Modifying Term Limits
In Yonkers?
Make it the Same as County Gov’t

By Dina Murphy

The Westchester County Board of Legislators enacted term limits legislation on itself and the Office of County Executive. The new law, which passed by a vote of 10-6 and which was not signed by former County Executive Rob Astorino but still became law, limits county legislators to six two-year terms in office, and the county executive to three four-year terms.

continued on Page 8

Lights... Camera... YoFi!

By Dan Murphy

Nov. 2 for the sixth annual YoFiFest!

“With the support of the City of Yonkers, the festival has grown from its humble beginnings into a local, world-class event in an international festival that this year will screen about 140 films over 10 days,” explained Dave Steck, festival co-founder and executive director. Fellow co-founder and Festival Director Patty Schuman added, “This year we had more submissions than ever before, so we were able to curate our strongest line up of films yet.”

The festival will open Friday, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. at the ballroom at Castle Royale on Sept. 27 to celebrate Yonkers My Brother’s Keeper’s second anniversary. The gala, which was MBK’s first anniversary, raised double the Gala Committee’s original goal of $30,000.

continued on Page 10

To Be or Not to Be: Garbage Cans on Yonkers Streets

By Dina Murphy

In 2012, the Westchester County Board of Legislators enacted term limits legislation which was not signed by former County Executive Rob Astorino but still became law, limits county legislators to six two-year terms in office, and the county executive to three four-year terms.

continued on Page 8

Change to City Clerk’s Office

By Phil Foley

In order to better serve the working Yonkers community, City Council President Mike Khader and City Clerk Vincent Spano announced that beginning Oct. 2, the clerk’s office will start extended hours, remaining open until 7 p.m. every Tuesday.

Through ticket sales, sponsorships, jour- nal advertising and ticketed events, the event raised double the Gala Committee’s original goal of $30,100.

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Through ticket sales, sponsorships, journal advertising and ticketed events, the event raised double the Gala Committee’s original goal of $30,100.
Two upcoming traditional events in Yonkers will get many in the community running, working, and interacting with the city. The North Yonkers Scholarship Foundation’s seventh annual "The Chili Hilly 5K Run Walk" will be held Saturday, Oct. 13. This year’s charity will be the Fuller Center for Housing of Greater New York City, formerly Habitat for Humanity of Westchester County. The Fuller Center for Housing’s mission is to provide safe, quality, affordable and green housing for lower-income families and individuals. It brings people together to build homes, community and hope. The NYSF donation this year from the Chili Hilly 5K will be earmarked for a local rebuild in northwest Yonkers.

This year from the Chili Hilly 5K will be earmarked for a local rebuild in northwest Yonkers.

The North Yonkers Scholarship Foundation (NYSF) is pleased to announce that our 7th Annual Chili Hilly 5K Run/Walk will be held on Saturday, Oct. 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The event will feature a half-marathon, relay and 5K run.

The Yonkers Marathon offers a special place in U.S. road race history, as the second-oldest marathon in the country, behind the Boston Marathon. The first Yonkers Marathon was run in 1905.

The Yonkers Marathon is also one of the most difficult in the country because of the route, which sends runners through the city and briefly into Hastings in a 13.1-mile loop, with some scenic vistas of the Hudson River, but also up and down the famous hills of Yonkers. The entry fee is $50 before Oct. 19, and $50 after. Fees for the half-marathon, relay and 5K are different.

For more information, visit https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/Yonkers/YonkersMarathon/ or call 914-848-8169.

The Force is now 4-2 in its inaugural season. "Every week we are making strides," said DeMattina. "I am very proud of the effort my players are putting forward. We are excited about Friday night under the lights against the Yonkers Braves. It should be a great event for our entire community." The game will be played Oct. 12 at the Saunders U.S. field. Kickoff is at 7 p.m. I would like to salute the Yonkers Police Department, which hosted a barbeque for the team after practice last Thursday afternoon. All citizens of Yonkers should be very proud of the way YPD has embraced this team. The Yonkers Brave, named to honor the Yonkers Fire Department, had a bye this week. Come on out this Friday night to support our two Yonkers teams. It will be a great game! 

