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As Teen Unemployment Soars, Groundwork Expands Green Team



Groundwork HV Exec. Dir. Brigitte Grisworld and staff on the Science Barge in downtown Yonkers

As teen unemployment rates soar due to the pandemic, Groundwork Hudson Valley is stepping up with the help of its funders to increase how many young people get a paycheck this summer through its award-winning youth program, the Green Team. In a typical year, between 12-15 youth would be hired and the program would include a transformative service trip to Yellowstone National Park after local projects are completed. This year 20 youth have been hired and the Yellowstone excursion is not happening. "Our youth are truly the life blood of the organization," says Executive Director Brigitte Grisworld, a long-time champion of positive youth development. "And while it is a transformative experience for them," she says, "the paycheck is also a huge help at home and even more so this year with so many local jobs lost and families in our community turning to food banks and social services."

With additional funding from The City of Yonkers, The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, The Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation, The St. Faiths Foundation, The Environmental Protection Agency, The Westchester County Youth Bureau, and The Fish and Wildlife Service, the organization has been able to both sustain existing youth jobs and open up 5-7 additional positions. The unemployment rate nationally due to the pandemic is highest among young people, the Pew Research Center reported in May using U.S. Labor Department statistics. And among all demographics, Latino and Black workers are the most affected by layoffs. Nearly all of the participants in this program are drawn from Southwest Yonkers, which has a high concentration of Black and Latino families.

While the organization feels fortunate, its ability to carry out community projects at this time is complicated due to Covid-19 restrictions. The staff and youth are adapting, however. The number of youth in the field at any one time is being limited and masks and social distancing are being practiced rigorously. The usual meetings in the downtown Yonkers office to go over projects and engage in a dialogue about environmental issues have moved on-line.

Typically, they conduct community outreach, use tools they have never seen before, camp at wildlife refuges hundreds of miles away from home, and address conservation issues for wolves, bears and bison at one of America's greatest National Parks. "This is one of the biggest downsides this year," says Victor Medina, the Youth Program Manager at Groundwork,

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Murphy Brothers of Yonkers Serve City and Country



Patrick Murphy and YPD Officer John Murphy

By Phil Foley

Last week a family tradition of public service took pace at the swearing in ceremony of the newest Yonkers Police Department Officers at City Hall by Mayor Mike Spano. Pictured is John J. Murphy getting his new police badge from his oldest brother Patrick J. Murphy III.

Patrick is a Captain in the National Guard and a member of the Yonkers Fire Department. Patrick has also served in Afganistan for a tour of one year. (John is also a member of the National Guard.)

The boys follow in the tradition set by their late father Patrick J. Murphy Jr. Pat served the Guard for over 45 years including one year at Ground Zero after 9/11 and a tour of duty in Iraq. This would have been a very proud day for the father of these fine young men. I am sure he is looking down smiling at them and very proud.

What Does Back to School Look Like in Yonkers?

Fight to Save St. Ann's and St. Paul's Schools in Yonkers



Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, joins parents and students at a rally to save St. Paul's School in Yonkers

By Dan Murphy

As more than 30,000 students in the Yonkers Public Schools and their families, wait for a decision on whether they can return to school in September, students and parents who attend St. Ann's School and St. Paul the Apostle School in Yonkers received bad news last week from the Archdiocese of New York, who announced that both schools would be closing their doors for good.

"The Office of the Superintendent of Schools of the Archdiocese of New York today announced 20 Catholic schools will be unable to reopen in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Three schools will merge. The coronavirus public health crisis has had a devastating financial impact on Catholic school families and the greater Archdiocese. Mass unemployment and continuing health concerns have resulted in families' inability to pay their current tuition, and a significantly low rate of re-registration for the fall; while months of cancelled public masses and fundraising for scholarships have seen a loss of parish contributions which traditionally help support the schools.

"Children are always the most innocent victims of any crisis, and this COVID-19 pandemic is no exception," said Timothy Cardinal Dolan Archbishop of New York. "Too many have lost parents and grandparents to this insidious virus, and now thousands will not see their beloved school again. I've kept a hopeful eye on our schools throughout this saga and my prayers are with all of the children and their families who will be affected by this sad news. Given the devastation of this pandemic, I'm grateful more schools didn't meet this fate, and that Catholic schools nearby are ready to welcome all the kids."

"Much deliberation and analysis went into the final determination of which schools would not reopen. It is expected these changes, which will impact approximately 2,500 students and 350 staff, will have the positive effect of ensuring the overall fiscal stability and strengthen the vitality of New York Catholic schools for decades to come.

"The reality of these schools being lost is painful, and it was only accepted reluctantly after a detailed study was conducted of their respective fiscal standing in the wake of the coronavirus public health crisis," said Superintendent of Schools Michael J. Deegan. "I have been a Cath-

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Cancel Goya? Cancel Hamilton?



By Dan Murphy

Last week, Goya CEO Robert Unanue was invited to the White House by President Trump for a discussion and announcement about a 'Hispanic Prosperity Initiative.' At the ceremony in the Rose Garden, Unanue said, 'We are all truly blessed to have a leader like President Trump who is a builder. And that's what my grandfather did, he came to this country to build and grown and prosper. We have an incredible builder and we pray for our leadership, our president, and our country to continue to prosper and continue to grow.'

Shortly after his comments, a boycott began against Goya Foods, the largest, Hispanic-owned food company in the United States. Joining the boycott were Congressman and former Presidential candidate Julian Castro, who tweeted, "Free speech works both ways. @GoyaFoods CEO is free to support a bigoted president who said an American judge can't do his job because he's 'Mexican', who treats Puerto Rico like trash, and who tries to deport Dreamers. We're free to leave his products on the shelves. #Goyaway." Congresswoman AOC, also added her name to the boycott, as did Hamilton creator Lin-Manuel Miranda.

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Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins Gives out 40,000 Masks



Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins with a representative of Doctors United, with locations in Yonkers, White Plains, and Ardsley

NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins is distributing masks in bulk to local community organizations, nonprofits, religious groups, and businesses that are located in Yonkers, White Plains, New Rochelle, Scarsdale, and Greenburgh—the 35th Senate District she represents.

After announcing the program a week ago, 137 institutions have responded and are in the process of picking up their allotment from the Senator’s District Office in Yonkers.

