Daphne Thompson Named Yonkers Idol 2013

By Dan Murphy

One of Yonkers' more enjoyable and popular contests begins each year as the Yonkers Idol and Yonkers Junior Idol contests do. This year's third annual contest held at the Lincoln High School last week had six finalists for Yonkers Idol, ages 15 to 19, and six finalists for Junior Idol, ages 10 to 14, singing dancing and competing for the title and the $1,000 prize courtesy of the Untermyer Performing Arts Council Teresa Fund, and the opportunity to perform all over the city at ceremonies and events.

This year's Yonkers Idol is Daphne Thompson, a student at the Fieldston School in Riverdale. Her family is in attendance for her win and very proud of her.

Daphne had to choose whether to perform at the Idol concert May 18, or sing with her choir and is very proud of her.

Meet Linette Prasad and Braelyn Hendricks. The 2013 valedictorian and salutatorian for Saunders Trades and Technical High School.


Sprayregen presented each of the poetry winners from each grade with an Apple Ipad, with second-place winners each receiving an Ipod Mini and third-place winner receiving an Ipod.

Eleventh-grade poetry winners included: First Place – Donald Lawrence of Lincoln H.S., "Masterpiece"; Second Place – Azeez Vlahformula of Lincoln H.S., "Our Shadow." Third Place – Soloma Smith of Palisades Prep.

Contd on Page 8

Yonkers Public Schools 'Search for Creativity'

Gerald Sprayregen, seated left, with YPS Superintendent Bernard Pierrotazzi and the 20 finalists in the Search for Creativity contest. Photo by Maurice Mercado.

By Dan Murphy

Twenty first-, second- and third-place winners in the Yonkers Public Schools' 'Search for Creativity' poetry and photography contest were honored Monday by Superintendent Bernard Pierrotazzi and Gerald Sprayregen, founder of the Sprayregen Family Foundation.

"We are thrilled to the Sprayregen Foundation and to Gerald Sprayregen for sponsoring this contest," said Pierrotazzi. "Mr. Sprayregen is a prolific and published author and photographer, which are all loves and passions. Through his efforts we are very happy to honor our students' works of art today."

Sprayregen's comments were inspirational to the students.

"I am hopeful that you can learn from my love affair with photography and poetry," he said. "Follow your dreams, follow your heart and believe in yourself. Develop a confidence in yourself and you can do great things."

Four points were read by 2nd-grade poets

Yonkers' Korean War Heroes: Army Corp General Romano Mandia

Gerald Roman Mandia was born in 1917 in Yonkers on Wednesday, September 19, 1917, to Maria and Carmine Mandia. He was the first of three children he was followed in 1929 by a second, Camilla, and in 1932 by another sister, Vincenza.

Mandia's mother was a native of Colombia, South America; his father, of Brooklyn. She was from Cali (officially Santiago de Cali), located in southwest Colombia, the third largest city in the country. Not long after his birth, Mandia was brought to Cali by his mother — one or both of his sisters may have been born by then and joined them. His father seems to have remained in the US, maintaining a residence at 1268 Prospect Pk, at the Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn.

Mandia and his children returned to the US aboard a ship named the Santa Maria in 1932. It sailed from Valparaiso, Chile, on Friday, October 28 and the Mandias boarded during a stopover in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Sunday, November 6. They arrived at New York Harbor eight days later.

Mandia brought his children back to Cali less than three years later, in February, 1935 — Mandia was 18 years old. He joined the remainder of his childhood in Cali, not returning to the US until he was 19. He moved with three others — 34-year-old Flaviana Goncalves and 53-year-old Judith Marin. Continued on Page 8

Yonkers' Best & Brightest: Saunders High School

Salutatorian Brandy Hendricks, left, and Valedictorian Linette Prasad.

Linette Prasad and Braelyn Hendricks. The 2013 valedictorian and salutatorian for Saunders Trades and Technical High School.

Linette will graduate with a 100.56 percent weighted grade-point average, her GPA is above 100 percent because of the six advanced placement courses she has taken. Her favorite courses and teachers at Saunders are Mrs. Villani's AP calculus and Mr. Lazusa's AP English.

