



Yonkers PROGRESS



Advertising Supplement to The Pennysaver by The Yonkers Chamber of Commerce

September 2, 2016

A Message from our Superintendent

Reclaiming Our Children's Future

Creating a Foundation for Success: Innovation, Inspiration, Excellence for All 2016-2017

The beginning of a school year presents an important opportunity to celebrate Yonkers Public Schools past successes as well as plan for the work moving forward. In my first full year as Superintendent of Schools, I embrace our work, as a community, with great enthusiasm and a renewed sense of commitment to our students, families and employees. The 2016-2017 school year inaugurates the District's new logo and website. They enhance our newly adopted mission, vision, core values and goals which are the foundation for every Board of Education employee's efforts throughout the year and beyond.



Dr. Edwin M. Quezada
Superintendent
Yonkers Public Schools

The accomplishments in the 2015-2016 school year are a testament to the diligent work of our students, our schools and our community.

English Language Arts (ELA) is up 7.0% for students scoring Level 2 and above, with a more modest

gain of 5.7% for students scoring Level 3 and above. Mathematics gains show a more modest improvement than ELA performance. Yonkers students increased Mathematics performance 0.4% in Level 2 and above and 0.6% in Level 3 and above. This Mathematics performance is comparable to a pattern found statewide and in the large cities, up 0.6% scoring Level 2 and above and 1.0% Level 3 and above gain in proficiency statewide.

The Class of 2016 (2012 Cohort) graduation rate is up 2.4% to 76.6% as of June; these students earned a record breaking \$85.5 million in scholarships.

Our youngest learners thrived in our full-day prekindergarten program which provided a strong foundation for their future academic success.

The Board of Education Trustees working with the Mayor and our

state delegation successfully passed the *Rebuild Yonkers Schools* enabling legislation that will allow the City of Yonkers and the Board of Education to repair and rebuild our 39 schools. Together, we challenged the status quo and exceeded expectations. I am proud of our students and families, teachers, administrators, civil service personnel and community partners. Thank you for your diligent efforts.

Looking forward, the 2016-2017 school year holds great promise.

Last year, a *3 Year Strategic Plan 2016-2019* was developed by staff and accepted by the Board of Education Trustees in July. The Plan will systemically transform the school district and *Reclaim Our Children's Future* offering opportunities for high expectations for all students and instructional staff. It was developed through formal and informal needs assessments and

Continued on page 24

Enhanced Medicaid Program Available at the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce

The Yonkers Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that we have been engaged by the County to spearhead an effort to promote the newly established more generous Medicaid Program. Since 2004, the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce (YCC) has been a partner with Westchester County Department of Social Services (WCDSS) and is recognized as an advocate of business, a partner in government, and educational resource to ensuring a flourishing and vibrant economy, and a dedicated establishment for the community and its residents.

WCDSS has engaged YCC to design

and coordinate an outreach program to enroll potentially eligible Westchester County residents who are not enrolled in Medicaid. New York State (NYS) will receive 100% federal reimbursement for such newly eligible individuals. Since NYS has already covered this population in the past, NYS will receive enhanced federal participation of 75% instead of the 50% currently received.

With the many years of experience and the working knowledge of the Westchester community, YCC has proposed an excellent enrollment outreach program to contact and assist potentially Medicaid-eligible participants.

Working with the business community

is key in finding individuals that may be working part-time without benefits. After serving our community continuously for almost 125 years YCC is ideally situated to communicate with small businesses in a most effective manner by canvassing door-to-door local promoting Medicaid enrollment for the targeted group.

Others can be found by making a concerted effort reaching out to non-for-profits, so many whom are Chamber members, colleges, hospitals, schools, libraries, and local government offices. Expanding our footprint, we will work with counselors all over Westchester on a project basis by utilizing government offices, public facilities, churches and

community groups.

YCC's Main Street, Yonkers office is an ideal location and will be the headquarters for the newly establish "Medicaid Enrollment Service". YCC has professional staff who will create, monitor and execute a winning Medicaid campaign.

YCC once again is honored to continue its service to the residents of the City of Yonkers and Westchester County helping those less fortunate and assisting businesses, community groups, and individuals live better and fulfilled lives. For more information, please contact the Chamber office at (914) 963-0332 or info@yonkerschamber.com.

