



FEATURES



Mount Vernon City School District Superintendent will be at the helm through 2022 Page 6



Basketball returns to WCC in a winning way Page 9



MVHS spotlights students' cultural heritage during its Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration Page 10



Jason Douglas-Stanley signs Letter of Intent to play basketball at George Mason University Page 18

Mt. Vernon's Lights on Afterschool event a resounding success

Story by Joe Parisi

Looking onto City Hall's plaza on October 26, 2017, a sea of blue and white shirts worn by more than 400 hundred youth were seen cheering and waving banners in support of the City of Mount Vernon Youth Bureau's Lights on Afterschool Press Conference and Youth Rally. Mayor Richard Thomas, the City of Mount Vernon Youth Bureau Executive Director, Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden, and members of the Mount Vernon Afterschool Program were joined by distinguished guests, parents, and elected officials including NYS Senator Jamaal Bailey, NYS Assemblyman Gary Pretlow, Westchester County Legislator Lyndon Williams, City Council President Roberta Apuzzo, City Councilman Marcus Griffith, School Board Trustee Adrienne Saunders, and School Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Hamilton sending the message that positive youth development programming during unsupervised time is critical to youth success and that the city must keep the lights on



One of many signs displayed by students on the Mt. Vernon City Hall Plaza event

and doors open after school.

Every year, thousands of Lights on

After School events are held across the country to raise awareness of the im-

Continued on page 6

Westchester Knicks attend Mt. Vernon Boys & Girls Club Thanksgiving Dinner as volunteers

Story by Joe Parisi



Members of the Westchester Knicks serving food

Hundreds of kids and their families in Mount Vernon got an early taste of Thanksgiving Thursday night, November 16, as they attended the annual feast at the Mount Vernon Boys & Girls Club.

This year's event attracted a record crowd due to the fact that members of the Westchester Knicks and their coaches volunteered to act as servers.

Lowes Moore, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club, acted as the Master of Ceremonies. He was accompanied at the microphone by Chief Professional Officer Mel Campos, who provided welcoming comments. Also welcoming the huge crowd was Board President Fred Powers.

This year's event involved many dinner

Continued on page 7

A CLEAN CAR IS A **HAPPY CAR.**

FREE CAR WASH WITH EVERY OIL CHANGE



1st Street Car Wash & Quicklube

**300 West 1st Street
Mount Vernon 10550**

914-664-7006



Dialysis Program now available at Westchester Center in Mt. Vernon

The Westchester Center is keeping up with ever changing medical needs of our residents and patients. We are proud now to offer on-site Hemodialysis. We are among the few sub-acute care providers of this service presently in the Westchester area. The Westchester Center provides the most effective rehabilitation environment for both chronic and short-term dialysis patients. With our new state-of-the-art dialysis center it eliminates the need for our patients to leave the facility three days a week to an off-site dialysis center. Our patients gain valuable rehabilitation time that help them return home sooner.

- Serene comfortable environment
- Hi-efficiency machines
- 9 stations
- Reverse osmosis water filtration
- Preferred slots available
- Wireless internet
- Comfort and convenience

For more information on our Dialysis Center, please contact the Administrator, Roslyn Shein, or the Nurse Manager, Esther Osimeh, by calling (914) 512-9379. You may also reach us via fax at (914) 512-9374.

The Westchester Center for Rehabilitation & Nursing
10 Claremont Avenue, Mt. Vernon, NY 10550
Tel: (914) 699-1600



Pharmacy Hours
M-F 9am-7pm
Sat 9am-5pm
FREE
DELIVERY

Store Hours
M-F 8am-9pm
Sat 8am-5pm
Sun 8am-2pm

- We Accept Medicaid & Most Third Party Insurance Plans
- Surgical & Diabetic Supplies • Senior Prescription Discount
- Western Union Services • Money Orders • Pay Your Phone Bill Here
- OTC Network • Lottery

ENTER TO WIN
A Westinghouse HDTV 40" LCD - 1080p
Buy your \$1.00 Raffle for a chance to WIN!!
Go To Any Register For Info



Drawing on
Friday, December 22nd @ 6pm
(need not be present to win)

<p>\$3 off Any Co-pay With Any New Prescription</p> <p><small>Coupons cannot be combined with any other offers Exp. 01-31-2018</small></p>	<p>\$2 off Any Purchase \$10.00 or More \$4 off Any Purchase \$20.00 or More</p> <p><small>Coupons cannot be combined with any other offers Exp. 01-31-2018</small></p>	<p>\$7 off Any Transferred or New Prescription</p> <p><small>For Existing and New Customers Coupons cannot be combined with any other offers Exp. 01-31-2018</small></p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Mt. Vernon annual Tree Lighting Ceremony taking place December 5



Mount Vernon will be welcoming the holiday season with its annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Tuesday, December 5, 2017, from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm at City Hall Plaza.

The special event will feature horse and carriage rides, a variety of carols and musical performers, as well as a free Christmas tree and wreath raffle!

This year's tree and decorations will once again be sponsored by American Christmas, now MK Illumination. MK Illumination is a local holiday decorations company specializing in adorning some of New York City's most notable locations like Madison Square Garden, Radio City Music Hall and Saks Fifth Avenue.

Mount Vernonites are encouraged not to miss this magical annual event.

OPEN YOUR heart & home THIS SEASON

BECOME A FOSTER PARENT
DIAL 2-1-1

OR VISIT UWVP.ORG/FDSTER

Westchester.gov.com
ROBERT P. ASTORINO
Westchester County Executive

North Valley Region
2-1-1
Get Connected. Get Answers.

United Way
United Way of Westchester and Putnam



Joe Parisi, Publisher/Editor
914-584-6386

The Mount Vernon Inquirer

"A Hometown Newspaper Like No Other"

Want to market your business to over 40,000 readers every month?
Our publication/website makes it really affordable to do!

Why You Should Advertise In The Inquirer

- Newspaper was founded in 2004 and has the greatest circulation of any Mt. Vernon publication
- The Inquirer is Mt. Vernon's hometown newspaper and is read by over 40,000 people
- We can be found at over 50 high traffic locations within Mt. Vernon and Pelham
- Our popular website is visited by over 30,000 visitors every month

Free Advertising Incentive
Ads that appear in our publication will also be placed on our popular and busy website for even greater exposure

Want to familiarize yourself with our publication, website and rates? Visit us online at:
www.mvinqurer.com
or call us at:
914.584.6386

71st Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon held at Mt. Vernon Armory



A partial view of the many that attended the luncheon



Two happy seniors dancing during the luncheon

An overflowing record crowd attended the 71st Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon at the popular Mount Vernon Armory on Monday, November 21.

Geraldine Christiana, Mount Vernon's Director of the Office for the Aging, once again acted as the Mistress of Ceremo-

nies.

The Mayor's Advisory Board sponsors the yearly event and this year well over 200 people were in attendance to partake in the Thanksgiving luncheon.

The program commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation provided by Reverend Father



Two seniors posing for a photo



Volunteers serving lunch



Comptroller Maureen Walker addressing the crowd after being honored



New York State Senator Jamaal T. Bailey

Francis from Saints Peter & Paul in Mount Vernon.

Recreation Commissioner Darren M. Morton had the distinction of introducing the many dignitaries in attendance.

New York State Senator Jamaal T. Bai-

ley received a long and warm applause when introduced. Bailey donated 10 turkeys that were part of the event's raffles.

Also receiving a rousing applause was Mayor Richard Thomas who excited the crowd by telling them about new equip-

Continued on page 5

Mt. Vernon Youth Bureau participant receives funds from 20 college scholarships



Students and parents face difficult financial barriers when trying to earn a college degree, often making college unaffordable for many. Nationally and locally, youth struggle financially to find the means to pay for

college. The high costs hinder students' ability to attend local colleges or schools out of state. However, William Phillips, a member of the Mount Vernon Youth Bureau and a prominent member of the Mayor's Youth Empowerment council has

successfully secured over 20 scholarships to realize his dream of attending college.

William attributes his motivation in applying for so many scholarships to financial barriers. He says, "Missing the opportunity of going to college was not an option. My family has accumulated thousands of dollars in debt when they took out loans for my sister's education at a private school. Every day I would see my parents work so hard to try to keep up with the bills. The last thing I wanted for them to do was to take out more loans to send me off to school."

He continues by saying, "The decision was either attend college without loans, or maybe wait until I saved enough money. I didn't want to be a year behind my friends, so after I submitted my final college application in late November, I decided that I would fund my entire college education. Eight months later, I have won twenty out of fifty-six scholarships and now I am able to attend college debt free."

"The Mount Vernon Youth Bureau is incredibly proud of all members of the Mayor's Youth Empowerment Council. They volunteer to improve the city and lend their innovative ideas to better their community. When they meet the milestone of high school graduation, and progress into college, we find ways to highlight their successes. This young man's desire to attend college, lent to his success in securing scholarships. We are very proud," said Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden.

Mayor Richard Thomas said, "I am encouraged by William's commitment to academics and all of Mount Vernon is proud of him. We want all our young people to have the same opportunities to achieve their dreams. That's why the City of Mount Vernon is working hand-in-hand with the Mount Vernon City School District to provide more comprehensive after school programs so our young people can compete in today's global economy. Our kids deserve our best efforts. My congratulations to William and his friends and loved ones and I know he will continue to make Mount Vernon proud."

This fall William will be attending the University of Buffalo, where he will major in Computer Sciences.

WJCS Kids' Kloset 4th Annual Fashion Show Fundraiser a big hit



Photo by: Westchester Jewish Community Services

Sixty models, including almost three-year-old Eloise Desir from New Rochelle, kept an audience of 200 adults en-

tertained as they strutted their stuff on the red-carpet runway at the 4th Annual WJCS Kids' Kloset Fashion Show Fundraiser at Old Oaks Country Club in Purchase recently. The show raised needed funds for the program that donates gently used clothing to kids in need and honored Jessica Stern Reinmann for her outstanding support of Kids' Kloset.

WJCS Kids' Kloset, a volunteer-driven operation, has been in existence for five years and has donated more than 10,000 "bags of love" to children in Westchester. Kids' Kloset regularly outfits kids who don't have winter coats, hats or scarves or those who don't have sneakers needed for playing basketball or even babies who need fresh diapers. Donations are collected at the warehouse at 170 E. Post Road in downtown White Plains.

Several sponsors and community organizations pitched in to make the event a rousing success. For more information on WJCS Kids' Kloset, visit www.wjcs.com/kidskloset.

Continued from page 4

ment destined for the Armory, including new buses.

As the many volunteers served lunch, which was described as delicious by some of the seniors, some seniors danced to the sounds of a DJ.

To the surprise of many, Mayor Thomas introduced Comptroller Maureen Walker and he thanked her for her 24 years of service to the city. She will be leaving her position at the end

of December.

"I want to thank everybody for your love and support after 24 years. I love you all and I plan on staying within the Mount Vernon community," said Walker.

Prior to the conclusion of the luncheon, the raffles took place, putting big smiles on the faces of many seniors.

THE MOUNT VERNON
INQUIRER
The People's Newspaper

Founded in 2004 by

**JOSEPH A. PARISI
AND LUISA PARISI**

Published by

The Mount Vernon Inquirer
P.O. Box 458
Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0458
Email: josparsi@gmail.com
Website: www.mvinqquirer.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Readers are encouraged to send us letters expressing their viewpoints on any issue. Letters should not contain inflammatory or provocative language and will be subject to editorial review. Please keep your letters brief and not to exceed 300 words. Your name and address must be included, but will be withheld upon request.

SUGGESTED NEWS ITEMS

We welcome all suggestions concerning news we should cover in our newspaper. Please call the Editor with suggestions at 914-584-6386.