She is an Advanced Placement Scholar and Honor Award recipient and has participated in college-sponsored programs, including the Mercy College Math Modeling Program and the Manhattanville College STEP Program.

Daphne Thompson

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Contd on Page 8

Yonkers Fire Dept. Promotions

Mayer Mike Spina joined with Fire Commissioner Robert Swann to present to the promotion of five of Yonkers' bravest May 14.

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Contd on Page 8

Promotions were given to Capt. Roman Telyczka and Lt. Daniel Pietro, Capt. Roman Telyczka; Lt. Peter Connolly and Lt. Ronald Vomicelli.

Yonkers Fire Dept. Promotions

Thirty outstanding Yonkers High School seniors received $12,500 in scholarships last week, continuing a program begun in 2000 by the Yonkers Industrial Development Agency. The annual scholarship program was created in 2000 under an agreement between the IDA, Classic Residence by Hyatt (now the Five Star program – Rosa Figueroa, Lisa Goring and Brianna Wallance of Gorton High School, Tianshuah Edwards and Yomildaly Guadarrano of Lincoln H.S., Brian Agarin and Yakita Vasquez of Pelham Prep H.S., Mariah Caramero and Glorie Kalo of Riverdale H.S., Gianna Almazan and Francisca Morales of Roosevelt H.S., Nicholas Malizia of Sacred Heart H.S., Amanda Smith, Victoria Carter, Samantha Cauceine and Karina Velez of Saunders H.S., Megan Faring, Mapiga Ougonik and Jason Alon of Yonkers H.S.) and the Yonkers Industrial Development Agency Program Awards, Inc. The organizations agreed to establish scholarships for Yonkers students through 2016 in recognition of receiving construction and renovation incentives for Hyatt’s assumed living facility and for Wishcamper’s Parkledge Apartments.

"Not only did the IDA make jobs and economic development possible as a result of this agreement, but nearly 400 Yonkers students have been awarded scholarships since then to help make college a reality," said Mayor Mike Spano, who chairs the IDA.

Students receiving scholarships include:


Wounded Warriors Receive ‘Empire’ Welcome to NYC Area

The Rooney Family, owners of one of the most successful casinos and harness racetracks in the nation, Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway, hosted a group of wounded warriors who have served in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, along with family members of the troops, to a May 8 lunch at actor Robert De Niro’s famed Tribeca Grill. The lunch was the third that the Rooney’s, and Empire City Casino have hosted for wounded military members in conjunction with a trip that is organized by the Baltimore Police to bring veterans currently residing at Walter Reed Medical Center to New York City for a well-deserved outing. This year, NASCAR driver Kurt Busch and the Armed Forces Foundation accompanied the troops on the trip from Maryland.

The Baltimore Police Department partnered with fellow police departments in Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and New York to escort the troops on their trip through the states to New York City, including a trip from Maryland to the 9/11 Memorial, lunch at Tribeca Grill in honor of the troops, after which the service members and their families headed to the Ed Sullivan Theatre for a live taping of The David Letterman Show for a trip through the states to New York City.

A group of veterans who currently live at Walter Reed Medical Center recently visited the David Letterman Show.

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You can't fix everything in one year but if you how we get there. Making sure that our pre-K services but education funding has been lack money for education. I like all of my municipal councillors and work with (Finance Commissioner) don't feel many of the students today are re watchers and attended the public schools, and I language. Full-day pre-K has tangible results and it's k. Full-day pre-K has tangible results and it's the desire for a full-day pre-K program, but ex than 500 students, which will require an addit increase to an estimated 26,400 students for the last month, Superintendent Pierorazio laid out ber one issue. Refuse to approve any budget ber one issue. Refuse to approve any budget re-instatement of full-day pre-K as their num these. Parents we have spoke to have said the Schuman. “Full-day pre-K accomplishes all of back $7 for every $1 spent, reduces crime day, Pierorazio laid out a budget with half-day pre-K, and to use the additional funding the district received to help a budget with half-day pre-K, and to use the additional funding the district received to help...
Bianca Needs a Family

Interested in adopting? The Yonkers Animal Shelter is currently in search of new homes for all pets - both cats and dogs.

