PAL Special Needs Christmas Party a Hit

The Yonkers Police Athletic League held its 29th annual holiday party Dec. 2 at the Walden Center. Every year, more than 300 children and adults with special needs from Yonkers and the surrounding area visit PAL with their friends and families for a day of holiday fun. Singer DJ Linda Miller got everyone up and dancing, and singers Mike Bello and Phil Cagiano added to the holiday spirit. Thumbs was ex-


gusted in democrats retaking the majority in the House, will now chair the Foreign Relations Committee, and over his four decades of service has traveled the globe to get a firsthand look at our relations with governments, dictators and al-

By Dan Murphy

(Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano recently an-
nounced the launch of the city’s first “Warm Winter Coat for Veterans Clothing Drive.” The public donation drive is geared toward helping local veterans in hospitals and nursing homes stay warm by col-

Continued on Page 10

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Continued on Page 8

The “blue wave” of progressive-democratic victories on election night across the county resulted in democrats reclaiming the majority in the House of Representatives. Westchester Com-

Yonkers Congressman Eliot Engel with Rep. Nancy Pelosi, who is expected to be the next House speaker.

The 20-foot tree was lit in the middle of Getty Square, with lively holiday music from the East Coast Inspirational singers, and other entertainment and free hot chocolate, enjoyed by all.

A Holiday Gift to the Environment

The Yonkers community gathered last week and this week to celebrate the eight days and nights of Chanukah with events all across the city. On Monday, the Cross County Shopping Center held its grand menorah lighting on the second night of Chanukah.

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Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano recently announced the launch of the city’s first “Warm Winter Coat for Veterans Clothing Drive.” The public donation drive is geared toward helping local veterans in hospitals and nursing homes stay warm by collecting donated items such as winter coats, gloves, hats and scarves, among other necessities.

“Yonkers is ready for the challenge in Yonkers. Recent Yonkers sightings include the annual Downtown BID tree-lighting at Getty Square, where he and Mrs. Claus welcomed a large crowd, with Mrs. Claus lighting in Getty Square, where he and Mrs. Claus welcomed a large crowd, with Mrs. Claus lighting in Getty Square, where he and Mrs. Claus welcomed a large crowd, with Mrs. Claus lighting in Getty Square, where he and Mrs. Claus welcomed a large crowd, with Mrs. Claus lighting in Getty Square, where he and Mrs. Claus welcomed a large crowd, with Mrs. Claus lighting in Getty Square, where he and Mrs. Claus welcomed a large crowd, with Mrs. Claus lighting in Getty Square, where he and Mrs. Claus welcomed a large crowd, with Mrs. Claus lighting in Getty Square, where he and Mrs. Claus welcomed a large crowd, with Mrs. Claus lighting in Getty Square, where he and Mrs. Claus welcomed a large crowd, with Mrs. Claus lighting in Getty Square, where he and Mrs. Claus welcomed a large crowd, with Mrs. Claus lighting in Getty Square, where he and Mrs. Claus welcomed a large crowd, with Mrs. Claus lighting in Getty Square, where he and Mrs. Claus welcomed a large crowd, with Mrs. Claus lighting in Getty Square, where he and Mrs. Claus welcomed a large crowd, with Mrs. Claus lighting in Getty Square, where he and Mrs. Claus welcomed a large crowd, with Mrs. Claus lighting in Getty Square, where he and Mrs. Claus welcomed a large crowd, with Mrs. Claus lighting in Getty Square, where he and Mrs. Claus welcomed a large crowd, with Mrs. Claus lighting in Getty Square, where he and Mrs. Claus welcomed a large crowd, with Mrs. Claus lighting in Getty Square, where he and Mrs. Claus welcomed a large crowd, with Mrs. Claus lighting.
Another Great Season for Yonkers Girls’ H.S. Swim Team

By Dan Murphy

The recent season of sports in Yonkers Public Schools is underway. One team that had a great 2017 and is ready for this season in the Yonkers combined girls’ varsity swim team, with Coach Julie Schoenlank.

The team is made up of 30 members from eight Yonkers high schools. This year the team is 8-2, led by Captains Ofelia Valadez, a junior, and Danielle Escamilla, a senior – both from Yonkers High School.

The two losses were close and both came down to the last event of the meet: the 400-meter free relay. Nyack, 87 – Yonkers, 84. Yonkers was only 4 points away from winning.

