Yonkers ‘Blessed’ for St. Patrick’s Day Parade

Mayor Mike Spano delivered his sixth State of the City address Wednesday at the Riverfront Library, which was broadcast to the city on Yonkers TV and to the county on News 12. Spano used the opportunity to tout the city’s achievements under his administration, and called for the city – or Yonkers the “family” – to remain respectful and united as it seeks the rebuilding to rebuild Yonkers Public Schools.

“Yonkers is a family that we will never forget, and he gave a lasting memory to thousands.”

Despite a really cold day with snow, His Eminence blessed every child on the route,” said Parade Co-Chairperson Enid O’Marra. “He made people laugh and smile and warmed their hearts on a chilly day. It was truly heartwarming to be in his presence, and while it slowed the parade, it raised up faith and our already strong sense of community. The Mayor was a blessing to attend, the parade was an honor to march in, and from all the postings I see, the celebrations with friends and families continued long after the cardinal left Rory Dolan’s Restaurant, Bar and Caterers, without even eating as he spent his time taking photos and blessing the crowd of 100 people who enjoyed listening to the Megilla reading, eating a Mexican buffet dinner, and making tambourines. In addition, children enjoyed making Hamentashen, and a live mariachi band. In 1987, Quiñones was employed in the Family Court Bench. From 1992 through 1995, the judge accepted a promotion to upper management of New York City’s Human Resources Administration, where he was given the responsibility of managing the work of HRA’s Family Court Division, including all areas that impacted HRA’s families, in order to help assure that families were being afforded all the assistance that was available via the HRA’s Resources Administration.

In 1996, Quiñones was appointed to a position as a Family Court Magistrate resolving paternity and custody cases. To help protect the most vulnerable members of society – our children. He said the work was “heart-rending, but among the most important work” he’s done in his 30-year career. Quiñones was born in Manhattan and was raised in the Bronx by a single mother who being of modest means and circumstances, above all, a mother who worked hard to provide for her family.

Additional photos are on pages 9 and 10

Dr. Seuss Lives on In Yonkers Schools

Students from Ms. Henry’s fifth-grade class at Eugenio Maria De Hostos Microsociety School welcome one of the many dignitaries that came to the school to hear their favorite children’s book as part of Read Across America Day.

Chabad of Yonkers hosted a Mexican-themed Grand Purim Fiesta this year, which drew a crowd of 100 people for the enjoyed listening to the Megilla reading, eating a Mexican buffet dinner, and drinking Tequila. The fun got started with the Hamentashen Bake-Off, where participants brought their best Hamentashen to the Chabad of Yonkers. The first place winner was the Chabad of Yonkers, who won the competition with their cholent. For more information on the Chabad of Yonkers, visit www.Jewishyorkers.com.

Jewish Holiday of Purim Celebrated in Yonkers

Mayor Mike Spano gave his sixth State of the City address Wednesday.

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www.RisingMediaGroup.com

WESTCHESTER’S OLDEST AND MOST RESPECTED NEWSPAPERS

YONKERS RISING

Yonkers City Court Judge Tom Quiñones will seek to make history again in his run for Family Court this November.

Spaso Leads Yonkers Forward In 6th State of City Address

Additional photos are on pages 8 and 9

Judges Quiñones Seeks Seat On Family Court Bench

With 30 years of Family Court experience, Yonkers City Court Judge Tom Quiñones is seeking to finish out his career where it began, and is running for election to the Westchester Family Court. This November, he’s hoping to succeed ousted Supreme Court Justice Janet Malone who is retiring from the bench.

In 1987, Quiñones was employed in the Family Court as a child abuse and maltreatment prosecutor, to help protect the most vulnerable members of society – our children. He said the work was “heart-rending, but among the most important work” he’s done in his 30-year career. Quiñones was born in Manhattan and was raised in the Bronx by a single mother who being of modest means and circumstances, above all, a mother who worked hard to provide for her family.

In 1996, Quiñones was appointed to a position as a Family Court Magistrate resolving paternity and custody cases. To help protect the most vulnerable members of society – our children. He said the work was “heart-rending, but among the most important work” he’s done in his 30-year career. Quiñones was born in Manhattan and was raised in the Bronx by a single mother who being of modest means and circumstances, above all, a mother who worked hard to provide for her family.

Mayor Mike Spano, Cardinal Timothy Dolan and County Executive Rob Astorino cut the first piece of concrete to celebrate that rich heritage and Irish culture. All nationalities and generations to join together – even on a chilly day, and the pipers played and piped away without ceasing.