“As the county begins Phase 4 and as businesses and organizations continue to re-open, it is important that they have the resources needed to keep everyone safe. With the governor’s assistance in procurement, I am proud to be able to distribute this massive amount of masks to these local groups so that they can protect their employees as well as their customers, clients, and congregations,” said Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

The requests—both large and small—range from 20 masks for local businesses to 1,000 for area nursing homes and other large, nonprofit agencies. Churches, synagogues and other faith-based groups have also requested masks as they look to open up their buildings to more congregants. Restaurants, doctor’s offices, and childcare organizations are also receiving masks, which are washable, reusable and made out of cotton. They are not for medical use.

“I am hopeful that this mask distribution effort will help everyone to stay healthy. It is precisely because we continue to practice social distancing and wearing masks that Westchester’s (and New York State’s) active COVID-19 cases continue to decline. We all want to keep it that way,” said the Senator.

There is a small amount of masks still available for bulk distribution. To place a request, please email mannara@nysenate.gov or call the Senator’s District Office at (914) 423-4031. Unfortunately, the office cannot promise to fulfill all additional requests.

Hudson River Museum to Re-open July 25



Tango Night, with Latin Grammy Award winner bassist and composer Pedro Giraud, left, kicks off the re-opening of the Hudson River Museum on Aug 1

The Hudson River Museum is excited to announce that we will reopen to the public on Saturday, July 25, with special Member Preview Days on July 23 and 24. Visitors will be able to experience the special exhibitions currently on view: Derrick Adams: Buoyant and Adams’ We Came to Party and Plan; Collection Spotlight: Derrick Adams Selects; Self in the City: Highlights from the Collections of the HRM and Art Bridges; and Frances Hynes: Constellations, as well as the permanent installation The Bookstore by Red Grooms. The Museum Courtyard will be open, and visitors are invited to enjoy the lawn by bringing their own mat or blanket.

The reopened Museum will allow guests to experience the HRM while taking measures to ensure the safety of our staff and visitors. Museum hours this summer will be Thursday–Sunday, 12–5pm; on Saturday evenings from August 1 through September 19 the HRM will be open until 7pm. Advanced, timed-entry tickets and reservations will be required. Visitors will be able to choose from various slots per day. Capacity is strictly limited, and visitors must arrive and depart from the Museum within their reserved time slot. The Museum has reduced capacity to 40 visitors per time slot, until further notice. Timed tickets will go on sale on July 15 at hrm.org/visit and at (914) 963-4550.

During the nearly four months since the HRM has been closed, the Museum has changed our policies and practices to prepare for our reopening, using CDC and New York State guidelines. We have added supplemental precautions, such as enhanced cleanings, one-way traffic in the galleries, touchless hand sanitizing stations, and improved air filtration.

Face masks will be required for visitors older than two years old, and for all staff members. All visitors and staff will also be asked to adhere to social-distancing guidelines and use hand sanitizer upon entry to the Museum. Our virtual programming will continue; the summer offerings can be found at hrm.org/calendar.

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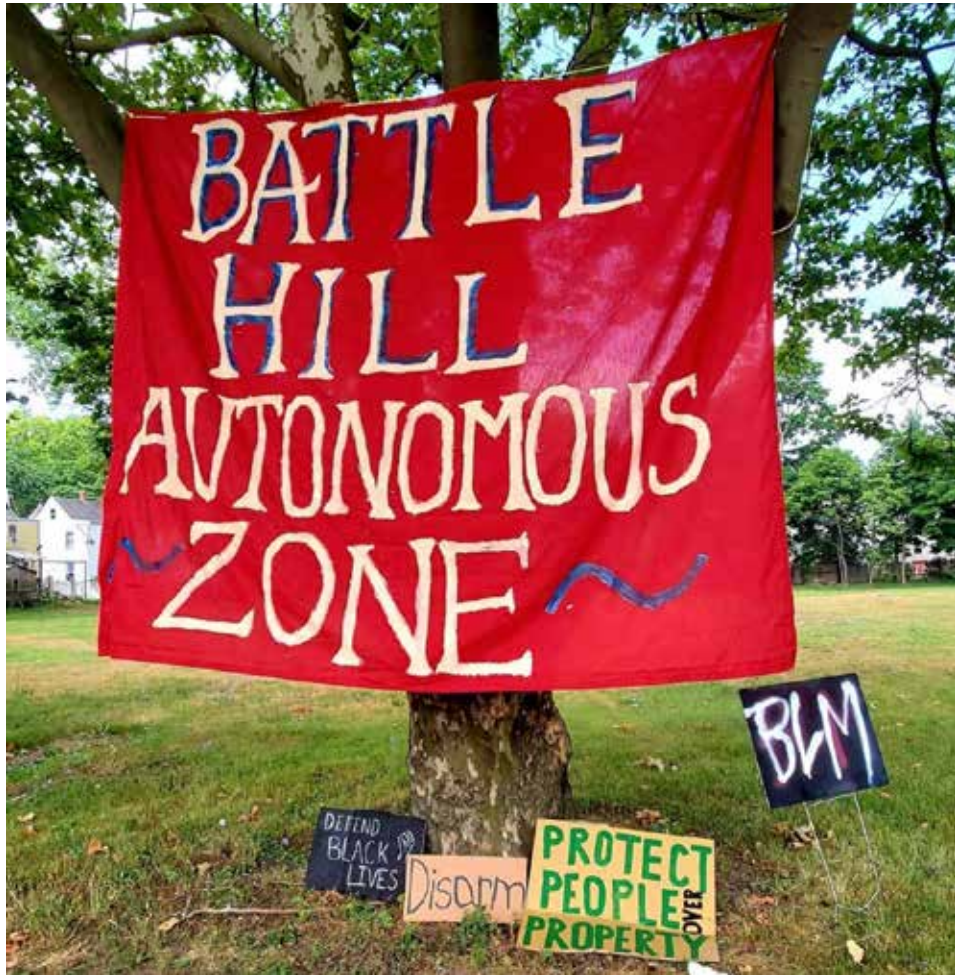
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Did You Know That Westchester Had an Autonomous Zone?



By Dan Murphy

For more than three weeks in June, Americans watched on TV as a group of protestors representing Black Lives Matters and Antifa took over a six block neighborhood in the middle of Seattle, Washington. A police precinct in the Autonomous Zone called CHAZ, Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone, was burned and left empty from June 8 until July 1.

Most of our readers may not know that a similar, Autonomous Zone was built in White Plains. The Lower Hudson Democratic Socialists opened the site around July 4, in the Battle Hill neighborhood in White Plains in a small park.

"The Battle Hill Autonomous Zone broke ground today. We repurposed tires that we found dumped near by turning them into vegetable beds. We've decided to build raised beds next. If you can help, come on by, and donations can be sent via Venmo," stated the organizers, who added a demand that White Plains strip funding for police to be used for other means, including helping pay for or cancel rent payments due and to provide assistance to those hit the hardest by the Coronavirus. A community garden in the neighborhood was also requested.