Bianca is an adult dog about 7 years old and 60 pounds. Background information indicates that she needs a family that is patient and willing to spend significant time with her. It is clear that she spent a lot of time with one family. TheAwareness Committee stresses that Bianca is good with dogs, especially small ones, and is very gentle; she can run for fun and catch a ball without any difficulties.

May 25 to 30: Open Saturdays and Sundays, and Memorial Day.
June 1 to 8: Open Wednesday through Sunday.

Beach at Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson: Open 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; no admittance after 6 p.m. Swimming is free; parking is $5 with a County Park Pass or $12 without a permit only. Cost is $5 for adults 18 and over; seniors pay $4 on weekdays only. County Park Pass required for admission.

Beach at Glen Island Park, New Rochelle: Open 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; no admittance after 6 p.m. Cost is $5 for adults 18 and over; seniors pay $4 on weekdays only; children 12 and under or $3.50 with a County Park Pass required.

Beach at Saxon Woods Park, Purchase: Open 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; no admittance after 6 p.m. Cost is $5 for adults 18 and over; seniors pay $4 on weekdays only. County Park Pass required for admission.

Beach at Bruce Park, Yonkers: Open 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; no admittance after 6 p.m. Cost is $5 for adults 18 and over; seniors pay $4 on weekdays only. County Park Pass required for admission.

Beach at Playland at Plaistead Park, Rye: Open 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; no admittance after 6 p.m. Cost is $5 for adults 18 and over; seniors pay $4 on weekdays only. County Park Pass required for admission.

For more information, call 914-667-4116 or visit www.westchestergov.com/parks.

May 28 to 30: Open Saturdays and Sundays, and Memorial Day.

May 1 to 8: Open Wednesday through Sunday.

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The first roundtable, which will take place in Yonkers, will focus on special education – schools designed to provide intensive remediation and instruction for special student populations. Our Special School District Act sets criteria for public education programs, and the act states that special education schools differ from traditional public schools. The first roundtable will provide our colleagues and me with the opportunity to discuss the specific needs of those children and the institutions serving them.

The second roundtable, which will take place in Yonkers, will focus on special education with a focus on the process that brings about successful change.
FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2013 - YONKERS RISING - PAGE 5

YPIE Education Summit 2013

From left, Councilman Michael Sabatino, YPIE Executive Director Wendy Nadel and Assemblymember Shelley Mayer.

Attendees at the summit.

Villar and Bialo Honored As Women of Distinction

Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins with Isabel Villar.

Sen. GeorgeLatimer with Kate Bialo.

Two area women were recently honored on a state level for their service to the local community.

Isabel Villar of White Plains, co-founder and executive director of El Centro Hispano, has been selected by Democratic Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins as the 2013 Woman of Distinction from the 35th State Senate District.

"Isabel Villar embodies the virtues of leadership, compassion and service," said Stewart-Cousins. "Thirty nine years ago, she came as an unaccompanied young woman to the United States to study. She later educated herself and has devoted her professional life to addressing the social service needs of the growing Hispanic population of Westchester. The organization she co-founded has created countless opportunities for Latino families to achieve the American dream and is a true asset to White Plains and Westchester County. She is a genuine woman of distinc tion whose tireless work on behalf of others has made a real difference. I am proud to call Isabel my friend and happy to pay my tribute to her work."

Isabel Villar came to the United States from Cuba in 1966, graduated from White Plains High School and earned her bachelor's degree in arts degree from Manhattanville College. She holds three master's degrees and worked as a teacher and guidance counselor at the Norwalk School District in Connecticut for 32 years. She retired from the district in 1994.

In 1974, Villar co-founded El Centro Hispano in her home community of White Plains to address the social service needs of the growing Hispanic population of Westchester. The organization provides educational programs, health, housing and employment referrals; translation assistance; tutoring programs for children and adults; and other essential assistance to Latino families. Its mission is "to assist, support and strengthen Hispanic families; to help them become self-sufficient; and to ease their transition to a stable home and rebuild their lives."

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In 1998, Villar co-founded El Centro Hispano in her home community of White Plains to address the social service needs of the growing Hispanic population of Westchester. The organization provides educational programs, health, housing and employment referrals; translation assistance; and other essential assistance to Latino families. Its mission is "to assist, support and strengthen Hispanic families; to help them become self-sufficient; and to ease their transition to a stable home and rebuild their lives."

