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WESTCHESTER'S OLDEST AND MOST RESPECTED NEWSPAPERS

YONKERS RISING

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Yonkers 2017 Idol &
Junior Idol Selected

Winners Announced

Meet the Roosevelt H.S.
Val ductarian & Salutatorian

Vote Against Puleo and
For YFT Reform Slate

Council President McLaughlin
Kicks Off Re-Election Bid

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Ada Victoria Israel. Photo by Donna Davis.

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propriate behavior with students that included hitting a student, using a racial epithet, and then fleeing to Mexico. He walked into the YFT of-
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Yonkers City Council President Liam McLaughlin officially kicked off his re-election campaign last week.

By Dan Murphy

“I hope that you are able to topple the stag-
nants YFT leadership, and get it going in the right
direction again.” Paul Diamond has decided the Board of Education and defrauded the taxpayers of Yonkers with his self-reporting of attendance.

“Paul Diamond was hired as a French teach-

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Isobel Aveston has early memories of sailing her father’s boat as a child, and it was during those sailing excursions that she began creating some of her first drawings. It is an activity that she has continued to this day, as it also allowed her to express herself as she explored creative conditions of people as they relate to their environments and their inter- ests.

As she grew older, Aveston became quite skilled in painting and drawing, and decided to pursue a bachelor of arts degree in art history at University College in London, followed by a master’s degree in illustration at Kingston Univer- sity. Aveston is accustomed to working with watercolor paints, pens and pencil to create finely-detailed illustrations that are as captivating as they are emotional. She also works with mixed-media and Photoshop, and has been recently creating drawn illustrations that are especially represented in her “For Grown-Ups” category of her work, whether it be charming and playful or sinister and dark. Examples of these are in the “For Children” portions of her website. Regardless of the audience, Aveston’s work is entertaining to view and likely to start a conversation. Aveston has been with the YOHO Art-ists community for a little over a year. She was drawn to her studio and YOHO after moving to New York City. It is an activity that passed on her father’s boat as a child, and it was during those long hours, and also allowed her to express her inner emotions. Aveston enjoys displaying her work in her studio, number 407 at 578 Nepperhan Ave., as well as at the Open Studio events at YOHO. She is often seen at craft shows, and recently partici- pated at an art fair where she met great people. Aveston is currently working on a piece for northern Iowa’s “Citizen’s Wallpaper Project,” which will feature her work as a part of the Great River Raisin. For more information about Aveston’s work, visit www.isobelveno illustration.com. To learn more about YOHO, the largest artist com- munity in New York City, check out www.YO- HOartists.com.

The “For Nature Lovers” section of her web- site features a woman Aveston is fond of placing site features a woman Aveston is fond of placing dolls that depict unique characters that she has created on her website. Regardless of the audience, Aveston’s work is entertaining to view and likely to start a conversation. Aveston has been with the YOHO Art-ists community for a little over a year. She was drawn to her studio and YOHO after moving to New York City. It is an activity that passed on her father’s boat as a child, and it was during those long hours, and also allowed her to express her inner emotions. Aveston enjoys displaying her work in her studio, number 407 at 578 Nepperhan Ave., as well as at the Open Studio events at YOHO. She is often seen at craft shows, and recently partici- pated at an art fair where she met great people. Aveston is currently working on a piece for northern Iowa’s “Citizen’s Wallpaper Project,” which will feature her work as a part of the Great River Raisin. For more information about Aveston’s work, visit www.isobelveno illustration.com. To learn more about YOHO, the largest artist com- munity in New York City, check out www.YO- HOartists.com.

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The East Yonkers Kiwanis Club held its eighth annual Nurse Appreciation Awards on May 2 at The Riverview, where six nurses were recognized for their service to patients and the community as a whole.

This year’s honorees included Ivona Beswick, LPN; Analie Augustin, accepting for her mother Marjorie; Marita Velasio, RN, who works at the St. Joseph’s Medical Center; and Mena Velasquez, RN, who works at the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center; and Renee Carson, SRN, who works at St. Joseph’s Medical Center Westchester Medical Group; Goseema Persaud, RN, who works at the Yonkers Community College; and Kalyna Kuzemczak. Photo by Donna Davis.

Nurse Appreciation Day Chairperson Augustine Vovino also congratulated the honorees.

All of the nurses, and many other professionals in the medical field who attended the lunch to honor their colleagues, were thanked for their dedication and service to those who are injured and need their help.

The East Yonkers Kiwanis Club is celebrating its 61st year of community service to Yonkers.

For more information contact, visit www.eastyonkerskiwanis.org.