On July 6 and 7, The Hudson Valley Democratic Socialists, posted a schedule of events that included, Yoga, Art, Dinner and Board Games. The following day, a community garden session and an open mic in the evening were on the agenda.

The White Plains Autonomous Zone did not have the support of residents who lived nearby or next to the protest. Homeowners wanted the park back for their own use, and to get out of there homes during COVID for a breath of fresh air, or to walk their dog.

Three days after opening on July 5, the City of White Plains evicted the group, with a statement that read, "The unlawful occupation of city property by a small group of protesters has come to an end. The small number of people who were there were asked to leave. They did so and there were no arrests."

Two of the winners of their Democratic primaries on June 23 also had the support of the Hudson Valley Democratic Socialists and will almost certainly now become Westchester's two members of Congress.

Mondaire Jones, who is way ahead of the other six democrats trying to replace Nita Lowey in the 17th District, has continued his call for Medicare for All, as a way to make sure everyone in the district and the country has health insurance.

Jamaal Bowman, who became this year's AOC with his upset over Eliot Engel in the 16th District, is calling for Universal Basic Income, UBI, or additional stimulus checks for all Americans.

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The Hills of Yonkers Alive With the Sound of Fireworks

By Eric Schoen



Another 4th of July in Yonkers, the City of Hills where nothing is on the level! Despite promises from our elected officials that they would stop the blasting off of illegal fireworks, the noise emanating from these dangerous devices gets louder and louder every year.

I am usually out of town for the 4th of July and am not blessed with hearing and seeing the Yonkers sky come to life until 2 o'clock in the morning. When I was young the family would go out to celebrate my parent's anniversary, July 4, and we wouldn't be home until after 10 p.m. when most of the fireworks were over. Back then, the fireworks were concentrated on our nation's birthday and didn't start a week before and end several days after.

I was surprised when I heard that Yonkers Police only confiscated 12 cases of fireworks. Not being Johnny Rocket and understanding the packaging of fireworks, hearing what went off by my house seemed like much more than 12 boxes of fireworks. I live near 3 parks: Sullivan's Oval, Fleming Field and Tibbetts Brook Park. I think that fireworks were going off in those parks as well as at individual people's homes.

An idea. The Yonkers Fire Department has 10 fire engines, 6 ladders, a rescue pumper and a rescue company. Divide the city into 18. Send all the rigs out on the 4th of July, sirens blaring. The Engines Have water capacity and the other vehicles could be outfitted relatively inexpensively with devices that could snuff out illegal fireworks displays.

The blaring sounds of the fire vehicles would hopefully scare away those illegally exploding devices. If not, fire companies observing illegal fireworks could spray water on the devices making them useless.

We lost two homes in Yonkers this year due to illegal fireworks. Let's not forget that there is a lot of old housing stock in Yonkers made of wood. If we don't do something soon we can expect to lose more homes. What a tragedy that would be!

All the brilliant ideas to suppress fireworks are not working. How many more homes will we have to lose Before we come up with creative, inexpensive ways to stop the illegal use of fireworks in our fair city? I'd love if you would share your ideas with us at risingmediagroup@gmail.com.

Since this is a yearly problem, the Mayor should set up a task force before 'rockets red glare' reaches the sky headed up by the Yonkers Fire Commissioner to deal with this already out of hand issue!

Wear Your Mask!

How difficult is it to wear a mask when there is less than 6 feet between you and the next person? I get it, masks are not the most comfortable thing to wear, particularly when you are like me and you wear glasses. No matter which mask I try my glasses get fogged up when I put my mask on making it extremely difficult to see.

But let's face it (no pun intended) one thing that has stayed constant in a medical world where things change by the minute is that the use of masks save people's lives during this pandemic. No one is asking you to put the heavy masks firefighters use on as you shop or get your nails done. There are plenty of different types of masks out there. I am sure you can find one that works and is comfortable for you.

Do you really need a mask when you are alone in your car driving? When you are alone at the park like Tibbetts where the closest person is probably at least 24 feet away. Or when you are out walking the dog at 6 in the morning when no one else is around? I'll leave that up to you.

But taking off your mask to smoke cigarettes? You shouldn't be smoking particularly in the middle of this pandemic. Oh how I wish there was a mask to cover over your cigarette and face so I wouldn't have to breathe in cigarette smoke and you could see how it feels when you blow smoke from cigarettes on your loved ones, friends and neighbors

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The Enrico Fermi Educational Fund Scholarship Recipients Announced

For the first time in its 57-year history, the Enrico Fermi Educational Fund of Yonkers has had to cancel its annual scholarship breakfast due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The breakfast has been held on the first Sunday in May since its first breakfast which was held 57 years ago.

"We were very disappointed to have to cancel this year's breakfast, but vowed to keep our tradition and mission alive, despite reduced funding and the inability to celebrate the accomplishments of the recipients", said Richard J Poccia, co-president. "We received amazing applicants prior to the COVID-19 restriction, and wanted to be sure we carried on our process of identifying the best students who met our criteria of outstanding academics, strong extracurricular and community involvement and being of traceable Italian heritage" added Walter Rodriguez, co-president. Dr. Marie Elena Liotta, scholarship committee chair said "that despite unusual circumstances in the review of the applicants, we have seven very talented and worthy recipients".

The Enrico Fermi Educational Fund of Yonkers provides seven scholarships to high school students in Yonkers, as well as throughout Westchester County. Since its inception, the Enrico Fermi Educational Fund has provided over 400 scholarships with total funds in excess of one million dollars.

"On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Enrico Fermi Educational Fund of Yonkers we are excited to announce the following recipients, who embody the criteria we seek" said Mr. Poccia, adding that "exactly at this time, we need to celebrate the accomplishments of these students, while wishing them well as they embark on their college studies".

The 2020 Thomas and Agnes Carvel Scholarship in the amount of \$10,000 is awarded to Julia DiVita Geremia. Julia is the daughter of Teresa DiVita. This outstanding young lady attended the Ursuline School. She challenged herself with not only honors classes but 8 Advanced Placement courses. True to the essence of this scholarship, Julia has exemplary community service logging approximately 250 hours. She volunteered many hours at the local library, and she taught religious instruction classes for her church. As in her community, she gave many hours to her school's special events. Additionally, she is a state recognized scholar athlete. The math department chairperson writes, "Julia's best attributes include a strong work ethic, a great sense of humor, and a natural ability to connect and work with her peers." Furthermore, her computer science teacher remarks that she "is a leader, hardworking, disciplined, caring, intelligent, funny and engaging in every way." Julia is a member of the National Honor Society.

