Yonkers is Ready for St. Patrick's Day Parade

By Dan Murphy
When 500 students walk into a room, there's usually a lot of commotion and chatter going on. But on this occasion, last week, all of the students from the two or three elementary schools, in Yonkers were respected and quietly listening to the guest speaker as they entered the Lincoln Park Jewish Center, also in Yonkers.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, where about 1.5 million people — mostly Jews — were killed. Those in attendance March 20 had the honor of listening to Auschwitz and Holocaust survivor Judy Altman tell her horrific story of death and survival.

Continued on Page 8

Auschwitz Survivor Provides Students With Life Lessons

By Dan Murphy
L-R: Katie Murphy, Council President Mike Khader, guest speaker and Holocaust survivor Judy Altman, and Jessica Ludin-Kirschner, senior director at JCY-Westchester Community Partners.

In an effort to provide a safe and secure environment for students and staff, in all 39 schools to express their opinions, VPS created a "walk-in" for students to gather to discuss 12 and their parents and guardians to participate, and speak out, inside their schools.

Continued on Page 9

Yonkers Students ‘Walk-In’ to Speak Out Against Gun Violence

By Dan Murphy
Mayor Mike Spano delivered his seventh State of the City address last week at the Yonkers Riverfront Library. In his address, the mayor outlined the positive accomplishments for the city over the past year, but warned about future budgetary issues that could hold back the city’s continued progress.

"Yes invokes feelings of change, renewal, accomplishment and optimism," continued Spano. "We have changed the discourse in our city. The days of Yonkers being dismissed are behind us. Now, the State of Yonkers is a feeling — a feeling of transformation, a feeling of arrival, a feeling of fulfilled promises.”

Education
"We know Yonkers is a great place to raise a family, and plenty of other people know it, too, because not only are our schools adding students every year, but they grow in achievement, as well," said Spano. "In 2012, the Yonkers Public Schools graduation rate was just 57 percent. Over the last six years, our graduation rates have improved by double digits, from 72 percent to 86 percent. For the first time in a big district, we have exceeded New

Continued on Page 8

Pinion Announces for Assembly; Murtagh Considers Run

By Dan Murphy
Yonkers resident and business owner Joe Pinion announced his candidacy for Assembly, while former Councilman John Murtagh is considering a run.

Continued on Page 8

Killian’s Challenge: To Surf The Blue Wave in Westchester

By Dan Murphy
Mayor Mike Spano walks into the Riverfront Library for his State of the City address.

Killian, a former Bye City Councilwoman, ran two years ago for this same senate seat, losing to Latimer by a 56 percent to 44 percent margin in a presidential election year. Killian recently opened a campaign office in Fishers to get her message out, which is that "Westchester families care about the future of our state — from education to economy to taxes — and I’ve got a plan for the future."

Continued on Page 8

Vol 112 Number 12
www.RisingMediaGroup.com
Friday, March 23, 2018

Yonkers Public School students at City Hall join the nationwide protest against gun violence in schools. Photo by Maurice Mercado.

Yonkers Public Schools and its students participated in National School Walkout Day by participating in a “Walk-in” day in schools throughout the district March 14 to remember the 17 lost during a shooting at a high school in Parkland, Fla., and to speak out for common-sense gun legislation and school safety.

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Continued on Page 7
A Mural for South Broadway

Mayor Mike Spano, joined by elected officials, educators, MIK members and SBBD members, cuts the ribbon on the new mural in the Radford Street parking lot.

On March 15 in the Radford Parking Lot of southeast Yonkers, a bright colorful mural was dedicated, thanks to a continued partnership between the South Broadway Business Improvement District, Yonkers Public Schools and the City of Yonkers.

The new mural was created by Yonkers artist Evan Bishop, with the help and support of My Brothers Keeper and Yonkers Basics. Mayor Mike Spano joined in the ribbon cutting for the mural and gave proclamations to the artist and to YPS Deputy Superintendent Andrea Cocklin.

Many other officials were in attendance, including YPS Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quinones, YPS Board of Education President the Rev. Steve Lopez, County Legislators Virginia Perez and Christopher Johnson, Council Majority Leader Michael Sabatino, SBBD Chairman Dennis Monasebian, Vice President Rick Lowell, member Martin Ruiz Jr., Executive Director Karel Littman, executives and members of the My Brothers Keeper, and members of the Yonkers Basics Advisory.