I knew from day one that the team had a lot of potential when we had 18 new girls at tryouts and two years as a team. We definitely had high expectations going into championships, and it was tough to lose by only 4 points. However, we are a young team, and I expect great things from them this past August,” said Schoenlank. “It’s amazing what the girls have accomplished in only two years as a team. We defi nitely had high expectations going into championships, and it was tough to lose by only 4 points. However, we are a young team, and I expect great things from them next year.”

Team highlights include Jaden Bascon, and eight-grader at PEARLS winning the 200-meter free event with a time of 2:07.38, and the 500-meter free event with a time of 5:41.25. Bascon also qualified for Section 1 Championships in the two events, as well as two relays.

The final scores for the 2018 Divisional Championships were:

1. Nyack 279
2. Yonkers 275
3. RC Ketchum 257
4. Harrison 254
5. Putnam Valley 252
6. Beacon 242
7. Albertus Magnus 163
8. Woodlands 158
9. Keio 150
10. East Ramapo 42
11. Port Chester 39

Top Scorers for Yonkers at Divisionals were:

Sarasker, junior Diana Martinez placed 13th in the 50 free and 11th in the 100 free. Yonkers H.S. eighth-grader Aramis May placed 26th in the 200 free and 100 butterfly.

PEARLS seventh-grader Emily Salazar placed ninth in the 200 free and 12th in the 200 IM and 16th in the 100 backstroke.

Yonkers Montessori Academy seventh-grader Madely placed 12th in the 200 free and 100 butterfly.

YMA ninth-grader Elena Pruthi placed 11th in the 100 backstroke. YHS senior Ofelia Valadez Jr. placed seventh in the 100 butterfly and fi fth in the 100 breaststroke.

City Hall Tree Lighting

Photos by Donna Davis. Members of the St. Casimir’s Children’s Choir.

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AgeWell New York, LLC is a HMO plan with a Medicare and Medicaid contract. Enrollment in AgeWell New York, LLC depends on contract renewal. ATTENTION: If you do not speak English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 1-866-586-8044 (TTY: 1-800-662-1220). Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plans and Value Added Benefits $0 or low cost plan premiums

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Sarah Lawrence College and the City of Yonkers celebrates a public-private partnership Nov. 29 that resulted in the installation of LED lights at the city’s Fleming Field. The six 200-watt LED light towers were unveiled during a press conference attended by Mayor Mike Spano and representatives from Yonkers, as well as Sarah Lawrence College President Cristle Colem

Sarah Lawrence College President Cristle Coleman, far right, joins Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, far left, and City Council Minority Leader Mike Breen, second from left, to celebrate the collaborative effort to improve safety and accessibility for the college’s soccer teams and staff.

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and City Council Minority Leader Mike Breen with members of the Sarah Lawrence soccer team and staff.
County Executive George Latimer issued the following statement on the homeless population in Yonkers, following news that the current shelter at St. John’s Church will be closing.

“For many years, those who are classified as ‘homeless’ choose to live in urban areas. Wearing a white shirt, working through government, provides some minimum baseline of shelter, particularly on cold nights. Part of this is a legal requirement; part of this is a moral requirement. Downtown Yonkers is one of these areas, and for a number of years the nonprofit Sharing Community has sponsored some of these spaces, providing the space with St. John’s Church. The county Department of Social Services has contracted with outside agencies to provide services for the homeless.

“In Yonkers, our current contract with St. John’s Church expires Dec. 31. The church that has housed this operation for this other place for people’s space. Working with the city, the county has not yet found acceptable alternate space to house the homeless. Additionally, advocates have requested additional space for day programs for the homeless to keep them gainfully engaged and off the streets, as well as acceptable alternate space to house the homeless.

The Yonkers City Council and Councilwoman Shanae Williams, who represents the First Council District where the shelter is located, has called for more mental health services and programs for the homeless population downtown.

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The Yonkers City Council and Councilwoman Shanae Williams, who represents the First Council District where the shelter is located, has called for more mental health services and programs for the homeless population downtown. The shelter is being closed.

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The Yonkers City Council and Councilwoman Shanae Williams, who represents the First Council District where the shelter is located, has called for more mental health services and programs for the homeless population downtown.

"Since we are still without alternate space, we are struggling with the current arrangements for six additional months, through June 30. The heart of the winter is ahead and without alternate space, we have few options. There are voices in the community that do not care whether we help the homeless all, using it as their problem; they believe these individuals must do more for themselves. There are other voices in the community that insist we do more for the needy. This is the issue of this national racial tension. It's a national racial tension. It's a national racial tension. It's a national racial tension. It's a national racial tension. It's a national racial tension. It's a national racial tension. It's a national racial tension. It's a national racial tension. It's a national racial tension.