Editor

Joe Parisi

Assistant Editors

Leslie Alpert
Cheryl Parisi

News Reporters / Writers

Joe Parisi, Chief Reporter
Tamara Stewart

Sales and Advertising

Darryl Walker, Director
Paul Stewart

Graphic Design

Ashley Covelli
Cheryl Parisi

Member

NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION
NYPA

Continued from page 1



portance of after school programming. Nationally, more than 15 million children go home and are left without supervision because their parents are working or cannot afford services. However, across New York State, and in the City of Mount Vernon specifically, advocates are fighting to keep youth off the streets and enrolled in safe, productive, and exciting activities. The governor of New York, Andrew Cuomo, has released a proclamation declaring October 26 as "Lights on Afterschool Day." Advocates across New York State have exhorted elected officials to publicly commit to "keeping the lights on" during the most challenging times of the day- 3pm-6pm. The city's Youth Bureau has worked diligently throughout the years to increase high quality, affordable, after-school programming for children and youth.

This year's event was co-hosted by Ryan Barnes, a high school student who is an activist through the Youth Bureau's CAPP Program. Ryan, along with his mother, and members of various after school programs led by the Youth Bureau, testified to the importance of continuing after-school initiatives. The rally also included the participation of non-profit organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club of Mount Vernon, The Sports and Arts Foundation, the Emmanuel Christian Mission, WJCS-Amazing Afternoon, and New Flex

Hoops. Face painting for children, along with a healthy meal was provided during the festivity. Youth from the Bureau's Mount Vernon STRONG Program and the CAPP Program, along with the Sports and Arts Foundation's after-school program were showcased for their music, dancing, and spoken word. One of the highlights of the program was the poem delivered by Dezire Amaker, a participant in the Youth Bureau's Mount Vernon STRONG Program, and a student at Mount Vernon High School, which encouraged youth to stop bullying.

This year, the mayor committed additional resources to ensure that young people have access to free academic support and enrichment such as STEM, music, environmental and civic engagement, workforce preparation, and many other opportunities. Mayor Richard Thomas told the crowd, "Our goal is to provide a space that is safe up until late night so parents that are working two and three jobs don't have to worry too much about how or where their children will be when the lights go out after school because the lights will be on."

Legislator Lyndon Williams addressed the crowd highlighting the various programs that he and the Board of Legislators support, to include Y-Cop, the Boys & Girls Club, and the Youth Bureau. Dr.

Kenneth Hamilton commended the community for coming together "for the sake of our children" while Senator Bailey encouraged youth by stating, "let's keep the lights on after school, and keep the lights on in your brain and your hearts."

The Executive Director, Dr. DaMia Harris Madden commented "the Lights on After-school" event is just one way to enlighten our community on the valuable programs that exist within the city for our children and youth. The highest quality af-

ter school programs that afford opportunities for academic support and social and emotional enrichment should be offered in every neighborhood. The city has worked diligently to secure funding to give parents accessible and affordable options while they are at work for their children and we are fortunate to have many stakeholders in the city and in Albany who acknowledge the necessity of out of school time offerings."



Mount Vernon City School District Superintendent will be at the helm through 2022



Mount Vernon City School District board members have approved a one-year contract extension for Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth R. Hamilton. The extension will keep Dr. Hamilton at the helm of Mount Vernon schools through August 2022.

"With Dr. Hamilton at the helm, the Mount Vernon City School District has begun a transformation," said Board of Education President Adriane Saunders. "It's imperative that we keep stable leadership in place to build upon our success and keep raising the bar."

Since taking the reins in August 2014,

Superintendent Hamilton has implemented a 20/20 Vision for Academic Excellence aimed at improving the district and increasing student outcomes at all levels. This year, his approved "Fiscal Plan for Academic Excellence" had a zero percent increase in the tax levy for the third consecutive year. Mount Vernon was the only district within New York State with no increase.

The approved budget was 100 percent aligned with the Board of Education's goals to create systems to promote student achievement and increase outcomes, paying particular attention to subgroups in order to close the student achievement

gap. It additionally implemented a multi-year plan for improving buildings, grounds, and facilities, including the exploration of private and public partnerships.

"The board's approval of my contract extension demonstrates its confidence in the direction the Mt. Vernon City School District is going, and that direction is forward," said Superintendent Hamilton. "Test scores and student outcomes have already begun to rise thanks to our commitment to providing opportunities that meet our diverse student body's needs, but much work still needs to be done."

Continued from page 1



Lowes Moore shown with a Westchester Knicks coach



Seniors chatting while eating

sponsors and part of the long list of volunteers included York International, one of the leading independent insurance brokers in the nation.

On hand were nearly 200 seniors and several veterans who all received special

attention throughout the event.

Entertainment was provided by the Revelators Dance Troupe, Alpha Cheerleaders and the Mount Saint Michael Drum Corps.

As always, the Thanksgiving dinner was delicious and enjoyed by everybody.



Hungry club members waiting to be served



Another group of seniors enjoying the food



Seniors posing for a picture

Mt. Vernon City School District introduces new parent liaison positions at all schools

With a plan to forge even stronger relationships and create deeper ties between parents, educators and all district stakeholders to ultimately assist in student success, each school in the Mount Vernon School City District now has a parent liaison on its staff.

While New York City schools have parent liaison positions, the role is the first of its kind in any Westchester County school district. Each parent liaison will cover two schools, ensuring that all 16 buildings have a dedicated staff person for assistance.

"Mount Vernon is a trailblazer," said Dr. Waveline Bennett-Conroy, Mount Vernon Assistant Superintendent for School Improvement.

The School District's Office of School

Improvement took the lead in creating the new positions. It used a state grant to hire Scholastic Corp. to train the parent liaisons for their new roles. Scholastic Corp. uses a research-based model called the Family Engagement Building Framework. This model was created by Karen Mapp, Senior Lecturer from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

An outcome of Mapp's model is that districts and schools will cultivate and sustain active and effective partnerships with families, strengthening one of the identified essential supports --- parent and community ties --- needed for school improvement.

Secondly, Mapp's model intends for families to be actively engaged in their children's education and school im-

Continued on page 9

County jail wins national award for inmate mental health services



Astorino (c) pictured with inmates

Westchester County Executive Robert P. Astorino announced today that the county jail has received national recognition for its Community Oriented Re-Entry (CORE) program, which provides mental health services to inmates. Selected from more than 500 jails, prisons and other correctional facilities nationwide, Westchester's efforts won "Program of the Year" honors from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care, a top accreditation group. The award will be presented on November 6, in Chicago.

"A lot of people talk about the importance of providing mental health services to people in jail," said Astorino. "This award recognizes that Westchester is delivering services with positive results."

The CORE program follows the key principles of Astorino's 'Safer Communities' initiative: address root causes and then marshal a coordinated response. Launched in November 2014, CORE is a

partnership among the county's Department of Correction, Department of Community Mental Health, and New York Correct Care Solutions, the inmate health services provider at the jail. The program also relies upon several community partners who specialize in the needs of inmates with mental health issues, as well as from volunteers, such as clergy, musicians, artists and former prisoners committed to recovery.

Astorino added: "For too long, far too many of our nation's jails and prisons have been filled with the people struggling with mental illness. The feedback we have received on CORE from everyone – from correction officers to inmates to mental health clinicians – has been truly remarkable. Ensuring that this population receives critically needed services while in jail directly enhances public safety when they return to their home communities, both in Westchester and beyond."

Mt. Vernon based Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Celebrates International Day of Service

Sigma Gamma Rho has designated Saturday, November 11, as its International Day of Service to celebrate its 95th anniversary. Members and affiliates across the United States and around the world will join together to provide service within their communities. The Mt. Vernon-based chapter, in partnership with historic St. Paul's Church, will provide service in remembrance

of our WWI veterans. On Saturday, November 4, members put their collective muscle to the task of clearing debris from the final resting place of our veterans. The following Saturday, Veterans Day, the members will participate in the Veterans Day Commemoration and Rededication Ceremony to be held at the site. The event runs from 11:00 am to 12:45 pm.

Response to Mayor Thomas' press conference on Memorial Field

Mount Vernon Mayor Richard Thomas continues his political grandstanding which generates negative attention to himself and to the City of Mount Vernon. In his latest political stunt, he announced that his administration has just filed a lawsuit against former Mayor Ernest Davis, Comptroller Maureen Walker, former Water Commissioner Anthony Bove, and members of the City Council for contributing to the contamination at Memorial Field. His actions are merely designed to garner support for his brother who is running for City Council in the upcoming general election.

Mayor Thomas' constant attacks continue to cause a distraction from the real issues facing the City of Mount Vernon. Instead of hiring a police commissioner, finding ways of generating genuine revenue streams to stabilize property tax increases, and addressing other serious issues in Mount Vernon, the mayor chooses to spend tax dollars on bogus lawsuits and to slander his political oppo-

nents in the media. Moreover, the mayor continues to hire Smith, Buss & Jacobs, LLP- the attorneys that represent alleged Deputy Police Commissioner Joseph Spiezio - without approval from the Board of Estimate and Contract to represent the city in this matter.

The public must be reminded that Mayor Thomas was a sitting council person who chaired the Committee of Legislation and Public Works, the committee to which the Water Department is assigned. If he was worried about possible contamination at Memorial Field, he should have addressed his concerns when he was on the City Council. He was never part of the solution but he is always part of the problem.

Mayor Thomas must get to work for the people of Mount Vernon. The time for showboating and political attacks is over. The people of Mount Vernon are weary of the mayor's grandstanding. The people of Mount Vernon want action...the people of Mount Vernon want progress...the people of Mount Vernon want effective change.

Mt. Vernon City Council

EDITORIAL

Discord between new Mt. Vernon City Council and mayor expected to intensify

The results of the latest general election undoubtedly must be troubling Mayor Richard Thomas immensely since all the candidates supportive of his administration lost – including his brother.

The current City Council body has been feuding with the mayor since he left the City Council to become mayor of Mount Vernon. As a councilman, his relationship with his colleagues was not the best. They never got to see 'eye-to-eye' during his tenure as a councilman, and the 'bad blood' between them simply carried over to City Hall and his administration.

Roberta Apuzzo, President of the Mount Vernon City Council, scheduled a press conference on March 15 to call for the resignation of Mayor Thomas. During the press conference she stated, "We expect better and we deserve better from our mayor and since it's obvious you have no plans to correct your ways, no matter how many opportunities you have been afforded, I believe you should resign."

At the beginning of the year, several members of the Mount Vernon Black Clergy held a press conference on the steps of City Hall to call an end to the discord between the mayor and the City Council. In addition, they went as far as meeting behind closed doors

with the mayor, City Council members and Comptroller Maureen Walker, who is also involved in the feud. Unfortunately, the black clergy were unsuccessful and the feud has worsened.

Recently, the mayor had subpoenas issued against former Mayor Ernie Davis, Comptroller Maureen Walker, City Councilman Marcus Griffith, John Royce, Nicolas Cicchetti, Anthony Bove and others in connection with the illegal toxic dumping that occurred at Memorial Field. Suing these individuals will undoubtedly cause further backlash from the City Council, since Griffith was recently reelected to the board.

The new City Council members are expected to continue going nose-to-nose with the mayor and a truce is not expected to take place. Normalcy within the Mount Vernon government is expected to take place only after Mayor Thomas leaves office. Until then, chaos within the Mount Vernon government will continue unabated.

Also, if you think Comptroller Walker was a real nemesis for the mayor, the new comptroller, Deborah Reynolds, is twice as feisty as Walker. So, the mayor may have his hands full with her also. Time will tell.

Joe Parisi, Editor

State Sen. Jamaal Bailey donates 24 school uniforms to Edward Williams Elementary School



Principal Crystal Waterman, Sen. Jamaal Bailey, Superintendent Hamilton and a happy student showing off the new uniform

NY State Sen. Jamaal Bailey recently donated 24 school uniforms at the Edward Williams Elementary School in Mount Vernon to support students who were in need of new uniforms.

"To be able to make a difference in the lives of the students who will wear these uniforms is gratifying," said Bailey. "This

is one less thing parents will have to focus on, and instead, they can continue to focus on supporting their children's academic work and the instruction given to them at this outstanding school."

Bailey's donation is not the first time he's assisted the Williams school community. In early September, Bailey held a "Back to School" drive in Mount Vernon. During this event about 100 school bags filled with school supplies were distributed in addition to school uniforms in a variety of sizes.

