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THE MOUNT VERNON INQUIRER

"The People's Newspaper"

COMPLIMENTARY

Volume 13, Number 8

Serving the news and information needs of Mount Vernon, NY – "A City That Believes"

August 2018

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Board approves funding for memorial honoring Det. Ridley

Story by Joe Parisi

The Westchester County Board of Legislators has approved funding for the design and construction of a permanent memorial to Christopher Ridley, the off-duty Mount Vernon police officer who was shot and killed in January 2008 by county police as Ridley was intervening to stop an altercation in front of the county's Department of Social Services at 85 Court Street in White Plains.

Officer Ridley, who was posthumously promoted to detective, was shot when four county police officers responded to the incident in which Ridley, off-duty and in plain clothes, struggled to recover his gun from the person committing the assault.

A temporary plaque memorializing Ridley has been installed in front of the building at a plaza named in his honor since 2008. At the time the intention was to erect a permanent memorial. That promise will finally be fulfilled, said Legislator Lyndon Williams (D- Mount Vernon).



Detective Christopher Ridley

"He could have walked away – he was not on duty – and he would probably be alive today, but he was not that kind of a young man," Williams said of Ridley, who

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Many attend annual reading of Declaration of Independence at St. Paul's Church on July 4

Story by Joe Parisi

Intense heat and humidity couldn't prevent freedom from ringing on Wednesday, July 4, as the annual reading of the Declaration of Independence kicked off the 136th Fourth of July Independence Day Celebration for the nearly 200 hundred in attendance at St. Paul's Church in Mount Vernon.

The Mistress of Ceremonies for the historic ceremony was Kristyn Briez Reed, Director of the Mount Vernon Veteran Service Agency (VSA). She was filling in for longtime Mistress of Ceremonies, Rosemarie Cornacchio, who was unable to attend due to a personal family matter.

Like throughout the entire country, patriotism is at an all-time high in Mount Vernon, prompting nearly 200 participants to



John P. Banning, Jr. reading the Declaration of Independence

Continued on page 7

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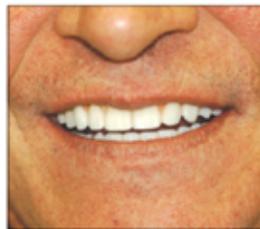
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Mt. Vernon City Council meeting turns raucous over sewers lawsuit



A somber Mayor Thomas, accompanied by his wife, waiting to speak to the City Council

It was not business as usual at the last tension filled and raucous scheduled City Council meeting held Wednesday night, July 11.

The chambers was hot and uncomfortable and an angry endless line of speakers pretty much beset members of the City Council and the mayor for not doing their job concerning the lawsuit filed against the city over faulty sewers.

"I think a lot of people would step up to the plate but they are frustrated by the infighting. I do not want to be a part of that. I want to be a part of progress," said one concerned woman.

'Both sides need to give a little. But with

this back and forth, we cannot move forward," emphasized another woman.

One man actually heatedly criticized Councilman Andre Wallace by stating, "You need to reevaluate your position as a City Councilman. You are an independent contractor and yet you are doing work for the school district. You are violating the City Charter in case you don't know it," said one angry man. His comments triggered immediate low tone mumbling from the standing room only crowd.

In one instance an argument developed and one individual started cursing and had to be restrained and physically ejected by the police.

Sadly, many are viewing the meeting as a circus and the finger pointing did not fail to end.

Council members once again stated that it is the responsibility of the mayor and Public Works to ensure that the sewers are working properly. "We have consistently attempted to communicate with the mayor's office on this matter but to no avail," said Wallace.

After the public speaking session ended, Mayor Thomas approached the microphone and spoke to the City Council and stated:

I would like to provide the City Council and our residents with some context around our sewer crisis.

Two weeks ago, the Department of Justice sued the city and Mount Vernon residents are facing crippling fines – between \$37,000 and \$54,000 a day.

Who is to blame? - Everyone and no one.

After 10 years of denial, we must finally face the facts.

The first fact is that we must comply with the Clean Water Act. The only negotiation with the EPA and DOJ is how long will compliance take and how much it will cost. On that point, the sooner we stop defying and denying ... and start complying, the better it will be for our city and taxpayers.

The job now is to move forward, and we have a plan to do that. To get started, the city must inspect 600,000 linear feet of sewers and drains. This will identify where the problems are and help us prioritize the fastest, cheapest and best way to get the work done and bring the city into compli-

ance.

If we act quickly and smartly, we can get the inspections done at a cost to taxpayers of only about \$200,000. But that requires the support of the City Council and City Comptroller.

We need to fund the following:

- A city engineer to oversee the inspections and the entire compliance plan.
- A DPW crew of four to be dedicated to the inspections.
- A Planning Commissioner to get the project under way.
- Two grant writers in the Planning Department to secure state and federal funds to offset the costs.

Add \$500,000 for specialized equipment and the cost for two years is \$1.8 million.

The city has already been awarded a \$1.6 million grant from the state Department of Environmental Conservation, which knocks down the cost to \$200,000 for our taxpayers.

But before the money can be disbursed, we need to have our plan and people – such as a city engineer in place so we can show the state that we have a detailed course of action for how and when the grant will be spent.

Once we get the first grant, we will be eligible for additional grants to offset the repair work.

Again, our plan needs the support of the City Council and City Comptroller. Legislation has been sent to the Council to fund these roles. Approval is needed on an expedited basis. The clock is working against us.

Wartburg's 6th Annual Jazz in June Gala raises over \$290,000

Wartburg, an award-winning provider of comprehensive senior residential and healthcare services, hosted their 6th annual Jazz in June – A Wartburg Celebration of Arts and Music gala on June 20, 2018 raising over \$290,000 to support Wartburg's internationally recognized, award-winning Creative Aging & Lifelong Learning program at Wartburg.

The event was held at the Surf Club on the Sound in New Rochelle, NY, with nearly 330 guests

and over 55 sponsors. This year's event included a moving story of triumph over adversity as blind Adult Day Care registrant, Rachel Gonzalez, described her experience in the Creative Aging program at Wartburg.

"We are so thankful for our generous supporters without whom we could not offer innovative arts-based therapy to all those entrusted to our care," said Angela Ciminello, Wartburg Vice President of Development and Marketing.

County faces a projected deficit for 2018 of \$28.7 million

Legislators are pledging to work with the County Executive to right Westchester's fiscal ship after auditors from PFK O'Connor Davies on Monday briefed the Board of Legislators' Budget and Appropriations Committee on Westchester County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2017.

The report, which was released by County Executive George Latimer on June 26, shows that the County ended 2017 with a \$32.2 million deficit, and faces a projected deficit for 2018 of \$28.7 million even before any money is budgeted for a settlement with the county's largest union, CSEA, who have been working without a contract for seven years.

Board Chair Ben Boykin (D – Harrison, Scarsdale, White Plains) said, "For years, I've warned about struc-

tural fiscal imbalances in County budgets. I and most of my Democratic colleagues voted against budgets under the prior County Executive that balanced the books with one-shot revenues, borrowings to pay for short-term operating expenses, and the depletion of departments necessary for the efficient operation of county government, all under the guise of 'no tax increases.' These unsustainable budgets left us with these large deficits and substantial reductions in the county's rainy-day funds. This cannot continue."

