

YONKERS RISING

PRESORT-STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
White Plains, NY
Permit #7164

Vol 110 Number 26

www.RisingMediaGroup.com

Friday, June 26 - July 3, 2015

A Great Week for Untermyer Gardens



Untermyer Gardens Conservancy Chairman Stephen Byrns, Martha Stewart and Mayor Mike Spano. Photo by Donna Davis.

Yonkers' hidden treasure, Untermyer Gardens, and the Untermyer Gardens Conservancy, received an outpouring of support at their fundraising gala and from a grant from Scenic Hudson. See the story on page 2.
A crowd of 300 people participated in the third annual Summer Solstice Sunset Soiree on June 16 sponsored by the Untermyer Gardens

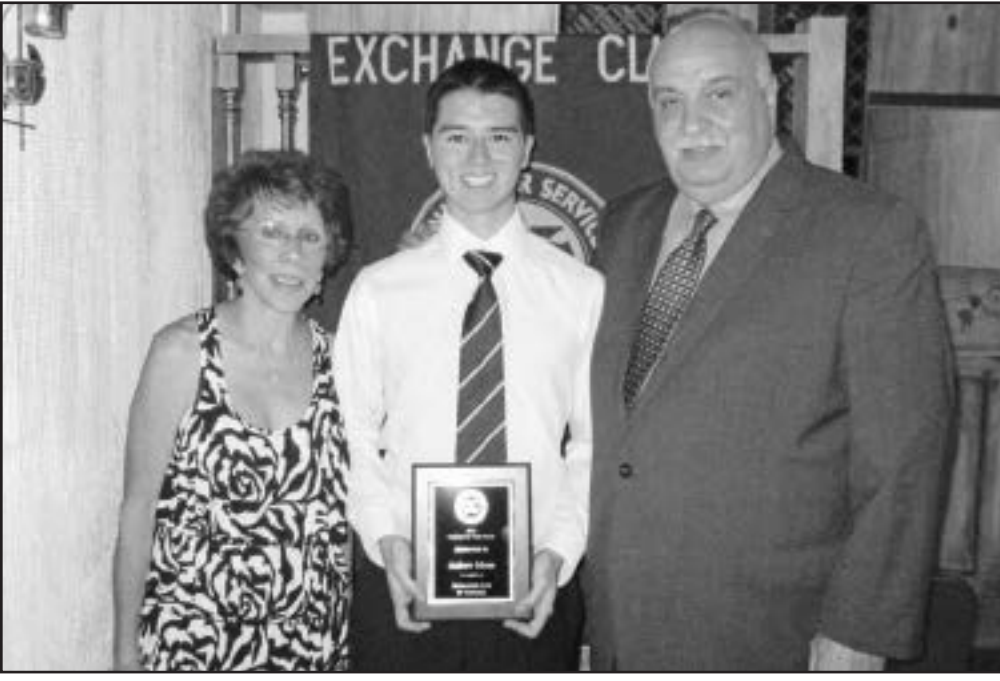
Conservancy at Untermyer Park and Gardens. The event raised nearly \$300,000.
The conservancy works in partnership with the City of Yonkers to restore Untermyer Gardens to its previous grandeur.
Despite multiple rain showers during the day, the rain stopped two minutes before the
Continued on Page 8

Cuomo & Sales Tax Hike Save Yonkers Schools

By Dan Murphy
We amend our headline from last week above. "The devil is in the details" is what many in Yonkers are calling the budget agreement deal reached between Mayor Mike Spano, the Yonkers City Council, Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the State Legislature that calls for the City of Yonkers to increase its sales tax by half a percentage (from 8.375 percent to 8.875 percent). In return they will receive two \$14 million payments in additional revenue from Albany to be used exclusively for Yonkers Public Schools.
Two weeks ago, Cuomo came to Yonkers and said there would be no teacher layoffs. That promise was criticized by members of the City Council last week as they held a special meeting to approve an increase in the sales tax. The vote on the sales tax increase was 5-2 with Council President Liam McLaughlin and Councilman Mike Breen voting "no."
The budget breakdown is as follows (as we assume that the State Legislature will at some point approve the additional funding for YPS and the sales tax increase):
The YPS faced a \$26 million shortfall in revenue to have the same programs and staff for the next school year, 2015-16, that it did for this school year, 2014-15. The governor's visit to Yonkers resulted in the following offer: the state would fund the YPS additionally for