"The Yonkers City Council has announced that its annual Christmas concert will be held Saturday, Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $10, or $8 for students and seniors. For additional information, contact the parish office.

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Grand Illumination Opening Ceremony Changed to Dec. 12

Enjoy the beauty of the holiday at Untermyer Gardens

The Untermyer Gardens is a historic and cultural landmark located in Yonkers, New York. The gardens are famous for their stunning displays of holiday lights, which are illuminated every night from Dec. 12 to Jan. 1 from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Hot chocolate will be served by various community organizations, and the gardens will be open every night from Dec. 12 to Jan. 1. The gardens are located at 1000 Sweetbriar Road in Yonkers, and admission is $5 per day. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/YonkersHistoricalSociety.

First Aid Kit

First aid kits are essential for any outdoor activity, and the Yonkers Department of Public Works will be handing out free first aid kits at the Grand Illumination Opening Ceremony. The kits include bandages, antiseptic wipes, and other essential items for minor injuries and accidents. The kits are available at the event, and there is no need to register in advance.

Fireworks

The Yonkers Historic Park will be hosting a fireworks display on the night of Dec. 12. The fireworks will begin at 7 p.m. and will be visible from the Grand Illumination Opening Ceremony location. The fireworks display is free and open to the public, and there is no need to register in advance.

In conclusion, the Grand Illumination Opening Ceremony is an exciting event that celebrates the holiday season and brings together the Yonkers community. The gardens will be beautifully lit up with thousands of lights, and there will be hot chocolate and other refreshments available. Whether you are a long-time resident or a first-time visitor, the Grand Illumination Opening Ceremony is sure to be a memorable event.
Kwanzaa Celebration
In White Plains

A Kwanzaa celebration will be held Thursday, Dec. 27 at 2 p.m. at the Thomas H. Steinmetz Community Center, 808 East Post Road, Mt. Vernon. Join in the celebration of Africa and African-American culture.

Kwanzaa is an African-American festival meaningful for people of all faiths, is celebration by family and friends who gather to share food, light candles, and think about particular values that make community meaningful. Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a college professor, author and scholar-activist who stresses the indispensable need to preserve, continually revitalize and promote African-American culture. Its origins are in the first harvest celebrations of Africa, from which it takes its name.

The celebration is sponsored by Commun- ity Unitarian Universalist Congregation, The Henry C. Swerling Foundation, White Plains Housing Authority, Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Library and more.

Westchester WIC Benefits
Going Electronic

The Women, Infants and Children Program run through the Westchester County Health Department, providing families with prenatal and infant care and access to nutritious foods, will be closed during the first week of December so that the program can transition from a paper to an electronic benefits system.

“We are confident this brief closure will pave the way for much easier food shopping for our WIC families,” said Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler. “WIC debit cards should streamline the check-out process.”

The new electronic benefits system is expected to allow for faster purchases and improved customer service.

Participants in the WIC program, as it is commonly known, were notified over the past few months about the new system and the week-long closure, which is to allow for the transition of the mainland software.

To assure all Westchester County WIC clients can access the funds they are entitled to during the closure, the program has extended all hours through the end of December.

In Westchester, about 16,000 women, infants and children participate in WIC. Statewide, more than 43,000 New Yorkers rely on WIC to help them eat and stay healthy. And nationally, about half of all infants benefit from WIC.

To schedule an e-WIC appointment, contact the Westchester WIC office at 914-667-4116 or visit www.wheelsforwishes.org.

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Y es, There is Still Christmas Caroling in Westchester

By Phyllis C. Murray

Christmas magic is in the air. Harry’s harp is ticking. Raindeer are coming soon, you know, I understand. Santa said he will be coming to town. Money and Daddy have gifts to give; and we’ll have a merry Christmas.

Congressman Engel

Continued from Page 1

make inquiries into Russia, President Vladimir Putin, and their influence with our elections. There is a lot to discover and I have several questions regarding President Donald Trump.

“President Trump and President Putin met many months ago in Helsinki,” said Engel. “We don’t have the documentation that proves Mr. Putin was nowhere else in the room except the translated conversations of the people in the room, and with the Russians systematically trying to to influence our elections. I want to know what the President talked about.”

While there’s a lot of interest on Chappaqua’s itinerary across the globe.