Superintendent Dr. Kenneth R. Hamilton noted Bailey's donation to the school is another demonstration of his interest in Mount Vernon student success.

"Senator Bailey's donations assist many of our Mount Vernon families who can really use that help," said Dr. Hamilton. "In turn, this helps our students feel even better about their classroom work and experiences. It's a win-win for everyone, and we are extremely grateful to Senator Bailey."

Edward Williams Principal Crystal Waterman echoed Dr. Hamilton's accolades.

"We are most appreciative and very grateful to Senator Bailey for his ongoing interest in our students and our school," said Edward Williams Principal Crystal Waterman. "This is a positive example for others to see. It reaffirms that providing the possible education to our students involves many people and extends beyond the school building. Thank you, Senator Bailey, for thinking of our students."

Continued from page 7

provement.

"The training taught them how to interface with the community and diffuse tough situations," said Bennett-Conroy. "Parents must work together with teachers and principals, and the collaboration starts with the superintendent on down. We're looking to create relationships and equip parents with tools to deal with their own children. We don't want them to be afraid to reach out for support."

Mount Vernon City School District parent liaisons are:

Shari Alleyne resident of Mount Vernon, and holds a master's degree in education. She is the parent liaison for Thornton and Mandela high schools.

Rita James resident of Mount Vernon. She holds a bachelor's degree in communications. She is the parent liaison for Parker and Williams elementary schools.

Corrine Lewack resident of Mount Vernon. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from SUNY Purchase. She is the parent liaison for Mount Vernon High School and Rebecca Turner

elementary school.

Jaquetta Jenkins resident of Mount Vernon who has been an active PTA member and Girl Scout leader. She is the parent liaison for Traphagen and Grimes elementary schools.

Aleisha McDowell resident of Mount Vernon and holds a degree in social work. She is the parent liaison for A.B. Davis and Benjamin Turner middle schools.

Sandra O'Connor resident of Mount Vernon. She has a business background in hospitality. She has been actively involved in Pennington Elementary's PTA for the past eight years. She is the parent liaison for Pennington and Lincoln elementary schools.

Kizhaya Roberts resident of Mount Vernon and holds a master's degree in education. She is the parent liaison for Holmes and Graham elementary schools.

Nicole Russo resident of Mount Vernon. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Mercy College. She is the parent liaison for Columbus and Hamilton elementary schools.

Basketball returns to WCC in a winning way



Brandon Martin of the Westchester Community College Vikings shoots during the team's victory over Monroe

After a hiatus of several years, Westchester Community College welcomed the return of men's basketball with a home win over Monroe College (Monroe Express) on Thursday, November 2.

WCC Athletics recently announced the return of both men's and women's basketball for the 2017-2018 academic year. Both programs have been restored and will compete at the NJCAA Division II level.

Tabbed to be the next head coaches for the respective programs were Nesta Felix for the women's team and Sean Kelly for the men's team. Coach Felix joins the Vikings family having most recently coached at Yeshiva University where she had a successful tenure. In 2014 she was named as the Hudson Valley Conference Coach of the Year. Prior to her time at Yeshiva she was the varsity girls' basketball coach at Woodlands High School. She was also a long time assistant coach at Monroe College. Nesta has spent much of her career mentoring and developing young women through the sport of basketball. "I am looking forward to a new era in Viking's history and I am ready and willing to work hard in order to better the college experience and the development of our student-athletes." She went on to say that "it is a tremendous opportunity to get involved on the ground level of building this program and I can't wait to get started."

Sean Kelly comes to WCC after serving the past five years as the head coach at Bronx Community College. While at Bronx, his teams qualified for the Region XV tournament every year with two final four appearances, including finishing as Regional Runners-up in 2013. He also led the Broncos to three straight CUNYAC Championship game appearances, winning it all in 2013, as well. Prior to his time at Bronx, he was the head coach at Bergen Community College. In 2010 he led his team to a single season school record high for wins with 34 while going undefeated during the regular season. The Bulldogs also made it to the Final Four in consecutive NJCAA Championship Tournaments. His career also features over 10

years as an assistant coach at Mercy College. "I am extremely honored to be the next head coach at Westchester Community College. The program has had a long and storied history and I'm very excited to write that next chapter as we get back to action this fall. We are going to work very hard to promote an environment that will promote both academics and athletics for years to come."



19 West Grand Street.
Mount Vernon, New York 10552
Telephone: 914-664-5000
Fax: 914-664-0443

NO FEE TO LANDLORDS. WE NEED APARTMENTS.

TENANTS BRING THIS AD AND RECEIVE 10% OFF YOUR FINDER'S FEE
STUDIO'S STARTING AT \$950.00
ONE BEDROOMS STARTING AT \$1250.00
TWO BEDROOMS STARTING AT \$1650.00
THREE BEDROOMS STARTING AT \$1950.00

Please visit our website at www.fleetwoodrealty.com

MVHS spotlights students' cultural heritage during its Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration



Chicken, rice, beans and plantains were buffet highlights for these Mount Vernon students who attended the celebration

Students, faculty and administrators at Mount Vernon High School had an opportunity to celebrate their cultural heritage during the recent "Awareness and Resilience" His-

panic Heritage Month Celebration. The school marked the occasion by "celebrando el patrimonio cultura" in Spanish and "comemorando o patrimônio cultural" in Brazilian Portuguese. All stu-

dents had an opportunity to commemorate their personal heritage in a gathering which featured food, dance and an opportunity to offer donations to those affected by the recent Mexican earthquake and Hurricane Maria.

Ray Sanchez, superintendent of the Ossining Union Free School District, offered comments during his keynote address to students.

"It's important to recognize heritage," said Sanchez. "It helps others to understand the various diversities we have here and in our nation and to have an appreciation of our shared stories that will hopefully inspire students to pursue their goals."

Principal Ronald Gonzalez endorsed Sanchez's comments as he traveled about the room chatting with students, noting the school's diversity makes it an even stronger and more vibrant place to learn.

Later, he proudly read "I'm a Rican," using the spoken word method of reading the poem to the almost 200 students in attendance.

Students said they appreciated the afternoon, which featured musical entertainment by the Afro Latin Jazz Alliance, an information session by the National His-

panic Institute, Latin dance lessons by the Arthur Murray Dance Studio and a Latin American-themed buffet luncheon featuring chicken, beans, rice and plantains and assorted desserts.

Student Marcio Dalves liked having the opportunity to celebrate the culture of his native Brazil.

"I had the opportunity to come here for a better life," said Dalves, who plans to attend Westchester Community College next year. "Life is better here than in Brazil. Today, we're teaching people about cultures they didn't know about, that Brazilians matter, that Hispanics matter."

Student Patrick Mori agreed.

"We're recognizing what Latin Americans have done for this country and we celebrate that today," Mori added.

Also sitting with them was student Sabrina Passoni, who emphasized one's heritage is important, no matter where one's origins are.

"It shows where you're from," Passoni added, "and that you should be proud of who you are."

EDITORIAL

Will a track at Memorial Field be an early holiday gift for Mount Vernonites?



The track area being graded at Memorial Field

The Department of Public Works has been very busy grading the dirt at Memorial Field in preparation for a track to be laid down. After a ten-year hiatus, Mayor Thomas has publicized that the track will be in place the week after Thanksgiving.

A few months ago, the city managed to install a gravel track that enabled some movement to take place at Memorial Field – including several public events.

There has not been much talk about the description of the new track, but it is obviously going to be a provisional track. A professionally

installed six-lane track will obviously follow in the near future as the restoration of Memorial Field continues.

The provisional track will undoubtedly attract some who are using the track at Glover Field, but many will continue to use Pelham's track. It is hard to give up a professional rubberized track for a makeshift track.

The installation of the provisional track is real progress and kudos must go out to Mayor Thomas for his effort to restore Memorial Field. This temporary track will be an early holiday gift for the citizens of Mount Vernon.

GRAMATAN EYECARE

SPECIALIZING IN PERSONALIZED SERVICE



Joseph Pietretti
Optician

- Comprehensive Eye Exams
- Contact Lenses (Specialized Fittings)
- Hard - Gas Permeable Bifocals
- Soft - All Colors - Extended Wear - Disposables
- Eyeglasses - Prescriptions Filled - Lenses Duplicated
- Davis Vision - Medicare - Senior Citizen Discount

LARGE SELECTION OF LATEST FASHION & DESIGNER FRAMES

914.664.0205
914.667.0147
171 Gramatan Avenue
Mount Vernon, NY

Servicing the Mount Vernon community for nearly 20 years
Major Credit Cards Accepted

Action Pest Control



212-465-7524

Veterans Day Celebration at Traphagen School a huge success



Students standing and holding American flags during the Pledge of Allegiance



A musical selection by the Traphagen Intergenerational Choir

The annual Veterans Day Celebration was held at Traphagen Elementary School on Thursday, November 9, and like in previous years, it was a huge success. Once again, an excited and noisy capacity crowd packed the school's gym for the occasion,

while hundreds of students sat on the floor waving small American flags and exhibited their patriotism.

The yearly celebration had blossomed in previous years thanks to the school's principal, Ilene Bichler, who always created new ideas to improve the way the



Principal Carol Quinones-Smith



Students dancing to the song Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy



Students welcoming the guests



Kristyn Reed, Mount Vernon Commissioner of Veterans Affairs

students honor the veterans every year. Not long ago, Principal Bichler was transferred to another Mount Vernon school and was replaced by Principal Carol Quinones-Smith, who did a marvelous

job overseeing this year's Veterans Day Celebration.

As always, the entire school population attended the ceremony, along with many family members and friends.

Continued on page 18

FLASHBACK

Allen Memorial Church of God honors Rev. Dixon Jr. during historic King Day Tribute

Story by Deena Parham
Pictures by Joe Parisi



Rev. Dr. Richard Dixon (r) standing next to his wife and Rev. Dr. Jimmy Hardaway, Jr.

On January 15, 2007, Allen Memorial Church of God In Christ in Mount Vernon celebrated the life and legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. More than 250 attended a moving tribute entitled, "So, We Too Can Dream of a Beloved Community."

In Dr. King's acceptance speech of the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway in 1964, he said: "Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time. The foundation for such (a beloved community) is love."

In introductory remarks, Dr. Larry Spruill welcomed the audience and commended them for taking the time to honor, "one of the greatest men of the twentieth century." The program was a tribute to Dr. King's vision of a beloved community. Dr. Spruill stated, "Mount Vernon is a great community. Mount Vernon has been good to me. Our desire is to make it a beloved community."

The Nu Vision Youth Ministry gave a choral and dramatic presentation called, "Let Peace Abide." The young parishioners enacted a scene which highlighted the importance of nonviolence as a relevant mediation solution to settle disputes within the community.

A film documentary, "A Journey to Oslo", premiered at the event. Directed by Bruce Penn, the film was an eyewitness account of Dr. King's acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize by Reverend Dr. Richard Dixon, Jr., Pastor Emeritus of Macedonia Baptist Church.

Rev. Dixon, a close friend of Dr. King, was one of 25 people selected to travel to the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony with the civil rights leader. In 1964, Dr. King became the youngest recipient of this prestigious award. Rev. Dixon, former Ambassador Andrew Young, and Reverend Wyatt T. Walker are the only three living members of the group who had traveled to Oslo.



Children watching a documentary on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. after the church service



Allen Memorial Church of God choir

The film, produced by Dr. Spruill, and executive produced by his brother, Rev. Carlton C. Spruill, was a passionate endeavor to capture the oral history of a living legend. Dr. Spruill said: "This is a historic moment in our community. There is a convergence of interest in this great man."

Interviewed by Dr. Spruill, Rev. Dixon told numerous stories about Dr. King, whom he affectionately called 'Mike.' He recounted in great detail many civil rights milestones, including the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963, where 25 busloads of people traveled from Mount Vernon. It was there that Dr. King delivered the famous, "I Have a Dream" speech. Rev. Dixon called speech, "the biggest thing that black folks have ever had. The biggest thing we will ever have."