this year at \$13 million, and next year at \$13 million, if the city increased its sales tax by half point and if the revenue from the increase in sales tax went to YPS.
Every member of the City Council discussed their vote at the special meeting held June 18 at midnight.
"The governor came to Yonkers and said there would be no teacher layoffs, but there were no definitive numbers," said McLaughlin. "This money also has to be earmarked for education, which is having the state tell us how to spend our money and is problematic, and having all of these strings attached is a problem."
McLaughlin voted "no" on the Home Rule message, requesting that Albany approve the sales tax increase.
"I want everyone to understand that this increase in the sales tax will not provide anything new for the schools," said Majority Leader John Larkin. "What we have now is a partnership where the sales tax will give us \$11 million for this year and the state will give us \$13 million, but we remain at the status quo and no additional money for the schools - and I have a problem with that. The state should have given us the \$28 million they gave us last year. I don't want anyone patting themselves on the back for this deal."
Minority Leader Michael Sabatino added:
Continued on Page 8

Exchange Club Honors Youth of the Year



From left are Rita Timlin, chairman of the Exchange Club of Yonkers; Andrew Mrose, Yonkers Middle/High School student; and Dr. Michael Tazurlo, superintendent of schools.

The Exchange Club of Yonkers recently celebrated its 2015 Youth of the Year scholarship dinner at Luciano's Restaurant. The award was presented to Andrew Mrose of Yonkers, who attends Yonkers Middle/High School, and was presented with a \$1,000 dollar scholarship.

Applicants were rated for their scholastic achievements as well as their actions and efforts volunteering with various community events, community service agencies and projects.
Congratulations to all of the hard-working students!

City Council Spotlight: Christopher Johnson

From the councilman...
Four years ago I made the decision to run for Yonkers City Council. The decision came after a lot of thought, as I was about to complete graduate school and obtain my master's degree in school counseling from Fordham University, and I was the deputy chief of staff to State Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins.
There were several possibilities, and some made more sense than others, but the desire to affect change in people's lives was always a constant. My involvement to that point in government was full of life-changing experiences - from the micro-supervising of an office, to the macro-administering grants to non-profits that could keep their doors open and youth off of the streets. I felt satisfaction in the work I had done, with the limited influence I had



Councilman Christopher Johnson.

Seeking public office was an opportunity to expand that influence.
The last three years have given me experiences I never thought I would have. Growing up in a single-parent household, where friends, neighbors and at times my own experience included WIC or food stamps, to being part of the system that created those helpful opportunities was beyond belief. But there is not much time for awe after an election, as those you swore to represent want to see you get right to work and make improvements in their lives and in the community.
On the campaign trail, some set their priorities and some even make promises. My only promise was to focus on my priorities: Work as hard as I could to improve housing
Continued on Page 8

School 17 Celebrates Perfect Attendance



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano with School 17 Principal Rita Morehead and teachers, with 11 of the 21 students who completed the school year with perfect attendance.

Congratulations to the 21 students at School 17 who successfully completed their pledge to attend school every day and on time for the entire 2014-15 School year. Last year during Attendance Awareness Month, Mayor Mike Spano visited School 17 and unveiled Pledge 182, the pledge named after the number

of school days in Yonkers Public Schools' academic year.
He delivered on his pledge, as well, treating the students to a pizza party to celebrate their achievement.
The 21 perfect attendance students included Tanairy Loren-Abreu, Mansib Anan, Lyric

Batista, Jared Blagmon, Maria Calixto, Leyla Carela, Kiara Chin, Kaya Dulik, Alexandra Fousse, Emily Tamika Gonzalez, Justin Gonzalez, Gina Allison Hernandez, Mantasha Khan, Julie Lopez Rodriguez, Jose Pastrana, Adriene Santiago, Caroline Spisak, Ronny Vasquez Gonell, Brian Villegas, Derick Wray and Suma-

lia Yakubu.
Yonkers Rising appreciates the effort and dedication required to complete this feat, and is why you are on the front page! Having the ability to get up and go to school, on days when you just don't feel like going, will help you in your future endeavors in college and work.