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The Yonkers Chamber of Commerce**Networking Breakfast**

Early Bird Coffee & Networking 7:30am Breakfast 7:45am

Tuesday**September 20, 2016**

Sponsored & Held at

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In Memoriam



The Yonkers Chamber of Commerce mourns the death of our dear friend and colleague, Danielle DeMatteis, who recently passed away.

“Dani” served as our Executive Director for Employment Services and was a past recipient of the Women of Excellence Award from the Women in Business Committee. She will be missed by all. May God grant her eternal peace.

YONKERS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STAFF

Jeanne Vergari Martinelli

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Sign up for email blasts and important Chamber News at
www.yonkerschamber.com



From the Desk of Jeanne Martinelli

Welcome to our “Back-to-School/Yonkers Best” edition of our newspaper, The Progress, the voice of business for our City. We are so proud to highlight news from our Chamber of Commerce, and to present you with all the outstanding winners from this year’s reader’s poll. It’s hard to believe that we are celebrating our 12th year for our “Yonkers Best” and I want to thank all those that participated and took the time to send in their votes. The voting this year was better than ever! Our Chamber is thrilled to showcase the outstanding businesses and wonderful restaurants we are lucky to have in Yonkers. We urge you all to experience first hand the best that Yonkers has to offer! We

are happy to be partnered with the Penny Saver for the distribution of The Progress. A special thank you to Curto’s Appliances (this year’s Best Appliance Store Winner) for hosting a “Best of Yonkers” party for all of this year’s winners!

Congratulations again to all our 2016 Winners!

Membership in our Chamber continues to grow and we welcome our newest members featured throughout this paper. For more than one hundred years, the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce has been committed to advancing the interests and needs of business and industry in our City. We invite you to join our Chamber and become one of the hundreds of active members who enjoy and benefit from the networking opportunities we provide at our monthly meetings and annual events. Did you know that membership in the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce entitles you to a listing in our newly launched web site (www.yonkerschamber.com) with links to your business, eligibility for email

blasts and access to our mailing lists. The Women in Business Committee will once again reconvene in September and is always looking for new members. The Committee meets once a month on the first Wednesday of each month. All female Chamber members are welcomed to join to be a part of this dynamic and diverse group. The Committee does charitable work throughout the year including the Pajama Program and The Furniture Sharehouse. Our year culminates at the Women of Excellence Luncheon in March. Our first meeting of the year is Wednesday, September 28th at 8:30AM at the Chamber Office, 55 Main Street, on the 2nd Floor.



The Networking Breakfasts for the Fall Season are confirmed, beginning with our September 20th Breakfast sponsored by Regency Extended Care featuring City Council President Liam McLaughlin as the keynote speaker. Our October breakfast is

scheduled for October 18th at St. John’s Riverside Hospital, and will feature our annual debate. This event will be aired on News 12 and will be moderated by News 12 Director, Janine Rose. November Networking will be at Costco on November 15th where all attendees receive a pie, just in time for the holidays! Remember early bird networking begins at 7:30AM, and the formal program begins promptly at 8. Please call our Chamber offices to make your reservations for these exciting events. The Yonkers Chamber of Commerce “Business Hall of Fame” inductees will be announced soon. Stay tuned for all the details on our website: www.yonkerschamber.com.

The *Yonkers Progress* is produced by the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce.

To advertise in the Yonkers Progress, contact Jeanne Martinelli at (914) 963-0332.

Editor Jeanne Martinelli

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Chamber of Commerce welcomes our newest members

*All new members with an asterisk submitted a profile and are found throughout this publication.

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Member profile: The Westchester School for Special Children

Founded in 1972 as part of the Mental Retardation Institute (MRI) in Valhalla, in affiliation with the New York Medical College, and led by its founding director Dr. Thomas Timmons, The Westchester School for Special Children, or very simply *The Westchester School*, was established in 1983 as a fully independent full-service agency under contract to the State of New York. After eight years in Harrison the agency purchased and renovated the former Blessed Sacrament Academy in southwest Yonkers and The Westchester School moved into its permanent home in the

fall of 1991.