Hudson River Museum launched a unique evening series celebrating art, science and music. HRM After Dark is geared toward 21- to 39-year-olds with a dance party featuring DJ NoodleZ, craft beer, light hors-d’oeuvres, cosmic travel with shows in the planetarium, mixed gallery scenes and more. Tickets are $35 for HRM members or $40 for non-members and includes two drinks. All guests must be 21 and older; valid ID required for entry.

Proceeds from HRMAfterDark will support educational programs and exhibits at the museum.

“The Hudson River Museum embraces diverse voices and artistic and scientific discovery,” said Director Masha Turchinsky. “We’re thrilled to launch HRMAfterDark, a new series that is as fresh, creative, and social as this dynamic generation of culture seekers we’re seeing in the community.”

The inaugural event was held in January, and additional events will be held in April and October.

Why not extend your stay? Visit mymohegansun.com to view your hotel rates.
Mayer Secures $250K for School for Special Children

Eric Schoen with Congresswoman Elise Engil and WQEX Chairman Bill O'Laughness at a St. Patrick’s Day celebration in New Rochelle.

Assembly member Shelley Mayer announced recently that the Westchester School for Special Children has been awarded $250,000 from the New York State Assembly to provide for the installation of an Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant elevator at the school, which serves children with special needs. Currently, the three-story building housing the school does not have an A.D.A.-compliant elevator, even though many of the school’s students are wheelchair users.

“I am glad to be able to assist the Westchester School for Special Children with a $250,000 state grant that will be used to make all three levels of the school building accessible with an A.D.A.-compliant elevator that will allow students and faculty to access all three levels of the school building,” said Mayer.

“In addition to the funding to increase accessibility, the school now offers music therapy for twice a week. I am proud to be able to assist the school and the students it serves. Throughout my tenure in the Legislature, particularly during my time as chair of the Assembly’s Education Committee’s Subcommittee on Students with Special Needs, I have been instrumental in getting legislation passed and funding secured for students twice a week. I am proud to be working closely with the school’s students are wheelchair users.”

Assemblymember Shelley Mayer has fought tirelessly for children and adults with special needs,” said Leonard Spano, executive director of the Westchester School for Special Children.

“She is a known advocate for the children of the Westchester School for Special Children. Whether it’s additional funding, equipment, or laws protecting our children, Assemblymember Mayer always gets to the ultimate question at hand and times.”

The Westchester School for Special Children provides educational and therapeutic services to students from age 3 to 21 with the classifications of autism, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, and preschoold students with a disability. According to each student’s individualized education plan, the school provides occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language therapy, and psychological counseling for the students, in addition to a special emphasis placed on functional academics, daily living skills, socialization, and pre-vocational skills.

The special education school is housed in a multi-level building with three levels that are not currently accessible to students and staff who are non-ambulatory (unable to walk without the help of another person or object).

The recent press conference also included an announcement of a separate $5,000 state grant, also secured by Mayer for the Westchester School for Special Children, to be used for a music therapy program which will work with students twice a week. The new program will be run in partnership with the non-profit Flamingo, which operates creative arts therapy programs for individuals with special needs. Music therapy has been found to be effective at promoting self-expression, self-regulation, socialization, and social interaction, as well as positively influencing emotion.

The Westchester School for Special Children serves approximately 255 students with special needs. For more information, visit www.westschoolnyc.org.

The Little People Get Screwed Again

By Eric Schoen

A fee for plastic bags at supermarkets, small grocery stores and bodegas will take effect today. The $0.15 per bag fee at the register is expected to raise $250,000 at the Board of Education. Yes, the little people get screwed again in Yonkers.

Plastic Bag Fee

As part of Mayor Mike Spano’s State of the City address, he included a 15 cent plastic bag “impact fee.” The proposal was presented to the City Council on Tuesday in a document that states “impact of regulation on business and individuals’ means.”

Gary, Aaron Casoni killed the fee in the New York City last year, which makes me wonder why the idea is being brought up in Yonkers. He did appoint a task force to study the issue, but New York City has not yet passed legislation aiming at its studies.