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The U.S. Government and State of New York have financial incentives that provide homeowners the opportunity to replace their electric provider with solar power.

To learn more about how you can qualify for a FREE home solar system, call 845-694-3536.

We are verifying our subscription list for 2013. If you live in Yonkers and would like a free trial subscription to Yonkers Rising, e-mail us at dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com or call 914-965-4000, ask for Greg and include your name and address. For those of you who were getting Yonkers Rising last year, you must e-mail us a request for renewal.

G R A P H S W A N T E D

1-800-264-8320 Benjamin Franklin High School, 200 Marlboro Rd., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-1403.

S O C I A L A R T + A C T I O N S  

A N T I Q U E S • A R T • C O L L E C T I B L E S

P R O N O M E N T M E M B E R  

S U N N Y  S I L K  

C O M P U T E R  

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C O R P O R A T I O N  N O T I C E

C O R P O R A T I O N  N O T I C E
Hot Topics in Health Care: Adult Portrait Coverage

By Michael LaMagna, Esq.

Long-term care insurance is important for everyone, not just the elderly. Those who own some form of life insurance may believe that it covers their long-term care needs, but this is not the case. Long-term care insurance is purchased to cover the costs of care for those who are disabled, elderly, or have sustained an injury. It is not designed to cover hospitalization or medical bills.

The Social Security Administration defines a person as disabled if they cannot work due to a medical condition that is expected to last at least 12 months or result in death. To qualify, an individual must have a medical condition that is severe enough to prevent them from engaging in any substantial gainful activity. This includes jobs that are considered physically demanding, such as construction or heavy lifting.

Social Security Administration benefits can include cash, medical coverage, and home health care services. To qualify, an individual must have worked for a certain number of years and paid into Social Security. Benefits are based on the individual's earnings history, and the amount of money they receive is determined by their average indexed monthly earnings.


Yonkers Public Library's Riverfront Li-
tury will host author Ron Berliner in presenting a discussion of his book, "Social Security in America," which explores the complexities of claiming benefits and the impact of income and employment on benefit amounts. The event is open to the public and will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. in Community Room B, One Lar-
contact Brenda Hartley at 914-964-4274 or blhart-

Bone Health Seminar June 3

An Osteoporosis Awareness Group meet-
gil take place Monday, June 3 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Yonkers Public Library, 914-665-2315. To register, call 914-964-4274.

The seminar will be held in the library's Community Room B, and will include a presentation by Dr. Michael Wolk, a specialist in bone health, as well as a Q&A session. The seminar is open to the public and is free of charge. Registration is required by calling 914-964-4274.

Social Security Q&A: Supplemental Income and Medicare

By Susan Selig

Q: What is the difference between Social Security Income and Supplemental Security Income? A: Social Security Income is based on your earnings history, while Supplemental Security Income is based on your financial means and needs.

Q: When is the best time to apply for Social Security benefits? A: The best time to apply for Social Security benefits is when you reach full retirement age, which is typically age 67. However, you may also receive benefits at age 62 or 70, depending on your eligibility.

Q: Can I work while receiving Social Security benefits? A: Yes, you can work while receiving Social Security benefits, but your earnings may affect your benefits.

Q: What happens if I die while receiving Social Security benefits? A: If you die while receiving Social Security benefits, your benefits may be payable to your surviving spouse or children. Benefits may also be payable to your dependents, such as your parents or surviving spouse.

Q: What are the requirements for receiving Social Security benefits? A: To receive Social Security benefits, you must have worked for a certain number of years and paid into Social Security. The amount you receive is based on your average earnings.

A Medicare reform seminar by Bankers Trust will take place May 29 at 9 a.m.; enroll-
ments will be served.

"Society's Finest Day will be celebrated May 29 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with informative, engaging, and entertaining classes on blood pressure and glucose tests, Tai Chi, and other health-related topics. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 914-477-1837 or visit www.Borders2010.pdf.


For more information, call Susan at 914-755-3229.