Rev. Dixon reflected on Dr. King's vision of a beloved community as a "hard thing to imagine." However, Rev. Dixon said:

"There will be a day when we learn to live in one world, under one God. The world is a community."

At the conclusion, the audience gave a standing ovation. Film director Bruce Penn told the audience, "you will realize you were a part of history today." He encouraged young people with cameras and video recorders to "see the richness of the occasion of today. This will become history."

Rev. Dixon took the stage to rousing applause. He thanked Penn, Dr. Spruill and Rev. Spruill, for documenting his life story. "I hope young folk got the vision that you can be anything you want to be." Remembering Dr. King, Rev. Dixon said, "When I think about my friend, my buddy, I can't help but cry."

Rev. Spruill thanked all for coming to the screening and the celebration of Dr. King's life and told Rev. Dixon: "We appreciate



Rev. Dr. Richard Dixon addressing the audience

Continued on page 13

DOCKERY'S®

APPLIANCE REPAIR SERVICE

Family owned and operated since 1981

FAST, RELIABLE, PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
SAME DAY SERVICE AVAILABLE • ALL WORK GUARANTEED

Refrigerators • Freezers
Stoves • Wall Ovens • Range Tops
Washers & Dryers • Dishwashers
Appliance Installations

914-664-1227

104 West First Street
Mount Vernon, NY 10550
dockerysappliance.com

Continued from page 12

what God has done with you.”

The day was filled with an abundance of interactive presentations as a vivid reminder of the significance of the occasion. Flat-screened monitors within the church’s sanctuary showcased a video montage of the life of Dr. King, and related Civil Rights era events. Parishioners saw the images of lynchings, Ku Klux Klan rallies, and slain civil rights workers, barking dogs interspersed with peaceful marchers, and black students being taunted as they entered newly integrated schools.

Congregants had the opportunity to view the work of the late artist Carle Robinson. Robinson was commissioned by Allen Memorial to portray

African-American leaders and church pioneers in their Heritage Hall exhibition space. Young people gave spirited tours of the artist’s work. Later in the afternoon, young parishioners participated in a civil rights teach-in and a special screening of a film documentary called “Decisive Moments in Birmingham.”

Many in attendance seemed in awe of the marvelous opportunity to celebrate the life of Dr. King, and to pay homage to Rev. Dixon. Allen Memorial Church provided an excellent foundation to inspire hope, that Mount Vernon can too, become a beloved community.

BURR DAVIS SHARPE FUNERAL HOME

“Where the Difference is in the Caring”



Burr Davis Sharpe Funeral Director Anthony Guarino, Sr., right, and his associates, from left, Guido Cicchetti, Anthony Guarino, Jr., and Frank T. Fraley.

Burr Davis Sharpe Funeral Home
Family Owned & Managed

584 Gramatan Avenue
Mount Vernon, NY 10552
(914) 699-4010
www.yannantuonofh.com



Regular Business Hours:
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Available by phone for
emergencies at any time.

Affiliated with: Yorktown Funeral Home, Shrub Oak, NY



Good Beginnings Never End...

The Milestone School is a Montessori oriented environment, fostering your child’s growth and development through those first important academic milestones. Extended day 7:30am—6:00pm; Chartered by NYS Board of Regents.

Mrs. Angela Freeman, MS Ed. (Head of School)

- Pre-School ♦ Steppingstones 2 Yr. Old Program
- Kindergarten ♦ Diaper Friendly Programs
- Primary Grades 1-4 ♦ Afterschool & summer Programs
- Early Phonics Reading Program ♦ Inclusive Sports/Enrichment Program
- Tennis, Soccer, Yoga, Arts, Music, Spanish, Drama, Chess**

Conveniently located across from the Fleetwood Station
(Harlem Line) in Mt. Vernon.



The Milestone School
70 West Broad Street, Mount Vernon, NY 10552

914.667.3478
themilestoneschool.com



Outpatient Rehabilitation

Utilizing the latest techniques and ideas designed to maximize function, increase independence and provide a higher quality of life

The **Outpatient Rehabilitation Center at Wartburg** offers a full range of occupational and physical therapy and speech-language pathology services customized to your specific needs.

- Most insurance accepted
- Easy access from most major highways
- Open Monday-Friday
- Early morning/evening appointments
- Free onsite parking

Outpatient Rehabilitation
Center at Wartburg
One Wartburg Place
Mount Vernon, NY 10552
914-513-5290
wartburg.org
info@wartburg.org



INDEPENDENT LIVING | ASSISTED LIVING | ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENCIA CARE | NURSING HOME
ADULT DAY CARE | HOME CARE | INPATIENT/OUTPATIENT REHABILITATION
HOSPICE CARE | CAREGIVER SUPPORT | SPIRITUAL CARE



thewartburg



thewartburg



wartburgny

Introducing PCSB Bank's



Making Home Ownership More Attainable and More Affordable

- Down payment can be as little as 3%*
- Competitive rates, either fixed or adjustable
- Grants available to help with closing costs
- No application fee
- It's only available at PCSB Bank!

*To calculate payment use \$4.92 per \$1000 borrowed over a 30-year fixed rate with a 4.259% Annual Percentage Rate. Rate effective as of February 22, 2017.

CALL OUR MORTGAGE SPECIALIST TODAY!



914-589-5071
Lindsay Carden
Residential Loan Officer
NMLS# 1018143
lcarden@mypcsb.com

Member
FDIC

PCSB.com



WESTCHESTER CENTER

FOR REHABILITATION & NURSING

10 CLAREMONT AVENUE, MT. VERNON, NY 10550 • TEL: (914) 699-1600



At The Westchester Center, we are dedicated to creating a sensitive, nurturing and comfortable home where each patient and resident receives personalized care and attention. We take pride in our resident-centered philosophy and approach to care. Whether in our short-term rehabilitation Pathway To Recovery program, long-term skilled nursing, or other specialty programs, this philosophy is reflected in our commitment to promoting optimum independence and quality of the life of all those who pass through our doors.

"It is always our privilege to care for the elderly in a way that will enrich their lives. Our goals are to restore and maintain independence as well as create memorable and cherished experiences for those in our care."

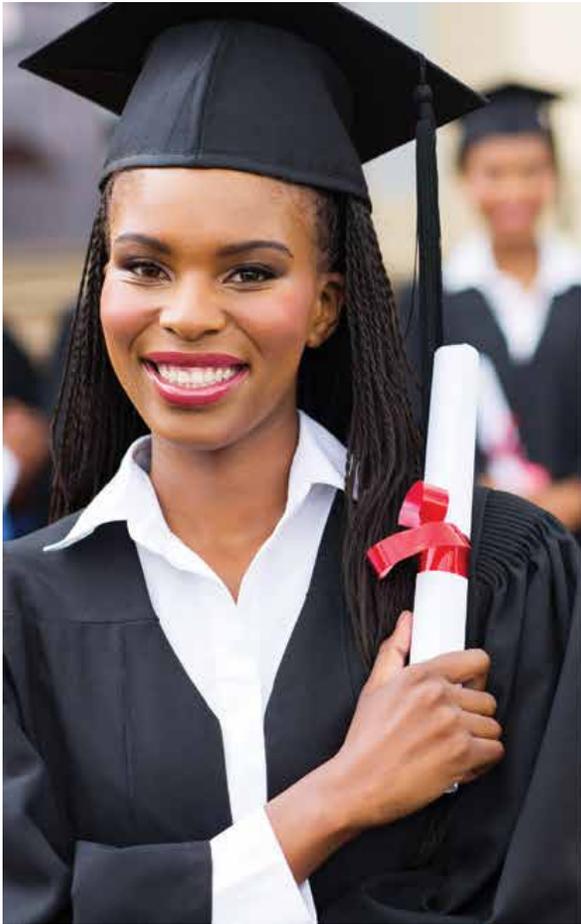
Life at our Facility

Building on a tradition of excellence, The Westchester Center features not only the highest quality of rehabilitative therapy and nursing care, but also an outstanding quality of life.

At The Westchester Center the joy of life is easy to see. For all those in our care, we are dedicated to creating a sensitive, nurturing and comfortable environment where each resident and patient receives personalized care and attention.

We make it a priority to keep residents engaged, interested, and active in our daily programs. Patients enjoy a full complement of social and recreational activities designed to keep hands nimble, bodies moving, minds active and spirits up.

www.westchestercenter.com



NOT A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE? EARN YOUR DIPLOMA NOW

EVENING CLASSES IN MOUNT VERNON
Tuition-free* classes

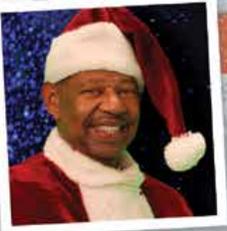
For Registration please attend an information session located at
17 S 5th Ave Mt. Vernon, NY Wednesday's 4pm-6pm



914-606-7600
SUNYWEOC.COM

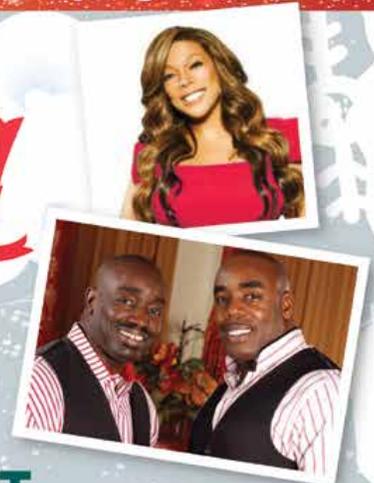
*SEE WEBSITE FOR REQUIREMENTS

PROVIDING QUALITY PATHWAYS TO OPPORTUNITIES
26 S BROADWAY YONKERS, NY 10701



Dr. Kenneth R. Hamilton brings the community together for

the MOST WONDERFUL Time



HOLIDAY CONCERT

Featuring the debut performance of

The Mount Vernon All-City Choir and Orchestra

Saturday, December 9, 2017 • Mount Vernon High School
7 p.m., Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

No charge for admission. Please bring a canned good or unwrapped toy to benefit hurricane victims in Puerto Rico.



Season's Greetings and the best for the New Year

I hope that you have the best of holiday seasons, and that the New Year is better than the last one.

In the year ahead, I will continue my fight against the Trump agenda, and to protect and improve the lives of people.

My work for you in Congress has earned a **100% pro Senior rating** from the **Alliance of Retired Americans**, an **"A"** from the **National Education Association**, **100% Civil Rights rating** from the **Leadership Conference on Human and Civil Rights** and **100%** from **American Public Health Association**.

I was also named a **"Defender of Children"** by **First Focus Campaign for Children**.

I am proud to have received a **"F" rating** from the **National Rifle Association** because of my actions for gun control, including authoring the Disarm Hate Act that would ban anyone convicted of a hate crime from owning a gun.

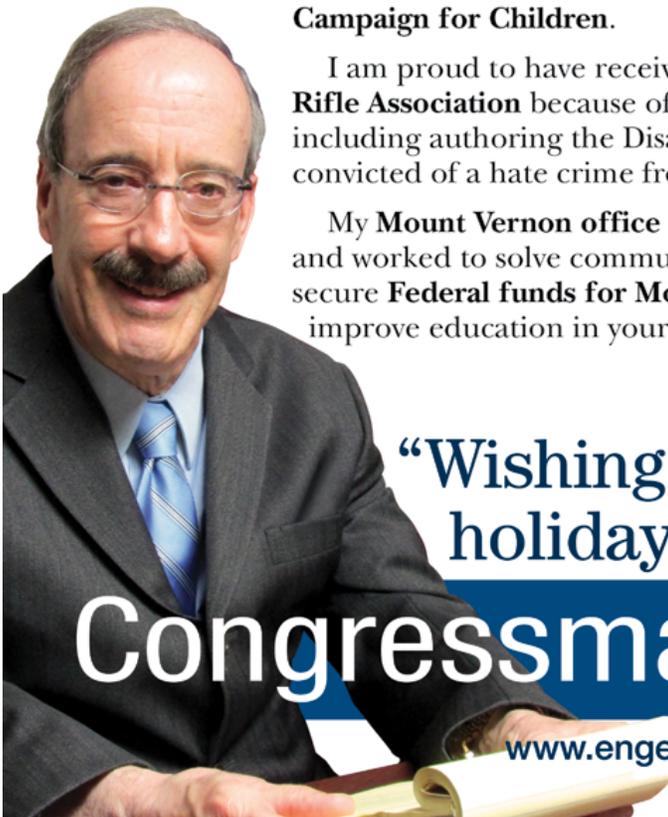
My **Mount Vernon office** has helped hundreds of residents and worked to solve community problems, and I worked to secure **Federal funds for Mount Vernon** including millions to improve education in your schools.