By Phil Foley

The Force defeat Scarsdale's High School 14-0 on Oct. 5 at the Gotham H.S. Field. Coach Dan DeMattina's team played an excellent game highlighted by a terrific defense and a running game that provided the Force with the two touchdowns that gave them the victory. Leading the Force once again was Tyler Greene, who rushed 11 times for 136 yards and one touchdown. Elijah Chambers was 13 for 74 yards rushing. Mutual Wilks also scored a rushing TD for the Force.

On defense for the Force, Chambers had nine tackles and one blocked punt. Michael Oliver had six tackles and Jamarl Bates had four. Alex Chessil also had one sack and Allen Koean had one interception.

The Force is now 4-2 in its inaugural sea-

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**MEDICARE ADVANCE HEALTH PLAN SEMINARS**

If you are Medicare and/or Medicare and Medicaid Eligible

Join us for formal presentations with our licensed Senior Benefits Advisors to learn more about choosing a Medicare Advantage Plan

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<thead>
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<th>VENUE</th>
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For more information and to RSVP: 1-844-544-8169  TTY: 1-800-662-1220

agewellnewyork.com/imagine  events@agewellnewyork.com

Light snacks will be provided

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**Rising Newspapers** has more than 150 drop locations throughout Westchester. To find the location nearest you, visit RisingMediaGroup.com. If you are a business who would like to have our paper at your location, or you know of a good place, e-mail dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com.
Comedy Show at Empire Casino Benefits ALS Research

Help find a cure for ALS with Pat Quinn during a comedy show Oct 18. Here, Quinn parodied with Mayor Mike Spano. Quinn was diagnosed with ALS in March 2013 at the age of 50. Since co-founding the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, he has raised millions to support ALS research, and is taking the fight against ALS on Thursday, Oct. 18 with this incredible comedy night. Please join us for what is certain to be an incredible comedy night. Pat Quinn and his family have partnered with Empire City Casino to bring you a night of laughter to support Pat Quinn and his family. Quinn lost his voice and was given only months to live. Pat is a very inspiring man, and he has turned his tragedy into a positive experience by working with the ALS Association and raising significant funds to support ALS research. He has become a powerful advocate for the fight against ALS, and he continues to inspire those around him with his courage and determination to find a cure. Pat is a true inspiration, and we are grateful for his support of the ALS Association. Please join us for this incredible comedy night and support Pat Quinn and his family. (Tickets for this comedy event are on sale now. To purchase tickets, please contact Empire City Casino at 914-268-7898.)

By Eric Schoen
Where Do We Go From Here?

By Eric Schoen
Where Do We Go from Here?

Eric Schoen
Publisher & Editor in Chief

drmurphy@risingmediagroup.com
pgerken@risingmediagroup.com

Proudly serving the City of Yonkers

Where Do We Go From Here?

Notice of formation of org. filed with SSNY on 3/1/18 at the SSNY offices located at 25 Warburton Ave., Yonkers, NY 10701. Notice of formation of org. filed with SSNY on 3/1/18 at the SSNY offices located at 25 Warburton Ave., Yonkers, NY 10701. SSNY shall mail process to: ALEX JEREX, 197 S. Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701. SSNY has filed notice of formation of JPH Estates LLC, Arts & Communications, 197 S. Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701. SSNY shall mail process to: ALEX JEREX, 197 S. Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701. SSNY has filed notice of formation of G4S Yonkers NY 10701. SSNY has filed notice of formation of CHAUSAN BAYAN BAKER GROUP, LLC 25 Warburton Ave., Yonkers, NY 10701. SSNY shall mail process to: 4 Larrimore Road, South Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701. SSNY has filed notice of formation of ORG. filed with SSNY

Notice of formation of CHAUSAN BAYAN BAKER GROUP, LLC 25 Warburton Ave., Yonkers, NY 10701. SSNY has filed notice of formation of ORG. filed with SSNY


Yonkers PAL Golf Outing Is October 22

The Yonkers Police Athletic League’s second annual Chris Paladino Memorial Golf Outing will be held Oct. 22 at Fox Hills Golf Club.