Today, students with disabilities, ages 3 to 21, from a wide geographic portion of the lower Hudson valley, NYC and Stamford CT attend this non-public school. On a daily basis the building seemingly bursts with life. Visitors consistently remark how happy the students are, how bright the building is, how good it must be to work here. Highly trained educators, related service personnel and administrators are committed to compassionate service delivery and are driven by the belief that progress is always possible and should be celebrated. Educational and

therapeutic programming at The Westchester School is designed to meet the needs of the individuals served, to improve their lives, to maximize their potential.

The Westchester School employs approximately 150 credentialed and non-instructional persons, drawing many quality applicants from Yonkers and the surrounding areas. Some join us for the short term and some, like me, are lifers. There is something about The Westchester School, about the students that compel one to stay far longer than anticipated. In a flash thirty-six years passes; yes, *thirty-six!* I

started at The Westchester School when it was still the MRI school unit in the fall of 1980. I tell people that I grew up *with* the school. I put myself through college and in the midst of that decided to take a “short break” to gain some relevant experience. From Teacher Assistant, to Teacher, to Principal, to Director of Pupil & Personnel Services – that’s how a “short break” spans more than three decades in the blink of an eye at The Westchester School.

Member profile: YMCA of Yonkers

Founded in 1882, the Yonkers YMCA has become one of Yonkers’ largest and most active minority-controlled CBO, annually serving over 15,000 men, women and youth. We are now called the Yonkers Family YMCA because we have broadened our mission to serve women, girls and families as well as men, while maintaining our core focus on Youth Development,

Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. Our mission is to break the multi-generational cycles of poverty, crime, drug abuse, violence and underachievement in Yonkers. We are focused on uplifting our community through the positive development of our youth, promotion of healthy living and fulfilling our social responsibility. We believe in social justice and are

guided by a strong spiritual foundation. We work globally and locally for the overall success of our community. Armed with passion, evidenced based programming and over 100 cross sector partners the Y understands that our youth, teens and families live in a society that has grown more complex and challenging. We are committed to providing the right support and guidance

that will aid in navigating life’s challenges with skill, confidence and sophistication as youth transition into adulthood. We also work to strengthen fractured and under-resourced families as well as other underserved segments of the community. We strive to increase the capacity, competency and resilience of those we serve.

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I started my Company back in 1972 while I was working for a Westchester County golf course as a greens keeper, cutting lawns, fairways and putting greens. I loved being outdoors and working with turf and shrubs. So I bought myself a lawn mower, rake and a broom and began working out of a 1970 Chevy Camaro. My first account was at the home of the owner of the gas station where I worked part time after my County job on the golf course. It was very difficult working two jobs and starting a business. I told my father that I wanted to quit my County job and start a full time landscaping business. I thought he was going to have a stroke! He said I'd be crazy to give up a full time job with benefits, sick days and vacation pay! So I stayed with my full time job and quit my job at the gas station. This gave me more time to acquire more landscaping accounts. By the end of the season I had more accounts than I could handle part time. The following season I went to my Dad and broke the news that I quit my County job. He looked at me and said, "Son, I hope you know what you're doing". I started this at age 20 and I am now 64 with a staff of 30 and growing. We have been in business for over 40 years, landscaping and maintaining residential and commercial sites. At M. Carbillano Landscaping we take pride in our reputation, workmanship, employee performance and dedication



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Member profiles: Yonkers PAL

The Police Athletic League of Yonkers Foundation Inc., a 501(c)3 charity

now in our 75th year of operation, has had a very busy summer. Better known as simply the Yonkers PAL, we have provided a variety of programs over the years aimed at connecting the youth of our city with Yonkers Police Officers. For a \$1 fee a child can become a lifetime member and participate in sports like basketball, boxing, baseball or programs like PALBotics {or PAL Robotics}.

This PALBotics program, which is run by local high school student Theodore

Kim, completed two sessions this summer with various age groups creating their own robots and competing against each other. PALBotics is a great way to introduce local children

to the STEM fields, which they may not otherwise be exposed to and is favorite among our youth. It has been so successful that there is already a waiting list for the upcoming winter session.

Starting in July, we began a new partnership with the Yonkers Public School system and held our first ever City of Yonkers girls high school summer basketball league. Five local teams participated in the six week league, with Port Chester High School edging out Yonkers Middle High School in the final. Saunders High

School, Palisades Prep High School and Yonkers Montessori Academy also participated.