By Kevin Fitzgerald.

The Holy Spirit can be seen in Dolan, who is joyous, energetic, unassuming and loving toward everyone. He blessed children, chatted with parents, met with veterans, and welcomed everyone. He was a gift to Yonkers that we will never forget, and he gave a lasting memory to thousands.

Mayor Mike Spano, Cardinal Timothy Dolan and Council President Liam McLaughlin. Photo by Kevin Fitzgerald.

The grand marshal of this year’s parade was Cardinal Timothy Dolan, which put this parade on the top of the list. Beloved by everyone both marching and watching the parade, Dolan did not disappoint – visiting, blessing, shaking hands and gabbing it up with every person who wanted a minute.

Yonkers is ‘Blessed’ for St. Patrick’s Day Parade

Mayor Mike Spano, Cardinal Timothy Dolan and Council President Liam McLaughlin. Photo by Kevin Fitzgerald.

Cardinal Dolan stops to greet a family and bless a young child, as the parade stops. Photo by Kevin Fitzgerald.

Spaso Leads Yonkers Forward In 6th State of City Address

By Dan Murphy

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Dr. Seuss Lives on In Yonkers Schools

Additional photos are on pages 9 and 10

Dr. Seuss Lives on In Yonkers Schools

Dr. Seuss Lives on In Yonkers Schools

Teacher Susan Giraldo, more commonly known as Dr. Seuss, was born March 2, 1904, and his legacy and commitment to youth literacy live on to this day and are celebrated annually in Yonkers around his birthday. Yonkers Public Schools continued its Read Across America Day.

President Barack Obama, March 9, 2009, said, “We are gathered here today to celebrate the rich heritage and Irish culture. All nationalities and generations to join together – even on a chilly day, and the pipers played and piped away without ceasing.

Mayor Mike Spano gave his sixth State of the City address Wednesday.

Spaso Leads Yonkers Forward In 6th State of City Address

Mayor Mike Spano, Cardinal Timothy Dolan and Council President Liam McLaughlin. Photo by Kevin Fitzgerald.

Cardinal Dolan stops to greet a family and bless a young child, as the parade stops. Photo by Kevin Fitzgerald.

Spaso Leads Yonkers Forward In 6th State of City Address

Spaso Leads Yonkers Forward In 6th State of City Address

The 52nd annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade on McLean Avenue on March 18 may have been the best ever. The crowds were large – even on a chilly day, and the pipers played and danced put on a show as everyone in Yonkers was “like a day.” It was a day for people of all nationalities and generations to join together to celebrate that rich heritage and Irish culture.

By Kevin Fitzgerald.

In 6th State of City Address

Mayor Mike Spano, Cardinal Timothy Dolan and Council President Liam McLaughlin. Photo by Kevin Fitzgerald.

Cardinal Dolan stops to greet a family and bless a young child, as the parade stops. Photo by Kevin Fitzgerald.

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School 9 is February School of the Month

Take a look at Barbara Segal’s works at Philipse Manor this weekend.”

By John Bruton

Yonkers Arts will host a networking event Saturday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. in historic Philipse Manor Hall, located at 29 Warburton Ave., featuring a speaking engagement by internationally-recognized Yonkers-based artist Barbara Segal, who will provide an insight to her life and career in the arts and discuss the tools, techniques and inspiration for her unique sculptures.

Segal began her career studying and practicing her interest in sculpture abroad in France and Italy. The European Renaissance and Baroque master work she encountered in those environments, particularly the serene volumes and pat- terns, heavily influenced her development as an artist and current work. Today, she creates pop and illusion art-sculptures such as life-looking dummies and pin-ups, in rare and exquisite stones, merging traditional sculptural techniques with modern tech- nologies.

Segal’s work can be found in notable perma- nent collections including Neuberger Museum, the White House, and private collections including Leslie Wexner of Unlimited, Malcolm Forbes, and many others.

This Yonkers Arts-hosted event is the first in a series of planned networking events hosted by Yonkers Arts, featuring a guest speaker, intended to bring the Yonkers arts and cultural community together. This free event open to the public and all are welcome. Guests can expect to meet other individuals engaged in the vibrant and rapidly- growing arts community in Yonkers. Light refreshments will be available.

More information can be found on www.yon- kersarts.net, as well as the Yonkers Arts official fan page on Facebook. More about the artist can be found on www.barbarasegal.com.

