Yonkers Celebrates Memorial Day On McLean Avenue

By Dan March

The six-month budget crisis that ended the City of Yonkers, Mayor Mike Spano and the residents of Yonkers had to endure, after a $55 million budget error was discovered at the Yonkers Board of Edu-

cation is about to come to an end. Spano’s $55 mil-

lion budget proposal, which calls for a 1 percent property tax increase, an increase in the fixture Tax Starche, borrowing and consolidation and shared services (not no layoffs), is expected to be passed by the City Council in the end of this week or early next week.

Spano’s role in the crisis, which began when he was approved of the massive error by former VPS Superintendent Hernan Patrician in January, included working with the Board of Educa-

tion to pass a temporary tax-municipal ap-

pointment, which gives the city’s finance department access to the YPS budget numbers, taking a lead role in negotiating additional assistance from Al-

bany through the governor’s office as well as the state office of budget and the state departments from Yonkers; working with and negotiating with Demo-

crats and Republicans on the City Council; and signing a new FDA trial which will contin-

ue non-educational positions between the YPS

and city government.

“Mayor Spano did a great job through all of this,” said Yonkers resident and retired teacher Gene Flanigan, who emailed Yonkers Rising. “If you told me in January that we wouldn’t have mas-

sive cuts to teachers and staff at the BOE because you told me in January that we wouldn’t have mas-

sive cuts because of this error, I would say your were nuts. Yes, we have to borrow some money, but parents what, when you spend $55 million more than you have, to have to pay the paper at some point. Negotiations and discussions between the mayor, City Council and state officials continued last week. After two loud and demonstrative bud-

get hearings, with speakers calling on the city to “save Albany,” the mayor and City Council dele-

gation made one more trip to Albany to see if they could secure additional state and instead of borrow-

ing $45 million, and to try and change the wording in the state budget deficit act, which gives the state comptroller and education commissioner the right to make recommendations that the created “shall” include in its budgets.

The trip to Albany resulted in a “take it or leave it” response from everyone at the state capi-

tal; no additional funds and no changes to the defi-

cit.

Continued on Page 4

Crestwood Honors Fallen Heroes With Memorial Day Parade

By May Baker

The parade arrived at the American Le-

gion Plaza on Yonkers Avenue, where Lt. Col.

Glenn Sadowski of the U.S. Marine Corps

served as the Master of Ceremonies. Sadowski,

who served in Somalia and Operation Des-

sert Storm, is a Crestwood resident and attended

this neighborhood parade and ceremony as a child himself.

The ceremony paid tribute to the service

men and women who lost their lives serving and

defending our nation. In remembrance of

Continued on Page 9 with More Photos

Yonkers Police Department motorcycles lead the McLean Avenue Memorial Day parade.

Yonkers’ Best & Brightest: Lincoln High School

By Mary Baker

Lincoln High School Salutatorian Lisette Garcia, left, and Valedictorian Diana Ordonez-Perez.

Full story available online.

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Blue Door to Host
Meet-the-Artist Event

The exhibit is open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m. The artists will be on hand to discuss their work Saturday, June 28, from 1 to 3 p.m. Catherin Latson, a sculptor, creating assemblage, jewelry and ornaments. Latson is an assemblage and installation artist exploring the language of clothing and other unconventional versions of the packages within. Mary Ann Hardiman, the lone photographer in the group and working exclusively with her iPhone and various apps, manages to take photos with a mysterious beauty that resonates with a poetic design.

By Dan Murphy
Imagine traveling by boat across America’s Great Loop (6,600 miles up the Hudson River, across the Great Lakes, along the Missouri River and around the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean) in a boat powered completely by the sun. That is what Capt. Jim Greer and crew have done and continue to do on the boat named “Ra” – a 48-foot, purpose-built trimaran that utilizes 14 solar panels, making 4,000 Watts, powering two 48-volt electric outboards. The Ra has rooms for a crew of five and is sparsely furnished, making this journey a challenge for all involved.

Great pulled the Ra into Yonkers because it is known as a place for new environmentalism. The Ra is docked at the Yonkers pier.

The solar boat Ra docked at the Yonkers pier.

By Blau Murphy
Imagine traveling by boat across America’s Great Loop (6,600 miles up the Hudson River, across the Great Lakes, along the Mississippi River and around the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean) in a boat powered completely by the sun. Why is he boating across the country on the Ra?

“I want to show the people that solar energy is a viable form of power, and an alternative fuel,” he said. “Energy bills in Florida are high, but you can turn an electric bill around into payments for you from the power companies if you put solar panels on your house. “I want to spread the word about solar power and hope to have a television show that details our travels someday,” he continued. “Our stop in Yonkers was great and the people welcomed us.”