Julia plans to study computer science and psychology. She will be attending Bucknell University in the fall.

The 2020 Fermi Scholarship in Memory of John N. Romano in the amount of \$5,000 is awarded to Dominic Canale. Dominic is the son of Tony and Cristina Canale. Dominic is a graduate of Fordham Preparatory School. He challenged himself with not only honors classes but 6 Advanced Placement courses. In addition to a rigorous and demanding schedule, Dominic found time to volunteer for several school programs. He was on the crew team as well as having a job. He volunteered in Ecuador with the Working Boys Center, he tutored underclassmen at Fordham, found time to assist with Habitat for Humanity in Tennessee. As an athlete, Dominic was a member of the varsity crew team for all four high school years and was awarded most valuable player. His history and track teacher remarks, "Dominic is in the top one percent of most thoughtful, interesting, hardworking and intelligent young men who has ever sat before me in a classroom. I have learned from him!" Dominic plans to study biology at Bucknell University in the fall.

The 2020 Fermi Scholarship in Memory of Henry J. Monaco, Jr. in the amount of \$5,000 is awarded to Victoria Carroll. Victoria is the daughter of James and Rachelle Carroll. She is a graduate from The Ursuline School. Her rigorous course load included both Honors and Advanced Placement courses. She has participated in the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk and volunteered at the Elizabeth Ann Seton Children Hospital. A dedicated computer science student, her computer science teacher wrote, "she will graduate high school having completed three years of college level computer science and be proficient in two object-oriented languages (Visual Studio and Java) which is an impressive accomplishment." A member of the National Honor Society, Victoria found time to volunteer in school and community activities even starting her own clothing line. Inspired by the City of Yonkers and the 914 area code, 914 Apparel was created. Victoria plans to attend NYU in the fall for computer science.

The 2020 Fermi Scholarship in Memory of Marcella Vitulli in the amount of \$5,000 is awarded to Isabella Zimmer. Isabella is the daughter of Sean and Francesca Zimmer. She graduated from the Ursuline School after pursuing a rigorous course load of Honors and 8 AP courses.

She continuously volunteers within her school as well as her community at large. Isabella devotes hours to the Girl Scouts in their endeavors which includes cookie sales and meeting setups and volunteers her time to organize food drives for shelters and food banks. She finds time to participate actively on the lacrosse and track teams. An accomplished musician, Isabella plays the clarinet in the orchestra at school. She also finds time to work as a lifeguard during the summer. Her guidance counselor reflects, "Isabella has been an influential, positive leader in our school community as a student and faithful role model. She has a quietly assured manner, allowing others to have confidence in her and trust her." Isabella will be attending The University of Southern California majoring in economics.

The 2020 Fermi Countywide Scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 is awarded to Nicole Guadagno. Nicole is the daughter of Michael and Denise Guadagno. She is a graduate of Lakeland Senior High School and valedictorian of her class. She maintained a rigorous course of study and was enrolled in all honors classes as well as completing 8 Advanced Placement Courses. She was active in peer tutoring, served as a CCD volunteer at her church, and devoted many hours to Paws Pet Rescue. In addition, Nicole was a varsity soccer athlete and participated in track and field. Even when she was unable to actively run, she remained committed to the team as a referee. Nicole's guidance counselor remarked, "Nicole is not just defined by her flawless academic record. She is a committed volunteer, she is a referee, a UNICEF club member, babysits, just to mention a few of her endeavors." Nicole will be attending Northeastern University and plans to study business and design.

The 2020 Fermi Countywide Scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 is awarded to Jack Mango. Jack is the son of Lawrence and Jill Mango. Jack has graduated from John Jay High School. His academic course of study included several college prep and honor courses as well as 9 Advanced Placement Courses. Besides his academic courses, Jack ran varsity cross country track and competed in long distance races each season. He was a member of the Campus Congress, a student government organization which aims at improving the high school. Jack was a dedicated boy scout and was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in scouting. He was involved in conducting scientific research and placed first in the Westchester Rockland Junior Sciences and Humanities Symposium. His advance placement teacher says of

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BOL Announces Five Jandon Scholarships for Yonkers Students

The Westchester County Board of Legislators and the Jandon Foundation recently announced the recipients of scholarships in the 2020 Jandon Scholars program. The program awards \$12,000 over four years to Westchester public high school seniors who meet certain academic requirements and financial eligibility guidelines, to help them complete their college education. One of the distinctive aspects of the Jandon Scholars program is that it follows students through their college careers. Awards are provided in annual, increasing increments, and scholarship recipients have access to a network of hundreds of alumni who have come through the program.

Board Chairman Ben Boykin said, "Earning a Jandon Scholarship is a remarkable achievement under normal circumstances. To have earned such a distinction in this very difficult time, when the normal conventions of school have been disrupted by COVID-19, is a testament to the perseverance and strength of character of this year's Scholars. We congratulate them, and we know that this wonderful program - including the mentorship of previous scholars - will help these fine students continue to achieve, whatever circumstances the future may hold."

The Jandon Foundation's Alec Cecil said, "Our Jandon Scholars have achieved so much under unprecedented circumstances. We are proud to be making an investment in these Scholars, and to be in a position to provide them with financial support and mentorship. Seeing their determination, fortitude and commitment to their educations, I know that the investment we make in them is an investment in a brighter future for us all."

This year's Jandon Scholarships are the first to be awarded since the passing of Donald Cecil, who established the Jandon Scholars program in 1999 to help Westchester students from low-income families attend college. Chairman Boykin said, "Don Cecil was a wonderful man who did so much for the community and for so many deserving students for decades. While we mourn his passing, we know that the life and achievements of the students Jandon has helped, and the future students Jandon will help, will be testaments to Don's vision for generations to come."

Below is a list of this year's Yonkers scholars, the high schools they attend and the colleges they will be attending:

Crystal Padron, Lincoln High School - Lehman College,
Michelle Portillo, Lincoln High School - SUNY Stony Brook,
Garcia Toribio, Palisade Preparatory High School - Fordham University,
Lisbel Feliz Garo, Roosevelt High School - SUNY Binghamton,
Jennifer Mora, Saunders High School - Manhattan College,

For a slide show of this year's Jandon Scholars click: <https://westchester-legislators.com/imag>

LATIMER OFFERS PLAN TO HELP ENSURE SMOOTH VOTING ON ELECTION DAY 2020

In the wake of a primary election day filled with issues, Westchester County Executive George Latimer released a four-point plan aimed at offering assistance to the state-directed Westchester Board of Elections (BoE) in advance of Election Day 2020. The plan, which has already been given to Board of Elections Commissioners Reginald Lafayette and Douglas Colety, includes assistance with additional polling place inspectors, replacement polling sites, additional temporary staff for absentee ballot counting and early voting.