International Film Series Explores ‘Monsters & Monstrosities’

A series of foreign monster films will dis- cerpplate the evening tranquility of Manhattanville College’s leafy campus over the next few weeks, during the school’s annual International Film Festival. The screenings are free and open to the public and start at 7 p.m. in the Berman Student Center Theatre:

Each film is followed by a group discussion with a Manhattanville faculty member as guide. “Through foreign films, we can travel into worlds other than our own,” said Nimish Adhia, assistant professor of economics. “This year’s festival theme ‘Monsters and Monstrosities’ was selected in order to align with this year’s fresh-
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‘Pat’s Labyrinth’ will be shown Monday, March 27. This 2007 Mexican film takes place in a Mexican ghost town called Patlachines, about which the bookish young daughter of a radical army offi- cer escapes into an elaborate fantasy world.

“The Host” will be shown Wednesday, March 29. In this 2009 South Korean film, a monster emerges from Seoul’s Han River and focuses its attention on attacking people. One victim’s loving family does its best to rescue her from its clutches.

“A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night” will be shown Tuesday, April 4. This 2014 U.S.-Iran- fiilm takes place in an Iranian ghost town called Bad City – a place that rocks of death and local- ness – with a vampire that stalks the town and its people.

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For more information, visit www.manhat- tton.edu.

Excellent Care, Close to Home

From the latest in imaging technology and cardiovascular treatment to mobile medical care for the whole-family, Saint Joseph’s offers the services you need in comfortable, convenient offices in the community:

Saint Joseph’s Cardiovascular Center 3209 Broadway Avenue, Yonkers, New York

We offer a full range of cardiovascular imaging services and are the only facility in the county to bring the latest in technology applications in comfortable exam rooms and physician offices. To make an appointment: (914) 308-7390

Saint Joseph’s Imaging @ Rye Brook 3050 Corlear Avenue, Bronx, New York

The latest in imaging technologies is available in a patient-centered care setting. MRI, digital mammography, ultrasonography and DSA. To make an appointment: (347) 842-2250

Saint Joseph’s Women’s Health Center 1531 Main Street, Yonkers, New York

Primary care for the whole-family is available by appointment. We offer all aspects of women’s health services in a patient-centered care environment.

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International Film Series Explores ‘Monsters & Monstrosities’

A series of foreign monster films will dis-"
There are a minimum of seven stops on each tour, and they include such spots as Katz’s Deli, Artichoke Pizza, Yonah Schimmel Knish Bakery, Manhattan’s Thalatta and Economy Candy.

“Dante leads such an entertaining and fun food tour that you will find reasons to go back and do it again and over and over,” said Port Chester resident John Colangelo-Bove, a recent customer. “The food is incredible and just a little taste of each step is perfect.”

The company also holds private tours for couples as well as corporate and team-building outings, compared from Minuteman to IBM. They have taken tours or two. Plans are under way for a third tour.

“Nice Guy Tours’ dedication and passion to grow, Mercadante finds solace knowing no matter what changes in the world, food will always remain the same. “As your leader and trusted servant, I will always be out there making sure your stomach dances while we walk and talk.”

Dante is available for interviews and as a “food expert” for trend stores. For more information, contact Jon Chattman at jon@niceguytours.com or visit https://www.theonions.com/touch/HUL-PLUG.html.

Eric W. Schoen

Airports

Airports can be a dangerous place if you think the security you pay on a ticket is keeping your kids to school eating cheese doodles and other junk food because they could not afford nutritious snacks or to prepare a wholesome breakfast in the morning and our parents bring their kids to school eating choice doughnuts and other junk food because they could not afford nutritious meals or to prepare a wholesome breakfast. You could bring your kids in his reporting had chutzpah and impudence.

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisyonkers@optonline.net, or via Twitter @ericyonkers. Catch the Westchester Rising Radio Show on Star 99.9 FM or on Twitter @wvxunot.<ref>

Friedman also accused me of “making up facts” that states have adopted after the Florida hanging chads debacle?

So why do I have the best readers? Ed Friedman’s letter in this past week really got me thinking. Friedman said, referencing me, “As the man who wants to “drain the swamp.”

So much chutzpah! So the Democratic administration, as this game has gone on for years

We must work to stop the security fee you pay on a ticket is keeping our airport.

Private tours for United States, New York State, which has responsibility to monitor and audit local civil services commissions, is completely counterintuitive and fails to fulfill responsibilities.