"Wishing you the best for the holiday season and New Year."

Congressman Eliot Engel

www.engelforcongress.com

Paid for by Engel for Congress





Choose your own caregiver!
ENROLL WITH CDPAP

CDPAP stands for Consumer Directed Personal Care Program

Family and friends can now provide safe care to Medicaid home care consumers and get paid without training. A win-win situation for everyone requires only a social security card and a physical.



CARING
PROFESSIONALS, INC.
LICENSED HOMECARE AGENCY

50 Main Street, Suite 1040, White Plains, NY 10606

(917) 670-8649

www.CaringProfessionals.com

Servicing the NYC Five Boroughs, Nassau and Westchester Counties, since 1994

Call, Today for a Healthier Tomorrow!

Westchester Chiropractic Healthcare, P.C.



Joseph A. Ciccone, D.C.

Neck Pain / Stiffness

Painful Joints

Sacroiliac Joint Dysfunction

Back Pain / Stiffness

Shoulder / Arm Pain

Fibromyalgia

Tension Headaches

Knee Pain

Muscle Pain Syndromes

Hip Pain

Leg Pain

Sciatica / Disc Disorders

Most Insurances Accepted

No-Fault (Motor Vehicle Accidents) & Workers Compensation

Also available on the premises:

Pain Management/Internal Medicine
Giovanni Angelino, M.D., R. Ph.
Internal Pain Management Services

Acupuncture
Xinshou Jiang, L.Ac., Ph.D.
Oakland Gardens Acupuncture, P.C.

Physical Therapy
Ethelvida Ciccone, P.T.
Full Grace Physical Therapy

(914) 664-1380

2 Gramatan Avenue, Suite#206, Mount Vernon, New York 10550

Fax: (914) 664-1383

www.westchesterchirohealthcare.com

Continued from page 11



Traphagen parents who served in the military being introduced while accompanied by their children

The event commenced with a salute to the flag and welcoming remarks from three students, Nathaniel Edwards, Nigel Diggs and Leah Loor, and the singing of the national anthem by the Traphagen Intergenerational Choir.

Next on the agenda was the introduction of the school's new principal, Quinones-Smith, who drew a thunderous applause from the capacity crowd.

Following the principal, a group of students outfitted in military attire danced to the song Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy. Their outstanding performance led to a standing ovation.

After another musical selection by the Traphagen Intergenerational Choir, students introduced the special guests in attendance:

- Kristyn Reed, Mount Vernon Commissioner of Veterans Affairs
- Kassie Rampersad, Traphagen parent and staff member
- Huston Watson, Traphagen PTA board member
- Christopher Grieco, Mount Vernon Police Department Sergeant and army reservist

Next, the audience clapped loudly as veteran parents were recognized and introduced as they stood side-by-side with their children. They all had an opportunity to address the crowd.

Prior to the ceremony ending, students sang two musical selections, followed by a moment of silence for the many veterans who never made it back home.

WCC hires new Chief Diversity Officer

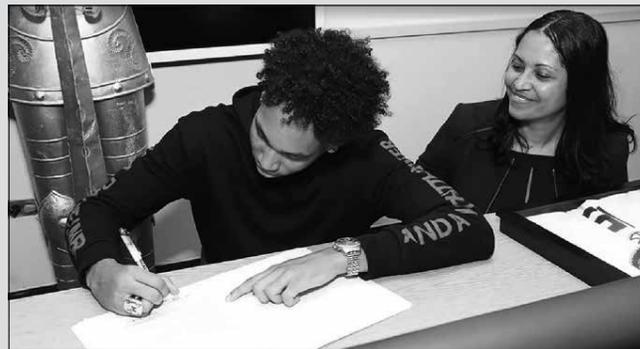


of Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion/Chief Diversity Officer. This position reports to the President of the college.

As Assistant Dean of Students at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), and prior to that role, Director of Multicultural Student Affairs at the same university, she brings to the college progressively responsible experience in managing programs, training, and other initiatives related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Her career has included other student-centered roles in enrollment management and student affairs. Hamilton earned her B.A. and M.A. from UMKC. Her career has resulted in demonstrated success in a variety of areas including strategic planning and cross-functional collaboration.

Westchester Community College has named Tiffany Hamilton to the position

Jason Douglas-Stanley signs Letter of Intent to play basketball at George Mason University



Jason Douglas-Stanley signs a National Letter of Intent with his mother, Rondine Stanley, by his side

With his family, friends, former coaches, current coaches, teammates, school principal, district superintendent and other school personnel surrounding him, Mount Vernon High School senior Jason Douglas-Stanley determined the next phase of his life after graduation by signing a National Letter of Intent to play basketball for George Mason University next year. "This was unbelievable," Douglas-Stanley said of the gathering. "I simply want to thank everyone for coming and offering me such love and support."

He quickly grew a strong reputation as a confident and successful shooter from all spots on the court for Mount Vernon. The 6-foot-2 shooting guard has averaged 20 points, 5 assists and 3 rebounds per game in his first three years at Mount Vernon. Last year, he hit a career high 31 points, 19 of which were scored in the first quarter in a home game against White Plains. He was also part of the 2017 state championship team.

Douglas-Stanley chose George Mason because he felt it was the best situation for him, both on and off the court. It was a situation where he felt he can fill a need for the team as a scorer.

Mount Vernon Coach Bob Cimmino hosted the ceremony at the high school Thursday where more than 50 people attended and several coaches, players and district personnel spoke.

"This is a very special day for all of us," Cimmino said. "It's right up here with winning the state championship when you have one of your players be so successful. This is the one time I say that it is OK to see your mother

cry in the community room of Mount Vernon High when you earn a full scholarship."

Rondine Stanley, Jason's mother, thanked everyone for their support of Jason and said her family has been very blessed. "I am your No. 1 fan. I love you," she said told him.

Principal Ronald Gonzalez told the crowd that it is always especially satisfying to see a student be committed to the hard work that it takes to be successful. "Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to see our students, and particularly our student athletes, put in the extra work and see the benefit come to fruition."

Superintendent Dr. Kenneth R. Hamilton said he was proud of the opportunities the students enjoy and experience because of the dedication and hard work of the staff and teachers who make those opportunities happen. "Each time one of our students is acknowledged in the way that Jason is it is an affirmation about a couple of things. One is that our mission to make sure we are reaching children on a one-on-one basis and connecting them to the kind of supports and services that they need in order to reach their full potential. It confirms that for me," he said. "The other thing that it does is it gives us hope. Not everyone is going to be in Jason's position. But, what it does say is that through hard work and dedication and consistency and making choices that are aligned with the fiber of who you are and what you represent as a family unit and how you not stray so far away from the structure that your parents have established for you because at the end of the day, all parents want their kids to be successful."

Mt. Vernon City School District introduces new parent liaison positions at all schools

With a plan to forge even stronger relationships and create deeper ties between parents, educators and all district stakeholders to ultimately assist in student success, each school in the Mount Vernon School City District now has a parent liaison on its staff.

While New York City schools have parent liaison positions, the role is the first of its kind in any Westchester County school district. Each parent liaison will cover two schools, ensuring that all 16 buildings have a dedicated staff person for assistance.

"Mount Vernon is a trailblazer," said Dr. Waveline Bennett-Conroy, Mount Vernon Assistant Superintendent for School Improvement.

The School District's Office of School Improvement took the lead in creating the new positions. It used a state grant to hire Scholastic Corp. to train the parent liaisons for their new roles. Scholastic Corp. uses a research-based model called the Family Engagement Building Framework. This model was created by Karen Mapp,

Senior Lecturer from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

An outcome of Mapp's model is that districts and schools will cultivate and sustain active and effective partnerships with families, strengthening one of the identified essential supports --- parent and community ties --- needed for school improvement.

Secondly, Mapp's model intends for families to be actively engaged in their children's education and school improvement.

"The training taught them how to interface with the community and diffuse tough situations," said Bennett-Conroy. "Parents must work together with teachers and principals, and the collaboration starts with the superintendent on down. We're looking to create relationships and equip parents with tools to deal with their own children. We don't want them to be afraid to reach out for support."

Mount Vernon City School District parent liaisons are:

Shari Alleyne resident of Mount Vernon, and holds a master's degree in education.

She is the parent liaison for Thornton and Mandela high schools.

Rita James resident of Mount Vernon. She holds a bachelor's degree in communications. She is the parent liaison for Parker and Williams elementary schools.

Corrine Lewack resident of Mount Vernon. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from SUNY Purchase. She is the parent liaison for Mount Vernon High School and Rebecca Turner elementary school.

Jaquetta Jenkins resident of Mount Vernon who has been an active PTA member and Girl Scout leader. She is the parent liaison for Traphagen and Grimes elementary schools.

Aleisha McDowell resident of Mount Vernon and holds a degree in social work.

She is the parent liaison for A.B. Davis and Benjamin Turner middle schools.

Sandra O'Connor resident of Mount Vernon. She has a business background in hospitality. She has been actively involved in Pennington Elementary's PTA for the past eight years. She is the parent liaison for Pennington and Lincoln elementary schools.

Kizhaya Roberts resident of Mount Vernon and holds a master's degree in education. She is the parent liaison for Holmes and Graham elementary schools.

Nicole Russo resident of Mount Vernon. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Mercy College. She is the parent liaison for Columbus and Hamilton elementary schools.

Westchester Choral Society preparing rousing rendition of Brahms' "Requiem"



Singers rehearsing in the auditorium of the Music Conservatory of Westchester

Westchester Community College presents Chicago's Tidings of Tap on December 3



A performance of Chicago Tap Theatre's Tidings of Tap! is scheduled for Sunday, December 3 at 3:00 pm in the Academic Arts Theatre on the Valhalla campus at Westchester Community College.

In this holiday spectacular, tap-dance-glam will rock you! This celebration of joy and love as the American dance form of tap breaks the creative ceiling with innovation and high-octane energy. This is a memorable family event!

Tickets are \$24 (general admission),

\$22 (for seniors), and \$18 (children under 13). Tickets can either be purchased in advance by mailing a check or by cash at the Box Office, 30 minutes before the scheduled performance time. For online credit card purchases, please visit www.sunywc.edu/smartarts and click on the "Buy Tickets" link.

For more information about this performance or the many other exciting cultural events, please call the Office of Cultural Affairs at 914-606-6262 or visit online at www.sunywc.edu/smartart.

Every Tuesday evening, a dedicated group of singers gathers in the auditorium of the Music Conservatory of Westchester in White Plains, N.Y. These members of the Westchester Choral Society—the chorus in residence at the conservatory—enjoy the chance to rehearse, learn, and socialize with one another.

At 7 p.m. sharp, Music Director Frank Nemhauser begins leading warm ups, including physical stretches, breathing exercises, arpeggios, and other activities. These efforts warm up the voice and the jaw to better enable enunciation, engage vocal agility, and perfect the group's collective pitch.

This semester, WCS members are preparing Brahms' "Ein deutsches Requiem," which they will perform Dec. 9 with the

Chappaqua Orchestra. The emotion and energy of this piece, which is Brahms' longest work, should not be missed. Not only because the approximately 100 musicians will provide a rousing rendition, but also because audience members and choristers alike can reap many benefits from such a concert: research shows that listening to music can reduce anxiety, help quell depression, and lower blood pressure.