The cost is $275 per person, or $90 for educators and librarians. To order tickets, visit www.wheelsforwishes.org.

Celebrate Halloween with Rivertown String Quartet And Thanksgiving with Beethoven

The Riverton String Quartet will present a free Halloween Spooktacular classical music concert and dance party Oct. 24 at 3:30 p.m. at the Yonkers Riverfront Library, 1 Lar-

Local authors Jinmei Han and Vesta Hirndani will be featured guests at the YPL gala.

By Nancy Marron

President, Foundation for the Yonkers Pub-
lic Library

Library lives today are many things—marsh-

As you and your friends enjoy this event, we learn about their part, the political tensions between South and North Korea they experi-
enced firsthand, and her experience as a first-
generation American navigating two worlds.

The book is riveting from page one, as a hostage situa-
tion unfolds. "The Pink Steering Wheel" will give you a sense of the sights, scents and tastes of Nisha’s childhood in the Paki-
tan and she and her family must flee ris-
ing independence from Britain. Nisha, whose family is both Hindu and Muslim, experiences the trauma of having to leave the home she has always known, as part of India becomes Pakistan and she and her family must flee ris-
ing independence from Britain. Nisha, whose family is both Hindu and Muslim, experiences the trauma of having to leave the home she has always known, as part of India becomes Pakistan.

This November, the National External Diploma Program in the United States offers a solution to gain a high school equivalency diploma during a free information session at the Riverfront Library on Wednesday, Oct. 17 at 11 a.m.

It is important to have the credentials, or are you interested in going to college and need the credentials? If you do not have a high school diploma, cause you don’t have a high school diploma, or financial information, visit www.ypl.org.

“Vaccinating your pet against rabies will protect your pet and your family in case your pet has contact with a rabid or potentially ra-
bid animal,” said Westchester County Health

Vaccine Administration.

Rabies is a fatal disease that is spread through the bite or saliva of infected animals. Most animals that commonly infect humans are raccoons, skunks, bats and foxes. However, domestic animals such as cats and dogs are also at risk because they can easily contract rabies from wild or stray animals.

Participants will receive four ways to prepare for the exams, including tips for taking classes online independent study.

In addition, the Riverfront Library offers TASC tutoring, weekly workshops with online tutors providing personalized support for indi-
viduals taking the TASC exam. This is a free service open to all on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., Oct. 3 to Dec. 19.

The TASC tutoring program is always looking for volunteers to tutor. If you have a background in teaching and/or tutoring and want to give back to the commu-
nity, contact Phyllis Lohe at 914-273-7966 forms program details.

For more event information, visit www.ypl.org.

For more information, contact Eileen Carey at 914-965-4999.
The Westchester County Health Department will offer free flu vaccines for students at Pace University this week. The campaign will begin on October 15, and it will last through October 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Westchester County College Library, Library, Yonkers, 515 North Avenue. Thousands of books on a variety of topics will be featured at bargain prices. Bankers are $2 (or $10 for $15); large softcover books are $5; small mass market softcover books are $10 each; and children's books are 25 cents each, with other items priced as marked.

For more information and directions to the library, visit YPL.org or call 914-337-1500.

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By Mary Joane Zaine
Aquehung’s Annual Book Sale
Saturday, October 13
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
At the Aquehung Women’s Club
370 North Avenue, Yonkers

Aquehung Women’s Club was founded in 1965 to give women a place to “catch up in the community.” The group now requests the public’s support of their annual giant fall book sale which will take place on Saturday, October 13.