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We must work to stop the security fee you pay on a ticket is keeping our airport.
Dear Editor:

As cofounder of NYCD16Indivisible, I speak on behalf of our 2,000 local members and 15,000 members nationwide to bring attention to issues important to New York City District 16, as well as democratic freedoms. It is up to Trump to earn the respect of the public, not the other way around.

Liutenant Governor Kathy Hochul is a man of great integrity, in- deed. I thought his attacks on Liam McLaughlin were also attacks on all city leaders and elected of- ficials, including me. I am not sure what Mr. Khader means by 'institutionalized corruption.'

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced last week that the city will host in June annual Yonkers Arts Weekend, a celebration of the thriving and diverse community arts scene.

Registration Open for Children's Summer Camp

Registration is open for Westchester County Parks popular summer camp programs for children and families. The camps are being offered throughout the county.

Online registration is available at parks.westchester County.gov/ Ctrl/S Summer Camps.

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Letters to the Editor

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Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced last week that the city will host in June annual Yonkers Arts Weekend, a celebration of the thriving and diverse community arts scene.
The Hudson River Museum in Yonkers will host a number of exhibits, programs and activities this month.

On Sunday, March 26 at 1:30 p.m., bring your camera or cell phone and practice photography techniques with a local artist, Bill Hanlon, during "Take Photos, Take Home." Bill will discuss techniques for capturing memorable moments and "Take Photos, Take Home" documents the photographs taken during workshop. For more information, visit hudsonrivermuseum.org.

On Monday, March 27 at 6:30 p.m., join a moon party at the Hudson River Museum that features historic and contemporary music on racial justice and civil rights. Please note that the museum will be closed for a private event on March 30 for YPS Education Advocacy.

If you have questions or would like more information, please email us at info@hudsonrivermuseum.org or call 914-961-4940 and ask for石膏’s office. We look forward to seeing you this month.
MVP staff were on hand to provide educational information and a gift bag of essential items to expecting parents and new parents at the recent community baby shower.

MVP Health Care, in collaboration with the Yonkers YMCA, Lower Hudson Petunia, Planned Parenthood Hudson Valley, Ards-Children’s Center, HILL Community Care specifically for women of color, the Yonkers Housing Authority (YHA) and New York Hall, hosted a community baby shower for about 50 expecting parents. The event was one of several similar events for MVP members younger than two months old March 13 at Yonkers Riverfront Library.

The event included educational presentations on topics like baby care, lactation, breastfeeding and nutrition. In addition, participants were given a gift bag of baby essentials, including diapers, wipes, bibs, onesies and more provided by the collaborator.

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

The purpose of the event was to ensure that parents are equipped to provide their babies with a good start in life, by providing them with education, resources and information to meet their child’s needs.

MVP Health Care is a nationally recognized, community-focused not-for-profit health insurer serving more than 1.2 million members in New York. For more information, visit www.myvphcare.org.

How Healthy is the Long Island Sound?

Much of the local community sits on the shore of Long Island Sound. As beautiful as it is, it is also fragile. How can we protect it? And how is it? On Thursday, March 23, 2017, the Connecticut Fund for the Environment and its program Save the Sound presented “What is Being Done to Clean Up the Sound and How Can We Be Working?” to the Yonkers community.

The Sound is Long Island’s greatest asset. It serves as the nurseries for the current and future health of the Sound is excess nutrients, primarily nitrogen, entering the water from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, fossil fuel burning and fertilizer use. High nitrogen loads can over-fertilize coastal waters, causing the growth of excess seaweed and phytoplankton. Oxygen is consumed as these plants die and decompose – in some cases causing a perceived low oxygen condition, called “hypoxia.”

In suburban Long Island, lead in fish shells, harmful algae blooms, loss of coastal纳iles, and decreased ocean acidification, which is harmful to all fish.

In response to the threat from excess nutrients, over the past decade, communities around the Sound have made a substantial investment in nutrient removal at wastewater treatment plants in New York and Connecticut, as well as an investment in the recovery of the Sound through water quality monitoring. The good news is that these investments appear to be working. Dissolved oxygen levels have generally improved in the western Sound over the past decade, but there is still work to be done.

This program will provide information about what is being done to clean up the Sound and how communities can be involved.

The event is free and open to the public. It will take place April 5 at 7 p.m. at Sloan Hall, 615 Hombrook Ave., Yonkers.

