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Noam Bramson Enters Race for County Executive



New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson

New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson, 43, has announced that he will seek the Democratic nomination for Westchester County Executive this year. Bramson, who won reelection last year and has served as mayor since 2006, with likely face off against Ken Jenkins and Bill Ryan in a Democratic Primary in September, with the winner running against County Executive Rob Astorino in November.

"We need a County Executive with a coherent vision for growing our economy and attracting

new jobs, for cutting government waste and inefficiency and for making good on our commitment to seniors, children and working parents," said Bramson. "As the Mayor of a diverse and complex community, I have brought people together to achieve positive change. As County Executive, I will act with innovation and energy to shape a stronger, healthier and more inclusive Westchester."

In a letter mailed this week to Democratic leaders throughout the County, Bramson cited several of his objectives for Westchester:

- growing the economy, attracting new jobs and delivering greater value for every tax dollar by adopting forward-looking development, land use, transit and environmental plans;
- confronting duplicative government bureaucracy in order to reduce waste, decrease our regional tax burden and make room for essential investments in the future; and
- upholding our commitment to seniors, children, working parents and the vulnerable, on the principle that we move forward when all people in our community have a chance to succeed.

"During the past three years, these priorities have been neglected," said Bramson. "For Westchester to remain a vibrant place to raise a family, find a job and enjoy a rewarding life, the County Executive must be willing to lead."

Bramson touted his record as New Rochelle Mayor, including spearheading successful economic development, creating new jobs and spurring hundreds of millions in investment; adopting responsible budgets that have given New Rochelle the lowest city tax rate among Westchester's urban

Continued on Page 5

Empire City Donates Gifts, Coats & \$500K to Catholic Charities



Photo by Justin Grasso

Back row (l to r): Assemblywoman Shelley Mayor, Empire City Casino President & CEO Timothy Rooney, Mayor Mike Spano, Karen Reynolds holding Ava, Deputy County Executive Kevin Plunkett and Sister Christine Hennessy of Catholic Charities; front row: Molly (left) and Aisling Irish Community Center Orla Kelleher holding Emmitt

Christmas came early for Catholic Charities when they received gifts that will help them not only ensure that New Yorkers in need have a warm coat this winter and a toy or two under the Christmas tree for their children, but will also allow the organization to continue to provide vital services to New York families devastated by Hur-

ricane Sandy. Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway President & CEO Timothy J. Rooney made a generous donation of \$500,000 to the Catholic Charities Hurricane Sandy Relief and Recovery Fund and also presented the organization with hundreds

Continued on Page 8

Keeping Westchester Kids Safe After Newtown



Photo by Donna Davis

Two Yonkers students at a candlelight vigil for the victims of the Newtown school shooting

The topic of guns and how to keep Westchester's children and students safe in the aftermath of the Newtown shooting were the topics of conversation here and throughout the country over the past three weeks.

To the Editor:

At a recent Harrison Town Board meeting, dozens of parents expressed their concerns regarding school safety in the wake of the Newtown, CT, tragedy. Many demanded a full police presence or suggested the hiring of armed private security. To these parents, the cost should not be an issue.

The members of the town board, while receptive and accommodating to the parents' concerns, will be looking into possible alternatives, including reviving the School Resource Officer (SRO) program that was cut due to a decrease in funding from our state and federal governments. The Mayor and Police Chief will continue to coordinate with our School Superintendent in the hopes of finding a cost effective way to provide the se-

The following letter to the editor shows how parents and school districts can work together to try and strengthen safety measures and on Page 4, Westchester's two congressmembers — Nita Lowey and Eliot Engel — discuss our nations gun laws.

curity that has been requested. But this could take some time.

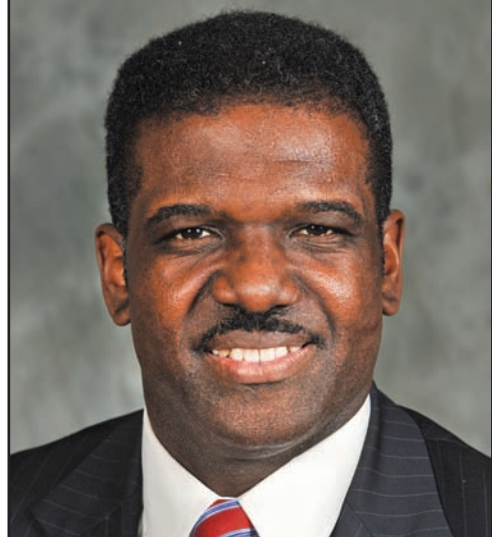
We, as residents, need to take a more proactive stance in assisting our town and school boards in expediting this process. The following is a list of suggestions that could be implemented for the immediate future:

- The town should work with the school district and provide a town-paid stipend for retired police officers as a presence in our schools. We now have several retired police officers who have worked both as SRO officers and youth officers and now work in our school system — their training would be minimal because they have already done this work;

Continued on Page 4

Principled Leadership During the Budget Process

Op-Ed by County Board Chairman Ken Jenkins



County Board Chairman Ken Jenkins

Budgets are all about priorities. Protect the people, safeguard the environment and help create prosperity: these are the simple principles that guide me and many of my colleagues on the Board of Legislators while making decisions, both big and small, during the process of finalizing a budget for Westchester County. I also rely on a system of values that put honesty, fairness and kindness at the foundation of these priorities

and decisions. In the ultra-conservative world of Tea Party extremists, though, there does not seem to be much room for compromise or even working together for the greater good.

The Board of Legislators leadership met with the Astorino Administration prior to release of the Proposed 2013 Budget. The Administration was disappointed by the discussion and the position of the democratic leadership, which was clear: Let's see your budget proposal. The board only can start working on the budget after seeing what the County Executive proposes.

The prior two budgets had bi-partisan support and were adopted 16-1, the one "nay" belonging to (now retired) democrat Marty Rogowsky, who opposed the county's borrowing for operating costs. In terms of process, the board worked together on the budget, and 2011 voted unanimously to override the County Executive's line vetoes and protect jobs and services.

As with the last two budget cycles, County Executive Astorino's Proposed 2013 Budget was consistent with his Tea Party philosophy and the democratic opposition to the cuts in Astorino's budget was equally consistent along the lines with the above-mentioned principles and values.

For democratic caucus members, it was not acceptable to eliminate funding for programs and

Continued on Page 5

Noam Bramson's County Executive Candidacy Faces Serious Examination

By Peggy Godfrey

The Mayor of New Rochelle, Noam Bramson, recently announced his candidacy for County Executive.

Bramson is used to working on a City Council that has a majority of democrats who will usually approve his initiatives. In the county, he would likely face a thoughtful majority of county legislators who will not automatically "rubber stamp" anything he proposes. The County Board of Legislators has already shown its willingness to approve the 2013 County Budget in a bi-partisan way.

Development in downtown New Rochelle has brought few benefits to the city. There were excessive 30 year tax abatements given to Avalon while Bramson was serving. Along with this, there has been an increased need for city services in the downtown, yet city services have been continually cut in recent council budgets. This leaves all residents somewhat vulnerable.

County legislators know Westchester County now has the highest real estate taxes in the United States. Consequently, the budget they approved complied with the New York State tax cap. The Democratic majority for the New Rochelle, on the other hand, passed a budget that had a 6.99 percent tax increase, far above the recommended 2.49 percent cap.

New Rochelle has been unsuccessful in increasing the sales tax. To make up for the lack of sales tax in the budget and lowered assessments,

fees have been added, e.g. the garbage fee. Gimmicks of this type are not the answer to a healthy, vibrant city or county economy.

Noam Bramson has a long way to go to find ways to reduce Westchester residents' taxes.

New Rochelle resident Lorraine Pierce said it, "should be noted that Noam Bramson is a part time mayor and is not responsible for preparing the City Budget or running the everyday operations of the city. In all his years as Mayor, he has no significant achievements that would warrant his candidacy for County Executive."

The Vice President of the South End Civic League, Rosemary Spalin, said, "During his time in office, he had overlooked many opportunities for growth in the city. He has limited work experience and has been Nita Lowey's speech writer. How does he think he can handle the work of the County?"

Bob Petrucci said, "It would seem a logical move for Mayor's personal ambitions, especially since being Mayor of New Rochelle is a political dead end. However, his limited management experience might be an issue. More importantly, as a democrat, it would seem a problem for the party, as one would think Ken Jenkins should be next in the pecking order and more representative of party members."

Predictably, Bramson's projected initiatives will undergo serious examination in a campaign for County Executive.

what's inside

Student Raises \$3,100 for Make-A-Wish
Page 2

Seniors & Health Care
Page 6

New Police Officer Class Graduates
Page 3

County Budget Tax Levy Effect Estimates
Page 7

LMK Student Raises \$3,100 for Hudson Valley Make-A-Wish



L to r: Hudson Valley Make-A-Wish Board Member Marilyn Mercado-Belvin, Nicholas Bilotta and Susan Bilotta

Nicholas Bilotta, a 13-year-old eighth grade student at Louis M. Klein Middle School in Harrison, has raised \$3,100 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

As part of a service project connected to his membership in the National Junior Honor Society, Nicholas chose the task of raising enough money to grant a wish to a child in the Hudson Valley. Nicholas held a raffle for an iPad and a \$100 iTunes gift card. Nicholas

raised the money by selling 1,000 raffle tickets after school and on weekends outside DeCicco's Family Market in Harrison.

Nicholas chose this charity because he wants to "bring a moment of happiness to a family that may be dealing with a life threatening illness." The \$3,100 is about half of his goal. His parents, Susan and Chris, say their son will begin a new fundraising project to help reach his goal.

NRPL Presents 'Norman Rockwell's America: New Rochelle & Beyond'



A Norman Rockwell-designed sign post in New Rochelle, celebrating the city's Revolutionary history

The images of America's most popular illustrator, Norman Rockwell, have been reproduced more than those of any other artist. His perfectly detailed portrayals of Americana illustrated 322 *Saturday Evening Post* covers, 49 Boy Scout calendars and dozens of other periodicals, children's books and advertisements. He was the master illustrator of life in America. For the first 25 years of his formidable career, his America was New Rochelle, where he lived and worked.