We have also had our usual summertime open gym basketball and boxing programs every weekday, as well as Karate, and baseball twice weekly. On

August 27th, 28th and 29th the Southampton Animal Hospital will be providing a mobile low cost spaying and neutering center for anyone in need. The Yonkers PAL have hosted our local neighborhood as both a cooling center during a heatwave which resulted in a power outage and a Red Cross shelter after several families were forced from their homes due to a fire.

The fall is shaping up to be an even busier time for us, as we have a few major events scheduled. On September 23 the first ever "Guns'n Hoses" Texas Hold'em Charity Tournament will be held here at the PAL Center. The following day the PAL sponsored Yonkers Police vs. Yonkers Fire Fundraiser Football Game will be played at Gorton High School.

SAVE the DATES!

October 13th, **PAL Golf Outing** at St. Andrews Country Club, Hastings, NY

November 18th, **75th Anniversary Dinner** at the VIP Club in New Rochelle, NY.

January 22, 2017, **Super Bowl Ticket Raffle Drawing Party.**

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New member profile: CLUSTER, Inc.

CLUSTER Community Services is a non-profit community based organization that was founded in 1975. Some of CLUSTER's programs serve the community in Southwest Yonkers and others serve Westchester and Rockland County. Each year CLUSTER serves over 2,000 low-to-moderate income individuals.

CLUSTER provides services in four core program areas:

Mental Health Residential Services:

This program assists individuals with serious and persistent mental illness to attain and maintain stable permanent housing and to become productive members of the community. We provide four levels of care including two Community Residences, a Treatment

Apartment Program and over 100 units of Supported Housing.

Westchester and Rockland

Mediation Center: The Center has over 60 volunteer mediators who provide community mediation, parent/child, landlord/tenant, elder care, and school peer mediation. The Center also provides a county-wide eviction prevention conciliation program, court mandated mediation for custody, visitation and child support, and Restorative Justice Services.

Youth and Family Programs: These programs provide academic support through community based after-school enrichment programs, a summer day camp for over 100 children from low-income and homeless families, and a

youth leadership and development program called Study Buddies that prepares youth for college and careers.

CLUSTER's Youth Programs provide structured activities which are safe, educational, fun and enriching.

Housing Resource Center: The Center's focus is to preserve housing

and improve living conditions in buildings and neighborhoods in Yonkers.

The Center offers assistance with a host of housing issues including code enforcement, eviction prevention, and services which provide ongoing rental assistance, and housing case management.



New member profile: Browne Supply

Browne Supply Company is a privately owned and independently operated full line janitorial/building maintenance supply distribution company servicing the tri-state area. We are located at 500 Nepperhan Avenue, Yonkers NY 10701. Our clients include commercial

and residential real estate owners and management companies, building service contractors, schools, manufacturing, hospitality and many others. We are proud to represent such great manufacturers as but not limited to, Kimberly Clark, 3M, Rubbermaid,

Prime, Georgia Pacific, Ram Board, Technical Concepts, Nobles, Windsor and Hawk.

We look forward to being part of the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce!



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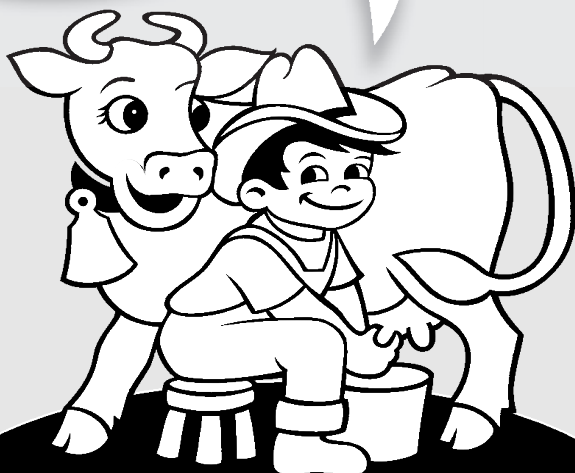
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New member profile: Hampton Inn & Suites

Hampton by Hilton brand, recently announced the opening of its newest property, Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton Yonkers-Westchester. The 150-room hotel is located at 555 Tuckahoe Road, and managed by Alfred Weissmann Real Estate LLC. Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton Yonkers-Westchester is nearby popular attractions including the New York Botanical Gardens, Bronx Zoo, and Hudson River Museum. Guests can also enjoy a day at the local Ridge Hill Mall or visit the Empire City Casino.