Latimer said: "Our nation was founded on the principle of free and fair elections - without them nothing else truly matters. The Board of Elections are a state-directed entity but what I am offering is a way to utilize the strength of our County government to assist in the democratic process."

Among the new procedures is utilizing Westchester County employees, who already have Election Day off, as polling place inspectors. Latimer said utilizing these workers, along with also securing new polling sites to keep a reasonable number of locations open but avoid the use of nursing homes and other high Covid-19 risk areas, is simply streamlining our government workforce and utilizing County connections.


Latimer said: "While the Westchester Board of Elections is state controlled we are all in this together. This is our County and we have an American duty to make the voting process as accessible as possible to those who want to exercise their civic rights. I want people to vote, I want them to be engaged - and we are here to help."

Additionally, the last two points of the plan are to provide resources to the BoE to hire part-time poll workers to count absentee ballots as well as open up early voting locations so that any duly registered Westchester voter can vote at any early voting location site.

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In Person Census Registration Assistance at Food Bank Distribution

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced the City of Yonkers will be partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau as well as Catholic Charities/St. Peter's Catholic Church to provide in-person Census registration assistance at their food bank distribution located at 91 Ludlow Street. The Food Bank provides groceries for 500 families every Tuesday from 7:30 am – 11 am (or as supplies last).

"Thanks to Catholic Charities, residents have access to fresh produce and other groceries while learning the importance of the 2020 Census," said Mayor Mike Spano. "The 2020 Census may be more important than ever before, knowing that Yonkers recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic is assisted by a complete count of all our residents should further motivate all of us to fill it out."

Currently, Yonkers has a 54.9% response rate to the 2020 Census, far below the national, state, and county average. To help target the undercounted communities, the U.S. Census Bureau will have bilingual census takers available with tablet computers to assist with onsite registration.

"This opportunity – to ensure every New Yorker is counted – only comes around once in a decade," says Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of New York. "Only by redoubling our efforts now more than ever can we ensure that our communities will receive the necessary funding for vital public services, including our schools, hospitals, fire departments, and neighborhoods."

"The 2020 Census is critical for every city in America, but mid-sized cities like Yonkers, depend on it a bit more because of the tens of millions of dollars at risk for programs and services we use every day, including schools, hospitals and our representation in Congress," added Mayor Spano. "I thank Catholic Charities and the U.S. Census Bureau for partnering with us to encourage participation in the 2020 Census."

For more information on the 2020 Census, visit www.2020Census.gov or call 1-800-330-2020.

Schoen, continued from pg 3-

Soap and Water vs. Hand Sanitizers

Hand sanitizers made in Mexico have been recalled due to dangerous chemicals put in them. Make sure you are using an approved hand sanitizer off the respective government agency list.

And what did the press release put out by the government on hand sanitizers say? Your best bet is to use soap and water to keep those hands clean and sanitary. It's that simple!

Who Won the Primary Elections?

It's now almost 3 weeks and have we heard a peep about who won the Congressional primary for the 16th Congressional District. Up to date counts? Litigation taking place?

When we had a real local newspaper in Westchester, by now we would have known what is taking place in this district and received notification along the way as to which way the vote was going. News 12 with the numerous staffing changes that have occurred would keep us up to date on the election counts. Now, nothing!

Are we going to have to wait this long in November for the results? Democracy? Voting by Mail? Scary stuff! Sadly, maybe we all have to go to the polls, risk our lives, risk the lives of the poll workers, stand on long lines and vote on unreliable machines to get election counts in a shorter time frame!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR A SUCCESSFUL REOPENING. As Albert Einstein once said, "The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library."

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisyonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen and Dan Murphy on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

On This Day in Yonkers History...



Wilma Ansell, Miss Yonkers, 1925 in Atlantic City NJ

By Mary Hoar, President Untermyer Performing Arts Council, President Emerita, Yonkers Historical Society and recipient of the 2004 Key to History

Monday, July 20th

July 20, 1912: Yonkers School Superintendent Charles Gorton laid blame for students' lack of spelling ability at the feet of their mothers. He said mothers were too eager to have their children "excel in special lines and are overlooking the necessary rudimentary training that means so much for the all-around development of boys and girls." He thought less time should be spent teaching music, arts and manual training.

July 20, 1924: Yonkers' Vincent Richards was the first American to win gold in the Olympic Men's Tennis singles, and the second Yonkers native to win an Olympic medal. Just one week earlier, Alan Helffrich won the first Yonkers Olympic medal, gold!

Tuesday, July 21st

July 21, 1924: Returning from Maine, sisters Frieda and Elsa Schlobohm of Warburton Avenue were passengers on the Steamship Boston when it was rammed in dense fog by the tanker Swift Arrow. Although the liner had 1,000 passengers and 180 crew members, only four people lost their lives. The Schlobohms escaped in a leaky lifeboat missing its rain plug; they and their fellow passengers bailed water desperately for two hours until another steamer rescued them. The girls safely arrived in Yonkers two days later.

July 21, 1942: The irresistible party dance of choice at the Yonkers USO was... the "Hokey-Pokey!" First introduced by visiting British sailors, it became so popular, the Hokey-Pokey had to be danced at least once every session.

Wednesday, July 22nd

July 22, 1927: Water Bureau Superintendent James Curran had a personal run-in with an adventurous local fish. The mischievous creature decided to go exploring, leaving the Grassy Sprain Reservoir to travel through Yonkers water mains. Unfortunately for Curran, it ended up in his home system, costing the Superintendent \$188 for repairs to this plumbing.

July 22, 1943: Yonkers learned that one of our own played a part in building the highway linking Canada to Alaska. Staff Sergeant Albert, operator of a McLean Avenue dairy store, was attached to a Fort Nelson Engineers Regiment. They worked 24-hours a day, despite weather that ranged from intense heat to -30 below zero, often without sleep or food. Despite all the hardships, Albert said, "Each man took pride in every inch of the road." What made him really proud? The men and the officers became buddies, unlike life in the typical garrison. He wrote, "I feel very proud of American, when I can see a mass of men—Gentile and Jew, Black, White and Red—getting along as well as we do."