Members from Groundwork Hudson Valley helped Greer with his attempts to grow vegetables on board, and the captain and crew were welcomed to Yonkers by Mayor Mike Spano and members of the City Council. The travels of the Ra can be found online at www.solarboatchronicles.com.

One of the continued mainstays of downtown Yonkers is the Blue Door Gallery, located at 13 Riverside Ave., which came to downtown Yonkers in xxxx and is a part of the city’s large arts community. The latest art show at Blue Door features a group of artists whose works are now on display through June 29. The show, whimsically titled “Four Walls and a Pedestal,” while not a literal description of the exhibit, presents five diversely accomplished artists working in seemingly unrelated disciplines – new photography, a sculptor and a painter, and two utilizing found objects, creating shadow boxes, assemblages and drawings in completely different styles.

While the versatility and approach may seem unrelated, there is a common thread holding this show together: Each artist is involved in discovering new ideas and the result is candy for the eye. Catherine Latson and Alexa Grace take common objects from everyday life and in their separate ways guide viewers through their mystical worlds of fantasies, metaphor and sublime.

The two artists utilize found objects of all

Yonkers On the Move

Kicks of Challenge-2

By Eric W. Schenck

Yonkers On the Move is a 10-week walking challenge that kicks off May 16 to recognize the graduates.

Here are some wonderful days of walking for miles and also now encourage the formation of teams.

YOM has also launched YONKERS WALK 20 Challenge (June 1 to June 7) the miles/steps submitted online and www.yonkersonthemove.org. Participants logging 20 or more miles in the hope of surpassing the 2014 YOM will continue to track individual mileage, and work colleagues to form and participate as a team.

The YONKERS WALK 20 Challenge consists of three walk competitions extending from May to June. Everyone who re-...
Thoughts on Memorial Day Light and Red Cameras

By Phil Fisky

There was a wonderful Memorial Day parade on Mellen Avenue on May 30. I remember this parade being one of the highlights of my childhood in the 1960’s.

It was a small parade that started at the Bigast Point and wound down to Stillwell Park where they had a ceremony at the war memorial, then banded back to the post, utilizing just the side of the avenue. I will always remember the Memorial Consonant saying goodbye for our departed heroes, too.

At the park, a wreath was laid with a 21 gun salute followed by “Taps.” It was a very simple and loving ceremony.

The real nice thing about that parade in 1962 was that there were many of the Greatest Generation (WWII veterans) participating.

Sadly, so many of them have passed away — including my dad, Philip Foley Sr. We must treasure the World War II vets that are still with us through great personal sacrifice.

This month on June 6, we will celebrate the 76th anniversary of D-Day. They called it the longest day, and I believe the troops who risked their lives during World War II and the men and women in the present generation who have ever lived.

I would like to thank the Mellen Avenue Merchants Association for helping with this historic event, and I thank those who held a trash parade to make the event perfect. I would also like to thank the Mayor for providing the refreshments after the ceremony.

God bless all of those who made this event possible for 20 minutes.

Also, Mama does a great job keeping her family of one of the best in Yonkers. Nice going, RJ Perna and Vic Costa, who both helped with the parade.

Sadness, what is different about Mellen Avenue is the change that has taken place there at the park at Mellen and Airport Avenue. This light is heated, it causes traffic to move off the avenue and onto all the side streets. This is the type of service for the pets of Yonkers and children in extreme danger with increased traffic, what nonsense.

This light can even mess up a funeral. It is a truly successful development must benefit the cultures of the city. The group believes that private citizens, YCSD advocates for smart development will host “Buildings and Berries: A Cookie Stroll” on Saturday, June 20, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The tour, led by local historian Bob Piwinski, will take participants on a self-guided tour of historic buildings.

The tour will conclude at the same location at the Yonkers Public Library, which will provide refreshments, a fundraising raffle and spinach pie.

The event will take place "rain or shine." The tour is open to the public with a registration fee of $20 per person. Call 914-947-3762 to reserve your spot. Participants will assemble at 2 Balfour Street, Yonkers, at 10 a.m. for the opening ceremony.

Expect to work with several children during each two-hour session. The children will be paired with volunteers for refreshments, historic preservation discussions and in-depth tours of the many projects planned for the city.

As a strictly voluntary organization of private citizens, YCSDF is committed to economic development in Yonkers that helps the real estate market grow, the community flourish, and the city become a vibrant and sustainable city. YCSDF is recognized throughout the metropolitan area for its educational outreach programming and its work with the City of Yonkers to promote issues of importance to the future of the city by sharing information with others.