Special guests were 2016 Yonkers Idol Samantha Stepanian and Junior Idol Christina Yaroshynych. The show ended with all of this year’s finalists performing a closing number of songs from the 1990s to the present.

The winners will hold their titles for a year, and receive $1,000 courtesy of United Way Performing Arts Council’s Teresa Fund. They may be seen around Yonkers performing at various city ceremonies and events.

The Yonkers Idol contest is one of several rounds of competition, and all finalists spent hours preparing and rehearsing for the big night.

Congratulations to the City of Yonkers Parks and Recreation Department and the United Way Performing Arts Council on putting on another great Idol show and for creating this popular and positive event in Yonkers for young performers, now in its 10th season.
Reyes Calls on Perez to Support Sick Leave Bill

County Legislator candidate Roman Reyes is encouraging Legislator Virginia Perez to support the Westchester Earned Sick Leave Bill, which he says would benefit local children and families. Reyes is backed by Majority Leader Catherine Borgia and the Democratic Party.

Reyes joined Borgia, the Westchester social justice community, union representatives, Westchester County constituents and other Democratic legislators in front of the Renaissance Place Fountain in White Plains recently to support the bill.

“We need to stop denying the people that take care of our kids, the right to take care of their family when they’re sick,” Reyes said. “By denying them this paid sick leave bill, we are abandoning those children who need us.”

With practically 123,000 workers in Westchester not entitled to paid sick leave, and the majority of them being low-wage workers, Reyes is urging Representative Perez to stop voting with the Republicans and again vote with the other seven Democrats that have already strongly supported this bill.

“Despite our concerns, we believe it is essential to protect children and their families,” said Reyes. “Too many businesses have strived to give children a safe environment and a chance to succeed in school while their parents are working. When they can rely on paid sick leave for when they need to take time off, their children can succeed as well.”

The New York Council of Parent-Teacher Associations/Student-Teacher Associations thanked the New York Legislature, State Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins and George Latimer, and Assembly members Gary Pretlow and Shelley Mayer for their hard work on behalf of the children and families of Westchester.

The various funding allocations high-lighted by the delegation speak to the needs of the Westchester education community. The Children need a sound basic education, and this funding will allow children to progress and become active members of society. Access to after-school programs will allow students to expand on their educational experiences, and the dream of going to college can now become a reality for many who thought they could not afford to go.

The various cultural heritage festivals are among the most anticipated and popular summertime events in Westchester. The festivals will kick off on June 3 with the Albanian Festival followed by the American on July 30 and the Italian on July 23.

The New York State Legislature has passed a sick leave law that would require employers with at least five employees to accrue one hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours worked, up to 40 hours paid sick time a year if paid. Westchester would become the second jurisdiction in New York State to have a sick leave law.

The festival-goers are advised that on June 4 and July 30, parking will not be available at the Kensico Dam Plaza.

The heritages of various nationalities will be on display: Armenian on June 4 from noon to 7 p.m. at Kensico Dam Plaza; Puerto Rican- American on June 10 from noon to 7 p.m. at Ridge Road Park; Haitian- American on June 25 from noon to 7 p.m. at Kensico Dam Plaza; Albanian on July 4 from noon to 6 p.m. at Kensico Dam Plaza; Italian on July 23 from noon to 7 p.m. at Ridge Road Park; Irish-American on July 30 from noon to 5 p.m. at Ridge Road Park; Filipino on Aug. 6 from 12:30 to 6 p.m. at Kensico Dam Plaza; Ecuadorian on Aug. 13 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Central Park Tennis and Longworth on Aug. 20 from noon to 6 p.m. at Kensico Dam Plaza.

A festival is sponsored by Westchester County Parks, the Westchester County Business Council, the Westchester County Arts Council, Arts Westchester, TD Bank, New York Life Insurance, and other local corporate and community sponsors.

The festival will be held rain or shine. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

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The Yonkers School Board will hold a public hearing on the Smart Schools Bond Act, No. 2 projects at Sallan Hall, 1st Floor, BHS on Thursday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be livestreamed, and the public may also submit comments via email at publichearing@yrsd.org through Wednesday, May 15 at 2:00 p.m. The meeting will also be held virtually via Zoom. The Zoom meeting ID is 951 679 9296. Contact: publichearing@yrsd.org

Your bordered partner, YPS, invites you to participate to our free Neighborhood Meeting that will be held on May 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the New Rochelle New Rochelle Library. The meeting will be held in the Meeting Room of the Library. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss issues that affect the neighborhood and to provide opportunities for residents to voice their concerns.