The sale will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Aquehung Women’s Club, 370 North Avenue, Yonkers. The book sale includes nearly 30,000 books, which are donated each year by community members. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Aquehung Women’s Club.

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By Jason Greenfield
Dance Jordan Gymnastics
Programs

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By Matthew L. Drumm
On This Day in History

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2018 - YONKERS RISING - PAGE 5
In the Matter of Foreclosure

TAX LIENS

Pursuant to XIX of the Charter of the City of Yonkers and Article 11, Title III of the Real Property Tax Law, by the City of Yonkers, New York, — List of delinquent taxes as of October 12, 2018, consisting of one volume.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF TAX LIENS BY CITY OF YONKERS, NEW YORK

BY ACTION IN REM

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on the 12th day of October, 2018, JOHN LISZEWSKI, Commissioner of Finance and Enforcing Officer of the City of Yonkers pursuant to law filed with the Clerk of Westchester County, a list of parcels of property affected by unpaid tax liens held and served by said City of Yonkers which on such date had been unpaid for a period of at least two years after the date when the tax, assessment or other legal charge represented thereby became a lien. Said list contains as to each such parcel (a) a brief description of the property affected by such tax lien, (b) the name of the last known owner of such property as the same appears on the assessment roll of said City of Yonkers for the last calendar year, or a statement that the owner is unknown if such be the case, (c) a statement of the amount of such tax lien upon the property and the date on which the tax was laid, including those which shall have been due for less than two years together with the date or dates from which, and the rate or rates at which interest and penalties shall be computed.

All persons having or claiming to have an interest in the real property described in such list of delinquent taxes are hereby notified that the filing of such list of delinquent taxes constitutes the commencement by said City of Yonkers of an action in the Supreme Court, Westchester County, to foreclose the tax liens therein described by a foreclosure proceeding in rem and that such list constitutes a notice of pending action of foreclosure and a complaint by the said City of Yonkers against such parcel or parcel of land therein described to enforce the payment of such tax lien. Such action is brought against the real property only and is to foreclose the tax liens described in such list.

No personal judgment shall be entered in such cases, executions, assessments or other legal charges or any part thereof.

This notice is directed to all persons having or claiming to have an interest in the real property described in such list of delinquent taxes and such persons are hereby notified further that a duplicate of such list of delinquent taxes has been filed in the office of the Commissioner of Finance of said City of Yonkers and will remain open for inspection up to and including the 14th day of December, 2018, which date is hereby fixed as the last day of redemption.

AND take further notice that any person having or claiming to have an interest in any such parcel and the legal right thereto may on or before said date redeem the same by paying to the said Commissioner of Finance of the City of Yonkers the amount of all such unpaid tax liens thereof and in addition thereto all interest and penalties which are a lien against such real property, computed to and including the date of redemption. In the event that the taxes are paid by a person other than the record owner of such property, the person so paying shall be entitled to have the tax liens affected thereby satisfied of record or to receive an assignment of such tax liens evidenced by a proper written instrument.

Every person having any right, title or interest in or in any parcel described in such list of delinquent taxes may serve a verified notice of interest or a duly verified answer upon the attorney for the City of Yonkers settling forth in detail the nature and amount of his interest and any defense or objection to the foreclosure. Such answer must be filed in the office of the Clerk of Westchester County and served upon the attorney for the City of Yonkers within twenty days after the date above mentioned as the last day of redemption. In the event of failure to redeem or answer by any person having the right to redeem or answer such person shall be forever barred and foreclosed of all right, title and interest in and to the parcel described to such person in delinquent tax list and a judgment in foreclosure may be taken by default.

In the event of your failure to respond to this motion on or before the twentieth day after December 14, 2018, the last day of redemption herein, application for judgment in foreclosure or for judgment of foreclosure and sale in the within foreclosure action will be made to the County Court of Westchester County.