Thursday, July 23rd.

July 23, 1910: Thomas Broadbent of North Broadway was honored by the British Government for rescuing 3 sailors on the English trading steamer Fantel, off Cape Palmes, in 1909. He was awarded the King's Medal and a British Government Letter of Commendation. Members of the Fantel crew mutinied and local pirates tried to take over the damaged ship for its cargo; but were repelled by the sailors' revolvers. On the 4th day, crewmembers were overcome in the lower hold by gas coming from flasks with loosened corks. Broadbent volunteered to rescue them, was lowered into the hold and brought up 3 sailors. Unfortunately, trying to recover bodies of additional crewmembers, Broadbent was overcome himself; he did not revive for 5 days. Doctors at the time felt he would never fully recover his health. The British government also had awarded Broadbent a medal for bravery several years earlier.

July 23, 1943: A father-son combination assisted a Runyan Heights couple when their house caught fire. Dad, Acting Fire Chief William Garvin, and son William Jr., an intern at St. John's Hospital sprang into action when paraffin, being melted for canning, caught fire and spread to the next room. Dr. Garvin later became one of Yonkers leading Ophthalmologists.

Friday, 24th

July 24, 1921: Motion picture star Hope Hampton purchased a home at 85 Rockland Avenue and planned to move from her Riverside Drive apartment shortly. Hampton's "meteoric rise" to stardom was the talk of Hollywood and film fans.

July 24, 1926: The newly formed Yonkers Broadcasting Association announced plans to build a \$100,000 radio broadcasting station.

July 24, 1937: Seabiscuit ran in the Yonkers Handicap, breaking his fourth record at the track. This was his last race at Empire City.

Saturday, July 25th

July 25, 1928: Yonkers Post 7, American Legion, protesting the charges at Playland, announced the Westchester County Park Commission could not legally operate Playland, the \$5,000,000 amusement center at Rye Beach. They stated, the fees had "gone beyond the pale of reason and fairness."

July 25, 1928: City Clerk John Kettell announced the Iron Steamboat Company applied for permission to make regular stops at the Yonkers Pier on its regular trips to Coney Island and Rockaway.

July 25, 1937: Dancing in the moonlight in the sylvan dells of Grassy Sprain Road so upset area residents, they called the Yonkers Police! Apparently couples regularly would park, turn on their radios, and waltz, foxtrot and "truck" up and down the road!

Sunday, July 26th

July 26, 1904: Construction was completed on the granite wall on the south side of Washington Park along Nepperhan Avenue. It was built in similar manner to the one on the east side and extended to the entrance of the old Nesbit House, about 240 feet long. This later would be the location of Yonkers City Hall!

July 26, 1928: Common Council President John J. Fogarty became Yonkers 22nd Mayor at 9 a.m. due to the death of Mayor Thomas Larkin. At the age of 30, Fogarty was the youngest man to hold the office of Yonkers Mayor. Yonkers, shocked by

continued on pg 7-

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Fermi Scholarships, continued from pg 4-

"Jack is an intelligent, enthusiastic, and driven intellect. He is insightful, creative and committed to working hard." Jack plans to attend The University of California-Berkeley to study physics.

The 2020 Fermi Science Scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 is awarded to Adriana Palmieri. Adriana is the daughter of Armando and Catherine Palmieri. She is a graduate of Irvington High School. Her academic transcript includes 9 Advanced Placement courses and the rest all honors classes. During last summer, Adriana was a full-time unpaid intern at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals working on CRISPR gene-editing research. This summer she will continue her research at Regeneron. Her extracurricular activities include mentoring middle school students in math and science and coordinating efforts to provide food, clothing, and gifts for disadvantaged families. She actively participates in the village Midnight Run. She was a member of the track, basketball and bowling teams. She also found time for acting and was a cast member in the spring musicals. Adriana is a National Merit Scholar, a New York State Scholar Athlete, and an Advanced Placement Scholar with Honors. Her AP Chemistry teacher states emphatically, "In dealing with so many students in my career, Adriana by far exceeds my expectations and still leaves a lasting and positive impression. She sets the bar in how awesome a student can develop." Adriana will be attending Cornell University to study Food Science.

For more information about the Enrico Fermi Educational Fund of Yonkers, visit www.enricofermi.org, and on social media.

Support Connection Announces Virtual Team Captains Meeting

Support Connection announces a virtual meeting for anyone interested in forming a Team for their 2020 Support-A-Walk for Breast and Ovarian Cancer. The virtual "Team Captains Meeting" will be held via ZOOM on Wednesday, July 22, at 7 p.m. To learn more, or to receive login info for the meeting, contact Melissa Higgins at walk@supportconnection.org, or call 914-962-6402.

The theme of this year's Support-A-Walk, scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 4., is "Walk With Us, Wherever You Are." In lieu of gathering by the thousands in the park, Support Connection invites people to walk wherever they are, near and far.

During the ZOOM meeting on July 22, Support Connection will share information about what the Walk will look like this year, and how to form or join a Team. There will be announcements about new and exciting activities geared towards enhancing virtual participation in the Walk. There will also be ideas and tips about ways to stay connected and raise funds.

The Support-A-Walk is Support Connection's most important annual fundraiser. Proceeds provide funding for their year-round breast and ovarian cancer support services, which have helped thousands of people since the organization was founded in 1996.

To learn more, visit supportconnection.org/support-a-walk, or contact Support Connection: 914-962-6402, walk@supportconnection.org. ABOUT SUPPORT CONNECTION: Support Connection's mission is to provide emotional, social and educational support services to women, their families and friends affected by breast and ovarian cancer. Services include peer counseling, support groups, wellness and educational programs, referral and information services, and a toll-free cancer information and support hotline (800-532-4290.)

Groundwork HV Continued from pg 1-

"but personal and community resiliency has been an underlying theme of the program for many years and this is a teachable moment."

The work being carried out in a Covid-safe way this summer includes developing the Yonkers Greenway near the border with Van Cortlandt Park in New York City, promoting local biodiversity by removing acres of invasive plants, and restoring habitat along the Saw Mill River, one of the region's most significant tributaries to the Hudson River. In addition, the Green Team will help grow more produce on the Science Barge, a sustainable farm on the Hudson River, for distribution to local shelters during the pandemic and will help identify heat islands in the community as part of Groundwork's Climate Safe Neighborhoods program. Heat hazards affect many of the same high-risk populations as Covid-19, such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.