The hotel provides guests a fresh start to each day with On the House hot breakfast which includes eggs, oatmeal and waffles. In addition, the hotel provides Hampton's On the Run™ Breakfast Bags filled with a multi-grain bar, an apple, an artisan breakfast bread loaf and a bottle of water with a flavor packet for those guests on the go, available Monday through Friday.

Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton Yonkers-Westchester also offers amenities, such as free Wi-Fi, a 24-



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amenities, including the brand's signature Clean and fresh Hampton bed®, LCD TV, microwave, refrig-

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Chamber of Commerce Networking Events



Chamber President, Kevin Cacace, presents the Golden Knife and Fork Award to Dail Moses-Taylor, Director of Work Force Education, Training and Development for Greyston Foundation, Breakfast Sponsor and Patrick James (c) the keynote speaker.



Enjoying early-bird networking at the April breakfast are Maria Lolita Brown and Karen Tumulty.



Chairman Angelo Martinelli presents the Golden Knife and Fork Award to Anthony Enea, Esq., sponsor of the May breakfast and expert in the field of Elder Care Law.



Enjoying a delicious breakfast at the Raceway Diner are Bob Mennona (l) of Ameriprise Financial at Rienas & Brown, and Patrick Daugherty of Sound Associates, at the May Networking breakfast.



Breakfast attendees at our June Breakfast held at the beautiful Castle Royale are (l to r) Howard Berman, Peter Smith and Andrew Balint.



Yonkers Mayors Angelo Martinelli and Mike Spano with June Breakfast Sponsors Andrew Grundy and Mark Chmielewski of PS&S.

Chamber of Commerce Networking Events



2016 Women of Excellence Luncheon Chairwomen Kathy Kuhnel (l) City of Yonkers Planning and Development and Denise Donaghy, Saint John's Riverside Hospital.



2016 Women in Business Committee.



This year's putting Champion, Harold Peterson, at the beautiful Saint Andrew's Golf Club.



Enjoying a round of golf at the Annual Chamber Outing are Westchester Magazine's New Media Director Mike Martinelli and Publisher Ralph Martinelli.



Moira Kiernan of Sterling National Bank with Outing Chairman John Acciavetti of Yonkers Contracting.



Supporting the Annual Chamber Outing are Mike Minerva of Empress Ambulance and Greg Keleshian of Westchester Office World.

New member profile: Nordic Cryotherapy

Since June 2016, Westchester residents can enjoy the benefits of the first cryotherapy center in the area. NORDIC Cryotherapy has opened at 31 Mill Road in Eastchester and offers whole body cryotherapy, localized treatments, and CryoFacials. The center's founder, Dr. Marie O'Connor RN, DNP, is a Registered Nurse in New York and Connecticut and received her Doctorate Degree in Nursing from Sacred Heart University. Whole Body Cryotherapy (WBC) uses liquid nitrogen vapors to lower the skin's surface temperature through a process

called thermogenesis, which has been used for more than 30 years around the world. The cryosauna delivers the cool temperatures (-240 Fahrenheit) for a very short period of time, 2-3 minutes, during which the skin reacts to the cold and sends messages to the brain that act as a stimulant to the regulatory functions of the body. It also delivers anti-inflammatory molecules throughout the body as well as endorphins leaving the individual feeling more energetic, an effect that lasts up to 8 hours. Many individuals report a better night's sleep and overall reduced pain. The other

benefit of cryotherapy is the burning of calories, which can range between 500-800 kcal in a 3-minute session. Some of the ailments for which people use cryotherapy include rheumatology, autoimmune disorders, neurology disorders, orthopedic conditions, sports medicine, joint pain, athletic recovery, reducing inflammation and increasing blood flow as well as weight loss, wrinkle reduction and stimulating collagen production. NORDIC Cryotherapy is opened 6 days a week from 9 - 9 Tues.- Fri., 10 - 7, Sat. & Sun. 11 - 5 The telephone number is 914-