He added, "We have new leadership and a new majority at the Board, as well as a new County Executive. It is our joint responsibility to seek opportunities to increase revenue, control expenses and rebuild our fund balance, so we can leave this county better off tomorrow than it is today."

Longhorned tick found in Westchester County

The longhorned tick has arrived in Westchester County. The New York State Departments of Health and Agriculture & Markets confirmed the presence of this tick, whose scientific name is *Haemaphysalis longicornis* tick, in the county. The tick is native to Australia, New Zealand and eastern Asia, but has been found recently in New Jersey, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Arkansas and now New York.

While the longhorned tick has transmitted disease to humans in other parts of the world, more research is needed to determine whether this can happen in the United States. Health Commissioner Sherlita Amler, M.D., is once again advising Westchester residents to protect themselves, their farm animals and pets against ticks.

State Health Department research scientists collaborated with researchers at Fordham University and at the Lyme Disease Diagnostic Center of New York

Medical College to identify these ticks. The identifications were confirmed by the Rutgers University Center for Vector Biology and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

This tick is a concern for the agricultural industry because it may pose a threat to livestock. The state and county Health Departments advise farmers to work with their veterinarians to check their animals, particularly cattle, sheep and horses, for exposure to ticks and to ensure their parasite control plans are up to date and working. Symptoms of tick-borne disease in cattle include fever, lack of appetite, dehydration, weakness and labored breathing.

If longhorned ticks are suspected, farmers should consult with their veterinarians and can contact the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Division of Animal Industry at 518-457-3502 or dai@agriculture.ny.gov for more information.

Tick prevention and removal tips are available at health.westchestergov.com/news/alerts and include:

While hiking, working, or spending time in wooded areas:

- Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts to protect against ticks other biting insects.
- Check for ticks often while outdoors and brush off any ticks before they attach.
- Perform a full body check multiple times during the day as well as at the end of the day to ensure that no ticks are attached.
- Consider use of repellents containing DEET, picaridin or IR3535, following label instructions.

If you have been bitten by a tick of any kind, contact your health care provider immediately if you develop a rash or flu-like symptoms.

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.mvinqurer.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.

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Mayor Thomas starts new "Ask the Mayor" community meeting series



Mayor Thomas addressing a large group of residents during a community meeting

Mayor Thomas met with Mount Vernon homeowners at the home of Mount Vernon residents. The topic of conversation was the looming sewer crisis and what Mount Vernon must do to stave off crippling fines and penalties for decades of inaction regarding violations of the federal Clean Water Act.

Mayor Thomas laid out the next steps, and most importantly what the residents can do to compel the City Council and City Comptroller to fund the positions and pay the bills necessary to get the work done and show the DOJ and EPA that the city is serious about correcting these violations and complying fully with the federal consent decrees.

Mayor Thomas also spoke about all the positive things in Mount Vernon like rising home values, an over 30% drop in crime rates, new businesses investing in Mount Vernon, new smart LED streetlights being installed for virtually no cost to the city, and much more.

If you would like to host a community meeting or would like to get involved in the fight to fix the sewers, call 914-665-2362 or email Mayor Thomas at MayorThomas@cmvny.com.

City Council: "The United States Department of Justice sues Mt. Vernon"

The United States Department of Justice, Southern District of New York, today filed a lawsuit against the city of Mount Vernon for violating the Clean Water Act. The lawsuit alleges that the city has not prevented illegal and illicit discharge from flowing into the city's waterways.

This is a problem Mount Vernon has faced since 2012. For that reason, the City Council has been actively engaged in addressing the issue and has taken measures to fund two (2) major pieces

of equipment. The City Council has also provided funding to hire eight (8) additional employees in the Department of Public Works, specifically to build and to train a sewer team.

The City Council has done all it can; however, the day-to-day operations of the city are the responsibility of the mayor and his administration. For two (2) years the mayor has failed to communicate with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the progress that has been made to repair the city's sewer infrastructure. He has

also failed to present a plan/schedule to the EPA to come into compliance.

The Council has consistently attempted to communicate with the mayor's office on this matter but to no avail. While Mayor Thomas has been encouraging the DOJ to impose fines on the city and has requested for the DOJ to command the City Council and the comptroller to allocate tens of millions of dollars to repair the sewers, the City Council believes in resolving the matter in a method that is fiscally responsible and protects the taxpayers. The City

Council believes in a common-sense approach that will fund the work over time through bonds and the allocation of state and federal aid. Yet, aid cannot be applied for until there is a plan in place.

The mayor has been negligent in his responsibility as the chief executive officer of the city. He has failed to concentrate on the urgent issues facing Mount Vernon. His "fun mayor" tactics have jeopardized the safety, and possibly, the finances of the city.

ArtsWestchester announces grant to support community – based arts programs

The New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) once again has awarded ArtsWestchester a Decentralization grant to support community based arts throughout Westchester and Rockland Counties.

ArtsWestchester distributes these funds through their Arts Alive Grants program

to support cultural programs, individual artists, and arts-in education programs, with emphasis on emerging cultural organizations and making the arts accessible in areas where there are few cultural resources.

There will be a series of pre-application workshops conducted throughout West-

chester and Rockland Counties to help potential applicants understand and prepare competitive proposal.

More information is available on their website artsw.org/artsalive.

Mt. Vernon City School District Nelson Mandela/Zollicoffer High School grads receive their diplomas



Nelson Mandela/ Zollicoffer High School graduates prepare for their commencement ceremony

Thirty-eight graduating seniors accepted their diplomas from Mount Vernon City School District Superintendent Dr. Kenneth R. Hamilton at this year's Nelson Mandela/Zollicoffer High School commencement ceremony, which was held at AB Davis Middle School.

Twenty-three of the graduates will be attending college in the fall, with students accepted to Berkeley College, Purchase College, Dutchess Community College, LaGuardia Community College, SUNY Broome, SUNY Sullivan and Westchester Community College. The graduating class included recipients of more than \$15,000 in scholarships awarded by colleges, as well as organizations including the Mount Vernon Federation of Teachers, the PTSA and the Church of Ascension.

Valedictorian Queen Boswell and Salutatorian Shaquan Lowe addressed their classmates and gathered attendees reflecting on the time they've spent at Mandela and the bonds they've created with fellow students. They also urged their peers to be the authors of their own futures, with Boswell offering three specific tips.

"Stay out of your comfort zone," she said. "Put what you believe in first; don't

waste your time with things outside of your vision, and surround yourself with ambitious, hardworking people."

Lowe took the opportunity to urge his classmates to avoid complacency and be proactive to achieve the things they dream of. "The future isn't something that happens to us," he said. "It's ours to make!"

Lowe's echoed an earlier sentiment shared by the Honorable Mayor Richard Thomas in his mayoral address. "Remain woke," the mayor told the students. "Know that this world is yours; you just have to go on and take it."

Dr. Hamilton encouraged the students to stand up to injustice and make a difference at a challenging time in our country. "As young people, you are positioned and poised to be policy makers and policy influencers and people who can make a difference. I encourage you to use the power of your voice."

This year's Mount Vernon City School District Superintendent's Academic Achievement Awards went to Boswell and Lowe, who also each received a mayoral award. Nala Parks was honored by Dr. Hamilton with the Most Improved Student Award, and also performed a vocal solo as part of the commencement ceremony.