Scenic Hudson Grant Supports Restoration of Untermyer Gardens



From left are Yonkers City Council Minority Leader Michael Sabatino, Yonkers Parks and Recreation Commissioner Yvette Hartsfield, Mayor Mike Spano, Untermyer Gardens Conservancy Chairman Stephen Byrns, and Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan. Photo courtesy of City Hall.



Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan at the podium announcing a grant for Untermyer. Sullivan and Scenic Hudson have supported several of Yonkers' environmental and eco-friendly causes. Photo courtesy of City Hall.

Scenic Hudson will present a \$250,000 grant to the Untermyer Gardens Conservancy, enabling restoration of its signature water feature in the walled garden at the historic landscape in Yonkers, in memory of Kathryn Wasserman Davis (1907-2013), the visionary philanthropist, environmentalist and advocate for world peace who lived in Tarrytown. Davis was a generous supporter of

Scenic Hudson and its work in Westchester County.

The funds will allow the nonprofit conservancy and the City of Yonkers – the gardens' owner – to reline and replumb the crisscrossing waterways symbolizing the Rivers of Life in the Garden of Eden. This garden, whose design incorporates features from several cultures and spiritual beliefs,



Untermyer Gardens Conservancy Gala honoree Barbara Frelinghuysen Israel is escorted by Roman guards during the recent Summer Solstice Sunset Soiree. Photo by Donna Davis.

offers a physical manifestation of Davis's goal of uniting nations and respecting diversity. The gift also sustains Scenic Hudson's decades-long effort to protect and connect people to Yonkers' natural beauty as the basis for the city's ongoing economic revitalization.

"Kathryn Wasserman Davis was an ardent champion of international peace," said Scenic

Hudson President Ned Sullivan. "At the same time, she was dedicated to helping people enjoy the natural splendor of the Hudson Valley – the scenic lands and vistas that enriched her life for 80 years. By allowing the Untermyer Gardens Conservancy to complete restoration of this historic treasure in Yonkers, our grant will provide

Continued on Page 8

Untermyer Summer Continued from Page 1

event started, followed by a rainbow, sunny skies and a mild breeze off the Hudson River.

The gardens were groomed by the gardeners to be at their finest. The park was called "America's Most Spectacular Garden" in the 1920s by the national press, and has recently garnered major attention from the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Martha Stewart Omnimedia and the Garden Club of America.

Guests were treated to the cuisine of Le Moulin, a French caterer that has recently located to downtown Yonkers. Fanfares ushered the crowd to the amphitheater, where speeches were delivered by Mayor Mike Spano, Conservancy Chairman Stephen Byrns and Honorary Chairwoman Martha Stewart.

Three major capital projects were announced, including restoring the Temple of Love, the Vista and the water canals in the

Walled Garden. Significant funding for these initiatives will come from former Mayor Angelo Martinelli in memory of his wife, Carol, a generous supporter, and Scenic Hudson.

The honoree was Barbara Frelinghuysen Israel, the leading dealer of garden antiques in the country and a board member of the conservancy. She made a grand entrance from the far end of the garden to a chorus from a Wagner opera, escorted by Roman guards and a fan-bearer, with costumes provided by Beyond Costumes, also of Yonkers. She sat on a throne loaned by St. John's Episcopal Church in Getty Square.

After a spirited auction, Marian Sulzberger Heiskell, age 96 and a long-time friend of the Untermyer family, entered the amphitheater in a caddy outfit, bearing a golf bag. She then handed Barbara a golf club and ball, which Barbara proceeded to drive out of the garden, to the delight of the assembled crowd.