In conjunction with the 325th Anniversary of New Rochelle, the New Rochelle Public Library (NRPL) is pleased to open the year with an exhibit of magazine covers illustrated by Rockwell while he lived in New Rochelle, as well as a few of his iconic images from later years. The covers are on loan from Jennifer Faulkner, a native New Rochellean who has been collecting Rockwell's magazine illustrations for more than 20 years.

Many of the covers Rockwell illustrated in

New Rochelle, primarily *Saturday Evening Post* magazines from 1917 to 1940, feature New Rochelle residents who posed for the nationally-acclaimed artist. Their stories, and Rockwell's personal accounts of New Rochelle, will be related during a free Public Reception and Gallery Talk by city historian Barbara Davis on Sunday, January 13 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

An additional exhibit, "Norman Rockwell's New Rochelle Years," will also be on display. Originally curated by Theresa Kump Leghorn and Barbara Davis for the Museum of Arts and Culture at New Rochelle High School, this exhibit includes images, anecdotes and a chronology of Rockwell's first 25 years as an artist and illustrator.

The exhibits will be on display from January 9 to 30 during NRPL's regular operating hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

For more information, visit NRPL.org.

Practice SAT/ACT Test at MPL

Calling all high school sophomores, juniors and seniors!

Try a Free KAPLAN Practice SAT/ACT Test. You will get a chance to see the type of questions that will be asked and find out which test is best for you. Receive your scores during the follow-up session and find out what they mean for you.

The free practice test will be held on Saturday, February 9 at 10 a.m. at the Mamaroneck Public Library (MPL), located at 136 Prospect Ave. in Mamaroneck.

For more information or to register, call MPL at 914-630-5875 or visit MamaroneckLibrary.org.

WCS Seeks New Singers

Westchester Choral Society (WCS), conducted by Frank Nemhauser, has announced Spring Tuesday rehearsals.

The rehearsals are open to all but has a specific focus on Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, to be performed in March, and works by Gershwin/Porter, to be performed in June.

The rehearsals begin on January 15 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Music Conservatory of Westchester. For more information or to sign up, call 914-285-9026 or e-mail wcsresident@gmail.com.

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54 New Officers Graduate at Westchester Police Academy



County Executive Rob Astorino congratulates one of the 54 new police officers with District Attorney Janet DiFiore and County Public Safety Commissioner George N. Longworth

Fifty-four police recruits recently graduated from the Westchester County Police Academy and are headed off to work at 10 departments in Westchester and nine other law enforcement agencies in the region.

The new officers, who completed 20 weeks of training at the police academy in Valhalla, received their diplomas during a ceremony at the Performing Arts Center of SUNY Purchase.

County Executive Robert P. Astorino and Public Safety Commissioner George N. Longworth addressed the graduates of the 134th class of Basic Police Recruits and wished them well in their careers.

Astorino congratulated the graduates for successfully completing the demanding academic curriculum and mastering the physical challenges they faced at the academy. The new officers, he said, received the training and skills needed to protect the communities they are now sworn to serve.

"Westchester County takes great pride in the Police Academy and its reputation for excellence," Astorino said. "The academy is a great model of a shared service that brings tremendous benefits to communities throughout Westchester. The county runs the Police Academy, but we could not complete the mission without the support and participation of all our police chiefs and departments. This great partnership and collaboration makes sense for our municipalities and for our taxpayers."

Longworth welcomed the new police officers to the law enforcement community and said that many challenges were ahead: "You are now part of the police family, and with that great privilege comes great responsibility. You will stand with your brother and sister officers in keeping the peace, enforcing the law, protecting the innocent and confronting evil and those who would do us harm."

The new officers and their departments are:
Eastchester PD: Anthony Barberan and Christopher Dura;

Greenburgh PD: Anthony De Laurentiis and Peter Schmidt;

Harrison PD: Anthony Conte, Augusto Corvino and Patrick Varbero;

Lewisboro PD: David Alfano and Andrew Llewellyn;

Mount Vernon PD: Pedro Abreu, Allison Allen, Nigel Butler, Janpierre Chavez, Michael Consilvio, David DiBenedetto, Jessie Ferreira, Baldwin Firpo, Michael Fox, James Hanlon, Frank Hrotko, Christopher Jones, Maria Pacino and George Vargas;

Peekskill PD: Khalia Carter;

SUNY Purchase PD: Michael Boyd and Justin Thompson;

Tarrytown PD: Matthew Garro and Hugo Medina;

White Plains PD: Marc D'Annibale and Matthew Johnson;

Yonkers PD: Frank DiDomizio Jr., Devin Larkin, Daniel Lopez, Kujtim Rugova and Stephanie Wadsworth;

Amtrak PD: Kenneth Fong;

Bronx District Attorney's Office: Alex Matos, SHEREE PERKISS and Gabriel Torres;

Glen Cove PD: Peter Grella, Jeffrey Griggs, Paul Miceli and Andrew Mozer;

Lynbrook PD: Brandon Lavista;

Malverne PD: Bryan Butler;

New York County District Attorney's Office:

Andrew Lee and Eloise Walter;

New York State Attorney General's Office:

Stephanie Buono, Motonori Sato, Stanislav Tabakov, Jessica Toritto and Christopher Ward;

Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor: Vanessa Rivera; and

Old Westbury PD: Frank Ciofrone.

Summit Speakers Address Role of Money in New York State Politics



Photo by John Gitlitz

Keisha Gaskins



Photo by John Gitlitz

Jessica Wisneski

By John S. Gitlitz

"Money in politics is like water in the basement. There's always some. You figure out where there is so much water it crumbles the foundation. It's the same in politics. At some point it corrupts the system," said Keisha Gaskins, senior counsel of the Democracy Program at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law.

She and Jessica Wisneski, legislative and campaign director for Citizen Action New York of the Public Policy and Education Fund of New York shared the podium at a breakfast panel on "Fair Elections" sponsored by the Local Summit on December 11.

According to Wisneski, for every issue her organization works for in the NYS legislature, there is a counterbalance of money, filling up campaign coffers that sway decisions away from the public good.

"During session, legislators are voting on bills during the day and going to fundraisers at night, taking \$1,000 checks from lobbyists," said Wisneski. But she added, with a note of optimism, in New York State there is now a real possibility for reform, although it will be an uphill battle.

According to both panelists, money plays a role at two points in the electoral process. Money is decisive for getting into the race. It's a kind of gatekeeper. Once in, there are opportunities to mobilize other kinds of resources. To run for the New York State Senate, "the number one thing is do you have \$300,000 to give it a go," said Wisneski, "and who wants to mortgage your house so you can run. If you don't have the money, you are not even taken seriously as a candidate."

New York State, both panelists agreed, has one of the worst campaign finance laws in the country, among states that do have such laws. The limits on individual donations are high and full of loopholes. We need lower limits on contributions, laws without loopholes, more transparency and beefed up enforcement.

Still, she added, "From our perspective, these are not game changers that get to the root of the problem. If you don't have money, you can't run. What we need is public financing."

She offered the example of New York City: "If you can show you have some base of community support, then for every small donation, you get matched with public dollars. In New York City, it's six to one. A \$10 check turns into \$70."

Continued on Page 7

Larchmont Lions Party Aids Sandy-Devastated Manor Park



Larchmont Lion President John Keenan (left) with prospective member Drew George at the Lions anniversary fundraiser

The Larchmont Lions hosted an evening of gourmet food paired with select fine wines from around the world at a fundraiser at Palmer's Crossing on December 6, 2012.

The event had triple significance, since it marked the second anniversary of the club's regained charter, raised funds for important causes and drew friends to celebrate the holiday season. The most competitive bidding in the silent auction was for a handcrafted wood bowl donated by Lion

Ted Shultz, who made it from a tree uprooted by Hurricane Irene.

The attendees included not only the Lions and their guests, but also a number of members of the Manor Park Society and Horseshoe Harbor Yacht Club.

The successful evening raised enough money to donate \$1,000 to the Larchmont Manor Society as a modest contribution toward restoration of the beloved waterfront devastated by Hurricane Sandy.

Children's Events at HPL

The Harrison Public Library (HPL) is located at 2 Bruce Ave. in Harrison. The following children's programs are free, unless otherwise noted. For more information on these and other programs, call 914-835-0324 or visit HarrisonPL.org.

Circle Time for Tots

Come on Wednesdays, January 23 and 30 from 10 to 10:30 or 11 to 11:30 a.m. for songs and stories for the little ones (aged 0 to 3) with Ms. Claudia.

Open Play

Come to HPL to meet other parents, grandparents, caregivers and children on Fridays, January 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 10 a.m. Make new friends, play, read, and have fun. Blocks and preschool LEGOs will be available for the little ones while the parents chat.

Storyland

Children aged 3 to 5 can come listen to the children's stories at the HPL on Mondays, January 7 and 28 from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Board Games

Come to HPL on Mondays, January 7, 14

and 28 from 4 to 5 p.m. to play board games — use HPL's or bring your own.

Movie Time

Join HPL for a children's movie on Tuesday, January 8 at 3:30 p.m. Cookies and juice will be served, all are welcome. Sponsored by the Friends.

Dawny Dew

Kids aged 1 to 6 can come to HPL on Thursdays, January 10 and 24 from 10:30 to 10:50 or 11 to 11:20 a.m. to join Dawny Dew for music and puppets.

Jeffrey Friedberg of the Bossy Frog Band

Join Jeffrey Friedberg of the Bossy Frog Band at the HPL on Monday, January 14 at 10:30 a.m. for a fun and funky musical experience for all ages.

Children's Craft

Children are invited to HPL on Friday, January 25 at 3:30 p.m. to make a fun craft to bring home. All are welcome.