This notice is directed to all persons having or claiming to have an interest in the real property described in such list of delinquent taxes as of October 12, 2018, consisting of one volume.

No personal judgment shall be entered in such cases, executions, assessments or other legal charges or any part thereof.

Unless the taxes and assessments and all other legal charges are paid, or an answer interposed, as provided by statute, the ownership of said property, will in due course of law be transferred to the City of Yonkers as owner of all right, title and interest and equity of redemption in and to the parcel described in such list of delinquent taxes and a judgment in foreclosure may be taken by default.

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The undersigned attorneys and counsels, as authorized and empowered, are respectively, serving as attorneys and counsels for the City of Yonkers, New York, for the purpose of filing and serving the within notice and list.

Dated: October 12, 2018

JOHN LISZEWSKI
COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE and ENFORCING OFFICER for the City of Yonkers City Hall
40 South Broadway
Yonkers, NY 10703
(914) 377-6141

MATTHEW I. GALLAGHER, ESQ.,
CORPORATION COUNSEL and
ATTORNEY for the City of Yonkers
City Hall
40 South Broadway
Yonkers, NY 10703
(914) 377-5063

TO THE PARTY TO WHOM THE ENCLOSED NOTICE IS ADDRESSED

You are the presumptive owner or lienor of one or more of the parcels mentioned and described in the list referred to in the enclosed notice. Unless the taxes and assessments and all other legal charges are paid, or an answer interposed, as provided by statute, the ownership of said property, will in due course of law be transferred to the City of Yonkers as owner of all right, title and interest and equity of redemption in and to the parcel described to such person in delinquent tax list and a judgment in foreclosure may be taken by default.

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Dated: October 12, 2018

JOHN LISZEWSKI
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40 South Broadway
Yonkers, NY 10703
(914) 377-6141

MATTHEW I. GALLAGHER, ESQ.,
CORPORATION COUNSEL and
ATTORNEY for the City of Yonkers
City Hall
40 South Broadway
Yonkers, NY 10703
(914) 377-5063

APPENDIX A

LIST OF DELINQUENT TAXES

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Page 6 - Yonkers Rising - Friday, October 12, 2018
Senior Law Day is Oct. 16 in White Plains

The 19th annual Senior Law Day in White Plains will take place Tuesday, Oct. 16 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Westchester County Center, 1 Central Ave. The free event features 24 educational workshops, one-on-one consultations and an opportunity to meet and learn from experienced elder law attorneys, legal assistants, and long-term care insurance specialists. Free parking will also be available.

“We can’t stress enough the importance of planning, especially when it comes to age,” said Westchester County Executive George Latimer. “Senior Law Day is designed to help Westchester families navigate the legal, financial and health-related concerns that will all of us experience as we grow older.”

The program, hosted by the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services, is open to all county senior citizens and their families. Registration is encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome and sign-up for the free, 15-minute, one-on-one consultations will be available at the door.

To register in advance, visit www.westmed.org/seniorlawday.info. Other useful resources are available at www.westmed.org/seniorlawday.info@gmail.com or tweeted @seniorlawday.


Researchers predict the flu season will be especially tough this year. Some of the experts offered tips about how to stay healthy and achieve fitness goals.

For more information, visit nyp.org/westmed or call 914-947-5600.

Be Well Bash Attracts Crowds

To Lawrence Hospital

The 19th annual Senior Law Day in White Plains will take place Tuesday, Oct. 16 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Westchester County Center, 1 Central Ave. The free event features 24 educational workshops, one-on-one consultations and an opportunity to meet and learn from experienced elder law attorneys, legal assistants, and long-term care insurance specialists. Free parking will also be available.

“We can’t stress enough the importance of planning, especially when it comes to age,” said Westchester County Executive George Latimer. “Senior Law Day is designed to help Westchester families navigate the legal, financial and health-related concerns that will all of us experience as we grow older.”