Immediately following, the crowd descended to the lower garden for desserts and dancing.

Untermeyer Summer

Continued from Page 1

event started, followed by a rainbow, sunny skies and a mild breeze off the Hudson River.

The gardens were groomed by the gardeners to be at their finest. The park was called "America's Most Spectacular Garden" in the 1920s by the national press, and has recently garnered major attention from the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Martha Stewart Omnimedia and the Garden Club of America.

Guests were treated to the cuisine of Le Moulin, a French caterer that has recently located to downtown Yonkers. Fanfares ushered the crowd to the amphitheater, where speeches were delivered by Mayor Mike Spano, Conservancy Chairman Stephen Byrns and Honorary Chairwoman Martha Stewart.

Three major capital projects were announced, including restoring the Temple of Love, the Vista and the water canals in the

Walled Garden. Significant funding for these initiatives will come from former Mayor Angelo Martinelli in memory of his wife, Carol, a generous supporter, and Scenic Hudson.

The honoree was Barbara Frelinghuysen Israel, the leading dealer of garden antiques in the country and a board member of the conservancy. She made a grand entrance from the far end of the garden to a chorus from a Wagner opera, escorted by Roman guards and a fan-bearer, with costumes provided by Beyond Costumes, also of Yonkers. She sat on a throne loaned by St. John's Episcopal Church in Getty Square.

After a spirited auction, Marian Sulzberger Heiskell, age 96 and a long-time friend of the Untermeyer family, entered the amphitheater in a caddy outfit, bearing a golf bag. She then handed Barbara a golf club and ball, which Barbara proceeded to drive out of the garden, to the delight of the assembled crowd.

Immediately following, the crowd descended to the lower garden for desserts and dancing.

Yonkers and rode in on the white horse and made a commitment to Yonkers, but it's the City Council that has to work this deal out and has to raise the sales tax. "I don't like being lied to or deceived," he said. "There is no bail out, this was a take-it-or-leave-it offer, with Albany saying raise the sales tax or you are on your own."

There are two additional takeaways from the budget deal that will fund YPS this September. "Maintenance of Effort" is a term all Yonkers residents will need to learn. It is an agreement, dating back to the desegregation lawsuit and settlement for YPS in the 1980s that requires the city to continually fund YPS at the prior year's dollar amount at a minimum. The city's contribution for YPS can never go down, and many believe is why you do not see significant increases in the city's contribution to YPS every year.

The YPS budget deal calls for all proceeds from the increase in sales tax to go to YPS, and will be considered Maintenance of Effort. So the city's contribution to YPS will increase by \$15 million this year, and in next year's budget, \$13 million in sales tax revenue and \$2 million in increased funding for YPS in the mayor's budget

The one silver lining – if there is any – in this agreement, is that YPS will have funding for this upcoming school year, 2015-16, and the following year, 2016-17, at its current levels, with \$13 and \$13 million coming from Albany over the next two years, and the increase in sales tax revenue.

non-profits, allowing them to keep programs running.

Simultaneously, the budget built on the prior commitments: more crossing guards, libraries open on Sunday, and a larger dedication to safer streets. Unfortunately, I did not believe last year's budget continued on the same path, so I voted against it, as it cut down the arts, music and sports programs we offer our children. It is my hope that the budget we vote on any day now will more closely reflect those in my first two years, rather than the latter.

In addition to allocations in the budget, I have also been able to craft and support creative, life-improving legislation. I was a lead sponsor on the Yonkers Affordable Housing Ordinance, which although I wish went further, still requires new developments with more than 100 units to keep at least 10 percent affordable. I introduced the expansion of the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption, keeping housing affordable for renting seniors and disabled persons. And when the state expanded the program even more, I led the charge to expand the program here in Yonkers.

My work doesn't end in City Hall. Most people see me out at any number of events, and if not, maybe the media took a statement or a picture that showed me there. From vigils for those that have passed, like the great Rita Gross-Nelson, to football practices for the championship winning North Yonkers Knights, to graduations, to community meetings and worship services, I believe that in order to represent people, you have to know what their lives are like – and that means being present.