Lego Hour

Come play with HPL's LEGO collection on Monday, January 28 at 3:30 p.m. All are welcome.

WMC and SSHS Announce Memorandum of Understanding

Westchester Medical Center (WMC) and Sound Shore Health System (SSHS) have announced that they have taken the first steps in establishing a formal corporate relationship to strengthen healthcare in Westchester and the region and expand services and access for the people of the Sound Shore community as well as the surrounding areas.

WMC and SSHS have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), agreeing to engage in exclusive talks to explore establishing a formal corporate relationship.

"Westchester Medical Center's mission is to ensure that the citizens of our entire region have access to the finest medical care, regardless of their ability to pay," said WMC President and CEO Michael Israel. "Sound Shore Medical Center, Mount Vernon Hospital and the Schaffer Extended Care Center are critical links to quality care for everyone in southern Westchester and we are committed to furthering the programs and services that the people of that area have come to expect and rely on. Together, we will be a stronger, more vibrant healthcare organization."

SSHS President and CEO said, "We are always looking to the future and, as part of our strategic planning process, we have determined we would be in a stronger position to continue delivering on our mission of improving the health status of our community by partnering with WMC, whose mission and values are the same; to continue to provide the most advanced clinical outcomes and personalized care our community deserves. Healthcare in Westchester just got stronger."

Israel added that WMC shares SSHS's commitment to maintaining vibrant healthcare cam-

puses in New Rochelle (Sound Shore Medical Center and the Schaffer Extended Care Center) and Mount Vernon (Mount Vernon Hospital), as well as a strengthened clinical and academic organization for the institutions' physicians.

The combined financial resources of WMC and SSHS will be used to provide a smooth transition toward operational and fiscal stability, consolidated services and necessary infrastructure needs. Later, merged operations will generate capital funding to support the needs of the combined organizations.

"We are eager to move forward with our joint due diligence and in developing the most productive and fiscally responsible structure for everyone concerned, most notably the patients we serve," said Mark Tulis, chair of the WMC Board of Directors.

Mauro C. Romita, SSHS chairman, stated, "The opportunity for the SSHS to become a part of Westchester's high-quality academic Medical Center ensures that we will be able to bring to our communities the best that medicine has to offer for generations to come. It is an opportunity we are excited to pursue."

WMC is home to a number of specialty centers providing the highest level and quality of advanced care available to the 3.5 million residents of the Hudson Valley region of New York. Sound Shore Medical Center (SSMC), Mount Vernon Hospital, Dorothea Hopfer School of Nursing and Schaffer Extended Care Center (SECC) and Visiting Nurse Association of Hudson Valley were affiliated to create one of the largest private healthcare systems between New York City and Albany — Sound Shore Health System.

Serving Our Country

Naval Operations

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Krystal Airall, daughter of Vonnette Airall of Spring Hill, FL, and Johnnie Johnson, of White Plains, and other Sailors from the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) recently conducted operations in the vital Asia-Pacific region alongside with Sailors from the USS George Washington (CVN 73).

The two CSGs are part of a strong U.S. naval presence in the Pacific that has helped to maintain peace and stability in the region as part of the U.S. 7th Fleet, which was established 69 years ago. USS John C. Stennis returned to the 7th Fleet's area of operation four months ahead of schedule to maintain combatant commander requirements for its presence in the region. The crew has been engaging in live-fire exercises, torpedo countermeasures exercises and numerous other training exercises during its current deployment and transit to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.

The U.S. Navy routinely conducts simultaneous CSG operations when and where opportunities exist and are operationally feasible. While operations such as this ensure peace

and stability, they also allow the two CSGs to improve interoperability and readiness. They further provide the Navy the capability to respond quickly to various situations throughout the Asia-Pacific region, ranging from combat operations to humanitarian assistance missions.

Airall joined the Navy in July 2009.

Marine Corps Special Recognition

Marine Corps Corporal Courtney J. Jarrett, son of Sharon A. Francis of Mount Vernon, received a Meritorious Mast recently while serving with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, Marine Corps Base, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

Jarrett's dedication was instrumental to the success of the Operations Department during Operation Enduring Freedom 12.1. He maintained more than 120 aviation flight logbooks, as well as set up and maintained the Marine Corps Sierra Hotel Aviation Readiness Program server.

Additionally, Jarrett conducted a daily operations brief that assisted in the execution of 42 operations, 1,838 flight hours and 2,858 sorties.

When Innovation Goes Wrong

By **Congresswoman Nita Lowey**

American consumers rightly expect the quality and capability of consumer products to improve over time.

This is true nearly across the board — computers are faster and more powerful than ever, vehicles are safer and more fuel-efficient, televisions have wider screens and crisper pictures and cell phones also function as cameras, calendars and multimedia players.

But in the case of firearms, technological innovation (coupled with near-unrestricted access) has had a grotesque side effect — making it far easier for any disturbed individual to inflict mass casualties on unarmed civilians.

In addition to bolt-action hunting rifles with low rates of fire, consumers have near-unrestricted access to military-style assault weapons fully-equipped with flash suppressors, flashlight mounts, laser sites and other combat-ready features.

In addition to revolvers that hold a mere six rounds, consumers can purchase semi-automatic handguns accommodating high-capacity magazines, allowing a shooter to fire dozens of shots before reloading.

To fill these weapons of mass destruction, consumers can purchase ammunition designed to



Congresswoman Nita Lowey

maximize damage to soft tissue upon impact.

We cannot go back to a time before these weapons existed, and firearms that are currently legal will never become illegal to possess. But we can limit the types of military-style weapons and accessories that can be legally sold to civilian consumers in the future.

Reinstating the assault weapons ban and prohibiting high-capacity magazines is a start. By taking these products off the civilian market, we stop increasing the number of assault rifles and high-capacity magazines in circulation.

This step would also make it impossible for disturbed individuals to openly purchase weaponry most efficient for killing. Just maybe, it would also make it more likely for bright minds in science and engineering to use their talents on research, inventions and product innovations with more beneficial civilian applications.

The American free market is the most effective means ever created to spur innovation in consumer products. But in the case of firearms, the success of this innovation has had tragic consequences. If we do not restrict civilian access to weapons of war, we will have ourselves to blame when the next massacre occurs.

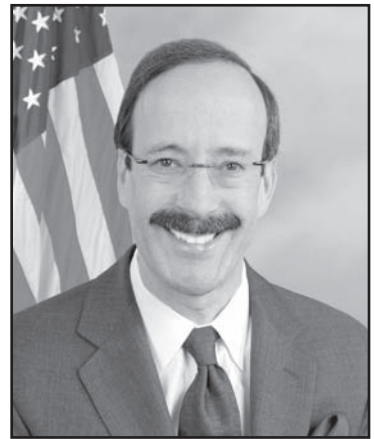
Engel: Imported Assault Weapon Ban Long Overdue

Congressman Eliot Engel urged President Obama to reinstate the ban on imports of assault weapons, a ban enforced during the administrations of Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton. He also condemned the tone-deaf speech delivered by National Rifle Association (NRA) Chairman Wayne LaPierre, who called for even more weaponry in schools.

"After the murder of 20 beautiful children and six brave teachers in Newtown last week, we must do a better job in keeping weapons of mass murder out of the hands of madmen," said Engel. "No one can ever convince me that a private citizen needs to own an assault weapon capable of firing off dozens of rounds in a blink of an eye. There is no deer or duck hunter that needs this, and no home protection needs that kind of firepower.

"Incredibly the National Rifle Association today blamed gun-free schools — another attempt to blame the victim. They seem to have forgotten about the armed security guard who was stationed at Columbine High School, or all of the armed service members at Fort Hood.

"It is simply incredible how tone-deaf they are to the dangers of gun violence. Arming teachers is one of the worst ideas in the history of bad ideas. They blame everything but the weapons they sup-



Congressman Eliot Engel

port. Their distorted interpretation of the Second Amendment trumps everything else in their mind. The NRA needs to stop focusing their own warped agenda and think about the violence they endorse daily.

"I just am stunned that they have chosen to avoid culpability and have instead called for turning schools into armed camps while blaming everything else under the sun instead of themselves.

"The devastating murders at Sandy Hook Elementary were the latest in a string of murderous incidents where someone with semi-automatic weapons opened fire on kids in classrooms, families in shopping malls, patrons in a movie theater, worshipers in a temple, college students, service members in an Army facility, in a seemingly endless list of mass murders. We must end this, and removing imported assault weapons from the equation would be a good start.

"People intending harm will still seek ways to inflict terror and murder, but why should we make it easier for them? The first President Bush responded to the growing threats to law enforcement from the use of assault weapons by drug traffickers and, following the Stockton schoolyard massacre in 1989, implemented this imported assault weapons ban. However, this ban was allowed to lapse and the murderous rampage is still going on."

Legislator David Gelfarb and County Executive Rob Astorino and demand that they restore funding to protect our schools, using any one of the above prospective programs; and

- Parents, friends, neighbors and teachers must learn to listen and watch our children more closely for unusual behavior patterns — no amount of security can protect us from our ignorance to the truth.

These are just a few ideas that need to be discussed in order to provide for the security of our students, teachers and the general public. Some may feel that their "domain" is being challenged and will, out of hand and for personal reasons, reject these ideas. But we must not let them. The reality of it is that cost will always be a factor, especially during these difficult times. So we need to find that balance of proper security and cost effectiveness.

These are just some suggestions. With the talent and knowledge in Harrison, from one end to the other, we can find the right solution.

**Michael G. LaDore
Harrison**

BOMA Elects New Officers



Standing (l to r): Art D'Estrada, Vice President Ian Ceppos, John Lomurno, former President Mario Tarantino, Allied Representative Fred Sciliano, Sean Brown, Vinny Finnegan and Dean Bender; seated (l to r): Susan Curtis, Secretary William Bassett, Treasurer Catherine Morrissey and President Bill Muzzio

The Building Owners and Managers Association of Westchester County (BOMA) has announced the election of its slate of officers for the 2013 term.