Let the Westchester Choral Society and the Chappaqua Orchestra paint for you a musical picture of Brahms' story, including the blessed mourners, the Lord's "lovely dwellings," and the transition from anxiety to comfort. Visit www.westchesterchoral-society.org or www.chappaquaorchestra.org for additional information or to purchase tickets.



Jim and Annie Kiselak's Natural Food Column

Direct from the sunny island of
Vieques, Puerto Rico

Which is better: wild-caught or farmed fish?

How often have you stood in front of the fish counter at the grocery store trying to figure out which fish to buy that's good for you AND the environment?

Both farmed-raised fish and wild-caught fish have pros and cons. The key is to weigh the positives and negatives and make educated choices that you can live with and line up with your health needs and values.

Wild-caught fish are often healthier, with less contamination from man-made toxins, because they feed on a natural diet of smaller fish and algae and come into contact with less bacteria and parasites. The downside is that many larger wild fish are high in mercury, and poor fishing methods can harm the ocean habitat and result in overfishing.

Mercury is a naturally occurring toxic metal existing at low levels in air, land and water that enters streams, rivers, lakes and oceans primarily through rain and surface water runoff. It's converted by bacteria to methylmercury - a form dangerous to humans.

The only way to limit mercury from wild-caught fish is to avoid

larger fish that have eaten smaller mercury-containing fish. So, avoid king mackerel, swordfish, marlin, bluefin tuna and orange roughy.

Farm-raised fish can have more contamination from toxic industrial chemicals such as PBCs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and dioxins. They're often raised in crowded conditions and contain higher rates of bacteria, pesticides, artificial coloring, antibiotics and parasites. The good news is that many farmed fish are now grown in a way that's better for the environment and healthier for us.

Because of the growing demand for fish and the potential for our oceans to become depleted, in the future we will all be eating more farmed fish. A little over half of our fish supply is farmed now, and by 2030 the World Bank estimates that nearly two-thirds of seafood will be farm-raised.

With consumer and environmental agency encouragement, it is hoped these healthier methods will become more prevalent. The best bets are closed systems that recycle and treat the water and don't contaminate nearby wild habitats.

Proposal for a second charter school in Mt. Vernon denied by Board of Regents

Once again, the Board of Regents has denied a proposal for a second charter school in Mount Vernon. The school would have served 300 students in grades 6-8.

The negative vote against Granville Academy Charter School's application is not the first, since Rev. Collie Nathan Edwers once headed a group that hoped to open a charter school focused on sci-

ence and technology for grades K-4. The Board of Regents also denied his request.

Mount Vernon's Amani Public Charter School, which serves 355 students in grades 5-8, opened in 2011 and has been a huge success until now.

It appears that the Board of Regents has decided that a second charter school is unsustainable in Mount Vernon.

FORWARD MARCH



This column is dedicated to news about Mount Vernon veterans in collaboration with the Mount Vernon Veterans Service Agency

The Veterans Service Agency, in coordination with the City of Mount Vernon, was proud to hold its first Turkey Drive. Turkeys donated by Municipal Credit Union (through the MVPD) and Stew Leonard's were distributed to Mount Vernon veterans and eligible dependents. The event was a success and the VSA is grateful to both businesses for ensuring that no veteran in Mt. Vernon went without a turkey.

The Mount Vernon Veterans Services Agency is seeking members to contribute to its advisory committee. The committee advises the Director of issues that are pressing within the veteran community and helps to resolve those issues. Veterans from all eras are welcome and invited to our monthly meeting held the 1st Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is December 4, 2017 at 5pm in City Hall's Memorial Room.

The passing of the "Forever GI Bill" will allow more veterans than ever to utilize their GI Bill and REAP funding. The Act also affect the BAH rate of students who will use their Post-9/11 GI Bill for the first time on or after January 1, 2018, transfer of benefits to dependents, payment tiers of Purple Heart recipients, licensing and certification payments, and those impacted by institution closures. For more information about VA educational benefits please contact the VSA or visit: www.benefits.va.gov.

A reminder as we enter the holiday shopping season that all honorably discharged veterans can shop the military online exchange. Veterans can visit www.shopmyexchange.com/veterans to create an account and access

to exclusive military pricing and offers, tax-free shopping, and more. This lifelong benefit will be extended to all who discharge honorably from service. This benefit is online only and DOES NOT grant installation access. Also remember to show your Westchester County Favor Discount Card and inquire about veteran specific discounts at all other area merchants.

There are plenty of events for veterans this season from basketball games and concerts to private tours. One such event is a free tour for current and formers military members aboard the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum on Sunday December 3, 2017 from 12:30-3:00pm. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Please contact 646-381-5158.

A few months ago, the Mount Vernon Inquirer published a story on Virgil Bell, a WWII veteran who succeeded in obtaining his veteran status after 64 years. It is with heavy hearts that we report that Virgil "Sonny" Bell passed away on Thanksgiving Day. We are thankful to everyone who congratulated Mr. Bell on his veteran status and wished him well throughout this process as we try to find some comfort in the fact that Mr. Bell will be buried with the military honors that he earned through his honorable service to this country.

Lastly, the Veterans Service Agency wishes all our military veterans and supporters a healthy and happy holiday season. If there is a specific topic that you would like featured in Forward March or if you or someone you know needs assistance with veteran issues please contact the VSA at (914) 665-2319.



Alternative Medicine Options by Joe Parisi

Holistic Medicine: How to select a Holistic Provider

Holistic providers may include medical doctors, doctors of osteopathy, naturopathic doctors, chiropractors, and homeopathic doctors. To find a holistic practitioner in your area, visit the American Holistic Medical Association web site. There you can use an online provider search to find a practitioner near you.

Here are some tips to keep in mind when choosing a holistic provider:

Don't go to just anyone. As with all professionals, there are those who are good at their jobs and those who are not as good. Before choosing a holistic medicine doctor, get a recommendation from someone you trust, or contact a credible health organization and ask for a recommendation.

Do your homework. When selecting a holistic doctor, find out as much as you can about that person's training, experience, specialty, and association with professional organizations and hospital affiliations. Is he or she board certified in holistic medicine by a credible medical board? Also, consider the doctor's treatment philosophy. Is it similar to your own views?

How do you feel? Consider how comfortable you are with the provider. Does he or she make you feel at ease? Is the provider respectful of your concerns and beliefs? Remember, holistic medicine takes a team approach, involving you and the provider, so make sure you feel comfortable and respected and that he or she is someone with whom you would like to work.

Appointment time. Choose a provider who will spend enough time with you so that he or she can gain a full understanding of your needs.

Are the right questions being asked? In order to understand you as a whole person and not just a disease, be prepared to answer lots of questions, including questions about your diet, exercise, sleep habits, how you feel emotionally, your religious beliefs and practices, close relationships, and more.

Treatment options. When determining a treatment approach, does the wellness plan go beyond pills? Make sure the practitioner examines all lifestyle factors, along with medical factors that could be contributing to your illness.

EDUCATION COLUMN

By Diane Fulves, M.A., M.Ed.,
Director, EMPOWERING OUR PARENTS
Email: dee076@verizon.net

A Time for Caring and Kindness

They say that this is the happiest time of the year. It certainly looks and sounds like it is with the beautiful decorations all over the place, joyful, hopeful music, holiday parties, and of course, Santa Claus. But for many, particularly for children, this can be a difficult, stressful, and sad time. Children may have lost loved ones. Their families may be in need. Children who are surrounded by the external signs of happiness may be struggling with their own personal sadness. Be vigilant. Be responsive. Be patient. Be kind.

Look for the signs. If children are unable to concentrate on their assignments, we must be willing to modify their work, both in school and at home. Remember, if children are struggling, their parents may be struggling as well. In the classroom, create a quiet place, away from distractions, to help these children complete assignments. Spend a few moments with them checking their work. Ask them how they are feeling, listen and offer words of encouragement. These few moments can make a world of difference in a child's life. You can see it in their eyes and in their grateful smiles. Remember, they have only been on this earth a few years and they are still learning how to cope with stress. Be kind to them. Show them that you care. Give them understanding and time.

Parents, try not to overwhelm your children with holiday shopping and activities every night. In December

they need the same amount of structure they need at other times, maybe more. Make sure that they are getting sufficient sleep to help them get through their school days and all the excitement that envelops them during the next few weeks.

Try to keep a routine at home. Homework doesn't stop in December and children still need sufficient time to study for tests. If several tests are scheduled in one day and your children need more time to prepare, let the teacher know this and request that they be allowed to take one test on the following day. This is an appropriate request and makes sense, even if your children do not have an I. E. P. or other special accommodations. This extra day will give them time to learn and master the material. That's the point! If something unexpected happens which prevents homework completion, send a note to the teacher to let her know the situation and assure her that the work will be completed.

This is a very special time of the year and it can be a happy time if we all work together to keep our children on the right path. Give them enough time to complete their tasks so they are not rushed. If there are issues, talk to them before assuming that they are not compliant. We are older and wiser. We can prevent problems before they occur if we are vigilant and patient. Our positive attitude will contribute to our enjoyment of this wonderful season, and that may be the best gift of all.

"2017 Turkey Give Away" appreciated by many Mount Vernonites



A happy resident receiving a free turkey from
Mayor Thomas

Mount Vernon residents were supplied with over 500 free turkeys during the city's "2017 Turkey Giveaway."

The event was a total success thanks to the efforts and generosity of local businesses and residents.

Mayor Richard Thomas personally thanked Caribbean Mart, Ralph Fatigate and Gregory Manto from AXA Advisors LLC, Legislator Lyndon Williams, MV4U, Food Bazaar,

and Frank Mitaronda from Chief Fire Prevention, for making Mount Vernon shine during this holiday season.

Also receiving kudos was the PDC Foundation, PCNY, and many city departments, which included police, public works, water, recreation, Civil Defense, Buildings Department, as well as auxiliary police officers, for running a smooth event for Mount Vernon residents.

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. – Delta Nu Sigma Alumnae Chapter remembers WWI veterans at St. Paul’s Church



Sorority members along with site manager David Osborn (center) at Saint Paul’s Church National Historic Site

On Saturday, November 11 members of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Incorporated-Delta Nu Sigma Alumnae Chapter and other community members celebrated our WWI veterans at historic Saint Paul’s Church in Mt. Vernon by placing flags on the gravesite.

One week prior, members of the sorority spent the morning clearing leaves from several areas of the cemetery in preparation for the Veterans Day activities.

The event was part of Sigma Gamma Rho’s International Day of Service to celebrate its 95th anniversary.

Klein, Hassell-Thompson and Pretlow presented with Knight Light Awards



Assemblyman J. Gary Pretlow, former Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson and Senator Jeffrey D. Klein with their Knight Light Awards

The Mount Vernon City School District awarded three invaluable community members with Knight Light Awards at a Board of Education meeting last night. The recipients included Senator Jeffrey D. Klein, former Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson and Assemblyman J. Gary Pretlow.

“On behalf of the District, I want to thank each honoree for their dedication to helping propel the Mount Vernon City School District forward,” said Adriane G. Saunders, Mount Vernon Board of Education President. “The District has seen tremendous improvements over the last year as a result of their efforts to secure state funding.”

The Knight Light Award is presented to members of the Mount Vernon community that exemplify the qualities of a Mount Vernon Knight, including courage, justice, mercy, generosity, faith, nobility, and hope. The award is intended to spotlight people or groups that have a positive impact on the District and its students. Each of this week’s recipients have contributed to the progress and well-being of Mount Vernon through a variety of projects.

“Our top goal is to improve what happens behind the walls in our schools – in the classrooms with the education of our students,” said Dr. Kenneth R. Hamilton, Superintendent of the Mount Vernon City School District. “But to become excellent at that, we must also be a source of community pride and each of these Knight Light recipients has helped the District work toward those goals.”

In May 2015, Senator Jeffrey D. Klein secured a state-funded grant to cover the costs of renovating the playground and baseball field at Pennington Elementary School. On Wednesday, Oct. 27, Mount Vernon students, parents and community members gathered at Pennington Element-

tary School for a ribbon-cutting ceremony, unveiling the new \$94,000 playground. The recreational facility features two sections and is designed for Grades 1-3 and Grades 4-6 respectively. The new playground structure includes all new surfacing and play equipment and is suitable for up to 50 students at a time. The senator has also agreed to co-sponsor the Mount Vernon Classroom Heroes teacher recognition program. The district will host a gala for recognized teachers in March.