For more information about the fund-raiser including address and directions, email hinson@ycsd.org or call 914-968-4376. Space is limited and early reservations are encouraged.

This is an unapoped event for June 20, 2015. Those interested in applying to participate or for more information call 914-968-4376. More information can be found on the website:

www.yonkerscommittee.org

The Yonkers Board of Education is accepting applications for the position of Trustee. The Yonkers Board of Education of Trustees position, to serve a five-year term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2019.

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Applications should evidence a strong inter-

The Summer Reading Buddies program offered by the Yonkers Library and YCSD seeks volunteers to help children read. Yonkers is looking for people who are passionate about reading and will work with children to improve their reading skills.

The Public Library System will host "It's In the Cards" is a musical program for children and parents of all ages. The program will feature a variety of musical numbers, including songs for Christmas and Hanukkah, as well as original compositions by local artists.

The event will be held on March 3, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Yonkers Public Library. The event is free and open to the public. Sign up at www.volunteernewyork.org.

To Morey Mike, I simply say, give us a comprehensive report on the red light cameras in Yonkers. It would be in the best interest of the community if they are not in use.

I called my connection to ask him about the issue, and the Spank Poon Post is issue, last I heard, it is called "No more red light cameras in Yonkers. He can reach out to glit-

www.yonkerslibrary.org

In the Crestwood section of northeast Yonkers.

The Reading Mentors Needed for Summer Program

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In the Crestwood section of northeast Yonkers.
The Writing Institute at Sarah Lawrence College is seeking to launch its 2014 Summer Conference for the book industry and literary enthusiasts. The conference features a diverse range of speakers, including literary agents, editors, and authors who will be speaking on topics such as writing and publishing. The conference will be held at the Westchester Library System, starting on Wednesday, June 11 at 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This interactive symposium is designed for serious writers who want to get published and will be held on the SLC campus.

The conference agenda includes a series of four panel presentations followed by an audience participation- and answer session, and an optional series of one-on-one pitch session workshops with agents. Participants will have the opportunity to interact with industry professionals in an informal setting and receive personalized feedback. The panel themes include how to find the right literary agent for your work, "The Role of the Editors," "Pitching Your Book Through Social Media and PR," and "Finding and Out of Self-Publishing." Participants are encouraged to sign up soon, as registration is limited.

Speakers to date include: Peter Belford, founding president and editorial director of Books & Company; Ellen Edwards, executive editor at The Perseus Books Group; Dan Ambrosio, senior editor of Da Capo Press and Lifelong Books (imprints of The Perseus Books Group); Jess Regal, foreign rights director for Dystel & Goderich Literary Management; Sar Schnittker, author/PR expert; and Julie Schoenfeld, founder of JLS Communications. Additional speakers will be added in the near future, and will cover topics such as "The Business of Writing," "The Art of Pitching," and "Marketing Your Book." Call: (914) 468-4999 for more information.
World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Celebration is June 13

Waconia Township will celebrate the annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day with a documentary and discussion from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Friday, June 13 at the Mount Pleasant Community Center, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla.

The 20-minute documentary, "An Age for Contending Elder Abuse in America," will be followed by a discussion led by Jane Fair, assistant professor of English at Mankato State University. The film brings viewers into the homes of American families to hear their poignant stories about the abuse, neglect and exploitation they have experienced. The goal of the film is to bring the issue of elder abuse out of the shadows by helping viewers to recognize signs of abuse and know where to seek help.

"Elder abuse is a shameful crime aimed at vulnerable people," said County Executive Rob astro. "We are taking action to end it, and we welcome the opportunity to once again put a spotlight on this serious issue."

The program is sponsored by the Elder Abuse Collaborative of the South Central Minnesota, which promotes prevention initiatives and Programs and Services and the Waconia Public Library. The program is open to the public, but pre-registration is required. To sign up and for more information, contact Jane Fair at 507-332-2356 or maha1065@msu.edu.

"The documentary and discussion will help increase awareness of elder abuse and the actions families and communities can take to prevent it," Fair said.

"Any lawful purpose. Date of Article filed with the New York State Department of State: 6-12-2014. For more information, call 914-965-4000."

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Historical Society Seeks Info on Saunders Family

The Yonkers Historical Society is looking for information on the descendants of Yonkers’ own Saunders family. Ervin Saunders built and owned Saunders and Technical High School in memory of his father, David, the industrialist and manufacturer, and his sister Helen M. Saunders, who was the industrialist’s daughter. The school was created to teach mechanical trades to improve young people who wanted to learn a trade, “live more useful lives, establish and maintain happy homes and to become better citizens.”