Bill Muzzio of Reckson, a division of SL Green, was elected President for his second term. Muzzio and the other officers and directors were sworn in at BOMA Westchester's Annual Holiday Party and Inauguration of Officers on December 6, 2012 at 42, The Restaurant in White Plains.

Other officers elected and sworn in for the 2013 term were Vice President Ian Ceppos of CBRE, Secretary William Bassett of Cushman & Wakefield, Treasurer Catherine Morrissey of BioMed Realty Trust.

Other Directors who were sworn in were Dean Bender of Thompson & Bender, Sean Brown of Peel Properties, Susan Curtis of RXR Realty, Art D'Estrada of Newmark Grubb Knight Frank, Vinny Finnegan of Mack-Cali Realty Corp. and John Lomurno of GlobeOp Financial Services LLC. Fred Sciliano of C.W. Brown, Inc. was elected Allied Representative.

BOMA Westchester is the county's leading professional organization dedicated to meeting the needs of building owners, property managers and allied professionals and tradespeople. BOMA Westchester is an affiliate of BOMA International, the oldest and largest association of the office building industry.

Astorino Strengthens WPWIB with Hospitality Resource Group

With the enormous demand for a workforce with the right skills to meet business needs, a White Plains firm has been tapped by the Westchester-Putnam Workforce Investment Board (WPWIB) to manage the employment and training needs of local businesses and help them obtain grant money.

The hiring of Hospitality Resource Group Inc. (HRG) is part of the county's strategy of focusing on different sectors, since each has a different need, said County Executive Robert P. Astorino. HRG, which will manage all six sectors, will be paid \$42,500 for the year, with the option to renew the contract for two more years.

"My administration is committed to helping employers find qualified, trained people to fill their jobs," said Astorino. "However, each sector has different needs. By focusing on each one separately, we maximize results."

The sectors are health care, manufacturing, green jobs, life sciences, business services and hospitality.

To date, more than 1,000 Westchester residents have been part of specialized training programs from the WPWIB and local business have received more than \$640,000 in state and federal aid to off-set the costs of employee training.

With the hiring of HRG, it is expected that these numbers will grow as the firm helps business access available local, state and federal funding to help them train new and current workers. The WPWIB may also subsidize some of the job-training costs.

HRG will build on the sector strategy already

underway under the leadership of the following sector leaders: John Schandler, president, White Plains Hospital; Lisa Corcoran, president, Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association; Charlie DiComo, former chief compliance officer, Aureon Biosciences; Diane Wilhelm, vice president, Key Bank; Len Vallender, president, Fen Bar Precision; Harold King, president, Hudson Valley Council of Industries; Robert Sanders, president, HRG; Natasha Caputo, director, Westchester County Office of Tourism and Film; David Singer, president, Robison Oil; and Dani Glazer, Neil Cutler and Scott Fernqvist, Westchester Green Business Challenge.

"I think we can do even more to help local business owners to train their workers," said Singer, who is WPWIB chairman. "HRG has been involved in the sector partnerships from the start and understands our vision, so I expect great things for this program under their direction."

Laurence Gottlieb, director of Westchester County's Office of Economic Development, endorsed the sector approach, saying, "Government should never dictate training needs, but rather talk directly with those firms that are hiring and simply ask, 'How can we help you train the employees you have and provide the right skill sets to the future workers you need?'"

HRG has been a leader in providing innovative, high quality training solutions, event programs and marketing services to area corporations, non-profits and the higher education market since 1997.

For more information, visit WestchesterGov.com or WestchesterPutnamOneStop.com.

Keeping Kids Safe

Continued from Page 1

- The town must form an Auxiliary Police Department so that our police officers will not be relegated to fill in for crossing guards, funeral details, traffic control for construction projects, or specific desk duty/dispatch functions — this will free up our police resources to protect and serve the community;

- Auxiliary Police officers could even be trained as SRO/youth officers. SRO officers focus on the "Triad Model," which consists of law enforcement, student counseling and law-related education — their job is to be pro-active in preventing our students from committing a criminal act, while our full time police force primarily focuses on enforcement and investigations after a law is broken;

- Call or write to Congresswoman Nita Lowey, Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, State Senator-elect George Latimer, Assemblyman-elect David Buchwald, County

MSA-CESS Reaccredits 2 Westchester Schools

The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS) has awarded reaccreditation to two schools in Westchester County. The Masters School, located in Dobbs Ferry, has been reaccredited for a 10-year term, and North Salem Middle/High School has been reaccredited for seven years.

The awards were announced by MSA-CESS President Henry G. Cram, Jr., Ed.D. The reaccreditation signifies that these schools have met the MSA standards for a quality school, recognized worldwide as an indicator of educational quality, trustworthiness and commitment to ongoing school improvement.

"North Salem and The Masters School have earned and deserve recognition for successfully completing the rigorous and rewarding Middle States reaccreditation process which signifies a level of educational quality that goes beyond the accountability requirements of state and federal inspection, reporting and monitoring," said Cram.

To achieve MSA-CESS accreditation, each school completed a comprehensive self-evaluation and hosted a volunteer evaluation team of independently-appointed educators, which conducted its own assessment and evaluation. Each school has created a Strategic Plan to ensure ongoing school improvement.

The months-long process was governed by a Steering Committee and involved the entire school communities, including faculty, parents and students. For the term of the accreditation, the school communities will engage in a Commission-directed series of reports and/or site visits to maintain the rigor of the accreditation process.

Cram offered his congratulations to the North Salem and The Masters School communities, saying, "Middle States accreditation goes beyond recognition for prior achievements, but ensures a commitment to future accomplishments and continuous improvement designed to ensure every child receives a quality education."

MPL Budget Vote

The Mamaroneck Public Library (MPL) is happy to announce that the proposed 2013-14 budget has passed with a final vote of 238 YES votes, and 92 NO votes.

Highlights of the proposed budget include small increases in the collections (books, movies, subscriptions) and new maintenance contracts for the HVAC and other facility systems.

Three Library Trustees were also up for election: Christine Love, the current Board President, who sought a third three-year term; and John Brenkovich and Bob Fisher, new to

the Board of Trustees. All Board members are required to be Mamaroneck residents. Their terms of office begin on June 1.

Love was thrilled when she learned of the results of the budget vote and election. "The overwhelming support of the library by the community is so gratifying," she said. "The staff and board work hard to provide exciting new programs and lots of materials of high interest for area residents. It's so wonderful to know that the village appreciates the value of the library."

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Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of Cloud Wave Group LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/31/2012. Office location: Westchester County. The street address is: 56 2nd Street Harrison, NY 10528. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process served to: Tao Yin, 56 2nd Street Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: any lawful act.

#6352 11/30 - 1/4

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FOMRATION OF HEALTH THROUGH MASSAGE PLLC of Org. filed with the Sect'y of State NY (SSNY) on 11/1/2012. Office in Westchester County. (Office at 22 Purchase St. RYE NY) SSNY HAS been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 51 GREEN AVE RYE, NY 10580. purpose any lawful purpose. The professional service limited liability company shall practice the profession of MASSAGE THERAPY

#6353 11/30 - 1/4

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of AVILIAN LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/13/2012. Office location: Westchester County. The street address is: 46 Union street Unit #3B New Rochelle NY 10805 . SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process served to: Nadezhda Vicheva, 46 Union street Unit #3B New Rochelle NY 10805. Purpose: any lawful act.

#6354 12/14 - 1/18

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of Michelle Elise LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on October 1, 2012. Office location: Westchester. The street address is: 8 Devon Road, Larchmont, NY 10538. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process served to: Michelle Bogan, 8 Devon Road, Larchmont, NY 10538. Purpose: any lawful act.

#6355 12/14 - 1/18

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF Alder Manor LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/31/2012. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. The Post Office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against it is: Knauf Shaw LLP, Attn: Linda R. Shaw, 1125 Crossroads Building, 2 State Street, Rochester, NY 14614. Dissolution date: 10/31/2111. LLC Purpose: to engage in real estate development. Street address of Principal Business location is: 159 Alexander St., Yonkers, NY 10701.

#6356 12/14 - 1/18

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of METRO SPORTS OFFICIALS LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on Nov 14, 2012. Office location: Westchester County. The street address is: 1085 Warburton Ave Yonkers, NY 10701. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process served to: Dan Petrucci, 1085 Warburton Ave Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: any lawful act.

#6357 12/21 - 1/25

Classifieds

MEDICAL ASSISTANT - Experienced FT Medical Assistant needed with dermatology or plastic surgery experience needed for busy dermatology practice located in Ossining, N.Y. Candidate must be well organized, have excellent communication skills, mature attitude and able to function independently, as well as part of a team. EMR knowledge a big plus. Minimum 1 year experience required. Must be flexible and able to work evenings. Competitive salary and benefits. Contact oshelpwanted@gmail.com.

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BASEBALL / SPORT CARDS / AUTO-GRAPHS WANTED Cash paid for Baseball, Football, basketball, Hockey cards, also sport autographs, silver dollars, gold coins/jewelry, old comics. Please call Jim at 914-310-5153 or call 914-835-1937

TAKE NOTICE that in accordance with N.J.S.A 39:10 A-8 ET.Seq Application has been made to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, Trenton, N.J. to receive title papers authorizing the sale of: 1969 Cadillac F9256461. Objections, if any, should be made immediately in writing to special title section/abandoned vehicle unit, P.O. Box 017, Trenton, N.J. 08666-0017.

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Noam Bramson

Continued from Page 1

centers while meeting essential service priorities; and producing an award-winning sustainability plan that serves as a detailed 20-year blueprint for environmental conservation, smart growth and social progress.

"It is time for a serious debate about our future, and I intend to offer a campaign of substance and ideas," said Bramson.

Bramson has already earned the support of prominent county leaders, including Congresswoman Nita Lowey.