My work is not yet done. More attention needs to be paid to the education of our children; it must be a priority in Yonkers. We have some sections of this city where people are thriving, but there are others that are struggling. So I will continue to push for legislation like my "Jobs Bill," requiring a minimum standard of local hiring on development projects in Yonkers (especially if they get a tax break), and a "Living Wage Law."

I will continue to listen to the needs of those I have had the honor to represent. I will continue to fight for causes that advance this city and against those that force us backward. As I once heard a reverend say, "Good, better, best. Never let it rest! Until my good is better, and my better is best!"

Yonkers is good – let's work to be the best!

I am seeking your support for my re-election to the Yonkers City Council. I have been blessed to be a city councilman and I am determined to continue serving in that capacity. I look forward to a spirited campaign, where my record is discussed and new ideas focused on the advancement of the City of Yonkers, specifically the First District, can be developed and challenged.

Councilman Christopher A. Johnson represents the First Council District.

Grant Supports

Continued from Page 2

a perfect setting for people to reflect upon Mrs. Davis's ideals. And it will offer another exciting destination attracting people to the city."

Stephen Byrns, chairman of the Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy, added: "Scenic Hudson has always been on the forefront of preservation issues in the Hudson Valley. This early and significant contribution not only validates our work, but strengthens our mission to make this garden – with its reference to the Garden of Eden – a symbol of peace and brotherly love, a shared concept of the three Abrahamic religions."

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano called Untermeyer Garden a jewel in the City of Yonkers that provides tremendous enjoyment to residents and visitors alike. "We are grateful to Scenic Hudson for contributing funds for the restoration of the garden waterworks, building on the organization's long-standing commitment to the beauty and quality of life of Yonkers," he said.

"Under the leadership of Stephen Byrns, the gardens are being returned to their glory days, and will continue to serve as an attraction for visitors and residents alike to enjoy for generations to come," added State Senate Democratic Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

Scenic Hudson's commitment to restoring Untermeyer Gardens, which are open to the public daily free of charge, builds on the organization's outstanding track record in Yonkers. Scenic Hudson partnered with Westchester County to create the two-acre Habirshaw Park, the only park in Yonkers offering direct access to the Hudson River. It also led the successful campaign to halt construction of riverfront high-rises and replace them with popular Esplanade Park.

In addition, Scenic Hudson planning experts first recognized the benefits of daylighting (uncovering) portions of the Saw Mill River in downtown Yonkers as the centerpiece of the city's renewal. Later this year, the city will begin Phase Three of the daylighting initiative, which has generated significant economic development and new jobs.

Davis' generosity to Scenic Hudson allowed the organization to provide exciting riverfront

amenities in Westchester County. She engaged Scenic Hudson and its partners to transform the decaying bathhouse in Sleepy Hollow's Kingsland Point Park into a modern facility for environmental education and river-based recreation. In 2011, she cut the ribbon celebrating the opening of the center, named in her honor. She also played a leading role in the creation of Scenic Hudson River-Walk Park at Tarrytown, replacing an 80-year-old asphalt plant with an esplanade offering magnificent Palisades vistas.

And, concerned about runaway development destroying the valley's natural splendor, she provided critical support for Scenic Hudson's work to protect "must-save" lands along the river.

Untermeyer Gardens was designed in 1915 by prominent architect William Welles Bosworth for Samuel Untermeyer, a noted lawyer, leader of America's anti-Nazi movement and a dedicated horticulturalist. His charge to Mr. Bosworth was to create the "finest garden in the world." (Bosworth also designed the gardens at Kykuit, the Rockefeller estate in Pocantico Hills.)

Once nationally famous, the 150-acre garden was open to the public on a weekly basis, attracting 30,000 visitors on a single day in 1939. Five years after Samuel Untermeyer's death in 1940, the City of Yonkers acquired a 16-acre portion of the landscape containing the gardens' most important features. An additional 27 acres was acquired in the 1990s.

The Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy, established in 2011, has been spearheading efforts to return the gardens to their original splendor.