A: By the time our children reach their working years and continuing into their retirement years, Social Security's role in their lives will be critical. Social Security's website at www.socialsecurity.gov offers a wide range of resources to help you plan for the future.

Q: What if I have an appointment to apply for Social Security benefits and I have to miss it? A: If you have an appointment to apply for Social Security benefits and you have to miss it, you can reschedule it by calling 1-800-772-1213.

Q: If I found out that my daughter and I were not entitled to receive Social Security benefits, what should I do? A: If you believe that you are entitled to receive Social Security benefits and you are not receiving them, you should contact the Social Security Administration to report the error and receive your benefits.

Q: How can I learn more about Social Security and Medicare? A: You can learn more about Social Security and Medicare by reading "Supplemental Security Income: A Practical Guide" published by Social Security Administration or by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov/locator. Information on your application will be matched with data from other federal agencies. If there is a discrepancy, additional information will be requested.

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was also contentious. All council members
approval or veto. 

any Democratic redistricting plan would never
defected, but the fact that he did so meant that
Majority Leader Terrero would not agree to
involved in redistricting after watching the
Voting Rights Act. It is a plan that puts
ethnic voices, and is fully compliant with
compromise plan is fair to both political par
this is why it has support from both
Democrats and Republicans. That's what governing is
put communities back together and after sev
and was a district that Democrats wanted to
was the district that would have

"You talk about a tran
dee, the reality is the popula
ty who call for the mayor to
rate the right thing.

Mayor Leader Wilson Terrero once
the mayor for trying to move the city forward.

Linette thanked her parent for motivating

The division found itself protecting the
town of Malsan-ri (notable for its ancient buri
tselves in Haman County, likely in the small

Richard E. Chianese
Edwin K. Love
Theodore W. Johnsbury
Raymond R. Eufimia
Stephen Chupak
Alfred E. Ash

Mandia is among the last of Yonkers’ Ko

First Place – Kathleen Mallari of Yonkers, 

Third Place – Shi Shi Li of Yonkers, N.Y.

Two-legged photography winners in

First Place – West All of Lincoln H.S., “My

Second Place – Dimitrius Torro of Yonkers,

Third Place – Angel Lloyd of Yonkers, N.Y.

Eleventh-grade photography winners include:

First Place – Mia Bly of Yonkers High,

Seventy-Six Grade

Mandia is the recipient of the Combat

The Superintendents Honor Society and Prin

The Superintendent’s Honor Society and Prin

Braelyn participated in Manhattanville

She plays the piano and has an avid inter

Linette danked her parent for motiva
ing decisions of myself and my
mom also pushed me to do it,” she said.
Braelyn applied to 17 colleges and was accep
t University of Pittsburgh, St. John’s University;
SUNY-Albany; Manhattanville College; and the
the University of

"I liked the school when I visited and like the
courses, she is now studying biochemistry and hopes
to become an oncologist.

man from Yonkers to lose his life during the

man's remains were recovered and sent back to
10 years later. He was laid to rest on Wednesday,
May 25, 1949 in Long Island National Cemetery,
the late Robert M. Lacter, his wife, Maxine, his
parents and sisters: for this day, he is survived

and involvement in the visual and literary arts.

Twelfth-grade poetry winners:

Third Place – Fatimah Munch of Saunders

Second Place – Terrance Nielkoff of Yonkers

"My Hero"

Fourth Place – Linette Castaneda of Yonkers,

The mayor’s lines

Second Place – Marcia Zepeda of Yonkers,

Third Place – Metzlik Patel of Yonkers, N.Y.

Fourth Place – Sabrina Elong of Yonkers, N.Y.

the mayor’s plan. The mayor’s

Some Democrats want a plan that the

Some Democrats want a plan that the

For instance, on May 11, presented a

Council Democrats Lesnick, Johnson, and

The proposal was sent to the
democrats, a sell out.” he said. "As someone who

They arrived in time to help stall the North’s

The mayor had to do it in a
good compromise," he said. "I disagreed
democrats that wanted to
did not heed the calls of the
councilman who had been
democrats who are

Some people have called me a sell-out that

One timer lined their destination
cially of the Heroines of the 86

that is part of the

Third Place – Angela Sinanan of Yonkers

Second Place – Monica Valdes of Yonkers,

Second Place – Jeremy Tea of Yonkers

First Place – Peter Colletti of Yonkers

First Place – Mark Silva of Yonkers, N.Y.