Sen. Klein helped secure additional funding for renovations at Mandela High School and a greenhouse at Mount Vernon High School.

“By investing in our local schools, we are lifting up our students and building a brighter future for all New Yorkers,” said Sen. Klein in a statement announcing the funding. “As the Pennington School continues to grow and expand, I know this funding will make a big difference for students, sports teams and the local community.”

Graham Elementary School unveiled a new, expansive park and play area in June 2017. This \$2.5 million project was partially funded by a \$1 million grant secured by former Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson, helping to power the District’s 20/20 Vision. The park, which was built in a lot adjacent to Graham Elementary, includes a new soccer field, three playground equipment stations, two oval walking paths, raised garden beds, as well as new landscaping and a new parking lot. A marble park bench was dedicated in memory of Shamoya McKenzie, a Graham Elementary student who tragically passed away in January. Shamoya’s mother, Nadine McKenzie, Superintendent Dr. Kenneth R. Hamilton, Board of Education President Adriane Saunders, Mayor Richard Thomas, and Dr. Natasha Hunter-McGregor,

ARCA ASPHALT
New York’s Premiere Paving Manufacturers

ARCA ASPHALT
7 Edison Avenue
Mt. Vernon, NY 10550
914-699-3370
Sales@rcaasphalt.com
www.rcaasphalt.com

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH DECEMBER 2017 "ROYAL CARIBBEAN BAKERY"

Royal Caribbean Bakery was founded in 1978 on Dyre Avenue in the Bronx by Vincent and Jeanette HoSang in a 3,000 sq. foot facility, which is still the home of one the Royal Caribbean Bakery retail locations.

Their corporate and sales facility is located at 620 South Fulton Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY - a 20,000 sq. ft. facility that was opened in 1987 as part of the company's expansion drive.

Mount Vernon residents and others will attest to the fact that they are bakers of the finest quality hard dough bread, spice buns, coco bread, pastries, bulla cakes and black fruitcakes.

They are also distributors of Caribbean Food Delights Jamaican style beef, chicken and vegetable patties, and also operate several retail outlets in the New York and Atlanta, Georgia area.

Being Jamaican means more to Vincent and Jeanette HoSang than one can imagine. Both were born and raised on the island of Jamaica in an atmosphere rich in diversity, culture, music and cuisine.

After immigrating to the United States, introducing the tantalizing

tastes of Jamaica to the New York area only seemed natural - hence the beginning of Royal Caribbean Bakery. Finally, a place to get Patties, Hardo Bread, Bulla, Easter Bun and cheese!

One can never be too far from the islands with a little "RCB" food in your cupboard.

The HoSangs travel to the Caribbean frequently to expand their product line, and all their signature recipes have been "tested" for their authenticity and have received the highest ratings from fellow Jamaicans.

Vincent and Jeanette HoSang have never forgotten the country that they came from. Many Jamaican and Mount Vernon charities benefit from their generosity, including an annual donation to the Jamaican athletes participating in the Penn Relays.

Vincent and Jeanette HoSang come from a lineage of entrepreneurs from China. Their business continues to expand and they have become the largest Jamaican frozen food manufacturer in the U.S.A.

So, if you're feeling a little "Jamaican me hungry," visit one of their outlets or distribution centers today - especially the one at 620 South Fulton Avenue in Mount Vernon.



Authentic Puerto Rican Recipes

Arroz con Pollo

2 cups uncooked rice
1 lb. chicken parts
1 small can tomato sauce
2 tablespoons of sliced Spanish olives, with red peppers
1 teaspoon alcaparras

½ cup sofrito
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 teaspoon black pepper
1 tablespoon salt
½ cup vegetable oil
4 cups of boiling water

In a large caldero brown the chicken parts in the oil, 5 minutes each side. Remove chicken from the pot and set aside. Don't put them on paper towels - we want any grease back in the pot. Leave the chicken drippings inside the pot and add all the other ingredients except for the rice, water and chicken. Mix well and cook sofrito for 5 minutes over medium heat. Add the chicken and rice to the pot and stir.

Add the boiling water until the water is about 1 inch above the rice - stir once only.

Boil uncovered, over high heat, until water is absorbed.

Once the water is absorbed gently stir from bottom to top - just a couple of turns only.

Cover and continue to cook over LOW heat for another 30 minutes or until the rice is tender.

Hints . . .

Don't concern yourself with weighing

the meat too much. If you are serving 5 people just use 5 - 8 pieces of meat. Resist the temptation to stir. Too much stirring causes the rice to become "amogollao" or sticky.

It is traditional to cook the chicken with bones and all. People will just pull the meat off the bones with their fork. If you have cilantro add some to the top of the pot once it is done, for decoration.

Don't let your rice get "ahumado" or smoked from cooking at too high temperature.

For great pegao just cook a bit longer keeping an eye on it.

For a lot of pegao use a larger caldero (it will just be half empty).

Some people prefer to use deboned chicken. Cook the chicken in a crock-pot all day with seasonings and when you get home from work debone and use the broth to make the rice.

Adding liquid in olive jar will make it too salty.

Great week kicks off holidays at Boys & Girls Club of Mount Vernon

The week before Thanksgiving always helps to kick off the holidays at the Boys & Girls Club of Mount Vernon. This year was no exception!

On Wednesday, November 15, Board Member Richard Gossett hosted a breakfast at ARNO's Restaurant in the heart of NYC's Garment District. Seventy guests came to see world renowned magician David Blaine. Mr. Blaine wooed the crowd with some unexplainable magic and shared his story of a challenging upbringing in Brooklyn, NY.

2017 Youth of the Year Jaylin Huie and

2018 Youth of the Year Candidate Daniel Burgos also shared their stories and spoke of the great impact the club has had on their lives. The event raised \$45,000 to help upgrade the club's aging headquarters at 350 S. 6th Ave.

The action continued on Thursday, November 16, when the club hosted its annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner. Over 300 senior citizens, veterans, volunteers, families, and children came together for an evening of great food, awesome entertainment, and inspiring fellowship. The event was sponsored by Board Vice President Robert Kestenbaum and YORK

International. Lowes Moore, the club's Executive Director for Development, served as Master of Ceremonies and led the group through a brief program thanking all of our supporters and highlighting the power of intergenerational interaction. The entertainment then took over. The Alpha Stars Cheerleading Team gave a spirited performance, and the Drum Corps from Mt. St. Michael Academy gave an inspiring performance. Mel Campos, the club's Chief Professional Officer said, "This is one of our most powerful events. It brings our entire community together."

The fantastic week was capped off by

the thrilling performance of FAME by the Revelators. The Revelators performed their interpretation of the timeless classic. One hundred and fifty guests enjoyed the performance by the talented actors, singers, and dancers. The Revelators are led by Ms. Marion Archer who has led the Revelators for 30 years! The proceeds from Friday's performance go to benefit BGCVM's Teen Programs.

It was quite a week for BGCVM. The tone is set for a fabulous holiday season for our kids, families and the entire BGCVM community!

Continued from page 22

Graham Elementary School Principal, were in attendance at the ribbon cutting ceremony and dedication last June.

Hassell-Thompson also secured \$400,000 in funding for Little Hands Children's Center, a daycare in Mount Vernon.

"It's important to provide our students, our future leaders, with resources that inspire them," said Hassell-Thomp-

son. "The park at Graham Elementary school provides children with a place to play and explore, which stimulates their creative minds."

Much like Sen. Klein, Assemblyman J. Gary Pretlow helped secure state funding for recreational projects within the Mount Vernon City School District. In July 2015, Pretlow announced the allocation of \$1 million to make neces-

sary repairs to the Mount Vernon High School's pool. The pool was affected by a leak in 2010 and due to budget cuts, the District was not able to afford repairs. The capital secured by Pretlow allowed Mount Vernon to bring the pool into compliance with all applicable rules and regulations. The District also plans to provide free year-round swimming lessons to Mount Vernon residents and

offer training programs for students interested in serving as lifeguards.

"Every student deserves a well-rounded education with access to quality resources and facilities," Assemblyman Pretlow said in a statement. "This project shows our commitment to physical education and will increase opportunities for the community."

Beautiful Smile



Not everyone was born with it... Gentle Dental Care at Sparkle Dental



invisalign
Starting At
\$3,999
FREE

Treatment Consultation Required
Call Today! Your Dental Insurance may cover up to \$1500 and retainers \$750
Reg. total for Invisalign including retainers \$6,300



Are you tired of loose fitting dentures, or constantly using paste to keep them in? Finally, here is the solution!
The "Prettau Permanent Implant Bridge" is now available at Sparkle Dental!



The Prettau Bridge-
100% Zirconia
No acrylic, No chipping
No compromises!



The Prettau Zirconia
Implant Bridge looks and
feels like your own teeth

*"Stop the endless dental cycle of replacing failing root canals, large fillings, problematic gum disease, etc.
The Prettau Zirconia Implant Bridge is the future of dentistry to replace missing teeth, a denture, or failing dental work"*
Dr. Rohit Patel

✓ Full Exam
✓ Full Mouth X-Rays
✓ Routine Teeth Cleaning
All For **\$89***
NEW PATIENTS
Reg #425

BLEEDING GUMS?
Teeth Feel Loose?
Partial Denture Loose?
Gum Disease can cause serious Health Issues!
FREE GUM EVALUATION!

914-668-1722
Sparkle Dental
All the care your smile will ever need



153 Stevens Ave. Ste. 1, Mt. Vernon, NY

DR. ROHIT PATEL Former Assistant Clinical Professor of Dentistry, Columbia University College of Dental Medicine; Attending Dentist, Montefiore Medical Center, NY. 30 Years in Practice.

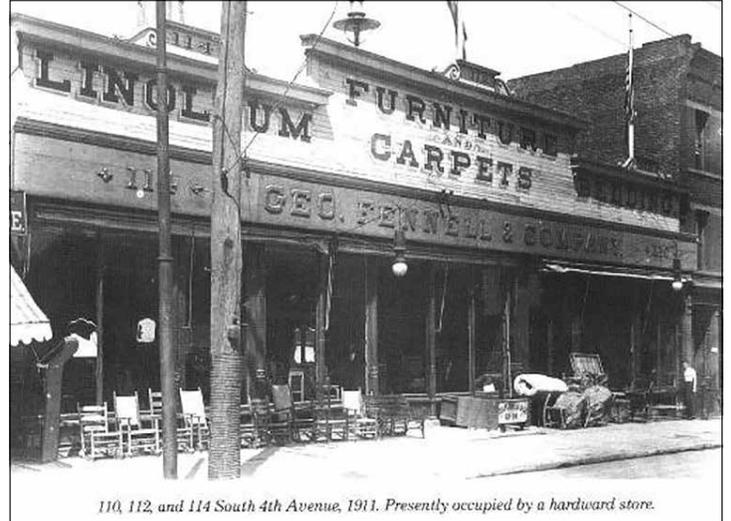
DR. SITKI MURAT DOGUS Prosthodontist, is a Clinical Instructor, of Dentistry Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Attending Prosthodontist, Montefiore Medical Center, NY.

DR. DANIEL GREENBAUM Board Certified Prosthodontist, with advanced training in implantology and periodontology. DDS Degree from Columbia University College of Dental Medicine in NY.