I have Fresh Direct and Postmates deliver groceries to their homes. The poor stay at supermarkets, and if they have no car, small grocery stores and bodegas and bagel shop in shopping carts or carry it home in plastic carry- out bags. They are the ones this proposal will hurt – as well as the bodega owners, some working 12, 16, 20 hour days to survive in a competitive environment.

I question why this proposal is on the table. Could it be to solicit campaign cash from the supermarket industry? Could it be that a specifically connected lobbying is waiting in the wings? Could it be just to increase the cost of business of small grocery stores, bodegas and other stores like that we call our neighbors?

Year ago my dad operated a small grocery store on Warburton Avenue before One Broadway and the fact that there have been other stores since my current name is to have a board of an organization called Westchester Food Merchants. They represented small grocery stores throughout Yonkers before supermarkets came to town. They would lobby the City and Council stop proposals like this that had an impact on their stores and customers.

Advice is the Step and Sleeps, Shoplifts and small bodegas own. Don’t get taken down by a lobbying firm that claims it has the power to stop this. You and your customers can do it on your own.

They haven’t come up with a reusable bag that doesn’t keep the odors of food placed in it other multiple times. Come up with a bag. Yonkers gives recycling bins to residents. Let the city give out reusable bags to those who can’t afford them. Have machines around town that give out the bags when customers return. Let customers or who use their plastic get a discount equivalent to what they would pay for a new one. Make store offers bags that don’t require special change.

Click to my lifetime this charade will end. IBeyond the scope for students but there is money for Yonkers from the state from Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway. Have you ever seen the parking lot at Empire less than full? Even at 2 A.M. on a weekday?

Yonkers Board of Education Budget Tango

Yes, boys and girls, it’s time once again for the Westchester Board of Education Budget Tango. The deficit gap this year: $46 million. And no headlines begin.

I’m almost embarrassed every summer when no matter which the mayor or is or who the superintendent of schools is right around Easter and Pass- over we learn of the budget deficit for the next year. Students from out of town read the column and say, “Again, Yonkers schools have budget problems?” And I tell them the Yonkers budget continues.

Men who will work with students twice a week. The new program will be run in partnership with the non-profit Flamingo, which operates creative arts therapy programs for individuals with special needs. Music therapy has been found to be effective at promoting self-expression, self-regulation, socialization, and social interaction, as well as positively influencing emotion.

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Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano recently an-
ounced that the city will host its fifth annual Yonkers Arts Weekend, a celebration of the thriving and diverse arts community in the City of Yonkers, on Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6.

Yonkers Arts Weekend will feature hund-
dreds of local, regional and international artists, sculptors, photographers, musicians, performing artists and sculptures in four of the city’s most exciting cultural hotspots. For the Downtown Yonkers Waterfront District, the Camp Mill Arts District, South Broadway and the Hudson River District.

“Yonkers has secured its reputation as an artistic hub in the region and we are so ex-
cited to share that with residents and visitors each year during Yonkers Arts Weekend,” said Spano. “Yonkers’ rich history, coupled with our thriving arts community, transforms the city, especially the historic waterfront district, into a walkable, arts-friendly destination.”

The city of Yonkers said they will provide free bus transportation that will shuttle visitors to each venue.

“Urban Studio Unbound Gallery in Yon-
kers is excited to be a part of the Yonkers Arts Weekend,” writes DiPaolo. “Since its inception in 2014, the event has grown to include not only the finest artworks but a number of wonderful events, as well. The 40x40-foot space that serves as the main hub in the downtown area will have multiple curated exhibitions, individual artist’s booths, and its signature installations sprawled across four floors. This year you can also read in the format of some of the New York City familiar faces, communicating the way in which this event has evolved.”

“We at the Hudson River Museum are 
keen to support the fifth annual Yonkers Arts Weekend,” added Marka Turcichny, director of the Hudson River Museum. “We invite everyone to be part of the creative expression this great citywide event offers. Admission fees to the museum are waived all weekend and we can’t wait to see you here.”


Questions Raised About School Bus Contracts in Yonkers

By Dan Murphy

The Yonkers Public Schools spends more than $115 million a year on the transportation of more than 30,000 students in YPS and the Catholic School District. YPS’ recent decision to contract with Service Bus Company, in addition to the fact that YPS has been the subject of multiple investigations over the past few years, has once again raised questions about the bus contracts.