Continued from page 1

was 23 at the time. "If Christopher had walked away, the person who was being brutally assaulted would have probably been murdered or seriously injured. This memorial matters because it's important for people in the general public to know that people make sacrifices for others."

The measure - approved unanimously by the board, sets aside \$150,000 for the design and construction of a fitting memorial. The county will work with Ridley's family to decide what form the memorial will take.

Most important to Detective Ridley's father, Stanley Ridley, is that the memorial should be one that reminds people of the circumstances of his son's death.

"Number one, people don't know; and number two, people forget. I can't. Will never," said Stanley Ridley.

"This tragic incident happened and it just went from doing a good deed to people not realizing that [Christopher] was trying to help people," Ridley said.

Mr. Ridley said he hopes a memorial will serve as part of a dialogue. "There needs to be a message kept for us to dwell on, but you can't dwell on it if you don't know the story," he said.

Ridley said that he hopes some of the money will be used not only for a memorial but also to "refresh" the plaza that bears his son's name in front of 85 Court Street.

Are you entitled to unclaimed funds?



Comptroller DiNapoli presents members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority with unclaimed funds check for \$600 at the 2018 Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Conference.

You may be entitled to some of the over \$10.5 billion in unclaimed funds in New York State. A simple Internet search is all it takes to see if you are eligible. To see if you have any unclaimed funds, go to <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/ouf/index.htm>. Why does New York State have unclaimed funds? Banks, insurance companies, utilities, investment companies and many other businesses are required by State law to turn over inactive accounts to the State. The Office of the State Comptroller then serves as the custodian of this money until it is claimed.

What are some types of unclaimed funds? Unclaimed funds are money or the rights to money that have been dormant or forgotten. Some common examples include: savings accounts, checking accounts, uncashed checks, telephone/utility deposits, rental security deposits,

wages, insurance benefits/policies, safe deposit box contents, mortgage insurance refunds, stocks and dividends, mutual funds, certificates of deposit, trust funds, and estate proceed.

How can I search to see if I am entitled to unclaimed funds? To see if there are unclaimed funds in your name, visit the New York State Comptroller's website and conduct a search by going to <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/ouf/index.htm>. There is no charge to search or file a claim to recover unclaimed funds. Where can I get more information about filing a claim for unclaimed funds?

Go to <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/ouf/reqdoc.htm> for more information from the New York State Comptroller's website.

If you have any questions or need assistance, you may contact the Office of the State Comptroller at 1-800-221-9311 or via email by NYSOUF@osc.state.ny.us.

Continued from page 1

attend the celebration held on the Old Village Green at St. Paul's National Historic Site.

Originally located on the Village Green of the Town of Eastchester, St. Paul's Church is famous for its connection to the patriotic printer, John Peter Zenger, and the establishment of an American free

press. Zenger was tried in 1773 for publishing allegedly seditious accounts of an election. His exoneration helped establish American concepts and laws regarding freedom of the press.

Prior to the annual reading of the Declaration of Independence by John P. Banning, Jr., a ceremony was held that in-



A patriotic young lady waving an American flag



The color guard at the start of the ceremony



The Peter Lawrence Jazz Band provided musical entertainment



The guests waiting for the ceremony to start



Dr. David Osborn



The Mistress of Ceremonies for the historic ceremony was Kristyn Briez Reed

cluded the presentation of a wreath placed at the foot of the flagpole on the Old Village Green by Mayor Richard Thomas and Alison Leigh Cowan.

St. Paul's Administrator Report was

provided by Dr. David Osborn, who spoke about the history of the church's bell, which has a connection to the Liberty Bell.

Mayor Thomas had the distinction of introducing the keynote speaker, Alison

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Mayor Richard Thomas and Alison Leigh Cowan laying a wreath at the flagpole

Leigh Cowan, a prize-winning writer and researcher who spent 27 years on staff at The New York Times. During her speech she focused on Deborah Sampson, a woman who disguised herself as a man and fought as a soldier in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. She was one of only a small number of women who fought in the Revolutionary War and was later awarded a pension for her military service.

John P. Banning, Jr. read the Declaration of Independence as his father and

grandfather had done before him. And the church tower bell tolled 13 times as he read the signatures of the representatives of the original 13 American colonies, declaring themselves sovereign and independent states.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, refreshments were served and free tours of the historic church, built in 1787, and its Bill of Rights Museum were available to the guests.

The Peter Lawrence Jazz Band provided musical entertainment.

Mt. Vernon purchases latest weapon in the war on potholes



Mayor Thomas standing by the newly acquired specialized truck that will be used to attack potholes

Coming soon to a street near you - the "Pothole Posse" is back and stronger than ever!

Mount Vernon's newest addition is a specialized truck that can attack potholes all year round. In the past, pothole repair operations required warmer temperatures due to the cold patch as-

phalt mix used. This newly acquired vehicle has specialized capabilities including a 6-ton capacity hot asphalt mix that can repair larger sections of potholes in warm and cold weather.

The city is seeking to purchase additional trucks in the near future.

Rift over sewers between Mayor Thomas and City Council escalates



Richard St. Paul, an attorney the City Council has retained to represent them, speaking during press conference.

Members of the Mount Vernon City Council held a press conference at Mount Vernon City Hall (rotunda) on Tuesday, July 3, to apprise the public about a complaint filed against Mount Vernon by the United States Department of Justice, Southern District of New York, and the New York Attorney General. Both agencies allege that the city has not prevented illegal and illicit discharge from flowing into the city's waterways.

Acting as the spokesperson for the City Council was Councilman Andre Wallace, who filled in for Council President Lisa Copeland who was out of town.

According to the United States Department of Justice lawsuit against Mount Vernon, for years the City of Mount Vernon has discharged raw sewage and other illicit pollutants from its storm sewer system into the Hutchinson and Bronx Rivers. These illegal discharges result from Mount Vernon's failure to comply with Clean Water Act storm sewer permit requirements, including the obligation to protect water quality by developing and enforcing a program to eliminate the discharge of unpermitted pollutants from its storm sewer system.

The seriousness of the lawsuit prompted the City Council to retain the services of an attorney who specializes in this area, and he spoke at length during the press conference.

According to Councilwoman Copeland, this is a problem Mount Vernon has faced since 2012.

"The City Council has been actively engaged in addressing the issue and has taken measures to fund two (2) major pieces of equipment. The City Council has also provided funding to hire eight (8) additional employees in the Department of Public Works, specifically to build and to train a sewer team," said Copeland.

"The City Council has done all it can - however, the day-to-day operations of the

city are the responsibility of the mayor and his administration. For two (2) years the mayor has failed to communicate with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the progress that has been made to repair the city's sewer infrastructure. He has also failed to present a plan/schedule to the EPA to come into compliance. The Council has consistently attempted to communicate with the mayor's office on this matter but to no avail," added Copeland.

After the conclusion of the City Council press conference, Mayor Thomas held a press conference as well.

"To stave off crippling fines and tax hikes, I have asked the City Comptroller and City Council to approve funding - a net cost of \$122,000 for taxpayers - for the jobs and equipment needed to bring Mount Vernon's sewers into compliance with federal regulations. But, progress on correcting violations has been impeded by a lack of funding by the City Council and City Comptroller," said Mayor Thomas.

"Compliance can be achieved within 18 to 24 months if the City Council and City Comptroller pay for the necessary resources, which includes equipment purchases and funding the Planning Commissioner, City Engineer, a four-person crew for the Department of Public Works, and two grant writers in the Planning Department. The total cost is \$1.8 million, but the net cost to taxpayers would only be \$122,000, after \$1.6 million is offset by a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and \$114,000 in current vacancy savings."