"The most important thing," says Ms. Griswold, "is that we continue to provide opportunities for these talented young people so they can get jobs that contribute to the local community." She adds, "Our ability to pull this off this year points to the strength of the program, the flexibility of our participants, and the donors who stepped up in a time of crisis. Yellowstone, unfortunately, will have to wait till next year for all of us."

Griswold also recently emailed to supporters of Groundwork to highlight the organizations' adaptation to change.

I am writing to share two of Groundwork's latest efforts to adapt to change:

First, while the Science Barge is on PAUSE as a public education center, we are uniquely positioned to address growing issues of food insecurity in Southwest Yonkers. The Science Barge utilizes hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic systems to grow produce faster than soil-based farming. Our growing systems, combined with our unique nutrient cycling system, enable us to quickly grow over an acre of food in a much shorter growing season.

Instead of growing small numbers of many types of produce for educational purposes, we are changing course to grow fewer varieties at a much larger scale to support increasingly food insecure residents in our community. We will focus on growing organic, pesticide free, high yield varieties of greens, cucumbers, and tomatoes that are increasingly difficult to source locally, responding to a need that Groundwork is uniquely equipped to address. To support growth at scale and extend our growing season into colder months, Groundwork secured a new greenhouse heating system for the Science Barge in 2019.

Partners on this effort include the YWCA of Yonkers, which provides shelter, meals, and other critically needed wrap around services for up to fifty women each day, and every night. All produce grown on the Science Barge will be donated to the YWCA and other communities in need. Second, we are transitioning our sustainability and climate change educational programming, previously delivered through field trips on the Science Barge, into virtual platforms to support our teachers, parents, and caregivers in need of remote learning opportunities for young people.

Please contact our Sustainability Education Manager, Joel Rodriguez, at joel@groundworkhv.org to learn more about these exciting opportunities. There are many!!! We will adapt, change course, and ultimately weather this storm, together," writes Griswold.

This is another worthy, local organization that makes a difference every day. Consider volunteering your time or making a donation. You can help keep our team going, and growing, by making a donation to our Resiliency Campaign, or mailing a check to 22 Main Street, Yonkers, NY 10701.



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Hudson River Museum, continued from pg 2-**Summer Amphitheater Series & Free Saturday Evenings**

We are thrilled to be welcoming back audiences for our popular Summer Amphitheater Series, presenting artists of the highest quality across multiple disciplines and genres, with a focus on both iconic and emerging performers. The performances will take place in our outdoor theater adjacent to the Museum and overlooking the Hudson River. For this year's season, the HRM will be presenting one performance each weekend on Saturday evenings in August and September, with socially distanced seating, and a limited capacity of 50 guests at each performance.

All performances are free and begin at 8pm, with doors opening at 7:30pm. Reservations are required through hrm.org/amphitheater. The Museum will also offer free admission to its galleries and courtyard on Saturdays, 5-7pm, August 1-September 19, made possible by Entergy.

Saturday, August 1st--Tango Night! Latin Grammy Award winner bassist and composer Pedro Giraudo is among the most compelling tango artists today. After two decades performing with the most important interpreters of tango, Pedro Giraudo debuted his own Tango Orchestra at Lincoln Center's Midsummer Night Swing in July 2015 and since then has become an active cultural ambassador of this beautiful and passionate music of his native Argentina.

Saturday, August 8

Forever Ray: Honoring the Music of Ray Charles

Forever Ray has been playing to sold-out audiences throughout the New York Metropolitan area. They perform the exciting and uplifting music of Ray Charles, which includes a wonderful blend of musical styles ranging from Jazz and Blues to Country and R&B. Members of Forever Ray have performed or recorded with Ray Charles, Alicia Keys, Bruce Springsteen, Rod Stewart, Prince, Stevie Wonder, and Christina Aguilera, to name just a few.

Visit HRM.org for more information.

Goya boycott, continued from pg 1-

Those who called for a boycott of Goya ignored the announcement that Unanue made last week, that the company was donating millions of cans of food to help Americans across the country suffering from the Coronavirus. This donation comes after Goya has made thousands of food donations in the NYC Metro area to low income families and students in New York City schools.

Unanue, who also accepted an invitation to the White House by President Obama, asked "So, you're allowed to talk good or to praise one president, but you're not allowed to aid in economic and educational prosperity? And you make a positive comment and all of a sudden, it is not acceptable?"

Shortly after the Goya boycott, supporters of the President and those opposed to the Cancel Culture that now exists in our country led an effort to support Goya, a USA company that employs ten of thousands. 27-year old Casey Harper began a GoFundMe page to support Goya Foods and the money raised would buy Goya products and donate them to food banks. So far more than \$172,000 has been raised.

Harper said, "... I'm not surprised we have raised so much because people are tired of having to walk on eggshells in political discourse." "The Left is trying to cancel Hispanic culture and silence free speech. #Buy-Goya," Tweeted Senator Ted Cruz

It is interesting to note that Lin Miranda's support of the Goya Boycott comes at a time when a boycott of his play Hamilton has also begun. That movement, #CancelHamilton, is based on the fact that President George Washington and Thomas Jefferson are portrayed favorably in the play, while not prominently highlighting the fact that both were slaveowners.

And while Alexander Hamilton himself was not a slaveowner, and disavowed slavery and was a proud abolitionist, his wife's family did own slaves. In the play, Hamilton challenges Jefferson in a debate about owning slaves, saying

"Your debts are paid 'cause you don't pay for labor/ We plant seeds in the South. We create. Yeah, keep ranting/ We know who's really doing the planting."

Miranda has responded to #CancelHamilton politely, saying "All the criticisms are valid. The sheer tonnage of complexities & failings of these people I couldn't get. Or wrestled with but cut. I took 6 years and fit as much as I could in a 2.5-hour musical. Did my best. It's all fair game."

As a lover of the musical Hamilton, which can now be viewed on Disney with a monthly subscription, I would say that the cancel crowd has either gone too far, or missed the point of Miranda's masterpiece.

'Hamilton' the play, and the book by author Ron Chernow is about how someone who came from nothing rose to become a Founding Father. It is an inspirational tale, and most of the play's actors and actresses are people of color. After watching the play, send us your comments to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

Larkin's death, began planning tributes to the late mayor.

July 26, 1933: Wilfred George of the NYS Emergency Relief Administration told Yonkers Welfare Commissioner Nicholas Ebbitt that our subsistence gardens were among the "finest in the state."

For more information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and our upcoming events, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/YonkersHistoricalSociety. We also are on LinkedIn and Twitter @YonkersHistoric. For information on membership in the Yonkers Historical Society, please call 914-961-8940 or email yhsociety@aol.com.