"Noam is one of the most effective, smart and principled public servants I have known," said Lowey. "He has the talent and determination to

make a significant, positive difference for Westchester. I am very proud to endorse him."

Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, former executive director of My Sisters' Place, said, "Noam is the right person to take on the tough challenge of county leadership. He has proven his competence, intelligence and ability in New Rochelle, and all of Westchester will benefit from his service."

Mamaroneck Supervisor Nancy Seligson and Port Chester Mayor Dennis Pilla have also announced their support for Bramson.

Bramson is a lifelong Westchester resident and a product of the New Rochelle public schools. Bramson is married to Catherine Stern, Ph.D., a clinical pediatric neuropsychologist, and they have two sons, Jeremy and Owen, both students in the New Rochelle public schools.

BDI Family Days Go Global for New Rochelle's 325th

For the 325th anniversary of the founding of New Rochelle, the popular BID Family Days will celebrate the many cultures that contribute to the vibrant community of New Rochelle. The special free family-friendly programs will take place in the New Rochelle Public Library (NRPL) and Library Green throughout the entire 2013 year.

The first global event will be a Three Kings Day program on Sunday, January 6 from 5:30 to 7 p.m., during which traditions will be celebrated as they are in much of Mexico. Families are invited to create a project, enjoy live performances by children's performers, sample refreshments and Rosca de Reyes (Three Kings bread) and help crack open piñatas for special treats. The Three Kings are expected to make a surprise visit, with gifts of books for the children.

In February, the Chinese New Year will be celebrated on Tuesday, February 19, during school vacation week. From 10:30 a.m. to 12

p.m., a Children's Craft Workshop will feature dragon-making and refreshments. At 2, an exquisite performance of the Lion Dance, a Monkey King demonstration from Peking Opera, the Handkerchief Dance, the Mongolian Dance and the Ribbon Dance will be presented by the New York Chinese Cultural Center.

On Saturday, February 23, at 2 p.m., African-American Heritage Month will be observed with the annual performance by Bokandeye African Dance and Drum Troupe under the guidance of Anthony Wooden.

BID Family Days are presented by the New Rochelle Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) with the NRPL, the City School District and the Department of Parks & Recreation. All programs are on a first-come, first-served basis to the capacity of NRPL facilities. All programs are subject to change.

For more information, visit NewRochelleDowntown.com.

Principled Leadership Continued from Page 1

services that hundreds and hundreds of residents at three recent public hearings stated were right for Westchester, like child care subsidies, neighborhood health centers, youth initiatives, emergency readiness and nature conservation.

In response to the County Executive's Proposed Budget, the democratic caucus of the Board of Legislators toiled to craft a better 2013 budget. Our priorities dictated that we save the jobs of experienced county professionals who are needed to deliver services and that we restore vital programs and services slated to be cut, including some that save lives plus higher mandated costs down the road.

And instead of Astorino's reckless borrowing to pay for operating costs, the board's democratic caucus budget plan would utilize \$11 million of the \$137 million fund balance — no different than the Astorino Administration's recently disclosed use of \$8 million of fund balance this year to pay for salary increases he neglected to budget for in 2012.

More priorities: Investments in child care subsidies with the parent share remaining at 20 percent and services that protect our families and quality of life were not negotiable. The administration's priorities seem more concerned about the use of fund balance and protecting over 50 patronage positions.

As votes on the budget neared, I let the Astorino Administration know that the Board of Legislators' fiscal staff was ready to meet to discuss the fiscal details of the democratic caucus budget plan. The Administration replied that additional clarification or discussion of fiscal assumptions in the democratic caucus budget were unnecessary.

The next morning, the Board of Legislators' leadership team met with the Administration.

According to the Astorino Administration, out of a \$1.7 billion dollar proposed budget, the two plans were \$15 million dollars apart. Hardly

an insurmountable difference! The core issues that divided the two sides were how to fund tax certioraris and reconciling budget assumptions. The feedback from the administration at this point was telling: They did not want to appear to have "caved in." I remarked that it will look as if both sides compromised.

I made several proposals to vote down the County Executive's Proposed Budget to allow for additional time for negotiations and adjustments, with the possibility of a tax levy increase (suggested by the republican legislators) to cover the costs of tax certioraris. Additionally, there would be a cooling off period for continued contract negotiations. In the end, all of the proposals were rebuffed.

Since then, we have learned that Legislators Kaplowitz and Perez had committed to supporting Astorino's budget the day before final modifications to the budget had been presented — prior to any the Board of Legislators leadership meetings or any negotiations.

All of the legislators are now aware of the sizable concessions proposed by CSEA union negotiators to the Astorino Administration in October, including health care contributions, a two year zero percent salary increase and a four-day furlough.

And as for "lowering" the parent share for subsidized child care, it is being raised now anyway to a family budget-busting 35 percent on January 1, 2013.

With actual data for October and November now on-hand for some of the county's Department of Social Services programs, and the fact that CSEA presented the administration with cost-saving concessions during contract negotiations in October, the County Legislators who supported the Astorino-led budget have an impetus to correct the procedural errors in their voting and, if they truly care for their constituents, to do what is right for Westchester.

Ken Jenkins is Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators and resides in Yonkers.

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NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD



Seniors and Health Care

55Plus Annual Forum



Isabelle "The Diabetes Diva" Edwards and Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins

More than 70 community residents, care providers and elected officials gathered on December 7, 2012 at the new Fairways Restaurant at Dunwoodie to hear about ways to age well.

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and other elected officials spoke briefly and endorsed the efforts of the Westchester Diabetes Association (WDA), the Yonkers Diabetes Education Initiative and the 55Plus Yonkers on the Move campaign to increase community awareness of resources to prevent and manage this disease.

WDA Director Dorothy Harper gave statistics about the number of pre-diabetics and residents with diabetes in Yonkers. With the increase in overweight children and adults, the incidence of diabetes is unfortunately on the rise in the Yonkers community.

Isabelle "the Diabetes Diva" Edwards held the crowds' attention as she dramatically described her battle with Diabetes. Edwards, who recently lost more than 100 pounds, had two heart attacks as well as circulation problems related her adult onset Diabetes. She stressed the importance of taking charge of your health, even if you take small steps at first.

An audience member asked her what was her "ah-ha" moment to adopt a healthier lifestyle. Ed-

wards replied, "For me, every day is an 'ah-ha' day now that I can keep up with my children and be a contender at my workplace instead of an overweight, chronically tired single mom."

In addition, Edwards went on to say that the audiences, mostly adults over 50, are the role models for today's young people; it is never too late to change. "It only took one small step for me," she said — eliminating all the sugary soda she was drinking!

55Plus would also like take this opportunity to thank ShopRite and Walgreens for their ongoing support. They are valuable community resources; both collaborate with non-profits to help young and old in the city live a healthier lifestyle.

Another speaker was Dr. Leigh Damkohler. Damkohler spoke about reducing the incidence of chronic diseases as we age by eating less and better and keeping active or moving more. She demonstrated basic exercises that can reduce our risk of falling.

Next, Samantha Mark, a registered dietician, spoke about the services she provides for customers at the ShopRite on Tuckahoe Road. Customers can contact her for an appointment to discuss their diet and nutrition questions, as well as tour the store to make healthier purchases.

Cory Hartman from the Yonkers Office of Emergency Management reviewed ways to prepare for an emergency. Hartman stressed two things: First, know your neighbors — they may need your help or you may need to reach out to them in the event of a disaster; Second, people should have a plan that includes keeping important papers safe and accessible, a current list of emergency contacts and medications, water for at least three days and a flashlight and battery radio.

Also in attendance were Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins, Assemblyperson Shelly Meyers, Yonkers City Council President Chuck Lesnick and Councilman Chris Johnson.

Social Security Column: Your SS Statement is a Gift to Yourself

By Susan Sobel, Social Security District Manager in Yonkers

It's very likely that, during the holiday season, you've spent a bit of time and money getting gifts for everyone on your shopping list. Why not take a moment and give yourself a holiday gift?

We have a suggestion, and while it won't cost you a penny, it could be one of the best (and easiest) financial steps you ever take for your future. Give yourself the gift of your own *Social Security Statement*. You can get yours online at SocialSecurity.gov/mystatement.

The online *Social Security Statement* is simple, easy to use and provides estimates you can use to plan for your retirement. It also provides estimates for disability and survivors benefits, making the *Statement* an important financial planning tool.

Your *Statement* also allows you to determine whether your earnings are accurately posted to your Social Security records. This feature is important because Social Security benefits are based on average earnings over your lifetime.

To get a personalized online *Statement*, you must be age 18 or older and must be able to provide information about yourself that matches information already on file with Social Security. In addition, Social Security uses Experian, an

external authentication service provider, for further verification. You must provide identifying information and answer security questions in order to pass this verification. Social Security will not share your Social Security number with Experian, but the identity check is an important part of this new, thorough verification process.

When your identity is verified, you can create a "My Social Security" account with a unique user name and password to access your online *Statement*. In addition, your online *Statement* includes links to information about other online Social Security services, such as applications for retirement, disability, and Medicare.

This holiday season, it's likely you've heard some of your friends and family say "you shouldn't have" as they receive their gifts from you. That's something to look forward to. But be sure that you don't find yourself saying "I should have" when it comes to planning your own financial future.

Get your online *Social Security Statement* and look it over. Do it again next year. It may be the best gift you can give to yourself in the long run.

Your free gift is waiting at SocialSecurity.gov/mystatement.

NWH and ACS Co-Sponsor Prostate Health & Wellness Meetings

Northern Westchester Hospital (NWH) and the American Cancer Society (ACS) are co-sponsoring free, monthly meetings for men on Prostate Health & Wellness.

The meetings — held on the second Thursday of each month — are facilitated by a prostate cancer survivor and offer information, encouragement, discussion and support from an interdisciplinary team of professionals.