Marie O'Connor, CEO & Founder
771-9000 and the website is
www.nordiccryotherapy.com

New member profile: Captain Nutrition

Captain Nutrition, Inc. is a New York State Corporation dedicated to health thru food. Captain Nutrition, Inc. owns the U.S. trademark Captain Nutrition®. Norman Hauptman is CEO. I am planning to build a Peace Cafe in Yonkers on an active gas station, to foster personal and world peace, serving typical food to please. My proposal shows exciting marketing strategy including free meals to HONOR POLICE/FIRE/EMS; and promoting school peace thru NYS Education

Law 3039-A - Silent Meditation In Public Schools
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New member profile: Community Home Health Care

The Yonkers Chamber of Commerce welcomes Community Home Health Care, a New York State-licensed Home Care Agency providing Yonkers and greater Westchester with services dedicated to superior senior care, including Home Health Aides, Personal Care Aides and Trained Companions.

With top-rated Aides and over 34 years experience in delivering quality services to the region, Community Home Health Care stands at the forefront of Westchester County's Home Care providers. Community's core principle is to provide its patients and their families with a personalized, unbeatable homecare experience, summed up in 4 words: Compassion, Trust, Expertise, Reliability.

Home care is Community's unique specialty – the one and only thing they do – enabling them to sharply focus on excellence and providing the ultimate in quality and peace-of-mind. Community delivers the highest level of professional care, with an outstanding intake program and a detailed, dedicated coordination team. The agency's home health aides, per-

sonal care aides and trained companions are an integral part of the Westchester community, joining the team via recruiting locations in Yonkers, White Plains and Peekskill. Says Chaim Lieberman, the agency's President & CEO: "Community is the very definition of caring. We do not treat patients. We treat people. Our aides quickly learn your loved one's likes, dislikes and distinctive personality traits. Although a person may be elderly, disabled or ill, their personality, desires, and ability to enjoy have not been erased. With this in mind, our aides provide your loved ones with sensitive, warm, deeply-intuitive companionship, and just the right customized care. We deeply understand your concerns about leaving your loved one in the hands of a stranger, often for extended periods of time. With our unique internal rating system, we provide an aide you can trust to bring the highest level of sensitivity to care for your loved one's emotional and physical needs." For information or to request services, any day, any time, any hour, call (914) 222-CARE or go to Westchester-Homecare.com



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New member profile: CLM Satellite Sports, Inc.



Lainie Vaughan
President

CLM Satellite Sports has been a leading Authorized Commercial Retailer for DIRECTV since 1998. Our focus is on providing customers with superior service and competitive pricing.

CLM Satellite Sports provides a wealth of DIRECTV services to business environments in the Tristate Area, Westchester, New Jersey and Connecticut. We provide DIRECTV Business services to retail locations, private offices and to the hospitality industry. As a DIRECTV Partner we provide expertise, sensible advice and helpful answers to all your Directv questions. We currently have over 800 customers. Over the years we have designed and installed TV and sound system solutions for all types of establishments of every size. For bars and restaurants we have installed and integrated flat screen TV's and satellite by Directv systems so they can view different games or events at the same time, as well as 100+ HD channels and exciting EXCLUSIVE sports programming including NFL Sunday Ticket, MLB Extra Innings and many more. We take pride in our work and make sure our customers are completely satisfied with their new equipment and installation.

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New Member profile: 2 Sisters 2 Different Kinds of Lupus, Inc.



2 SISTERS
2 DIFFERENT KINDS OF LUPUS

2 Sisters 2 Different Kinds of Lupus, also known as 2 SISTERS 2 LUPUS INC established May of 2013. They are based out of Yonkers, NY; which is within Westchester County. The Founders names are Marquette & Marzette Hairston, two sisters who carries 2 different types of lupus (Discoid

& Systemic Lupus). The mission of the organization is to promote, educate and spread awareness about Lupus. We have annual Lupus Walkathons the third week of MAY in Yonkers, will also provide resources, health fairs, workshops, stage social events, and fundraisers. 2 SISTERS 2 LUPUS INC is also striving towards assisting families with small financial grants for medication, medical bills, and co-payments.