Second Place – Ben Perry of Yonkers

Third Place – John Swanson of Yonkers

"Third Place – Fatima Mozeb of Saunders

Second Place – Kathleen Mallari of Yonkers, N.Y.

Third Place – Fatima Munch of Saunders

The competition was open to any

All four travelers listed their destination

One of the prisoners was

Catherine Mandia is an active

A special meeting on Monday to vote on the

When the nominating process for candidates

"But the Republicans have countered with

"The Republicans have countered with

"Some people have called me a sell-out that

The mayor’s lines

"Some people have called me a sell-out that

The mayor’s lines

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AMVETS Post 40 Travels to Montrose VA Hospital

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AMVETS Post 40 Travels to Montrose VA Hospital

AMVETS Rauso Post 40 members Sam Riti, commander, and Frank Aulicino, recently traveled to the Montrose Veterans Hospital to present a proclamation from Mayor Mike Spano congratulating the hospital for its graduation ceremony for its Veterans Guided Learning Empowerment and Socialization Recovery Project.

Grinton Will Library Staff ‘Step Up’ to Walking Challenge

The Grinton Will Library is taking steps to keep its employees and patrons healthy.

Yonkers On The Move welcomed library staff and patrons in participating in YOM’s first Walking 20 Challenge, which began April 5 and will end May 31. Sandy Amoyaw, library branch administrator, said he is delighted with the reception of the challenge and enthusiasm this staff has shown since starting an employee- walking program.

The staff uses its lunch hours to walk in groups, and each group walks for approximately 30 to 45 minutes around the neighborhood. With the nice weather and longer days setting in, most would agree this would encourage participation in an on-going employee-stake walking program.

The employees use the YOM Healthy Steps Passport tool to keep track of progress and set goals. They record their steps or miles on the passport and, according to Amoyaw, it helps to believe a little “healthy” competition among work colleagues.

Most of the participants use a pedometer provided by Amoyaw to encourage accuracy and to challenge them. “Using pedometers takes the guesswork out of calculating just how far and how long they walk and they can see how each participant is doing,” he said.

According to research, walking with a group is a motivation to not make excuses. People are more apt to continue walking if they join others that care about improving their health.

Amoyaw said he believes the program will grow as word gets out to the patrons and other staff members; part-time staff has expressed interest and current volunteers are bringing friends and family along.

Patriots will find a display table set up at the library where they can obtain information and review the passport, as well as a sign-up sheet to join the staff walks. This is, on Fridays have signed up.

For more information, visit the Grinton Will library at 1000 Central Park Ave., or go to www.walkyw.com or email yonkersreturntonewyork@yahoo.com or call 914-963-8787. Residents and other work groups are encouraged to participate in the second of four challenges in 2013, which will begin June 1.

The citywide walking goal is 2,000 miles.

Kiwanis Club Honors Two Nurses at Awards Dinner

Registered nurses Olivia Jackson and Wilber Alavanza were honored May 9 as two of the winners of the 2013 Nurse Recognition Award from the Kiwanis Club of East Yonkers at its fourth annual Nurse Appreciation Awards Dinner.

The program helps veterans with independent living services and computer training.

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The Yonkers Memorial Day Parade Draws a Crowd

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The Yonkers Police Color Guard.

Photos by Donna Davis

Three veterans enjoy the parade, including Harold Dworetzky and John Spencer, Yonkers Central Committee of War Veterans chairman and former mayor.

A little rain couldn’t dampen the spirit of the City of Yonkers, which paid tribute and remembered and honored the members of the armed services who sacrifices their lives at the Yonkers Memorial Day Parade on May 20. On May 28 a service will be held at the Washington Park Veterans Memorial.

Photos by Donna Davis

The Westchester Police Emerald Society Pipes and Drums.

A Korean veterans float.

Three veterans enjoy the parade, including Harold Dworetzky and John Spencer, Yonkers Central Committee of War Veterans chairman and former mayor.