Mayor Thomas said he was asking the City Council and comptroller to work with him so that the city could quickly show the DOJ that it was making measurable progress toward compliance. He urged residents to attend City Council meetings to voice support for taking immediate action to achieve an affordable solution.

Westchester Community College adds three trustees



County Clerk Timothy C. Itoni administering the oath of office to Deborah S. Raizes and Dr. Gregory Robeson Smith while Elizabeth Lugones, Robin Bikkal, and Westchester Community College President Belinda S. Miles look on.

The Westchester Community College Board of Trustees has added three new members:

Elizabeth Lugones has been selected as the student representative to the college's Board of Trustees. Her goal is to graduate from the college with a degree in Engineering Science and then move on to a master's program before entering the industry.

Deborah S. Raizes is a senior consultant for Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, Ltd., which specializes in searches for administrators, including superintendents, at public schools. Prior to this position, she was a teacher for the Durham County Schools in Durham, North Carolina.

She has a significant record of voluntary public service in the field of education. Highlights include her affiliation with the

Westchester Community College Foundation Board for which she has served in a variety of roles including member, chairperson, and president. She has also served as vice chairperson and chairperson for the Lesley University Board of Trustees. She is currently a member of the Board of Trustees for this private institution in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In addition to her work with Westchester Community College Foundation, her local impact has been significant through her involvement with the Scarsdale School System. She served as president of the Scarsdale Council of Parent Teacher Associations, was a member of the Westchester-Putnam School Board Association, and was a member of the New York State School Board Association. For the Scarsdale Board of Education, she held several roles ranging from member to vice president and president.

A member of the Institutional Review Board of the White Plains Hospital Center, she received her B.S. in Education from Lesley College. She was recognized by the Westchester Community College Foundation, which bestowed the Abeles Award to her due to her commitment to public service. She also received the Lesley College Community Service Award.

Dr. Gregory Robeson Smith is the senior pastor of the Mt. Hope A.M.E. Zion Church, the oldest African-American congregation in Westchester County. He is the president of the Mt. Hope Community De-

velopment Corporation; Prince Hall Housing Development Fund Inc.; and Prince Hall Fund Inc., a multi-million dollar non-for-profit 501(c)3 Foundation providing program funds/grants to assist the poor, distressed, and underprivileged. In 1990, he was appointed by President Bush as president and chief executive officer of the African Development Foundation, an independent Federal agency in Washington, D.C., with offices in 25 African nations and a staff of more than 3,000 individuals. Dr. Smith continued to serve in this position in the Clinton Administration. The agency assists the most vulnerable members of society with grants for technical assistance and capacity building to grassroots organizations, cooperatives, and community enterprises that strengthen local institutions and achieve lasting impact. He also has served as Director of International Disaster Response for Church World Service, an entity of the National Council of Churches.

A graduate with honors from Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina, Dr. Smith also earned two Masters and two Doctoral degrees: MBA Degree in Marketing and Finance; a Master of Divinity Degree; Doctorate in Higher Education Administration and Finance ABD; and a Doctorate in Ministries.

Dr. Smith is the grandnephew of the late Paul Robeson, the renowned singer and activist.

Developer awarded \$2.6 million for failed supermarket in Fleetwood

In a stinging rebuke of actions taken by former Mayor Clinton Young, an arbitrator has ordered the City of Mount Vernon to pay Salvatore Gizzo \$2.6 million in connection with the bankruptcy of his failed supermarket development in Fleetwood.

In 2009, former Mayor Young and members of the City Council encouraged Gizzo to abandon his steakhouse at 42 West Broad Street and convert it to a supermarket. Promises were made, but not kept.

The supermarket opened in 2010 but filed bankruptcy a year later. In 2016, Judge Linda Jamieson squarely placed the blame on former Mayor Young ruling the assertion "that the City did not do any of the tasks that it was supposed to do" was "without contradiction."

On Friday, the arbitrator, former Supreme Court Justice Betty Weinberg Eller-in placed the damages for city's "breach and non-performance of its contractual obligations" at \$2.6 million.

"Actions have consequences and in this case, the failure of former Mayor Young and the City Council to live up to their commitments sent a local business into bankruptcy and will now cost residents millions of dollars," said Mayor Richard

Thomas. "The story is one of municipal malpractice and a past that cannot be allowed to be repeated."

The city is reviewing its options as to whether the judgment is appealable. Payments in these types of cases are typically financed by issuing long-term bonds. Despite the size of the judgment, Mayor Thomas credited the city's law team for avoiding a jury award that might have been higher.

The arbitrator gave Gizzo about \$1.2 million less than he had been seeking.

Mayor Thomas said the one silver lining in the case is that the ill-fated supermarket is now the site of a \$90 million, 16-story, transit-oriented development with 249 market-rate apartments, which are a short walk to the Fleetwood train station, and 20,000 sq. ft. of retail.

"On this project, we are paying close attention to the details and communicating with all the stakeholders involved - neighbors, merchants, developers and all interested residents," Mayor Thomas said. "My administration is working hard to bring in new revenues to keep Mount Vernon affordable. This is how we offset the cost of this inherited judgment on the wallets of our residents."

Cognitive Behavioral Consultants Will Offer OCD Summer Intensive for Teens

Cognitive Behavioral Consultants (CBC) will conduct a Summer Intensive program on skills to overcome Obsessive Compulsive Disorder or OCD in August. The program will be led by Dr. Constance Dekis and Dr. Lata K. McGinn for youth ages 12 to 17. The program offers four full days of research-supported skills to help youth enhance their motivation to overcome OCD and set goals, modify the unhelpful thinking patterns that torment them, and confront and overcome the unhelpful, repetitive behaviors that create misery for sufferers. There is also a parent orientation during which parents will learn about OCD and the program, and will learn skills to help their child or adolescent maximize their gains in the program.

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

(OCD) is a mental health disorder that affects people of all ages and walks of life and occurs when a person gets caught in a cycle of obsessions and compulsions. Obsessions are unwanted, intrusive thoughts, images or urges that trigger intensely distressing feelings. Compulsions are unhelpful repetitive behaviors and mental acts used by individuals in an effort to overcome the distress they experience from their obsessions.

The OCD Intensive will take place Monday, August 20th through Thursday, August 23rd, 2018 from 10:00am to 3:00pm each day. Parents night is Thursday, August 16th from 6:30-8 pm. For more information or to sign up, please contact Dr. Michelle Greenberg 914-385-1150, option 1 or email mgreenberg@cbc-psychology.com www.cbc-psychology.com.