Meet the Continued from Page 1
their themes and symbols,’’ she said. “I love doing into books.’’

The Valedictorian had an impressive placement position and is a member of the National Honor Society and other extra-curricular activities including volunteering at St. Peter’s Church and also teaching at the Yonkers Children’s Institute, including Trinity College, Union College, Holy Cross, Columbia, New York University, and Yonkers College. She was accepted at Columbia University and transferred to Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree. Union gave me a financial good package and I was able to afford all the books and attend the course without worrying about the cost of tuition. I also received several of the course and think it is more affordable than other colleges.

The Valedictorian had some advice for future students. “It doesn’t matter what grade you get in a particular class, it is good for you to study. It is important to be on time and have a great attitude. You should also be open to new ideas and new ways of looking at things.”

Her advice to the Valedictorian: “Be a good listener. Always have an open mind and be willing to try new things.”

The Valedictorian was also very thankful to her parents for their support and encouragement. She said that without their support, she would not have been able to achieve her goals. She also thanked her teachers and classmates for their support and encouragement.

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Vote Against
Continued from Page 1

“How did she achieve this? “She was a very hard worker and made sure to stay on top of her work. She was always on time and always had a positive attitude.”

Salutatorian Elisabeth Salazar will gradu- ate on Friday afternoon and she said that she is excited to continue her education. She said that she plans to go to medical school and study medicine. She also said that she wants to be a doctor and help people.

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Salutatorian Elisabeth Salazar will gradu- "Since French was going to be dropped from the curriculum last year, I was informed by the VPS personnel department that if he wanted to continue his employment with YPS, he would have to learn another language. He believes that knowing another language was one of the reasons for his termination.”

“How did he achieve this? “He was a very hard worker and made sure to stay on top of his work. He was always on time and always had a positive attitude.”

Tim Lovejoy, a vice president and director of the Richard Gazzola Teacher Center, said that Diamond had applied ramped Tip the teachers because most have not taught in a long time and many have been out of touch with many of the students. It appears that Puleo, Diamond and the current YFT board that has been in office for the past 10 years has not been able to see the problems that exist in the school system.

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Access Social Security Online

Resources When You Travel

By Elias Hagos

Social Security district managers in Yonkers are here for you when you’re traveling, whether it’s a short trip or when you’re abroad. When you open a personal and secure “my Social Security” account, you can access it on your terms. We put you in control of your finances and your future.

With your Social Security, you can request a replacement Social Security or Medicare card if you must certain requirements, check the status of your application or appeal, see the locations of all Social Security offices, and get a benefit verification letter stating that: You receive retirement, disability, survivors or other benefits. You received benefits, SSI or Medicare; you received benefits, but do not currently receive benefits, SSA or Medicare; or you received benefits in the past but do not currently receive them (the letter will include the date your benefits ended and the date your benefits were last paid).

“my Social Security” offers personalized features to make your life easier and give you greater control over your benefits. Placing the “application status” feature behind our “my Social Security” portal provides a secure service delivery channel that allows us to provide detailed (but not complete) status on your claim without requiring a confirmation number.

With the new application status feature, you can see the country number for in-progress applications, detailed information about the current status of the application or appeal, the location where your claim is being processed, and scheduled hearing information for appeals.

Visit “my Social Security” to see what other personalized features are available to you, at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

From left are Annette Volino, Councilman Christopher Johnneau, Dr. Elliott Palais, Mayor Mike Spano and Brandon Neider.

Yonkers Has Your County’s Best Tap Water… Again

Westchester’s best-tasting water flows from faucets in the City of Yonkers, according to an informal panel of pedestrians who tapped their way through the Westchester County Department of Health’s annual taste test last week in White Plains.

More than 120 people sampled water from 10 of the county’s water suppliers on Main Avenue in White Plains and then voted for their favorites without knowing where it came from. This friendly annual competition promotes the excellent quality of Westchester tap water and highlights the role of the county health department in awarding drinking water quality.

“Westchester is all we’ve got, because Westchester’s drinking water taste great and is good for you,” said County Executive Robert Astorino. “It’s reassuring to know we have professionals working behind the scenes to monitor and ensure the highest quality of our drinking water.”

The City of Yonkers Water Bureau will advance to a regional competition this summer, and the regional champion will ultimately compete for nationwide bragging rights at the Great New York State Fair in Syracuse at the end of the summer.

More than 120 people sampled water from 10 of the county’s water suppliers on Main Avenue in White Plains and then voted for their favorites without knowing where it came from. This friendly annual competition promotes the excellent quality of Westchester tap water and highlights the role of the county health department in awarding drinking water quality.