“I want to know about North Korea,” he said. “There is a list of countries he’s going to visit. Our personal involvement in Afghanistan and our involvement in the Middle East. NATO. Our NATO alliance is very important.”

Although Engel has a letter of support from all 16 members of the House Ways and Means Committee. Relations Committee and the democratic leadership, he said that he has not yet heard from any congressman

“I think the role of Congress from the Constitution gives all these branches shared power to perform checks and balances on one another,” said Engel. “I want to know how are we going to find out what this administration is doing and what this administration is not doing and what it’s not doing in different things in different areas.”

We asked Engel about the recent elections and how the rail projects in the new Congress. “I think the rail projects are important. How do we build the rail system and how do we use it,” he said.

But Engel also stressed that he plans of working with a democratic majority house to pass a number of important domestic issues. “Health care is the major issue on everyone’s mind. There are a lot of people who are worried about losing their health care if they’ve been with their insurance for a long time. I want to make sure that they are taking care of these new patients.”

Engel held A list of important domestic issues that we hope to address next year. And we need to be paid for our infrastructure. To re-invest in the country and bring back manufacturing and call center jobs back to the country.

A few thousand of your 199 years is in the air. Engel also stressed that he plans on working with a democratic majority house to pass a number of important domestic issues. “Health care is the major issue on everyone’s mind. There are a lot of people who are worried about losing their health care if they’ve been with their insurance for a long time. I want to make sure that they are taking care of these new patients.”

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Black Women & Girl-Child Empowerment Forum a Success

Nyack, NY

reer and knowing ones self-worth. Participants – including succeeding in school, finding a ca
how to overcome the everyday challenges in life
pact" at the Yonkers Riverfront Library.

Nurturing the Girl-Child through Collective Im-
Women and the Girl-Child: It Takes A Village:
hosted the fourth annual collaborative “Black
and various community stakeholders, recently
received knowledge and words of encouragement
emotional, physical and financial well-being.

The empowerment panel was moderated by

The women's sister circle was titled “Creat-

The day also included natural hair demon-

We applaud all of our community part-

Sister to Sister International, Inc., along with

Sister is Senior International, Inc., along with

The forum was designed to empower girls

To find an orthopedist

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LOTTERY DATE: April 9, 2019
For an application or more information please call 914-476-5070 Ext. 4

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La fecha límite para entregar la solicitud del sorteo es EL DÍA 26 DE MARZO A LAS 4:00PM
febrero 12 del 2019 a las 4:00PM
marzo 6 del 2019 a las 4:00PM

Potucken Pond Park – Van Cortlandt Park – Van Cortlandt Manor

St. Nicholas at Philipse Manor Hall

Santa's All
Continued from Page 1

from Santa himself. The day included song and stories with April Armstrong, crafts and activities, and holiday fun.

Save the date for a big holiday event at Philipse Manor Hall on Dec. 15, with the annual Gingerbread Decorating and Winterscape Holiday Concert.

More tree-lightings and holiday happenings include:
On Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m., Untermyer Performing Arts Council will light the tree in Untermyer Park.
Also on Dec. 7, the McLean Avenue Merchants Association will light its tree at 5 p.m. in Conover Park.
And Dec. 13, the South Broadway BID will have a tree-lighting at Lincoln Park from 4 to 6 p.m.
Santa is so busy we need your help. Take a photo of Santa and friends at your tree-lighting and email it to dimurphy@risingmediagroup.com.

Happy Holidays from the PAL

Girl Scouts Attend City Hall Tree-Lighting

Saint Nicholas made his annual pilgrimage to Philipse Manor Hall to give visitors a taste of a Dutch Christmas. Photo by Donna Davis.

PAL Special
Continued from Page 1

insert: One special needs adult asked for peace on Earth, and another asked for her family to be safe this holiday season. Several others asked for nothing more than to be at the party. Santa left with a better understanding of Christmas — thanks to all the attendees. Tara Conover, chair of the city’s parks and recreation department and dozens of PAL volunteers helped to organize the party, as they do every year.

“The atmosphere was filled with warmth and seasonal festivity and, of course, no one trumped Santa,” said Melvin Lathan, PAL direc- tor of youth services. “A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make this day a very special event and a shout-out to our mayor and members of the City Council who showed up to lend their support. All in all, I think our own An- gelo Martelli and Chris Palmato would have been proud. What a wonderful way for the PAL to jump-start the holidays.”

Girl Scout Troop 2546 attended the recent tree-lighting at City Hall and got everyone into the holiday spirit. Photo by Donna Davis.