Anyone with information on members or descendants of the great Saunders family is asked to email history@yonkersny.org.
Be careful of people who approach you with offers to “save” your home. There are individuals who watch for notices of foreclosure actions in order to unfairly profit from a homeowner’s distress. You should be extremely careful about any such promises and do not make any payments or sign any documents without consulting an attorney first. 

You can lose your home. If you receive a complaint or summons, you should retain an attorney to represent you. You may have the opportunity to negotiate and reach an out-of-court settlement. You can also request a hearing to contest the complaint or summons. If you do not respond to the summons or complaint within the proper time, judgment will be given against you by default. You may have the opportunity to prevent a default judgment by responding in court. It is important that you act promptly to avoid losing your home.

If you fail to respond to the summons and complaint in this foreclosure action, you will be deemed to have waived your right to contest the complaint and the court will grant judgment against you by default. Judgment will be entered in favor of plaintiff, and a money judgment for the relief claimed in the complaint will be granted.

If your home is located in Westchester County, you should contact one of the agencies or non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about possible alternatives to foreclosure. You should also contact your local legal aid office to obtain advice on how to protect your home. You can contact the New York State Department of Financial Services at 1-877-BANK-NYS (1-877-226-5697) or your local legal aid office for advice.

The New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS) is warning New York consumers of a growing trend of mortgage settlement scams. The scammers, who claim to be able to negotiate reductions on mortgage balances or other relief, are focusing on consumers facing financial difficulties. The DFS is warning consumers to be cautious and not to provide any personal information or make any payments until they verify the legitimacy of the settlement offer.

Be careful of people who approach you with offers to “save” your home. There are individuals who watch for notices of foreclosure actions in order to unfairly profit from a homeowner’s distress. You should be extremely careful about any such promises and do not make any payments or sign any documents without consulting an attorney first. You can lose your home. If you receive a complaint or summons, you should retain an attorney to represent you. You may have the opportunity to negotiate and reach an out-of-court settlement. You can also request a hearing to contest the complaint or summons. If you do not respond to the summons or complaint within the proper time, judgment will be given against you by default. You may have the opportunity to prevent a default judgment by responding in court. It is important that you act promptly to avoid losing your home.

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If your home is located in Westchester County, you should contact one of the agencies or non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about possible alternatives to foreclosure. You should also contact your local legal aid office for advice. No alternative budget was proposed, but the mayor’s budget and the budget director both said they are working on a plan that includes a 5% budget reduction. If you do not respond to the summons or complaint within the proper time, judgment will be entered in favor of plaintiff, and a money judgment for the relief claimed in the complaint will be granted.

If your home is located in Westchester County, you should contact one of the agencies or non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about possible alternatives to foreclosure. You should also contact your local legal aid office for advice. No alternative budget was proposed, but the mayor’s budget and the budget director both said they are working on a plan that includes a 5% budget reduction. If you do not respond to the summons or complaint within the proper time, judgment will be entered in favor of plaintiff, and a money judgment for the relief claimed in the complaint will be granted. Alaska’s legislature is considering a bill that would give tenants the ability to receive a state rebate check this fall. In exchange for proceeding with an IMA, and for their effort to settle the case, the respondents and the tenants of Yonkers Village agreed to the following:

1. The state will provide $5 million to the respondents and the tenants of Yonkers Village as a settlement payment.
2. The state will forgive the entire amount of the electrical and gas bills owed by the respondents and the tenants of Yonkers Village.
3. The state will forgive the entire amount of the water and sewer bills owed by the respondents and the tenants of Yonkers Village.
4. The state will forgive the entire amount of the property taxes owed by the respondents and the tenants of Yonkers Village.
5. The state will forgive the entire amount of the mortgage payments owed by the respondents and the tenants of Yonkers Village.
6. The state will forgive the entire amount of the insurance premiums owed by the respondents and the tenants of Yonkers Village.
7. The state will forgive the entire amount of the property management fees owed by the respondents and the tenants of Yonkers Village.
8. The state will forgive the entire amount of the legal fees owed by the respondents and the tenants of Yonkers Village.
9. The state will forgive the entire amount of the court costs owed by the respondents and the tenants of Yonkers Village.
10. The state will forgive the entire amount of the rent owed by the respondents and the tenants of Yonkers Village.

If anyone wants to blame someone for this year’s budget, they should blame no one but themselves, says Spano, because the city spent $54 million in 2013 and $45 million in 2014, the last two years. The mayor did not approve anyone’s budget, but the city was over budget after every council passed a budget. If anyone wants to blame someone for this year’s budget, they should blame no one but themselves, says Spano, because the city spent $54 million in 2013 and $45 million in 2014, the last two years. The mayor did not approve anyone’s budget, but the city was over budget after every council passed a budget.
Veterans Reflect on Service During Crestwood Event

Lt. Col. Glenn Sadowski of the U.S. Marine Corps served as the master of ceremonies for the Crestwood parade, with Mayor Mike Spano, Council President Liam McLaughlin, council members Mike Breen and John Larkin, and Assemblymember Shelley Mayer looking on.