The monthly prostate health meetings are the brainchild of Dr. Warren Bromberg, director of the Prostate Cancer Program at NWH, who pointed out that prostate cancer affects more than 200,000 men each year. If caught early, however, prostate cancer has a high treatment success rate.

Bromberg recommends that men 50 and older with a family history of prostate cancer and/or

other chronic diseases and conditions (heart disease or cancer, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes) should see a doctor at least annually. Annual visits should include a prostate exam with a blood test called prostate-specific antigen or PSA.

"Prostate cancer," said Bromberg, "rarely causes symptoms, so it can grow unnoticed for years. This is why early detection is so important."

Genetics expert Nancy Cohen will speak on "Genetics: Can I Pass It On?" on Thursday, January 10 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in Conference Room D at NWH, located at 400 East Main St. in Mt. Kisco.

To register, call the American Cancer Society at 800-227-2345. For more information, including a list of topics for the year, visit NWHC.net.

Town of Eastchester Senior Programs and Services

The Center at Lake Isle

Monday, January 7
 9:30 Line Dancing, Theresa Kover
 12:30 Exercise, Linda Zeiss
 1:15 Musical Memories, CDs and DVDs, Bob Moynihan

Tuesday, January 8
 8:30 Exercise, Grace Kulinski
 9:30 Exercise, Patricia Marinello
 10:30 Blood Pressure Screening, Barbara O'Hagan
 12:30 Bingo, Bring a Friend!

Wednesday, January 9
 9:30 Tap Dancing, Paula Tarantino
 9:30 Drawing Class, Stephanie Rocker
 12:30 Exercise, Evey Riccobono
 12:30 Art Class, Betty Uses
 12:30 Mahjong, Miriam Roschell
 1:15 Musical Memories, CDs, and DVDs, Bob Moynihan

Thursday, January 10
 9:15 Country Western Dancing, Theresa Kover
 10:00 Yiddish Class
 12:15 Dr. David Lent, Orthopedic Surgeon,

St. John's Riverside Hospital, Discusses "Robotic Surgery"
 12:30 Mahjong
 12:30 Pokeno and Cards

Friday, January 11
 8:30 Exercise Video
 9:30 Lite Exercise, Sonya Louis
 11:00 Information and Conversation, Gilda Press
 12:30 Bridge/Cards
 12:30 Musical Memories, CDs, DVDs, Bob Moynihan

The Center at Lake Isle is located at 660 White Plains Rd. in Eastchester. For more information or transportation, call 914-337-0390.

The Garth Road Center

Wednesday, January 2, 2013
 11:30 Hot Lunch Available, Reservations Required
 12:30 Bingo Bash
 2:00 Exercise with Rowena: Lawrence Hospital Physical Therapy

The Garth Road Center is located at 235 Garth Rd. in Scarsdale. For more information, call 914-771-3340.

Bereaved Spouse Support Group Offered by WJCS

A Bereaved Spouse Support Group is being offered by WJCS Pathways to Care.

The six-week group meets on Tuesdays — January 8, 15, 22 and 29 and February 5 and 12 — from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at WJCS, lo-

cated at 141 North Central Ave. Hartsdale.

There is a suggested donation of \$10 per session. For more information or to register, contact Jane Slevin, LMFT, at 914-761-0600 ext. 143 or jslevin@wjcs.com.

Westchester Offers Free Programs on Medicare

Introductory "Medicare Basics" workshops have been scheduled so far in 2013 for January 8, February 7 and March 8 at the County Office Building, located at 9 S. First Ave. in Mount Vernon.

The sessions are presented by the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services (DSPS) and will take place from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the eighth-floor conference room.

Case workers will provide information about Medicare parts A, B, C and D and how

to use Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) for even greater savings. EPIC is a New York State-sponsored plan that helps eligible seniors pay prescription drug costs. They will also discuss Medigap insurance, cost-sharing and preventive benefits.

All workshops are free, but early registration is suggested because the classes fill up quickly. To sign up, call DSPS' year-round Medicare Information Line at 914-813-6100. For more information, visit Medicare.gov or WestchesterGov.com.

LEGAL NOTICE

Street To Strip Auto Design LLC has filed articles of organization with the Secretary of State of NYS on 11/26/2012. The offices of this company are located in Westchester County, NY. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the limited liability company served upon him or her is PO Box 451, Verplanck, NY 10596. The company is organized to conduct any lawful business for which limited liability companies may be organized.

Conference on Childhood Anxiety

Because anxiety is a common challenge facing children and families today, Westchester Jewish Community Services' (WJCS) Project SEED, The Jewish Education Project and UJA-Federation of New York's WJCS Mental Health GPS are sponsoring "Young Children Get Anxious, Too," a conference for parents and professionals.

The Keynote Speaker will be Allison Werner-Lin, PhD, and panelists will include Marilyn L. Cooperman, PhD, Aleta Koman, MEd, and Margarita Munoz-Dummit, MD.

This free event will be held on Tuesday, January 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Temple Israel Center, located at 280 Old Mamaroneck Rd. in White Plains.

For more information or to register, contact WJCS GPS Director Brenda Haas, LMSW, EdM, at bhaas@wjcs.com.

Saint Joseph's Medical Center



Setting the standard for care

Saint Joseph's Medical Center has been meeting the health care needs of Yonkers and surrounding communities since 1888. Saint Joseph's Medical Center consists of a 194-bed acute care teaching hospital; a 200-bed nursing home; St. Vincent's Hospital Westchester, a 138-bed psychiatric facility; comprehensive out-patient programs and is a sponsor of low income senior housing for frail elderly.

Today Saint Joseph's offers:

- ❖ An expanded Ambulatory Surgery Center
- ❖ On-site 64 slice spiral CT Scanner and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- ❖ Dedicated hospital-based Inpatient Renal Dialysis Services
- ❖ One of the busiest Emergency Services in Westchester County
- ❖ A Designated Stroke Center
- ❖ Comprehensive Mental Health Services
- ❖ A Family Health Center to provide affordable primary care
- ❖ Oncology Services
- ❖ Geriatrics Services and 165 units of Senior Housing
- ❖ A State-of-the-art Department of Surgery
- ❖ Pain Management
- ❖ The first accredited Family Medicine Residency Program in Westchester
- ❖ Highly advanced diagnostic services, with a full range of rehabilitative therapies
- ❖ Women's Health Services, including accredited low-dose mammography
- ❖ Patient Representatives and Pastoral Care for spiritual and emotional support

For more information, call or visit:

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Mount Saint Mary College Awarded \$1 Million from State



Mount Saint Mary College President Father Kevin E. Mackin, OFM, (left) receives good news from Senator William Larkin

This fall, Mount Saint Mary College kicked off the public phase of a \$10 million campaign by announcing it was nearly two thirds of the way toward its goal.

On December 19, the college received more good news: its Dominican Center project will receive \$1 million in Empire State Development Grant funds via the regional economic development council process of consolidated funding application.

College President Father Kevin E. Mackin, OFM, described the Dominican Center capital project as a “flagship project, to transform a 1927 structure and grounds into a 21st century living and learning center.”

He praised Governor Andrew Cuomo for recognizing that “Mount Saint Mary College is a regional economic engine.”

“This construction project alone will be employing around 200 New Yorkers,” said Mackin, who noted the lead contractor is Kirchhoff-Consigli Construction Management.

Mackin also acknowledged “major partnership gifts” from the Kaplan Family Foundations, the Dyson Foundation, the Dominican Sisters of Hope, the college’s board of trustees and alumni and other friends.

The Dominican Center’s five story, 100,000-square-foot primary structure will accommodate a library/learning commons, a residence hall for approximately 156 students (meeting a growing demand for on-campus housing), a dining facility and the existing Chapel of the Holy Rosary. The center is projected to earn its certificate of occupancy in late 2013, to open January 2014.

Other phases of the project include the renovation of space made vacant in Aquinas Hall by the relocation of the library. That space will be used to expand the college’s business education.

Mount Saint Mary College’s mainstays of health professions and teacher education are expected to continue to thrive.

‘Filling the FAFSA’ at MPL

John Norton and Irene Jozefowicz will host a free presentation at the Mamaroneck Public Library (MPL) on “How to Fill the FAFSA.”

The program is co-sponsored by Huntington Learning Center, Eastchester. The program is open to Teenagers and their parents. It will be held in the MPL Community Room on Wednesday, January 9 at 6.30 p.m.

Norton and Jozefowicz, the principals of NFG College Funding Solutions, will be the instructors for this highly informative workshop focusing on how to maximize your benefits from the FAFSA and avoid common mistakes that can cost you thousands of dollars in lost financial aid.

They are both seasoned financial advisors each with more than 30 years of experience in advising people on how to handle their financial matters and to have their money work more efficiently for them. They have developed a specialty in working with parents of middle school children to parents of seniors in High School in how to best plan for the high cost of college today. This includes short term and late stage college planning.

The presentation will cover the following

topics:

- Translate the confusing jargon to directions parents understand;
- Avoid the expensive yet common mistakes many parents make;
- Learn how to correctly answer each question;
- Understand how financial aid is awarded;
- Get step by step instruction on how to complete the online application;
- Stay informed on the recent 2013 changes: and more!

Norton is a former Managing Partner of a financial services firm managing more than 60 advisors and has a MBA in marketing, as well as being a Certified College Planning Advisor. He formed NFG College Funding Solutions with Jozefowicz several years ago. Jozefowicz is a

Chartered Financial Consultant with Advanced Planning Certification in Personal Tax Planning, Financial Counseling and advanced Estate Planning. She also is a Certified College Planning Advisor.

For more information or to sign up, call the MPL Teen Room at 914-630-5875 or NFG at 914-367-0092.

Estimate of Effect of 2013 County Budget Released

The Westchester County Tax Commission recently released its estimate of the effect that Westchester’s 2013 budget will have on individual municipalities.

For the third year in a row, County Executive Robert P. Astorino’s budget has not increased the county property tax levy. For 2013, the tax levy — the amount to be collected in property taxes to fund county government — remains at \$548 million, identical to 2012 and 2011. This is a reduction of two percent from 2010, when Astorino took office.