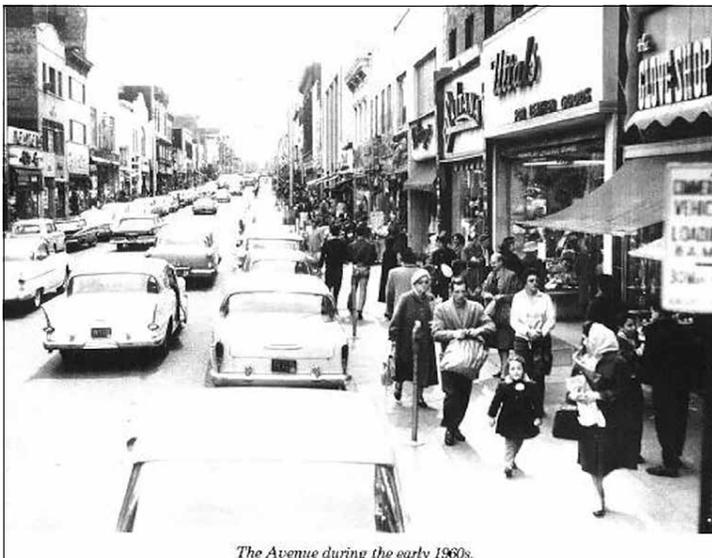
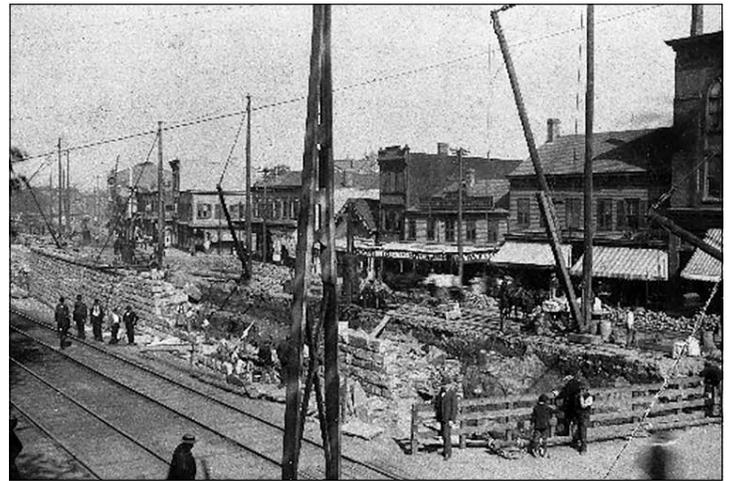
sparkledental.com

*We reserve the right to submit for insurance reimbursement to the doctor for exam, consultation & X-ray
Nos Comprendemos e Falamos o Portugues • Se Habla Español

MOUNT VERNON HISTORICAL PHOTOS



110, 112, and 114 South 4th Avenue, 1911. Presently occupied by a hardware store.



The Avenue during the early 1960s.



Chonnam National University appoints Terrence Horton “Global Honorary Ambassador”



South Korean delegation members listening during the library program



Chonnam National University in South Korea

This past May 26, a large delegation from Gwangju, South Korea, and South Koreans working with the May 18 Memorial Foundation and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, attended an historic photographic exhibition at the Mount Vernon Public Library. The Mount Vernon Public Library, along with Sentinel Technology Services International, Inc. hosted the reception to commemorate the Gwangju Democratic Uprising in South Korea.

Terrence Horton, CEO of Sentinel Technology Services International, Inc., has established a flourishing relationship with South Korea and has traveled there several times – establishing strong ties with many high echelon officials during his visits.

In April 2014, a delegation from Mount Vernon, which included Horton, travelled to Gwangju, South Korea resulting in the signing of a friendship and international trade agreement between the two municipalities. The trip was intended to begin an era of cultural and technological exchange with unprecedented benefits for the city of Mount Vernon.

Horton and his company have con-

tinued to work with the South Koreans, keeping the international trade agreement alive, as well as the friendship agreement.

Many South Korean entities and officials have taken notice of the solid relationship between South Korea and Sentinel Technology Services International, Inc. Just recently, Chonnam National University (CNU), appointed Horton as CNU's Global Honorary Ambassador for the greater New York area. It was an unprecedented appointment. As ambassador, Horton has been designated to promote and further the globalization of CNU for the greater New York area.

CNU, founded in 1952 as the flagship national university for the southwestern region of Korea, has been proudly cultivating young talent for the region and the nation. CNU ranked the 10th nationwide and the 420th worldwide in world university rankings in the CWUR (Center for World University Rankings). It was also the 1st among the nine Korean national flagship universities in "Asia's Top 75 Most Innovative Universities" in 2017 (Reuters). CNU has also expanded its global reach by establishing partnerships with 416 universities in 52 countries as of 2017.

On December 1, a huge delegation

of high ranking education officials from South Korea, led by the president of CNU, Dr. Byungseok Jeong, will be meeting at Baruch College in New York City in an effort to establish a student and teacher exchange program.

The exchange program is unique, since students and teachers seeking to participate in the program will have all expenses fully paid, including airfare to South Korea. This is an incredible opportunity for a student or a teacher, since it will allow applicants to experience life at the forefront of Asian modernization and enjoy Korea's excellent educational standards.

Korea is globalizing its education. Proportionally, it sends more students abroad, and to the USA, than any other nation, and only behind India and China in sheer numbers. Korea is trying to attract foreign interest in its university-level education system, increasing its global competitiveness.

Thanks to much research by Horton and New York State Assemblyman Gary Pretlow, along with their recommendation, Baruch College was chosen by South Korea as the college of their choice for their revolutionary new student and teacher exchange pilot program.

South Korea's choice is a good one, since U.S. News & World Report, Forbes, Princeton Review, and others rank Baruch College among the region's and nation's top colleges. The campus is within easy reach of Wall Street, Midtown, and the global headquarters of major companies and non-profit and cultural organizations, giving students unparalleled internship, career, and networking opportunities. The college's more than 18,000 students, who speak more than 110 languages and trace their heritage to more than 170 countries, have been repeatedly named one of the most ethnically diverse student bodies in the United States.

Horton will now coordinate with Baruch College in the creation of the exchange program in an effort to help the program succeed. Historically, he has proven to be a Mount Vernon pioneer in helping Mount Vernon students move ahead academically. He has also helped students that elect not to attend college by training them and preparing them for employment opportunities. Therefore, his new ambassador position will help him move forward with his student programs, thanks to the support and backing he will be getting from South Korea.



Members of a South Korean education group that visited the Amani Public Charter School this past summer



Members of a South Korean delegation that attended a photographic exhibition at the Mount Vernon Public Library last May



Boys & Girls Club of Mount Vernon



350 South Sixth Avenue, Mount Vernon NY 10550, 914-668-9580 Fax: 914-668-1902 www.bgcmvny.org

School Year Programs: September 6, 2017 – June 8, 2018

After School Program

Ages 6 – 13 \$60 per school year
Mondays – Fridays, 3:00 pm – 6:30 pm



Teen Program

Ages 14 – 20 \$25 per school year
Mondays – Fridays, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm



We are in the process of collecting holiday gifts for our Club members to make sure that each member gets a gift. Please consider donating an unwrapped new toy/gift for children ages 6-18. Bring all donations to the Boys & Girls Club of Mount Vernon by December 13 please.



It Just Takes One

Boys & Girls Clubs help kids: stay in school; be good citizens; and live healthy lifestyles.

It just takes **ONE** person to open a door and put a child on the path to a great future.

Join us. Support the 2017/18 Annual Campaign for the Boys & Girls Club of Mount Vernon.

You can make a difference. Help serve more young people more often in a safe and nurturing environment.

ARE YOU THE ONE?

Contributions to the Boys & Girls Club of Mount Vernon support the Club's Education Programs.

Please send contributions to:
Boys & Girls Club of Mount Vernon

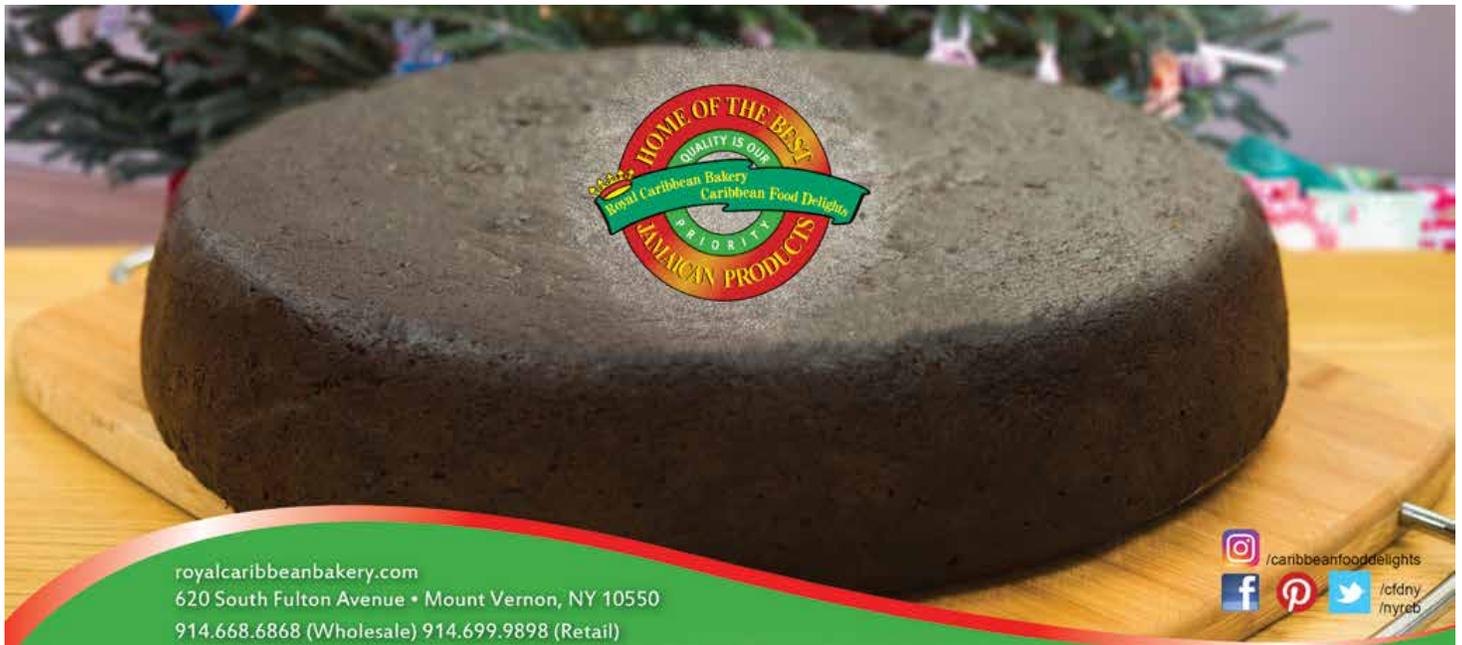
For more information contact:
Mel Campos, Chief Professional Officer
914-668-9580/mcampos@bgcmvny.org



Thank you for another great year! In the past four years, the Boys & Girls Club of Mount Vernon has made tremendous strides. Our budget has increased. There are more than 800 members with an average daily attendance of 110. We have improved the infrastructure, hired new staff, and added new Board members to help our organization continue to grow. We now serve all members a hot meal daily.

The BGCVMV helps put young people on the path to great futures. We provide a safe affordable place during non-school hours. Our mission is to help all young people, especially those who need us most, reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens.

Happy Holidays!



royalcaribbeanbakery.com
620 South Fulton Avenue • Mount Vernon, NY 10550
914.668.6868 (Wholesale) 914.699.9898 (Retail)



Merry Christmas!

To our many customers, friends and well-wishers, may your Christmas be filled with joy, peace, love and happiness and may the New Year bring you prosperity and success!



Westchester Community College MOUNT VERNON EXTENSION CENTER

REGISTER NOW!

SPRING CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 20

Come experience high quality, affordable education at our convenient downtown location: **17 S. Fifth Avenue, Mount Vernon.** Our caring instructors, flexible schedules and small class sizes are designed to help you succeed.

- 75+ Classes
- English as a Second Language
- Academic Support and Tutoring
- Scholarships and Financial Aid
- On-Site Counseling
- Computer Classes

ATTEND OUR OPEN HOUSE!

Tuesday, January 9, 2017 | 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Speak with representatives from Admissions, Financial Aid, Academic Support, and more. Get your questions answers!

914-606-7200 ▪ sunywcc.edu/mountvernon
17 S. Fifth Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550



Westchester
Community College

State University of New York