The program, hosted by the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services, is open to all county senior citizens and their families. Registration is encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome and sign-up for the free, 15-minute, one-on-one consultations will be available at the door.

To register in advance, visit www.westmed.org/seniorlawday.info. Other useful resources are available at www.westmed.org/seniorlawday.info@gmail.com or tweeted @seniorlawday.


Researchers predict the flu season will be especially tough this year. Some of the experts offered tips about how to stay healthy and achieve fitness goals.

For more information, visit nyp.org/westmed or call 914-947-5600.
Sprain Ridge Pool to Open for Opening Day Next Year

Meet you July 4th at Sprain Ridge Pool for a swim.

Our papers called for county legislators with influence over Recreation, Parks, and Budget to fast-track the budget cycle, to get the funding for the pool to be re-opened. That never happened, until Astorino’s exit.

Another reader summed up our sentiments in the past: “I am a native Yonkersite. I am a Yonkers homeowner and taxpayer, where is the accountability for my tax dollars? Furthermore, I do not think this decision was an anti-Yonkers sentiment; I said Sprain Ridge Pool for many years, before the troubles began in 2011, and I love in Greenburgh.”

Lights… Camera…

Continued From Page 1

...in this letter to the editor: “My question for you, our Yonkers homeowner and taxpayer, where is the accountability for my tax dollars? Furthermore, I do not think this decision was an anti-Yonkers sentiment; I said Sprain Ridge Pool for many years, before the troubles began in 2011, and I love in Greenburgh.”

Second, in one of the richest counties on our country, where we have a pool and skating rink closed, why do we need this? Moreover, from the media, and on the County Board of Legislators, and all of the residents of Westchester, need to speak out next time so that this pool might be able to open next year, and not just our county pool for their summer fun.

Modifying Term

Continued From Page 1

will benefit from a greater diversity of opinions and perspectives. The discussions are underway to change or modify the existing term limits-legislation. The current Yonkers term limits, as written, do not apply to the mayoral office, and it is the first step to action of the City Council, which will be the governmental body responsible for the re-drafting of the legislation. It will allow the mayor and council members to serve two-year terms, or 12 years maximum, which is the current limit for term limits, and opponents, come from both sides of the aisle, with some current democrat and republicans are in favor, while other democrats and republicans are against it.

The ramifications about modifying term limits in Yonkers are important, and the issue of term legislation has been proposed to the City at the City Council. The primary reason for a term limit is to permit an individual to serve a term, and if not re-elected, if the individual is not re-elected, it will have to be a waiting period of at least one term, before the individual can run for a new term.

A notice of the proposed new law would have to be printed in this newspaper, and the public would have to respond. The notice would have to be sent to the City Council, which would then be required to reconsider its vote, without a vote of any kind, or even the consent of the other council members.

Councillors are considering their opinions on a term limits law change. The possibility of a new term limits law, or the extension of the current term limits law, that would put the Yonkers term limits law in place will benefit from a greater diversity of opinions and perspectives. The discussions are underway to change or modify the existing term limits-legislation.

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In honor of Gold Star Mother’s Day, Sept. 30, the City of Yonkers held a ceremony at the Gold Star Mother’s Monument at Van der Donck Park in the downtown-waterfront.

Gold Star Mother’s Day is observed to recognize and honor those who have lost a son or daughter in the service of the U.S. armed forces. Leo Navarro, Yonkers director of veterans services welcomed those assembled, and Melinda Carter offered a prayer. The Yonkers Police Honor Guard presented the colors. Harold Dowsley, chairman of the Central Committee, led the pledge of Allegiance, and Kari Hesse sang our national anthem.

Mayor Mike Spano, and Hope Hollinworth-Cuoss, president of Gold Star Mother’s Yonkers, gave remarks. All of the Gold Star Mothers in attendance were presented with Bows and the YPH Honor Guard gave a sunflower and played “Taps.”