Sarah Colwell

Sarah Lawrence College

In March, a group of students, teachers and the leader Aimee Nezhukumatathil will be the latest featured panel in the John and Potter Brant Reading Series. Presented by the graduate writing program, the reading series is free and open to the public.

The award is named in honor of the long-time executive director of the Community Planning Council’s Social Service and Community Development programs. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the Long Island Sound and harbor.

On Thursday, March 23, 2017, 121 Larchmont Ave., Leanne Bloom will be assisted on a first-come, first-serve basis. No reservation is required for this free program. For more information, call 914-377-6464 and may be mailed to: Kelly Connecticut Sound, at NEA fellowship and the Pushcart Prize, an honor Americans (which includes many celebrities) now practice yoga, and it is strongly correlated with having a positive effect. Yoga was the inspiration of something basic in the human soul and psyche, said Zed.

According to U.S. National Institutes of Health, yoga may help one to feel more relaxed, be more flexible, improve posture, breathe easier, and get rid of stress. According to a 2016 “Yoga in America Study,” about 37 million Americans (which includes many celebrities) now practice yoga, and it is strongly correlated with having a positive effect. Yoga was the inspiration of something basic in the human soul and psyche, said Zed.

While the public can come to the Yonkers Riverfront Library for the free program, the reading is also available at the Community Planning Council’s annual meeting and luncheon Friday, May 19 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Horseshoe Restaurant.

The Yonkers Community Planning Council and The Connecticut Sound are seeking nominations for the 2017 Mary Hotten Community Service Award, which recognizes Yonkers residents of any age who have improved the life of others through their volunteer work.

The award is named in honor of the long-time executive director of the Community Planning Council’s Social Service and Community Development programs. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the Long Island Sound and harbor.

The Yonkers Animal Shelter has many pets needing homes.

When Clover, a pretty, well-behaved and smart young puppy, was only about 35 to 40 pounds, she got a big package of dog food. Clover knows how to open her package. Clover has been well socialized by a dedicated volunteer at the shelter. She loves to play ball and can run like the wind. She has nice leash and kennel manners and is a pleasure to walk on lead, say staff. She would make a great agility dog.

Clever is appropriate when walking around other dogs. Ever- so, she would do well as the only pet in your home with a well active person who takes long walks, or a family with a fenced-in yard for exercise. Clover should be on a six-foot leash and a great companion for a family. The Yonkers Animal Shelter has many pets needing homes.

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Clover Needs a Home

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It is going to mean enough to more and more communities in our shelters. We’ve worked with our shelter partners, and I vow now to continue to be vigilant.

Despite all that is happening, there are even more plans for the future. One of the most exciting developments is the proposed Yonkers Sports and Events Center at 1 Park Ave, which is the location of the former General Electric Factory. The center would be built over the footprint of 2,000,000 square feet

We have also acted to strengthen our public safety, which is a top priority – and we are doing so this spring, the Yonkers Police Department will increase its officers on the streets, and we are also going to arrest those who continue to walk and run over the law. We are on the look-out for those – they can give a little.

The traffic safety is a big problem on some of our major streets – Central Avenue in particular is a public safety issue, and I am happy to announce that yesterday afternoon a number of young vehicles from Yonkers... Our city’s finances continue to be a challenge, but I think we must head on this issue.

Both now give us a ‘rating with a notable condition’ and noted that the reduction in our cost of issuing bonds is due to the progress that is being made in the downtown waterfront and at J&M Markets. A new car pace will serve an array of key interests.

I must say, looking at this spring, the Yonkers Police Department will be much more aggressive.

Every day we have the determination it takes to keep moving forward and turn Yonkers into the safest city of our size in the nation. We have moved up from the third safest city to the second safest city of our size in the nation. We have made a lot of progress.

The immediate effect of these improved results is going to benefit the families and local businesses in this city.

The homeless, and I vow we will continue to be vigilant in our efforts to offer more humane conditions in our shelters. We’ve worked with our shelter partners, and I vow now to continue to be vigilant.

We must protect our correction officers, and I will continue to monitor the reforms we have done and will continue to do everything we can to prevent further violence within our correctional facility.

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We also recognize our responsibility to the education of children in the aftermath of the redistricting. In order to ensure that both the first day of school and the last day of school are as successful as possible, we will ensure the transition for all students.

Among our challenges are our aging sewer and water systems. Like you, as a homeowner, we don’t want to see your neighbors and laborers shut off your water to prevent any potential safety hazards.