"Mount Vernon Department of Recreation Activities"



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK
MAYOR RICHARD THOMAS
MOUNT VERNON DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION
DR. DARREN M. MORTON, COMMISSIONER
SYLVIA GADSON, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
RIC WRIGHT, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS PROGRAMS & SERVICES

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CITY OF MOUNT VERNON MAYOR RICHARD THOMAS PRESENTS

SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR

MOUNT VERNON MOVIE NIGHTS

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY AT 8:30PM
LOT #11 ACROSS FROM FOODTOWN - PROSPECT & N 3RD AVE

SUMMER BREEZE CONCERTS

EVERY OTHER THURSDAY AT 7PM
MOUNT VERNON CITY HALL - 1 ROOSEVELT SQ

POP-UP BBQ'S

SATURDAYS FROM JUL-AUG
CHECK FB.COM/MAYORRICHARDTHOMAS FOR UPDATES

MOUNT VERNON CITY FEST

SATURDAY, SEPT 15 AT 2PM
250 GRAMATAN AVE (NEAR HARTLEY PARK)

MOUNT VERNON'S FRESH MARKET

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY FROM 4PM-6PM
LOT #11 ACROSS FROM FOODTOWN - PROSPECT & N 3RD AVE

TEENS IN ACTION SUMMER CAMP

STARTS JULY 9TH
CALL MV RECREATION TO SIGN UP (914) 665-2420

WAVY WEDNESDAYS

JULY 11TH - AUGUST 22ND - WEDNESDAYS FROM 11AM TO 2:00PM
WILSON WOODS POOL - 8 BRADFORD RD
CALL MV RECREATION TO SIGN UP (914) 665-2420

FIFA WORLD CUP GAMES

MULTIPLE NIGHTS FROM JUN-JUL
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CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK
MAYOR RICHARD THOMAS
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8/16 - CHERYL PEPSII RILEY

8/30 - BATTLE OF THE BANDS!!!!

**HOSTS TO INCLUDE /WBLB BOB LEE, JEFF FOXX,
TALENT AND KELLY KELZ**

FOR INFO CALL: 914.665.2420



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MAYOR RICHARD THOMAS
MOUNT VERNON DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION
DR. DARREN M. MORTON, COMMISSIONER - SYLVIA GADSON, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER



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FRIDAY • AUGUST 10TH // 8:30PM

LOT 11

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YOU CAN BRING A CHAIR OR DRIVE-IN

MOUNT VERNON CITYFEST

2018-SEPT-15 AT 2:00 GRAMATAN AVE

SAVE THE DATE



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MAYOR RICHARD THOMAS
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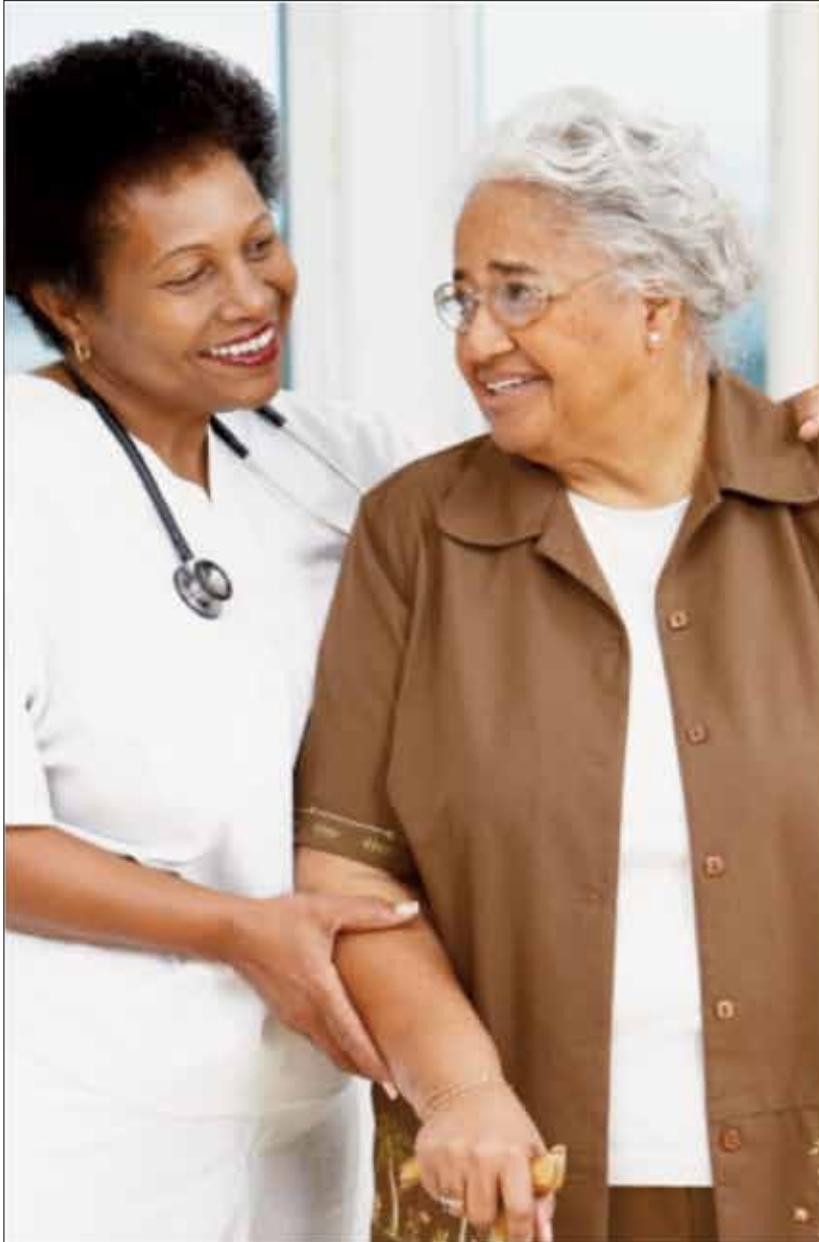
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Dialysis Program now available at Westchester Center in Mt. Vernon

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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.

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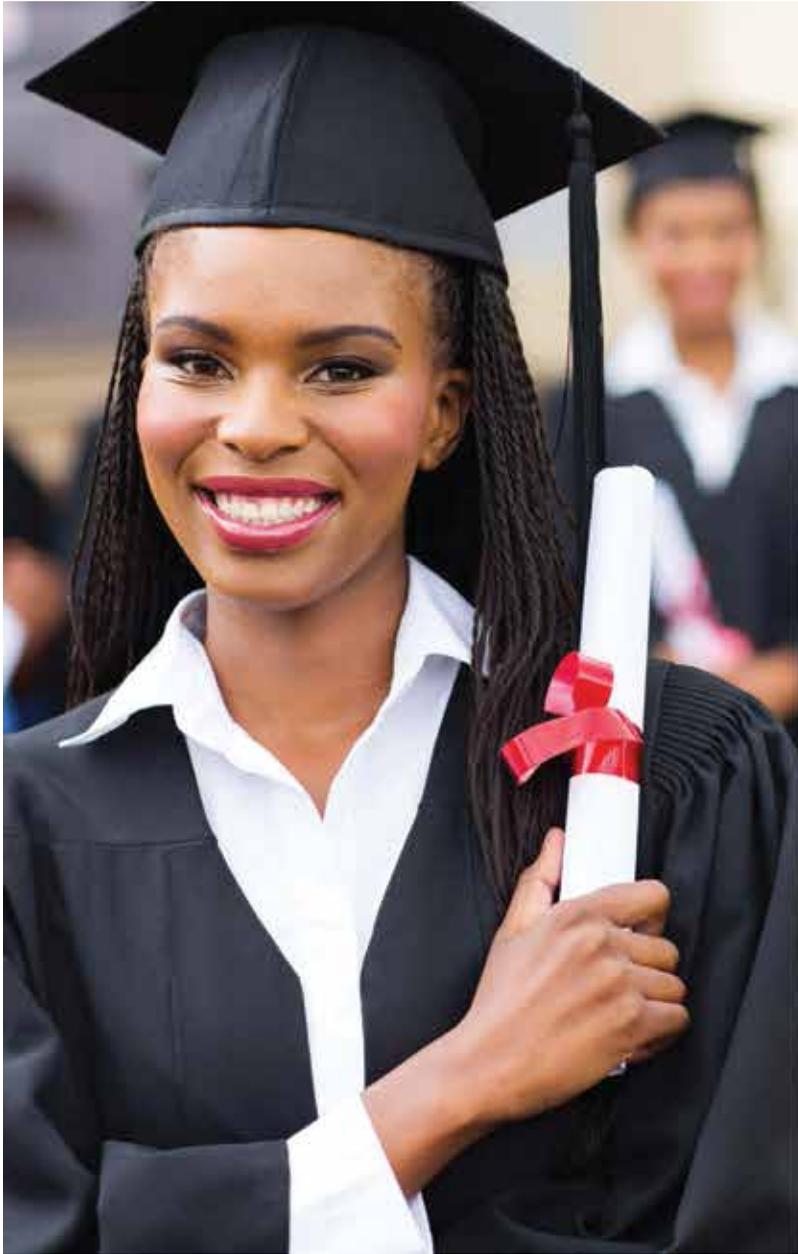
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At The Westchester Center, we are dedicated to creating a sensitive, nurturing and comfortable home where each patient and resident receives personalized care and attention. We take pride in our resident-centered philosophy and approach to care. Whether 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