“The highest number a company can receive on a number of factors, including the age of the busses, insurance, the costs of the vendors, the wages you have,” said DiPaolo. “They may give you a route anywhere in the city, or it may be for catholic school or a public school.”

ServBus, the company that has been awarded the contract for YPS, is a large corporation with multiple subsidiaries. The company has a history of providing substandard service and has been the subject of multiple investigations by the New York State Education Department and the Public Service Commission.

“We spoke to DiPaolo after the follow-up on his letter and he explained that the infor-
mation he is looking for includes the price the 
company has to pay for the buses, the age of the busses and how much the company is paying to lease the buses to the school district.”

The Hudson River Museum is excited to be a part of the Yonkers Arts Weekend.
The Lawyer's Desk: Elder Law – Your Life Planning

By John Buckley, Esq. (318-230-4549)

On This Day in Yonkers, History...

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Yonkers NAACP Meeting

The Yonkers NAACP Branch is an organization of colored people for the advancement of colored people. The Branch was established in Yonkers in 1920 with the support and encouragement of the NAACP. The Branch has a long history of fighting against discrimination and for civil rights for African Americans. In recent years, the Branch has focused on issues such as education, housing, and criminal justice reform.

The Branch has a membership of over 1,000 individuals and has a strong track record of successful projects. In the past, the Branch has fought against housing discrimination, secured fair housing practices, and lobbied for equal educational opportunities. The Branch has also been involved in the fight against police brutality and has called for the end of mass incarceration.

The Yonkers NAACP Meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 29, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at the Yonkers YMCA, 619 Ridgemount Avenue. The meeting will be open to the public and will feature guest speakers and discussions on current issues affecting the African American community.

For more information, please contact the Yonkers NAACP at 914-422-6633 or info@yonkersnaacp.org.
Notice of Real Estate Auction
By Order of the City of Yonkers

Notice is hereby given by the City of Yonkers (the “City”) of the public auction of real property listed below, which are located in Yonkers, NY.

The public auction will take place Friday April 6, 2018 beginning at 10am in the Yonkers Riverfront Library, Community Room AB, located at 221 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York.

The auction will be conducted in accordance with, and all bidders agree to be bound to, the terms and conditions of the auction and sale.

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Also selling the following properties:

For online bidding or to see complete terms and more information:
WilliamsAuction@Yonkers or call 800.801.8003.

Public Hearing Notice

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 5:30 pm, Mayor’s Reception Room, 2nd Floor, 41 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

A Local Law Amending the Code of the City of Yonkers by Adding a New Chapter 105 Entitled “Right of Way Management.”

Said hearing may be adjourned to time or date hereafter. Notice further, that persons desiring to be heard may be obtained at the City Clerk’s Office, 221 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York.

Mike Spanos, Mayor

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**Legal Notices**

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**Notice of Real Estate Auction**

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March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month

In 1967, President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation declaring the first week of March to be Developmental Disabilities Awareness Week. Today, March 21 is recognized as World Down Syndrome Day. This is a wonderful opportunity to work together to raise awareness about the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as the incredible contributions they make to our community.

For more information about the March campaign, visit www.nds.org or call 800-899-8488.

Upcoming Events At Sarah Lawrence College

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Killian's Challenge Continued From Page 1

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BRONXVILLE "Theatre Program Presents: Salome" will be premiering Oscar Wilde’s play, directed by Mekala Sridhar. The play will be performed at 8 p.m. Friday, April 6 and 2 p.m. Saturday, April 7 in the college’s auditorium. For ticket information, call 914-395-2412 or visit sarahlawrence.edu.
April 1, 1943: Yonkers lost the ruling by the State Appellate Division against us in an attempt to seize our school. The property owners of the property were new entitled to appeal the decision to the State "illegal disposition on the property.

March 29, 1945: The death March of Benno Altmann was finished, equipped with Osius elevators - manufactured by OTIS, the company that Benno Altmann had been a partner of in Yonkers. The death March was the last of the 188 women and 7 children who had been conscripted in a prison in 1940. Benno Altmann was the first part of Altmann's family to be murdered, and his death marked the beginning of a series of events that led to the liberation of Bergen Belsen.