However, because communities assess properties at different levels of full value and property values don’t go up and down uniformly from community to community, the amount owed by each municipality to the county changes from year to year. A state equalization rate is applied to each municipality so that the tax can be fairly apportioned.

The result is that, even though the total amount of the tax levy in the 2013 budget did not increase, 14 communities will see their portion of county taxes go down and 11 will see them go up.

The decrease in the property tax bill to local governments will range from 7.67 percent in Mount Vernon to 0.45 percent in New Castle. Increases range from 7.46 percent in the City of Rye to 0.83 percent in Pound Ridge.

“The county has done its job to hold the line on our county property tax,” said Astorino. “However, every year the county tax levy affects local governments differently.”

County property taxes, including county special districts, account for about 15 to 20 percent of a property owner’s tax bill. School taxes account for about 60 percent and local government taxes account for the remaining 20 percent.

With the adoption earlier this month of a \$1.7 billion budget for 2013, the county will send tax bills to towns and cities. These bills are then used to determine what to charge local taxpayers for county services.

Bills to local taxpayers typically go out from the municipality in March and are due to the local municipality at the end of April. Generally, the effect of the county tax on individual taxpayers will be a similar increase or decrease to what the local governments see. Westchester County does not determine tax rates.

2013 County General Tax Levy

Municipality	Estimated Change (%)
Bedford	+2.51
Cortlandt	+1.60
Eastchester	-0.98
Greenburgh	+2.10
Harrison	+5.73
Lewisboro	-5.56
Mamaroneck	+5.16
Mount Kisco	-1.54
Mount Pleasant	+1.22
Mount Vernon	-7.97
New Castle	-0.45
New Rochelle	-2.53
North Castle	+3.25
North Salem	+0.90
Ossining	-5.00
Peekskill	-2.63
Pelham	-2.52
Pound Ridge	+0.83
Rye (city)	+7.46
Rye (town)	-3.74
Scarsdale	+6.33
Somers	-3.18
White Plains	-6.07
Yonkers	-3.19
Yorktown	-2.17

Bedford Audubon Society Winter Events & Programs

Thursdays in January & February, 1 hour before sunset, Science in Action: Eagle Watch. On Thursdays starting on January 10 and ending February 28 at 1 hour before sunset each day, Bedford Audubon Society Naturalist Tait Johansson and a team of volunteers will monitor roosting Bald Eagles within the Lower Hudson Valley Important Bird Area (IBA) at George’s Island, New Croton Reservoir and Verplank. If you’re interested in this fun and exciting citizen science project, now in its 7th year, please email Tait (tjohansson@bedfordaudubon.org) or call (914.232.1999). Physical level of difficulty: easy. Cost: free.

Monday, January 7, 7pm, Bylane Farm Book Club. A Superstorm Sandy do-over! We postponed our original discussion of “Anthill: A Novel” by Pulitzer Prize winner and Harvard entomologist E.O. Wilson, but we loved the book so much wanted to give it another try! Don’t forget – members who order their books from NoKa Joes in Katonah will receive a 15% discount. Please register your intent to attend with Ms. Elizabeth Royston at jroys516@aol.com. Cost: free.

Wednesday, January 9, 7pm, Lecture: Superstorm Sandy – Impacts on the Hudson River Estuary. Phillip Musegaas, Riverkeeper Hudson Program Director, will help us understand the ecological toll the hurricane took on our local river ecosystem. Please note monthly lectures will now be held at the Katonah Village Library at 26 Bedford Road in Katonah. No registration necessary. Cost: free.

Sunday, January 13, 7pm, Program: Winter Invasive Plant Forum at the Hiram Halle Library in Pound Ridge. Interested in learning more about controlling invasives on your property and promoting native habitat? A panel of experts will lead a forum on this critical issue, introducing the Henry Morgenthau Preserve’s new initiative: “The Invasives Project – Pound Ridge”. We’re also looking for volunteers to serve on our newly formed Task Force. Please register directly with Marilyn Shapiro at mshapiro@bedfordaudubon.org. Cost: free.

Tuesday, January 15, 7-9am, Field Trip: Dean’s Bridge with Naturalist-in-Residence Tait Johansson. Carve out time before you head to work for this local trip! If the weather cooperates, ice floes will concentrate large populations of wintering waterfowl for easy viewing and identifying. Please register with Ms. Jeanne Pollock at jpollock@bedfordaudubon.org or 914.519.7801. Physical level of difficulty: easy. Cost: free.

Saturday, February 2, 8am-1pm, Field Trip: Explore Greenwich Point with Naturalist-in-Residence Tait Johansson. Long-tailed ducks, scoters, and Goldeneyes oh my! Depart Bylane at 7am, or meet in the lot at the concession stand by 8am. Please register with Ms. Jeanne Pollock at jpollock@bedfordaudubon.org or 914.519.7801. Physical level of difficulty: easy. Cost: free.

Sunday, February 3, 7pm, Task Force Meeting: The Invasive Project – Pound Ridge at the Hiram Halle Library in Pound Ridge. The goal of this meeting is to map out a strategy to: 1. Develop a community awareness campaign, 2. Create educational materials for landowners, 3. Survey and map invasive plants in the community, 4. Develop an outreach plan for town departments, and 5. Organize a work party in the Pound Ridge Town Park. Please register directly with Marilyn Shapiro at mshapiro@bedfordaudubon.org. Cost: free.

Wednesday, February 6, 7pm, Workshop: Planting Your New Meadow with Bedford Audubon Board Member & Native Garden Chair Lynn Becker. Another Superstorm Sandy do-over! Lynn will give an intensive workshop at Bylane Farm on preparing, seeding, and maintaining your new meadow. Perfect for those that purchased meadow seeds as part of our Leon Levy Native Garden fundraiser! Please register with Ms. Jeanne Pollock at jpollock@bedfordaudubon.org or 914.519.7801. Cost: free.

Wednesday, February 13, 7pm, Lecture: The Atlantic Flyway Connection/La Conexión vía Migratoria del Atlántico. Political boundaries mean nothing to migratory birds, many of which travel thousands or hundreds of thousands of miles over forest, grasslands, and ocean between their winter and breeding grounds. John Beavers, National Audubon’s Vice President for International Alliances, will describe the unbreakable bond between northern Westchester County and Central America, and how we can unite to conserve critical habitat throughout our Flyway. Please note monthly lectures will now be held at the Katonah Village Library at 26 Bedford Road in Katonah. No registration necessary. Cost: free.

Summit Speakers

Continued from Page 3

To qualify, you have to get a certain amount from within your district. After that threshold, donations can come from any city resident. Regular people who can write these small donations become just as important as Albany fundraisers and that changes everything.”

Not everyone chooses to participate. Mayor Bloomberg did not. But when the Brennan Center looked at the New York City Council, it found that the diversity of donors increased dramatically.

“Everybody starts giving their five or ten dollars, because it makes a difference to them. Where states have created matching-funds public financing, participation has been widespread. In Connecticut, 85 percent of candidates have

Saturday, February 23, 3:30-6pm, Field Trip: Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge with Bedford Audubon Member Arthur Green. Join Arthur for an early evening expedition to find Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Harriers, and Short-eared Owls. Depart Bylane at 2pm. Please register with Ms. Jeanne Pollock at jpollock@bedfordaudubon.org or 914.519.7801. Physical level of difficulty: easy. Cost: free.

Saturday, March 9, 8:30am-1:30pm, Field Trip: Jamaica Bay Birding with Naturalist-in-Residence Tait Johansson. We’re hopeful that the National Wildlife Refuge will be open in time for this late winter excursion to see large numbers of waterfowl, raptors, and birds like towhees and sparrows hiding in thickets. Depart Bylane at 7am. Please register with Ms. Jeanne Pollock at jpollock@bedfordaudubon.org or 914.519.7801. Physical level of difficulty: easy to moderate. Cost: free.

Sunday, March 10, 7pm, Program: Spring Invasive Plant Forum at the Hiram Halle Library in Pound Ridge. Learn identification tips and seasonally-appropriate management strategies. The “next steps” from the Task Force will also be shared, including new ways for you to get involved! Please register directly with Marilyn Shapiro at mshapiro@bedfordaudubon.org. Cost: free.

Saturday, March 16, TBD, Work Party: Pound Ridge Town Park. Help us kick off The Invasives Project – Pound Ridge by getting an early start on invasives management. Please register directly with Marilyn Shapiro at mshapiro@bedfordaudubon.org. Cost: free.

Sunday, March 17, 8:30am-2pm, Field Trip: Saint Patrick’s Day in Wallkill National Wildlife Refuge with Naturalist-in-Residence Tait Johansson. Don a little green while the group searches for exciting spring migrants like Rusty Blackbirds, Rough-legged Hawks, and Wood Ducks. Depart Bylane 7am. Please register with Ms. Jeanne Pollock at jpollock@bedfordaudubon.org or 914.519.7801. Physical level of difficulty: easy to moderate. Cost: free.

Thursday, March 21, 7pm: Movie: “The City Dark.” Join us at Bylane Farm for light refreshments and a viewing of this documentary on the disappearance of darkness: “What do we lose, when we lose the night?” This is a fantastic preview for Dr. Elbin’s lecture in April.

The screening is for members only: if you’re not a member yet, this is a great reason to join! Please register with Ms. Jeanne Pollock at jpollock@bedfordaudubon.org or 914.519.7801. Cost: free.

Wednesday, March 27, 7am-12pm, Field Trip: Scouting at Croton Point Park with Naturalist-in-Residence Tait Johansson. Join Tait as he searches for early returning migrants like Killdeer, American Kestrels, and Eastern Meadowlarks. Depart Bylane at 6:30am. Please register with Ms. Jeanne Pollock at jpollock@bedfordaudubon.org or 914.519.7801. Physical level of difficulty: easy to moderate. Cost: free.