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“Family Fun Day” at the Westchester Center a total success



Residents and staff at the Westchester Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing in Mount Vernon held their annual “Family Fun Day” on Saturday, July 7, and it was a total success.

Located at 10 Claremont Avenue, the popular facility, as in previous years, held a ‘finger licking’ barbecue that was enjoyed by over 200 people in attendance.

Those in attendance, which included many children, enjoyed an assortment of

wonderful food, a free Zumba class, face painting, cotton candy, many giveaways, raffles and the wonderful sounds of a DJ.

As in previous years, family members were extremely impressed and praised the staff for putting together such a festive day at the popular facility, nestled in a quiet and private area of Mount Vernon.

An excellent DJ kept the atmosphere upbeat as some of the residents and guests danced to the sounds of the music.

The scent of chicken, hotdogs and



hamburgers from a large barbecue grill filled the air as dozens of children were kept busy enjoying the many games and treats that the facility provided to keep them busy.

Body painting is always popular with kids, and many kids stood on line to have their faces painted, while others were busy eating cotton candy, dancing, and

enjoying a variety of carnival games and art projects made available to them by the staff.

While the kids were kept busy, the adults spent treasured moments with their loved ones residing at the Westchester Center.

The annual event certainly helps to enrich the lives of the residents, and it was evident by the look on their faces.

Continued on page 17

Continued from page 16



Building on a tradition of excellence, The Westchester Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing features not only the highest quality of nursing and clinical care, but also creates an outstanding quality of life for its residents. At The Westchester Center, the joy of life is plain to see. The staff

is dedicated to maintaining a sensitive, nurturing and comfortable environment where each resident and patient receives personalized care and attention.

If you or a loved one wants a tour of the Westchester Center, please call Gail Whitter at 914.699.1600.

Mount Vernon resident named as a 2018 Maverik National Lacrosse All-Star



Jessye Salmon is a goalie

Jessye Salmon, daughter of Philip and Lisa Salmon of Mount Vernon, NY, a rising freshman at the Hackley School in Tarrytown, NY has been named as a 2018 Maverik National Lacrosse All-Star and has been selected to attend the Maverik National Lacrosse Academy to be held July 16-19, 2018 in Frederica, Delaware at the DE Turf Sportsplex.

Jessye is a goalie and has played for the Hackley Hornets middle school team and for the Snipes Elite club team in Westchester County, NY.

The Maverik National Lacrosse Acad-

emy brings the top youth lacrosse players in the United States and Canada to one venue, where regional teams, coached by NCAA lacrosse coaches, compete to become the 2018 National Champion.

The Maverik National Lacrosse Academy is the first-of-its-kind lacrosse experience created to provide a curriculum focused on how a young lacrosse athlete should develop in order to compete at a top high school and collegiate lacrosse program.

Follow the Maverik National Lacrosse Academy, visit <http://www.nationallacrosseclassic.com>

WCC names new Vice President and Dean of Administrative Services



Brian Murphy has been named the college's Vice President and Dean of Administrative Services.

An executive with a considerable background in higher education finance, he has earned a number of degrees relating to the field. He attained his Master of Science in Education in Higher Education Administration from Baruch College, Master of Business Administration in Finance and Management from the University of Cincinnati, and Bachelor of Science in Finance and Economics from the University of Dayton. He also studied at the Institute of Educational Manage-

ment at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education.

Most recently, he served as Finance Director at the New York Structural Biology Center at City College/CUNY. Previously, he held various other roles with CUNY including Executive Director of the Finance and Business Operations at Hunter College, Assistant Vice President for Finance at Queens College, and Assistant Vice President for Budget and Planning at Queens College. In addition, he was the Executive Director of Accounting and Finance, Student and Administrative Services, for Columbia University and Business Manager and Senior Business Manager with the Time Warner Book Group/Hachette Book Group USA in Manhattan.

Westchester County Department of Planning launches Community Liaison initiative

July 26, 2018 -- As part of Westchester County Executive George Latimer's ongoing initiative to keep open lines of communication between the County and local municipalities, Latimer launched the Community Liaison initiative through the County Department of Planning. The program provides a link between the County Planning Department and local municipalities to help them meet their needs, including planning and zoning, grant applications, identifying best practices and providing referrals to other County government services.

Latimer said: "This Community Liaison initiative ties directly into my Good Neighbor Policy, in keeping an open line of communication between County government and our 45 municipalities. I want our local communities to feel like they are supported, and can get the answers that they need about government services and best practices."

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Planning Norma Drummond said: "This initiative benefits everyone involved. The Planning Department staff all volunteered to take on the various communities they had knowledge of, and are looking forward to expanding that knowledge and establishing a working relationship with each municipality."



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Richard Thomas
Mayor

Chantelle L. Okarter, Esq.
Commissioner

Public Hearing Notice

CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, NY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

2018-2019 Community Development Block Annual Action Plan 30 day Public Comment Period

THE City of Mount Vernon, NY will hold a public hearing and public comment period for the CDBG Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. As a recipient of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, the City is required to update the Action Plan on an annual basis. The Action Plan outlines proposed activities to be funded under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) CDBG programs.

30-Day Public Comment Period

The required 30-day public comment period for the 2018-2019 Annual Action Plan will begin July 6, 2018, and will end August 6, 2018. The draft document will be available for public review upon request at the Urban Renewal Agency at: 1 Roosevelt Square, Mount Vernon, NY. The draft is also posted on the City's website: www.cmvny.com/cdbg. Written comments regarding the draft Annual Action Plan may be submitted to the attention of Dom McCoy at: dmccoy@cmvny.com. All written comments must be received by the City by 12pm on August 6, 2018.

2018-2019 Action Plan Public Hearing Notice

The City of Mount Vernon, NY invites citizens, public agencies and other interested parties to participate in the development of the City's 2018 HUD Annual Action Plan by attending a public hearing on August 2, 2018 from 5:00pm – 7:00pm at Mount Vernon City Hall (1 Roosevelt Square, Mount Vernon, NY 10550).

All citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties may either attend this hearing or provide written comments. Persons requiring assistance due to hearing, speech, or vision impairments should notify the Mount Vernon Urban Renewal Agency. Phone: 914-699-7230.

The 2018 CDBG Annual Action Plan is available at: www.cmvny.com/cdbg

**Department of Planning &
Community Development**

City Hall - Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, New York 10550-2060
(914) 699-7230

Richard Thomas
Mayor

Chantelle L. Okarter, Esq.
Commissioner

Aviso de Audiencia Pública

CIUDAD DE MOUNT VERNON, NY**2018-2019 CDBG PLAN DE ACCIÓN ANUAL
AVISO DEL PERÍODO DE COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS DE 30 DÍAS Y LA AUDIENCIA
PÚBLICA**

ESTE ES UN AVISO que La ciudad de Mount Vernon, NY llevará a cabo una audiencia pública y un período de comentarios públicos para el Plan de Acción Anual de CDBG para el año fiscal 2018-2019.

El Plan de Acción diseña las actividades propuestas a ser financiadas bajo los programas de CDBG del Departamento de la Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD).

COMENTARIOS PÚBLICOS DE 30 DÍAS

El período requerido de comentarios públicos de 30 días para el Plan de Acción Anual 2018-2019 comenzará el 6 de Julio de 2018 y finalizará el 6 de Agosto de 2018.

El documento preliminar estará disponible en la Agencia de Renovación Urbana (en el segundo piso del la alcaldía de Mount Vernon). El reporte preliminar también se publicará en el sitio web de la Ciudad: www.cmvny.com/cdbg. Los comentarios escritos sobre el reporte del Plan de Acción Anual se pueden presentar a la atención de Dom McCoy por correo electronico: dmccoy@cmvny.com. La Ciudad debe recibir todos los comentarios por escrito a las 12 p.m. del 6 de Agosto de 2018.

Audiencia Pública del Plan de Acción 2018-2019

La ciudad de Mount Vernon, NY invita a ciudadanos, agencias públicas y otras partes interesadas a participar en el desarrollo del Plan de Acción Anual del Departamento de la Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD) para el 2018 de la ciudad asistiendo a una audiencia pública el 2 de Agosto de 2018 de 5:00 pm a 7:00 pm en la alcaldía de Mount Vernon (1 Roosevelt Square, Mount Vernon, NY 10550).

En el año fiscal 2018, a la ciudad se le asignaron \$1,633,848 en fondos de la Subvención en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG) y \$467,855 en fondos del Programa de Alianzas para la Inversión HOME.

Todos los ciudadanos, agencias públicas y otras partes interesadas pueden asistir a esta audiencia o proporcionar comentarios por escrito. Las personas que requieran asistencia debido a discapacidades auditivas, del habla o de la vista deben notificar a la Agencia de Renovación Urbana de Mount Vernon. Teléfono: 914-699-7230.

El Plan de Acción Anual de CDBG para el año fiscal 2018 está disponible aquí:
www.cmvny.com/cdbg.



Authentic Puerto Rican Recipes

Carne Guisada

2½ lbs. beef stew meat
1 medium onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, diced
salt & pepper to taste
Enough water to cover meat

* Boil these ingredients for at least 2 hours until meat is tender.
Once this is done add the rest of the ingredients below.

1 (8 ounce) can tomato sauce
½ cup sofrito sauce
1 packet Sazón seasoning
2 cups peeled, cubed potatoes
½ cup peeled, cubed yautía
½ cup peeled, cubed yuca (remove center core)
1 carrot, diced
½ cup olives with pimientos
1 tbsp. cappers
Add more water to cover all ingredients

Once the rest of the ingredients are added, bring to a boil and cook another 30 minutes or so until vegetables are done. If you can't find yautía or yuca don't worry, just use the potatoes.

Serve with rice and tostones.
How easy is that? Doesn't take much effort, just put on the stove and dice some veggies.

Camp Morty celebrates "sibling week"

Camp Morty, a program that offers a traditional camp experience for underprivileged children residing in Westchester County, celebrated "sibling week" recently. "Sibling week" is an opportunity for brothers and sisters who are separated in the foster care system to reunite and have a weeklong experience centered on having fun.

County Executive George Latimer, who joined the children for some fun and games, praised the program and its importance: "What happens at Camp Morty is special – especially sibling week. To see these children, who have been through so much, be able to try to put that all aside for a period of time and just enjoy the

company of their family, others going through what they are feeling, and the wonderful staff whose number one goal is to make them feel at home is inspiring."

Camp Morty, celebrating its 11th summer season, is a sleep-away camp, which is housed at Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park in North Salem. The camp's mission is solely dedicated to providing the camp experience to children who come from homeless shelters, the foster care system, and public assistance. The camp is funded and administered by the Westchester County Parks Department, Department of Community Mental Health, Department of Social Services, and the Westchester Parks Foundation.

EDUCATION COLUMN

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

Tips for the New Year

August has arrived. What happened to July? Before we know it, September will be here and a new school year will begin. I hope that during the past few weeks you have encouraged your children to indulge in the adventure of reading. I hope that you have taken the time to read with them.

Many children ease into the new school year with no trouble. Others may need more support and encouragement. Now that August has arrived, begin to think about ways you can help your children start the year with confidence and free from anxiety. So, I am going to give you a little homework.

Children come into the new year with a new teacher who may know very little about them. If your children have special needs, if they need a little more attention, it may be beneficial to you and the teacher to meet before the year begins. Parents have told me that they don't want to "bother" the teacher. It is no bother! This is intelligent, proactive intervention. When parents share crucial information with a teacher, children can begin the year with a positive, productive foundation. Remember, the more knowledge you have of your children's needs and how to address issues, the more successful the teacher will be in helping them succeed.

Make a list of some problems that may occur, e.g., inattention, inability to complete assignments, difficulty processing information and inability to work in a large group. Providing this information not only gives the teacher insight into how your children learn, it also gives them an opportunity to prepare her plans for addressing problems before they

occur.

Make another list of all the strategies that helped your children succeed, e.g., shortening assignments, clarifying directions, small group instruction. You may also include strategies that did not work. Remember, when we teach children the way they learn, everyone wins!

If your children have an I.E.P. or a 504 plan, review these documents. Know the goals and objectives, the modifications and accommodations that are recommended for your children. When you understand the academic prescription in these documents, you will be able to monitor compliance and your children's progress.

Now, armed with all this information, you are ready to meet with the new teacher to plan strategies for a successful year. Don't hesitate. I remember one parent who came to every meeting with a thick binder containing diagnostic test results, Individual Education Plans, notes from doctors, communications from teachers, and her child's work. This was a mother who did not hesitate to advocate for her child. Everyone listened and her son received the services he needed. As a first grader, he could not remember the alphabet. Now he is a successful high school student!

If you have not yet started to review some skills with your children, now is a good time to begin. If your children need additional help, find a good tutor who understands their needs. Activate their minds. A ten week vacation from learning is a long time.

In the meantime, enjoy these wonderful summer days, laugh a lot and build happy memories.



Alternative Medicine Options by Joe Parisi

Drinking too much soda can kill you!