The Gold Star is presented to mothers who have lost a son or daughter in service to our country, a symbol of respect and remembrance from the story of Michael the Archangel, who flew from the Heaven to the earth to comfort a mother who had lost her son. He took from his side what was given to him from God. He opened his hand and offered her the Gold Star.

“This is no greater love than that for a child. I send to you this golden star, for it was created across from the Yonkers train station at the foot of Van der Donck Park.”

Groundwork Hudson Valley Gala a Huge Success

Groundwork Hudson Valley recently held its annual Urban River Party for 20 on the Science Barge.

The event was well attended to support GWHV and to enjoy a night on the riverfront and a dinner from Chef Peter Kelly.

This year’s honorees included Nanette Bourne, principal and director of Hudson Valley services for Sam Schwartz Consulting; Brigitte Griswold, (executive director of GWHV); Nanette Bourne, honoree (principal and director of Hudson Valley services for Sam Schwartz Consulting); Wendy Zimmermann (GWHV president, Board of Director); and Floyd Myers, honoree (chief of business development and partnerships for the National Parks of New York Harbor).

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GWHV Executive Director Brigitte Griswold was the host, and was able to raise funds from auction items that included “Hamilton” tickets, a sail on the Long Island Sound, and a dinner from Chef Peter Kelly.

Carter offered a prayer. The Yonkers Police Honor Guard presented the colors. Harold Dowsley, chairman of the Central Committee, led the pledge of Allegiance, and Kari Hesse sang our national anthem.

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The gala’s theme, “Building a Movement,” emphasized that My Brother’s Keeper is a dynamic initiative seeking to inspire lasting, widespread involvement.

“As we celebrate our magnificent young men, we are reminded that MBK is a life-changing movement, not just a moment of festivity,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edwin Quezada, co-chairman of Yonkers MBK, along with the Rev. Dr. Jim Bostic, executive director of the Nepperhan Community Center.

Rev. Steve Lopez, president of Yonkers Board of Education, added: “Youths are the leaders of one mind and one heart, working together to uplift all our children. We encourage everyone to support the movement by providing jobs, internships, or by sharing advice, experience and love as an MBK mentor.”

Hosted by emcee Joe Torres, WABC-TV anchor and host of “Tiempo,” the gala included the presentation of inaugural awards to five honorees: New York State Regent Lester Young Jr., who earned the Champion of Equity Award; Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, who earned the Leading the Way Award; the Yonkers Guardians Association, which earned the Defenders of the Dream Award; Gorton High School student Antonio Jones, who earned the Builder of the Future Award; and Palisade Preparatory School student Nuryel Benitez, who earned the Tomorrow’s Leader Today Award.

Distinguished guest speakers and performers included State Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senate Democratic leader; Westchester County Executive George Latimer; Aldrin Rafael Bonilla, Manhattan deputy borough president; Fredrick Joseph, philanthropist, creator and CEO of #BlackPantherChallenge; tap dancer and inspirational entertainer Josh Johnson; spoken word performance artist Kevin Saunders, founder of KS4Inspiration; and the Joey Berkley Quartet, sponsored by the Westchester Center for Jazz and Contemporary Music.

Shawn Dove, CEO of Campaign for Black Male Achievement; New York State Board of Regents Chancellor Dr. Betty Rosa; and many other luminaries attended to show their support.

“This year’s anniversary gala far exceeded anything I could have hoped for,” said the Rev. Dr. Jim Bostic. “It is the culmination of the hard work from every level of our community, from the mayor’s office to our superintendent and his staff, to our community leaders, and, of course, those on my staff, as well, who have committed themselves to making a difference in the lives of our boys and young men of color.”

Since Yonkers joined the national My Brother’s Keeper movement Sept. 21, 2016, dozens of dynamic programs and events have been created in Yonkers schools and around the community to close persistent opportunity and achievement gaps facing young men of color. Yonkers MBK has elevated thousands of young people through these efforts.

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