Marquette Hairston
Founder/President
Marquette Hairston, Lupus Advocate/Speaker

who started 2 SISTERS 2 LUPUS INC in 2013. She holds an Associate Degree in Human Services, while completing

Bachelors degree in Sociology with a concentration in public health as well as earned certificates in grant writing. She has an extensive background in case management/Housing Specialist in the Homeless Shelter system. Marquette Also holds the title of Youth Director at Kingdom Christian Cultural Center.



Marzette Hairston
Co-Founder/Vice President
Marzette is a Lupus

Advocate/Speaker who co-found 2 SISTERS 2 LUPUS INC in order to make a difference. She is currently in pursuit of her degree in early childhood. She

was captain in the marching band Westchester Invaders, as well as leader for steppers and hip hop dance.



Shavonne Mullen
Director of Fundraising
ShaVonne Mullen is director of

Fundraising, as well as takes on a broad range of roles in the Yonkers community. Shavonne holds a Bachelor in Accounting; she's a Girl Scout troop leader, the president of Peaches & Cream mentoring program in Yonkers, NY, and a mom. Mullen has resided in Yonkers for 15 years. Her three children attend Yonkers Public Schools.



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Superintendent's Message

from page 1

reviews. As a living document, it will evolve over the next three years through a continuous learning cycle – plan, implement, review, improve – focused on high standards, organized curriculum, quality instruction, assessment and professional development. The Strategic Plan is available on the District website - yonkerspublicschools.org. The District's central administrative team is restructured to deliver more focused teaching and learning services to students and families as well as targeted professional development for instructional staff. Yonkers resident and public school parent, Dr. Andrea Coddett, was appointed Deputy Superintendent in July. Her responsibility is to ensure that all curriculum and instruction are aligned to the New York State Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS), provide 21st Century learning skills and prepare students for college or careers. New mathematics and science directors will augment the current central admin-

istrative team to effectively address the District's needs and goals. A balanced budget is in place to support our work towards *Reclaiming Our Children's Future*. Our stakeholders fought for more

art and secondary English, mathematics, science and social studies. Full-Day Prekindergarten will continue to educate the same number of young learners. A new Intramural Sports Program is

A new International Academy for high school English language learners opens at Roosevelt High School – Early College Studies. Our Community School Model will expand to engage more medical and mental health community organizations to provide in-school services to our students and families. For 2016-2017, the work of the Yonkers Public Schools will be research-based with the primary goal to create a foundation for success where innovation, inspiration and excellence for all will thrive. Our entire staff will be guided by a moral compass that never compromises our professional charge to educate, protect and value our country's most precious asset - our students.

Board of Education President Rev. Steve Lopez, Vice President Judith Ramos Meier, the Trustees and I look forward to working with all of our stakeholders in the new dynamic Yonkers Public Schools.



funding and as a result the 2016-2017 adopted budget provides more to children.

No staff layoffs. Additional teachers were hired for special education, English language learners, physical education, health,

available for students in grades seven (7) and eight (8). Swimming is reinstated as a high school varsity offering. A new elementary Dual Language Program begins at Thomas Cornell Academy.



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Yonkers Progress Special Editorial:

New York Lawsuit Reform

By Tom Stubbins, Executive Director of the Lawsuit Reform Alliance of New York



the court, the defending parties “had nothing to do with the plaintiffs’ accident.”

So if an employee is intoxicated or violating safety standards, the contractor and property owner are still fully liable for the incident.

Absolute liability, as apportioned by the law, exists only in New York and is one of the most frequently cited sources of litigation. In 2012, 16 of the top 30 settlements by dollar were driven by Scaffold Law claims. That means that in one of the most litigious states in the most litigious country on Earth, more than half of the most expensive settlements were driven by this only-in-New York statute.

No construction project is safe from the impact of the Scaffold Law. A recent study by the Rockefeller Institute for

Government found that the law adds \$750 million in costs to public projects every year. That is money that could be spent repairing schools or bridges. The ramifications on the private sector are likely far greater.

Worst of all, the Scaffold Law does not improve worksite safety. In fact, the presence of the law actually corresponds with an increase in injuries. A study by researchers at Cornell University found that the Scaffold Law correlates with an additional 677 injuries each year.