For more information on the Yonkers Historical Society, please visit their website or contact them. If you are interested in learning more about the history of Yonkers, be sure to check out their annual events and programs.

Joe Pinion

Continued from Page 1

Joe Pinion currently sits on the board of the Dramatics Foundation in Yonkers, the non-profit that operates the Hudson Valley Rural Theatre in downtown Yonkers. The theatre was founded in 1917 and was one of the first black theatres in the country. Pinion has been involved with the theatre for over 20 years and is currently serving as its president.

Auschwitz Survivor

Continued from Page 1

Altmann, who was 95 years old at one time was one of the speakers in the JCY-Westchester Commu-

nity College's "Remember the Holocaust" program. "There's only a few of us left and we are the only generation that will tell the survivors," she told the students. "It's important for us to remember.

Altmann told the students that she was born in Czechoslovakia in the 1940s. She was 14 years old when her father was killed in a concentration camp. After the war, she went to Sweden and eventually came to the United States in 1948.

Until her 20s, Altmann lived in New York City. She said that she often went to the Yonkers public library to read about the Holocaust.

Upon arrival at the internment camp Auschwitz, Altmann was separated from her family. She was taken to the gas chambers and gassed to death. She would survive the Holocaust and later come to Yonkers to work for the community college.

Altmann is a Yonkers native and has been a part of the community since the 1970s. She is currently working on a memoir about her life in the United States.

Mary Spador

Continued from Page 1

Yonkers schools are one of the best in the country due to drastic cuts in after-school programs for the children we know choose the wrong path in life due to infrastructure crisis in Yonkers. Our students cannot wait. Stop spoon-feeding us. Our students cannot wait.

Economic Redevelopment

"In 2017, we continued to transform on nearly a monthly basis," said Yonkers Mayor Spano. "The opening of the Yonkers Performing Arts Center, the first of its kind in the city, will be one of the highlights of the year.

With all this activity here in Yonkers comes increased revenues and we've merged depart-

ments like San Francisco, Brooklyn and Manhattan.

Public Schools teacher Kaira Hassell spoke to the students in attendance and told them that they are fortunate to hear "living history" from someone who lived through the Holocaust.

"With all this activity here in Yonkers comes increased revenues and we've merged depart-


do others?" she asked. "These are the children who will live with survivors," she told the students. "It's important for us to remember.

Altmann's mother, a survivor of the Holocaust, told the students that she was one of the few survivors who had survived the war. She said that she was 14 years old when her father was killed in a concentration camp.

Altmann lost 24 members of her family at the age of 14, and she was forced to witness the death of her mother and other family members.

"I'm here to tell you that this is not out of my mouth, but out of my heart," Altmann said. "I'm here to tell you that this is not out of my mouth, but out of my heart.

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Students at Saunders High school link arms to protest against gun violence.

Lincoln High School students and staff held a “walk-in” to join students across the country to remember the victims of Parkland H.S.

Dancers from the Flynn School of Irish Dancing gave a great performance. The concert was performed in memory of American-Irish activist Ira Goldman, who not only served as president of the American Irish Musicians Society but also was a former board member of the Untermyer Performing Arts Council.

For more information on upcoming events, visit www.untermyer.com.

Did you lose power for three days or more? Con Edison announced that it will be providing food and medicine reimbursements for those who were affected by recent nor'easters that hit the region. To complete a reimbursement form, visit www.coned.com/en/services-and-outages/claim-form.

Con Edison said they would reimburse customers if they lost power for three consecutive days or more during the two nor-easters that struck Yonkers. Customers may receive reimbursements of up to $225, or up to $515 with receipts. Business owners are eligible for food spoilage reimbursements of up to $10,200 with receipts.

"While recognizing the efforts of thousands of employees and mutual aid workers to restore power safely to more than 200,000 customers, the company has acknowledged that it was unable to provide reliable restoration times for many customers," said Con Ed in a statement.

Last week, Mayor Mike Spano criticized Con Ed for the lack of a quick response to power outages in Yonkers and called for refunds for its Yonkers customers, some of who lost power for more than a week. "Besides the inconvenience, people spend hard-earned dollars because Con Ed wasn't properly prepared," he said. "A modest penalty and repayment for services not delivered is only fair.”