Monday, April 8, 7pm, Bylane Farm Book Club. Veryl Klinkenborg’s “The Rural Life” is a personal chronicle on the changing of the seasons and our relationship to nature – a modern take on Thoreau and Emerson. Don’t forget – members who order their books from NoKa Joes in Katonah will receive a 15% discount! Please register your intent to attend with Ms. Elizabeth Royston at jroys516@aol.com. Cost: free.

Wednesday, April 10, 7pm, Lecture: Birds & Buildings. Join New York City Audubon’s Director of Conservation and Science Dr. Susan Elbin for a riveting discussion of how our built environment quite literally impacts birds due to strikes and light pollution. A follow-up to our screening of “The City Dark,” Dr. Elbin will also discuss New York City Audubon’s Project Safe Flight and Lights Out NY campaigns. Please note monthly lectures will now be held at the Katonah Village Library at 26 Bedford Road in Katonah. No registration necessary. Cost: free.

Saturday, April 13, 7-11am, Workshop: Birding By Ear with Naturalist-in-Residence Tait Johansson. Get ready for warbler migration! Birding by ear can be one of the most rewarding yet challenging ways to identify our avian friends. Tait will demystify bird calls and sounds in this special workshop and by the end of the morning you will be able to apply a scientific methodology for identifying and categorizing a variety of bird vocalizations. Great for novice and intermediate birders. Please register directly with Tait (tjohansson@bedfordaudubon.org) or call (914.232.1999). Cost: \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members (and we’ll credit the \$30 workshop fee to your membership if you join Bedford Audubon the day of the workshop!)

participated. Republicans in Maine are enthusiastic about it.”

Citizen Action of New York believes matching-funds reform is possible. Governor Andrew Cuomo has repeatedly stated that he supports a matching funds public financing system, twice mentioning it in his State of the State address. Speaker Sheldon Silver has sponsored a matching funds bill. It’s more iffy in the Senate, but if a bill comes to the floor, they think they have the committed votes. It will still take concerted public pressure.

“Sausage making in the back room is how things get done. They will want to pass some band-aid. Lower the top donations a bit, close a loophole and scream victory. But only a matching funds bill will produce the change that is needed.”

For more information, contact Elizabeth Saenger at 914-698-7569.

Westchester Schools Face Off in MSG Varsity's 'The Challenge'



Host Jared Cotter (center) with the Iona Prep team (l to r) Advisor Deirdre Mone, Henry Choi, Thomas Taylor, Captain Gabriel Ferrante, Charles Mancin and Alternates Steven Neyen and Jack Sullivan



Cotter with the Ursuline team (l to r): Advisors Kathy Salandra and Jane Joyce, Sheryl Johnson, Emma Smith, Captain Sinead Schenk, Maria Ciacci and Alternate Oluchukwu Okonkwo

The new season of MSG Varsity's award-winning high school quiz show "The Challenge" will feature first round match-ups between Iona Preparatory School and George F. Baker Tuxedo High School on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. and between The Ursuline School and Harrison High School on Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at 6:30 p.m., both on Cablevision's Optimum, Channel 14.

Back for his fourth season as host of "The Challenge" is Jared Cotter, host of "MSG Varsity's Talent Show" and a popular semi-finalist from American Idol. Cotter will serve as moderator, testing competing teams on their knowledge of history, arts and literature, current events, math and science in front of a live studio audience.

Each school will compete against 31 other schools from Westchester-Hudson Valley during the Regional Rounds as they look to qualify for the Tri-State Championship Playoffs.

The Iona Preparatory team is represented by Henry Choi, Thomas Taylor, Captain Gabriel Ferrante, Charles Mancin and Alternates Steven Neyen and Jack Sullivan. The academic advisors are Deirdre Mone and Darin Gillenwater.

The Ursuline School team is represented by Sheryl Johnson, Emma Smith, Captain Sinead Schenk, Maria Ciacci and Alternate Oluchukwu

Okonkwo. The academic advisors are Kathy Salandra and Jane Joyce.

The Harrison team is represented by Rajan Mehra, Captain Lauren Jacobowitz, Jake Coonin, Tyler Hart and Alternates Danny Debois and Ben Adler. The academic advisors are Heath Kaplan and Rachel Voss.

"The Challenge" includes 192 high schools from the entire tri-state area — Long Island (with Nassau and Suffolk as two distinct regions), the Bronx, Brooklyn, Westchester/Lower Hudson Valley, New Jersey and Connecticut. A new match-up can be seen every Sunday through Friday at 6:30 pm, on MSG Varsity, Cablevision's Optimum Channel 14.

Participating schools advance through a series of elimination rounds, with one school in each region being crowned regional champion and winning \$2,500 for their school. The winning teams from each region go on to "The Challenge" Championship where they square off in a Tri-State Showdown. The school awarded the title of Tri-State Champion will receive \$10,000 in prize money and each student participating in the final "Challenge" Championship game will receive \$500.

For more information, visit MSGVarsity.com.

Westchester Disabled on the Move Receives \$12,250 from ShopRite



L to r: ShopRite Vice President of HR Tom Urtz, WDOTM Executive Director Mel Tanzman, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, WDOTM Board President Gail Cohn and ShopRite Yonkers Store Director Bayardo Villegas

Representatives from ShopRite Supermarkets, along with Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, presented a check for \$12,250 to Westchester Disabled on the Move (WDOM) at its Tuckahoe Road store on December 15.

The donations were collected at ShopRite

locations throughout Westchester from November 11 to 17 to support Westchester Disabled on the Move and its "Independence in Our Community" campaign, which aims to raise funds and awareness surrounding the many issues facing disabled people today.

Stepinac Football Collects Toys for El Centro Hispano de White Plains



The Stepinac Football program collected toys for its annual Toy Drive at the Football dinner on December 4. More than 80 toys will be delivered next week to El Centro Hispano de White Plains at St Bernard's Church. Pictured above (l to r) are Michael Carlucci of Elmsford, Tim Hill of White Plains, Brian Harris of Bronxville, Jason Kennedy of Elmsford, Anthony Corato of Yonkers, John Fitzmaurice of White Plains, Liam O'Donnell of White Plains, Sheldon Salmon of Mount Vernon and Robert Bambil of White Plains.

Photos by Justin Grasso



L to r: Assemblymember Shelley Mayer, Empire City Casino President & CEO Timothy Rooney, Mayor Mike Spano and Deputy County Executive Kevin Plunkett

Empire City Donates

Continued from Page 1

of toys and coats collected through Empire City's Annual "Christmas Spirit" Toy and Coat Drive.

Rooney was joined by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York Executive Director Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, Assemblymember Shelley Mayer, Mayor Mike Spano, Westchester Deputy County Executive Kevin Plunkett, Catholic Charities Community Services Westchester & Putnam County Supervisor Karen Reynolds, Sister Christine Hennessy of Catholic Charities Community Services and Aisling Irish Community Center Executive Director Orla Kelleher.

Rooney commended the employees of Empire City, as well the customers who gave so generously to the annual drive. Jams, a family-owned, California-based company, was also thanked for its generous donation of hundreds of new toys for children in New York, as was Yonkers based Smart Move & Storage for generously providing storage for all of the items donated.

service," said Rooney. "The devastation New Yorkers suffered from this storm is unspeakable and they need our help. Whether you donate \$2 or \$2,000, it will make a difference. No act of kindness or generosity is ever too small."

Sullivan said, "We are grateful for Empire City Casino's generosity. This donation has enabled Catholic Charities to respond early, but will also help our commitment to assist in meeting long-term needs."

Reynolds said, "The Empire City Casino Toy and Coat Drive will benefit many of our clients and relieve them of a financial burden this Christmas season."

Since Sandy hit, Catholic Charities has been responding to the needs of those impacted by the hurricane's devastation. In hard-hit neighborhoods, mobile food pantries were deployed, crucial supplies needed by survivors were delivered and hundreds of volunteers were coordinated to help with clean-up efforts. Working with FEMA, state and city governments and many other organizations, Catholic Charities' professional and compassionate staff is ensuring that families in need receive access to multiple services, includ-

ing counseling, housing assistance and rapid repairs.

Rooney said that Empire City also provided direct assistance to residents after the storm. The casino served as a hub for Con Edison to distribute dry ice and blankets to residents in need, dispatched their culinary team to hard hit coastal areas to feed hot meals to thousands of first responders and residents and prepared and delivered trays of hot food to area shelters.

In addition to the generous half million dollar donation to Catholic Charities, Rooney was recognized for the matching pledge he made to the Empire State Relief Fund. After the creation of the fund was announced by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, Rooney encouraged donations by pledging to match up to \$100,000 of donations made to the Empire State Relief Fund. Donations can be made at the Redemption Counter at Empire City Casino or online at ReliefNY.org by entering "ECC" in the matching code field to ensure the donation is doubled by Empire City.

"As our state recovers from the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy, time and time again the generous spirit of New Yorkers is on full dis-

play with organizations, businesses and individuals stepping up to the plate to help those in need," Cuomo said. "With this donation, on top of what has already been pledged, Tim Rooney and the employees of Empire City Casino are once again pitching-in in a big way to support our ongoing relief and recovery efforts, and help those hit hard by Hurricane Sandy begin to rebuild their lives."

Spano said, "I commend our friends at Empire City Casino for their generous contributions to our fellow New Yorkers. During this time of Thanksgiving, we should follow Empire City's lead and provide for those individuals suffering the most during these difficult and stressful times. There is no better time than now to lend a helping hand to our family and friends in New York."

Mayer said, "I applaud Tim Rooney and the leadership of Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway for their tremendous generosity and spirit of citizenship towards the Hurricane Sandy rebuilding efforts. All of us in Yonkers are joined with our New York City neighbors during this tough time. We share the sentiments of Mr. Rooney that this is a moment for those who can contribute to aid this critical relief effort."



Rooney, Ava and Molly with Sister Christine Hennessy of Catholic Charities