The only reason this law still exists is the dominance of personal injury lawyers in Albany politics. The New York State Trial Lawyers Association is consistently one of the biggest contributors to state-level politicians, and several legislators, including disgraced former Assembly

Speaker Sheldon Silver, are trial lawyers themselves.

Governor Cuomo and the legislature continue to claim that New York is “open for business,” but as long as the Scaffold Law remains in place, New York will only be “open for lawsuits.”



There is no greater symbol of New York State’s hostility towards business than Labor Law §240, also known as the “Scaffold Law.” Despite the name, the Scaffold Law does not necessarily have to do with scaffolds. It holds contractors and property owners 100% liable for elevation related construction injuries even if, in the words of

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Member profile: Yonkers Office of the Aging

The Office for the Aging (OFA) was established in March 1974 to provide services to the City of Yonkers residents 60 years of age and over. This city department, under the leadership of Mayor Mike Spano and Director Kelly Chiarella, provides a comprehensive array of community support services. Residents 60 years of age and over, their families, and others concerned about older friends and neighbors are urged to reach out to the Office for the Aging for information, advice, and expert hands-on assistance with the demands and activities of an older person's daily life at home and in the community.

WeOFA proudly supports the city's our elder population with individual case management services which may include an in-home consultation, or supportive home health aide services, information and assistance, transportation to medical visits and food shopping, as well as maintaining four congregate lunch sites in different locations for a nutritious meal, exercise programs, educational programs and events. Between the 2two meal programs alone, OFA served near 80,000 meals last year.

The Yonkers Office for the Aging has been designated the Livable Community Connection (LCC) in the South West region of Westchester. Funded by the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services and the Westchester Public/Private Partnership for Aging Services, the LCC will work to connect residents of Yonkers with government officials, public and private agencies and community resources to help them age in place. Special Events such as health fairs, educational forums and discussion panels are advertised through our Livable Community Connection as well as the Mayor's Ccommunications office.

There is no fee for any Office for the Aging service. Voluntary contributions are suggested for services rendered. . Programs are funded by the City of Yonkers and federal and state grants through NYS and Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services.

Have a question about aging in Yonkers? Contact OFA at (914) 377-6822 for further information on the services available to help you age in-place in Yonkers.

Send Us Your News!!

The Yonkers Chamber of Commerce is happy to announce that we have launched our new website (www.yonkerschamber.com) and we invite you all to send us any news, specials, promotions, milestones, etc. from your business that you would like for us to post.

Photos always welcomed!

Just email the information to Jeanne Martinelli at

jmartinelli@yonkerschamber.com.

Find us on Facebook and Twitter, too

Psssssst!

Hey Chamber Members...

Be a part of our Chamber network by submitting your e-mail address for upcoming events and happenings in our City and within our Chamber...

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www.yonkerschamber.com

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Follow the simple instructions and you're in!!!

The Women in Business Committee of the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce
Needs your help collecting **NEW** pajamas and **NEW** books for children ages 4-17.

Our drive starts now and ends on November 14th.

Join us when we "Stuff a Bus" with all our donations at the Yonkers Chamber Offices, 55 Main Street,
the week of November 7. Exact date to follow.

The Pajama Program provides new pajamas and new books to children in need, many who are waiting and hoping to be adopted. Thousands of the children served live in orphanages, group homes and shelters and are shuffled often between temporary living facilities. Many of them have been abused or abandoned, and have never enjoyed the simple comfort of having a mother or father tuck them in at bedtime and read to them. Since 2001 thanks to you, we have provided more than **1 MILLION** new pajamas and new books to children in need nationwide!

Some of the local "Receiving Organizations" of the Pajama Program are:
Andrus Children's Home, Yonkers * Leake and Watts, Yonkers * and many other organizations throughout Westchester County.

You may drop off your pajamas and books at the following locations:

**Yonkers Chamber of Commerce • Yonkers City Hall • Yonkers City Court
Yonkers Police & Fire Departments • Call the Chamber for other locations**

Chamber Business Members that would like to collect within their own companies are welcomed and urged to do so! If you need further information on how to go about it, please contact Jeanne Martinelli @ (914) 963-0332. All donations should be dropped off at the Chamber Office no later than Friday, November 6th

Save the Date

Saturday, September 17th

11 AM - 7 PM

6th Annual

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