The walled garden was based on Indo-Perian paradise gardens and included many of their traditional elements, most notably the use of waterways to divide the garden into four quadrants, massive gates and surrounding walls anchored at their corners with octagonal towers. The garden was appointed with Grecian-influenced structures, including an Ionic open air amphitheater and a Corinthian temple. It is thought to contain the largest outdoor use of mosaic in America.

The conservancy hopes to commence construction in late 2015. The work is expected to take four months to complete.

For more information, visit www.scenichudson.org.

CORPORATION NOTICE CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, July 9, 2015 at 5:10pm, in the Mayor's Reception Room, Second Floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, on the following Local Law, to wit:

LOCAL LAW NO. 14-2015

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 71 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS ENTITLED 'DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES' BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE III ENTITLED 'SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS' IN RELATION TO RESTRICTING THE SALE AND POSSESSION OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS.

MIKE SPANO
Mayor

Dated: June 24, 2015

#1384 06/26/2015

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Plaintiff(s),
Against
Index No: 57150/13

JULIO BETANCES A/K/A JULIO A. BETANCES, FRANCISCO BETANCES, ARIOSTO SANCHEZ, ET AL.,

Defendant(s).
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly entered in the Westchester County Clerk's Office on 5/11/2015, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction, at the Lobby of the Courthouse located at 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., White Plains, New York on 7/16/2015, at 9:30 am, premises known as 833 Tuckahoe Road, Yonkers, NY 10710, and described as follows:

ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester and State of New York, and designated on the tax maps of the Westchester County Treasurer as Section 4, Block 4493 and Lot 25.

The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is \$818,562.32 plus interest and costs. The premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index # 57150/13.

John N. Romano, Esq., Referee.
STIENE & ASSOCIATES, P.C. (Attorney's for Plaintiff), 187 East Main Street, Huntington, NY 11743
Dated: 5/29/2015 File Number: 201100367 GS

#1373 06/12/15 – 07/03/15

City Council

Continued from Page 1

opportunities for Yonkers residents, fight to make our streets safer, and support public education.

Although not perfect, I am proud of the record I have created. In the first budget I voted for, I am glad to say I led the charge to reinstate crossing guards at heavy-traffic intersections and school bus stops throughout the city. In that same budget, I fought to allocate funding for Yonkers SNUG, a community-focused, anti-shooting initiative that was established by New York State but was losing funding.

As the Budget Committee chairman that year, I was also instrumental in re-establishing the Yonkers libraries' "open hours" on Saturdays. The subsequent budget would have included cuts to Yonkers schools' arts and music programs, but I – with the help of some of my colleagues – identified funding to keep those programs strong. I was also able to foster partnerships between the city and a few

YONKERS RISING

Proudly serving the City of Yonkers

Nick Sprayregen, Publisher
nsprayregen@risingmediagroup.com

Daniel J. Murphy, Editor-in-Chief
dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Bayan Baker, Assistant to Editor-in-Chief
risingmediagroup@gmail.com

Paul Gerken, Advertising Sales
pgerken@risingmediagroup.com

Gregory Baldwin, Administrative Asst.
gbaldwin@risingmediagroup.com



Member of the New York Press Association
914-965-4000
Fax 914-965-2892
25 Warburton Ave, Yonkers, NY 10701
www.risingmediagroup.com

Yonkers Rising - USPS Permit #7164 is published weekly by Rising Media Group, LLC 25 Warburton Ave., Yonkers, N.Y. 10701
Periodicals Postage Paid • Yonkers, N.Y. POSTMASTER
Send address changes to:
Rising Media Group, LLC,
25 Warburton Ave., Yonkers, N.Y. 10701



ENZO'S

RESTAURANT

"Fine Italian Cuisine"
Private Rooms
for
All Occasions

451 Mamaroneck Avenue
Mamaroneck, NY 10543
(914) 698-2911
Fax: (914) 698-9254
www.enzorestaurant.com

Luciano Savone
Patricia Savone
Anthony Savone