We are going to propose that any institution with a program to provide job training and employment for a voluntary payment in lieu of taxes. We would also expand the program to cover those who would otherwise pay property taxes in the future. We have developed a new program that provides for a voluntary payment in lieu of taxes. We would also expand the program to cover those who would otherwise pay property taxes in the future. We have developed a new program that provides for a voluntary payment in lieu of taxes.

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Parade Co-Chairman Larry McCrudden gives Cardinal Dolan a shillelagh (walking stick).

Parade Co-Chairwoman Deidre O’Mara with dancers from the Deidre O’Mara School of Dance.

Marchers from across the northeast came to Yonkers, including the Ancient Order of Hibernians Pipes and Drums from Newport, R.I.

A non-partisan St. Patrick’s Day included, from left, County Legislator David Tubiolo, Councilman Mike Bruno, former Council President Chuck Lesnick, Patty Breen, Council Majority Leader John Larkin, Rye City Councilman Julie Killian, Congressman Eliot Engel, Councilwoman Corazon Pineda, Council President Liam McLaughlin, Council Minority Leader Michael Sabatino, Councilman Christopher Johnson.

Editor’s note: So many people work so hard to make this parade happen, but Kevin Fitzgerald and wife, Margaret make sure we never forget it. Thank you for all the beautiful photos. It is hard to take it all in throughout the day, but you make it possible to relive it over and over.

Parade Co-Chairman Larry McCrudden gives Cardinal Dolan a shillelagh (walking stick).

Photos by Kevin Fitzgerald

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Members of the Aisling Irish Community Center.

Cardinal Dolan, before Mass, receives the grand marshal sash from Pat Quinn, the 2016 grand marshal, at St. Barnabas Church.

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Yonkers is

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with the help of ‘Yonkers’ finest, who kept the crowds moving and in the right place without incident, including 5,000 marchers and at least 20,000 watchers. One note from the Newport, R.I. Ancient Order of Hibernians Pipes and Drums is a testament to how the committee has turned the parade into the gem it now is after only six years on McLean Avenue.

“Thank you to the parade committee and the merchants’ association on McClean Ave.,” said the pipers. “We come down from Newport, R.I. And love marching in the parade; the people along the Emerald Mile make it worth the ride! Fantastic uplifting support! The marshals are some of the best we have ever experienced – very well organized.”

A Mass was held at St. Barbnabus Church before the parade, which included local parish priests who joined with the cardinal at his request to celebrate the day. Mayor Mike Spano, Council President Liam McLaughlin, all the members of the City Council, Assemblymember Shelley Mayer, and State Sens. Andrea Stewart-Cousins and George Latimer all proudly marched in one of the few days in Yonkers that is not about political party.

After the parade, the cardinal stopped into the pub that shares his last name – Rory Dolan’s. While inside, he was mobbed again for greetings, pictures and blessings, giving him no time to have a bite to eat before he was off. He did enjoy a special cream ale, crafted by Yonkers Brewing Co. to honor his eminence.

The Yonkers St. Patrick’s Day Parade has always been one of the special, great days for Yonkers. This year’s parade was no different, and may have topped them all. It is a day to remember in the future, when there are difficult times in the city. For one day, everyone was Irish and all enjoyed the spirit of Cardinal Dolan.

Special thanks to James Landy, a member of the Parade Committee who helped bring the cardinal to the parade. Thanks for a very special memory.

Another important member of the parade committee, RJ Puma, summed up the sentiments of many by writing: “Although I am not Irish, I married one and have lived in this mainly Irish neighborhood for most of my life – one of the largest Irish parishes outside of Ireland. I love this neighborhood, there is no place better than McLean Avenue. No business district compares to what we have here: the sense of community, how everyone basically knows everybody they pass on the street, how we come together to help each other out or support amazing causes. I consider myself very fortunate to be a part of this neighborhood and to the larger picture this crazy City of Yonkers we call home. I’ve always said it’s the largest small town in America where everybody knows everyone!

“I march up McLean Avenue proud of this city, proud of this neighborhood, proud of the church we will be worshipping in, proud of the parade we have carefully selected to be hon- ored, proud of my family business, proud of the friends I have made over this journey that started out as an idea of throwing a little parade together six years ago up the Emerald Mile. “Who knew where that journey would lead,” continued Puma. “That the new board we formed would get so well and enjoy working together. I have the utmost respect for what came before the McLean parade and the years of dedi- cation put into this event by our counterparts on the board, and look forward to continue working with them, creating more history for this city.”

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