume writing, interviewing and workplace etiquette.

Each academy graduate will be awarded a certificate indicating that they successfully completed the program, and will have an opportunity to apply for summer internships and jobs.

“Yonkers Partners in Education is grateful to Forest City Ratner and Ridge Hill for their commitment to the students of Yonkers and the continuation of the Ridge Hill Academy,” said Wendy Nadel, executive director for YPIE. “Bringing students out of the classroom and introducing them to successful adults in a real, hands-on way for young people to explore retail and management careers and the academic preparation required to succeed.”

For more information, visit YPIE online at www.ypie.org, or go to www.ridgelanding.com.