Veterans from all wars march in the parade on McLean Avenue.

Mayor Mike Spano, left, and Veterans Affairs Director Lou Navarro join with members of the Bajart Post as the names of those lost from Yonkers are read.

Photos by Donna Davis

Two veterans march in the McLean Avenue Memorial Day parade, with the ladies of Bajart Post following behind them. Below, a soldier in World War II garb.

Crestwood Honors Continued from Page 1

these heroes, the American flag was flown at half-staff.

After the “National Anthem” was sung by Alyson DiPanfilo, prayers and reflections were led by Fr. Sal from Annunciation Church, and later with a closing benediction by Rev. Stann-

After the “National Anthem” was sung by Alyson DiPanfilo, prayers and reflections were led by Fr. Sal from Annunciation Church, and later with a closing benediction by Rev. Sum- merville, pastor of Asbury Church. The Girl Scouts presented a wreath at the monument, while “Taps” was solemnly played by a Carlo Serraino, a Webleos Cub Scout.

Judge Thomas Dickerson, a veteran himself, moderated a segment where veterans from World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam, to Operation Iraqi Freedom and the current War on Terror, reflected on their time in the service. In honor of these men and women, the Yonkers Middle-High School Marching Band played the songs of the armed forces.

The parade was attended by Mayor Mike Spano; City Council President Liam McLaughlin; Councilmen Mike Breen, John Larkin, Michael Sabatino; and Assemblymember Shelley Mayer, who came to pay tribute to the fallen. Congressman Eliot Engel wanted to attend, but when his staff was told elected officials do not speak at the ceremony, he declined his participation in favor of a parade and ceremony that would afford him an opportunity to speak in this current election year.

Veterans and Boy Scouts from Troop 1 Crestwood prepare worn and tattered flags for a retirement ceremony held later that same day.

Veterans and Boy Scouts from Troop 1 Crestwood prepare worn and tattered flags for a retirement ceremony held later that same day.

Coffee and Conversation With George and Shelley

State Sen. George Latimer and Assemblymember Shelley Mayer are holding a "Coffee and Conversation" event in Yonkers.

On Saturday, June 14 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the Mount Olympus Diner at the corner of Central Park and Jackson avenues, the two lawmakers will meet with constituents and hear concerns regarding their districts.

This event is an opportunity for residents to speak directly to their elected officials about state government and issues related to Yonkers.

The public is encouraged to attend

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ed with the room, and did not disappoint. Several and flat-screen televisions.

in a modern, two-bedroom suite, with bathrooms share community nestled in the Catskill Moun-

eyard and love it. Many of our friends from Westchester would visit whole family.

Catskill Mountain golf course, great food and more.

reunions, meetings and conferences, senior citi-

tel rooms and suites and almost every facility un-

der the sun, Villa Roma has become the leading
tel rooms and suites and almost every facility un-

Martin Passante purchased a small quaint board-

ownership and management since 1969, when this summer and pay a visit to Villa Roma resort. Considering making a weekend trip to the Catskills

By Dan Murphy

Villa Roma Resort has been under its current

This was my first trip to Villa Roma, but the easiest to please – had a relaxing and enjoy-
in our suite helped ready me for another night

The resort features an 18-hole classic Catskill Mountain golf course, great food and

We enjoyed several activities as a family, in-

any golfer, the ability to play a round of golf

The course is not too long, but is a challenge. It is

finishing hole – two of my favorites. The

Kids enjoy a s’mores bonfire at Villa Roma in the Catskills.

Villa Roma's course stands up to the best in

I was invited to play the Villa Roma's golf

I was one of the toughest words of the evening

Lizbeth Morel

Continued from Page 1

Some of the toughest words of the evening were

My wife and my daughters – sometimes not

In the end, Lizbeth correctly spelled “vague

Second-place Spelling Beewinner Kleanthis Plakas with his dad.

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Some of the toughest words of the evening were

my daughter. We had a relaxing and enjoyable

I’m new to the area, I encouraged Villa Roma to

I would allow any golfer, the ability to play a round of golf

Villa Roma allowed me, and I would allow

my heart. In our case helped ready me for another night

My wife and my daughters – sometimes not

“you’re all winners.”

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Lizbeth Morel

Continued from Page 1

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