The 10 participating water suppliers in this year’s competition were the Village of Elmsford, Croton Consolidated Water District No. 1, Greenburgh Consolidated Water District No. 1, the City of Peekskill, Scarsdale Water Department, Suey Rate District No. 1, the Mount Vernon Water Department, Ossining Water District, City of Yonkers and City of White Plains.

Water systems are required to take routine samples of their water and provide the results of these samples to the health department. Engineers and sanitarians at the health department review these results and take their own samples to assess drinking water in Westchester meets all sanitary codes. In cases where the water doesn’t measure up, the health department assists the water in remediation and assurance that the water is up to regulatory standards and that customers are notified.

The health department also reviews and approves any construction or replacement of tanks, pipes and water mains within the systems. For more information about the contact of other water quality initiatives, contact the Westchester County Department of Health at 914-995-5000 or visit WestchesterCountyHealth.com.

From left are David Tubulio; Mena Velasco, RN, who works at St. Joseph’s Medical Center; Analie Augustin, accepting an award for Helena Confeiteiro, LPN, who works at Regency Med; Renee Carson, SRN, BSN, who works at St. Joseph’s Medical Center; Giovanni Persaud, RN, who works at John A. Coleman School, Lent Eugenios, LPN at RHS (Riverdale High School); and County Executive Robert Astorino. Photo by Donna Davis.
Yonkers' Anti-Litter
Continued from Page 1

For years, our city council has been promoting Yonkers’ Anti-Litter campaign, which features anti-litter slogans that were selected from categories including environmental excellence, public health, and crime prevention. The winners of this contest will have their entry featured on respectyonkers.com, a website that promotes respect for our city’s environment. The public school entries in grades three through eight were judged by the Yonkers Anti-Litter Committee, which is comprised of teachers, principals, and community volunteers. The winners will be announced on May 14, during a ceremony at City Hall. The ceremony will begin at 6 p.m., and is open to the public.

Some of the winners of the anti-litter poster contest with City Council Majority Leader John Larkin, Council President Liam McLaughlin, Mayor Mike Spano, Councilmember Christopher Johnson, YPS Superintendent Dr. Edelith Oquendo and family.

By Eric W. Schoen

Yonkers has a problem – and we can’t fix it. If you’re ever in Yonkers, you can’t miss the signs that say “Capellotto: Stop Littering.” Unfortunately, these signs are everywhere. The problem is worse in Yonkers than in most other cities in the United States. The signs are not only ugly, but they are also ineffective. Yonkersites are tired of people littering, and they want something done about it.

The Yonkers Anti-Litter campaign, which features anti-litter slogans that were selected from categories including environmental excellence, public health, and crime prevention, is a good example of how we can solve the problem. The campaign began in November of last year, and more than 30 finalists and winners participated in the contest, which began in March. More than 30 finalists and winners were selected from categories including anti-litter signs, storyboards, posters, and videos.

Contestants had to incorporate a slogan from the “Capellotto: Stop Littering” advertising campaign, which features anti-litter slogans that are written on signs in Yonkers. Many of the signs were placed around the city, including on Warburton Avenue. Traditional Mexican music, with the Folklorico dancers, filled the hall. The rain couldn’t stop the celebration of Cinco De Mayo celebrated at City Hall.

The public school entries in grades three through eight were judged by the Yonkers Anti-Litter Committee, which is comprised of teachers, principals, and community volunteers. The winners will be announced on May 14, during a ceremony at City Hall. The ceremony will begin at 6 p.m., and is open to the public.

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“Last year, we passed the billion-dollar mark in new construction underway in Yonkers during my time as council president,” continued McLaughlin. “In my second term, we are going to be working on our second billion.”

The council president also touted his support for the mayor’s plan to build a new Yonkers City Hall.

“When I took office, I was surprised to learn that Yonkers did not offer the maximum allowable veteran property tax exemption,” he said. “The first local law I wrote and signed put an end to that. We created a veterans’ fair housing program, and every veteran who has served and all who gave some for this country, and we owe them a debt which can never be repaid.”

McLaughlin contrasted the partisan nature of the US Congress and the US Senate with the bipartisan efforts of the City Council and the city administration.

“We got all of this done with a Republican majority on the City Council led by McLaughlin and Democratic Mayor Mike Spano,” he said. “We’re not saying that’s the way it’s supposed to be, but together we have worked to move Yonkers forward, “ concluded McLaughlin. “If I am fortunate enough to be granted a second term as your council president, it will be my honor to continue serving the city I love— and to do so with the leadership I promised.”