Good News Yonkers-- Stay Cool With Free Kayaking Program

FREE kayaking will be offered to the public TWICE a week on Thursday and Friday afternoons at 5:30PM (weather permitting) at the Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club 35 Alexander St (ON THE WATER AT Habishaw Park behind the Beczak Environmental Center.

The program is LIMITED to 8 Participants at a time age 13 years and up. All boats, Life jackets and paddles will be provided by the Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club. All leaders are American Canoe Association instructors and assistant leaders have taken kayak rescue training.

You MUST SIGNUP online to reserve a specific day, please put in your cell number in case we have to cancel for weather and notify you. Waivers FOR EVERYONE participating (adult + minors) MUST be signed ONLINE BEFORE you arrive.

Participants will be using decked sea kayaks NOT sit-on-tops. Participants must be physically able to carry boats to the dock and back. Trips may be cancelled or modified by the leaders for weather, safety or other conditions. Leaders have the right to reject any paddler for safety reasons

Persons with physical disabilities must contact The Public Program Coordinator (914-303-5643 X 105) BEFORE you arrive for a paddle. If you have any health concerns please contact The Public Program Coordinator (914-303-5643 X 105) BEFORE you arrive for a paddle

PLEASE only sign up for 2 paddles in the summer. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before your scheduled time to allow time to change and get equipment. Please note that changing rooms (4 people at a time max) are available but there are NO SHOWER facilities. Porta-Sans are available

Proper clothing: sneakers, sandals, shorts, t-shirts, hat and a dry towel. Please bring sunglasses, a bottle of water. ALL personal items SHOULD be left in the clubhouse; we are not responsible for lost items.

ALL YPRC Health and Safety Measures MUST BE FOLLOWED. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE: <http://www.hudsonriverriders.org/>

Back to School, continued from pg 1-

olic school educator for more than 40 years, and could never have imagined the grave impact this pandemic has had on our schools. If more assistance is not forthcoming in the longed for HEROES Act now before Congress, I am afraid even more might close. This is a very sad day for everyone in the extended Catholic school community. I send my love and prayers to the families, teachers, principals and staff of the affected schools."

State Senator Shelley Mayer, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, and City Councilmembers John Rubbo and Anthony Merante wrote a letter to Michael Deegan, Superintendent of Schools, Archdiocese of New York. "We write as the State Senator and Chair of the NYS Senate Committee on Education, Yonkers Mayor, and Yonkers City Councilmembers, respectively, serving many of the parents of children attending these two schools in our district in Yonkers.

We, along with our constituents, were profoundly disappointed by the sudden news that these two schools were slated to close, effective immediately. As you know, these schools have been strong educational and social centers of their communities, serving multiple generations of Yonkers children with a high quality Catholic education that their parents sacrificed to provide.

Of course, we are mindful of the challenges faced by the Archdiocese with respect to these and other schools during this pandemic, and its impact on all private schools. The abrupt notice, however, provided no opportunity to address and seek a resolution to the underlying fiscal issues that gave rise to this decision. We are asking to meet with you to determine if a merger of schools or some other alternative is possible that modifies the plan that was released and preserves at least one of these schools, hopefully so that children attending either school will have either St. Ann or St. Paul available to them for the coming year.

We believe this moment requires creativity and determination to find a solution; we want to work with you to achieve that. Thank you in advance for working with us on behalf of these families and children."

Parents and students from St. Paul's have held rallies since the announcement and have started a petition drive. Some have suggested combining the two schools into one to ease the pain for parents to find another school in two months.

Councilman Rubbo added, "The Archdiocese of New York received 15 Federal Paycheck Protection Program loans, totaling at least \$28 million just for its top executive offices. The people of St. Paul the Apostle and St. Ann parishes want to understand what they can do to save their school. At the very least help us understand why these two schools were not offered an opportunity to combine into one."

The Catholic school announcements come at a time where public school students and parents wait to see if the Yonkers Public Schools will open and in what form.

Governor Andrew Cuomo offered hope this week that schools could open if they are in a region with a low rate of Coronavirus, and that they have a plan to bring students back safely.

But a recent interview on the Sunday TV Talk shows with Randi Weingarten, from the American Federation of Teachers, said that schools will need an additional 20% in funding to open, and that opening could mean three days a week for younger students, and 1-2 days a week for older students.

Other school scenarios for this fall across the country include:

Students with last names A-M, go to school in the morning, and students with names N-Z go in the afternoon. Or, half of students attend school on Mondays and Wednesdays, and the other half attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with each half attending the Monday every other week.

If 25% of parents and students decline to attend school in person and prefer online, school districts might be able to find enough classroom space for the remaining 75%, if gymnasiums and cafeterias are also put to use.

The other contributing factor in trying to get schools open by Labor Day is how online learning negatively affects low income students. With some households without a computer or with no Internet service, getting those students onto a Zoom call with their teacher becomes a challenge. Recent studies have shown that online learning presents a challenge even under the best of conditions, for families and students.

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Something to Cheer About Yonkers! From the Bulldogs



A photo of the Yonkers HS Varsity Cheerleaders from February competition. We hope to see you back soon!

The Yonkers High School Varsity Cheerleaders returned to New York State Section 1 Competitive Cheer after a long four year absence when seniors Kaylyn Sierra and Devonnie Webster got together to create a cheer squad to perform for their schools pep rally. In doing so, they were required to have a coach supervise any practices, so they reached out to past coach Kevin Macdonald to help them out. Coach Macdonald oversaw practices and the students were able to put on an exciting pep rally routine. After pep rally the girls asked if they could possibly try and put the cheer team back together. Coach Kevin Macdonald along with past cheer alumni daughter Jessica Macdonald agreed to coach them and with the blessing and support of Principal Jade Sharp the team quickly got to work. Starting late in the season with limited practice areas and missing most of their practice mats the team began creating their routine. All involved had to sacrifice tremendously while having to practice very long hours to make up for lost time. With only two weeks of practices on only three out of the seven mats required the team entered their first competition which resulted in a bit of a rough outing. But With Coach Jessica, Captains Devonnie Webster and Kaylyn Sierra driving the team even harder and some newly found old mats the Cheer team rebounded the next week with a second place finish. With three competitions under their belts the team got an invite to the Sectionals. Family support at all the events was outstanding. The team was recently rewarded for all their hard work when senior Captain Kaylyn Sierra was recognized for her incredible efforts by the Westchester-Putnam-Dutchess-Rockland Cheerleading Coaches Association where she received the Tier One scholarship award.

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