Drinking too much soda can cause an array of negative effects in your body, even if you drink diet soda. Carbonated soda drinks do not contain any beneficial nutrients, but typically contribute excessive calories and sugar to your diet. Start swapping out one soda per day for a bottle of water. Many varieties of water are carbonated and flavored to mimic soda, without providing all of the unnecessary calories and sugar.

Weight Gain

If you drink only soda as your beverage of choice, you may be at risk for weight gain. Consuming an extra 3,500 calories leads to 1 pound of weight gain, explains the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For example, if you drink five 100-calorie sodas per day totaling 500 calories, you can gain 1 pound in a week. Start by exchanging one soda per day for a glass of water. This cuts out around 700 calories from your diet per week, which may help with weight loss if you continue to eliminate soda drinks. Since water is calorie-free, you can drink as much as you want without worrying about weight gain. Flavor your water with fresh mint leaves, lemon wedges or orange slices. These ingredients add plenty of flavor to your water, but contribute few, if any, calories.

Tooth Decay

Drinking soda can contribute to tooth decay and dental cavities. Sugary beverages coat your teeth, gums and tongue for hours after you drink them. This effect breaks down enamel on your teeth, making them more

susceptible to rotting. If you like to enjoy a soda here and there, drink it through a straw. This way, the beverage goes right into the back of your mouth and it is less likely to corrode your teeth. Water does not contribute to dental decay. In fact, water is fluoridated and actually helps strengthen your teeth

Dehydration

High levels of caffeine in some sodas may lead to dehydration. Caffeine is a natural diuretic and causes your body to excrete fluid through urine. Since caffeinated sodas can make you need to use the restroom frequently, do not consume them if you are exercising or if you live in a hot climate. You may be more likely to suffer from effects of dehydration, such as thirst and fatigue. Water has the opposite effect. Drinking water keeps you fully hydrated so you can drink it while working out or playing in the sun.

Other Concerns

The sugar in soda doesn't just affect your weight; it can affect how you feel as well. Because the sugar in soda is a simple sugar that absorbs extremely quickly, drinking soda leads to a spike in your blood sugar. Your body isn't naturally prepared to deal with this blood sugar spike, so it overcompensates; releasing hormones that make your blood sugar plunge too low. These spikes can crashes can make you feel tired, irritable and hungry — and if you have diabetes, they are dangerous. Water, on the other hand, has no sugar to raise your blood sugar levels, making it a healthier choice.

Press Release



This Fall, the current members of Atlantic Starr will return to their hometown of Greenburgh, NY, for a full blown live concert experience, in order to celebrate, "Atlantic Starr Day" for all of their peers, neighbors, fans and real music lovers.

On September 26 2015 The Greenburgh Town Board declared September 26th as "Atlantic Starr Day". Last year The Greenburgh Town Board re-named a section of Tarrytown Rd. (also known as Route 119) as "Atlantic Starr Boulevard". This year

on September 27 Atlantic Starr will be performing their classic soulful hits and a mele of songs from their newly released CD "Metamorphosis" in a live full blown concert at the DoubleTree Hotel Ballroom, 455 Tarrytown Rd, Tarrytown, N.Y. In addition to general admission seating there are special Platinum and Gold Level VIP seating and sponsorship packages available by calling First Choice Entertainment @ (914) 230-5002 or by emailing: firstchoiceentertainment914@gmail.com

Pelham Art Center - Fall Semester 2018

Pelham Art Center has released the Fall 2018 Semester of classes and workshops! Online Registration opens August 1, 2018. Classes begin the week of September 17th and run for 8-9 weeks.

Along with traditional painting, drawing and ceramic classes the Pelham Art Center offers many STEAM courses in the newly renovated Digital Media Lab. Classes for youth, teens, and adults in the Media Lab include: Scratch Coding on Monday afternoons with Patricia Pardini, Board Game Design with Luis Gondar and Digital Photography with Barry Mason on Tuesdays, Stop Motion Animation on Wednesdays with Frank Fanelli, Hand Animation – Creating Loops on Thursdays with the Nerdy Duo aka Erin Cardullo and Melissa Weiland, and 3D Print-

ing & Modeling on Saturdays with Frank Fanelli.

There is an open studio for painters on Friday afternoons for members who are currently enrolled in a course at the art center. This fall there will also be an open studio on Mondays focusing on encaustics which pairs nicely with the Fall Exhibition Waxing Poetic curated by Katharine Default which opens Friday, September 14th. There will also be a free encaustics demo on Wednesday September 19th. For our current course offerings please visit our website www.pelhamartcenter.org

For questions and registration please call the Pelham Art Center 914-738-2525 or email info@pelhamartcenter.org We are open Monday – Friday 10am -5pm and Saturdays 10-4pm if you would like to come visit!

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Fall Programs: Wednesday, September 5, 2018 – Friday, June 7, 2019

Annual Golf Outing & Dinner

Monday, September 24, 2018

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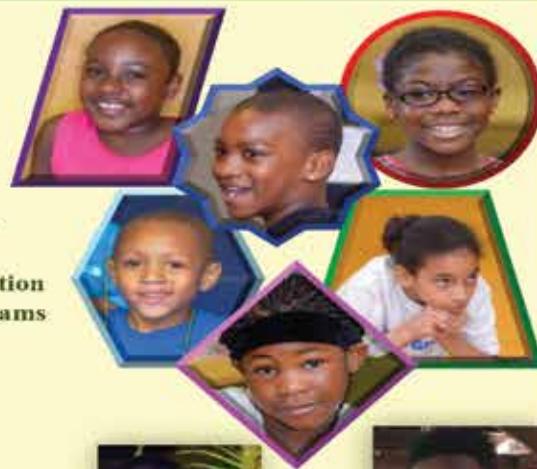
After School Program

Ages 6 – 13

Mondays – Fridays, 3:00 pm – 6:30 pm

\$60 per school year

- Art
- Basketball
- Computers
- Film Club
- Game Room
- Mentoring Program
- Passport to Manhood
- Physical Activity
- Power Hour
- Project Learn
- Robotics
- Smart Girls
- Smart Moves
- Soccer
- Social Recreation
- Special Programs
- STEM
- Torch Club
- Volleyball



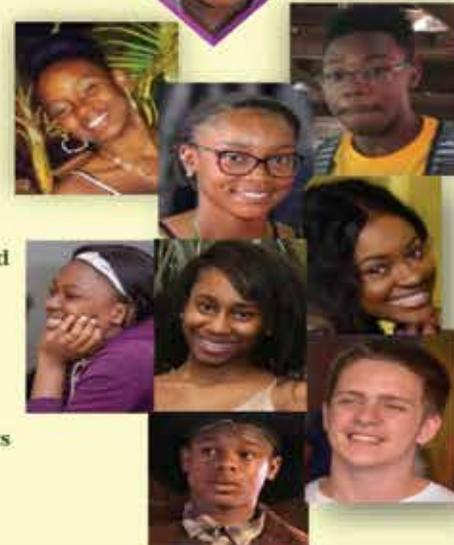
Teen Program

Ages 14 – 20

Mondays – Fridays, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

\$25 per school year

- Art
- Be Great: Graduate!
- Career Launch
- Club Tech/Computers
- Community Service
- Date Smart
- Drama Matters
- Fitness
- Game Room
- Keystone Club
- Mentoring Program
- Money Matters
- Movies
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- STEM
- Youth Entrepreneurs
- Youth of the Year



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FLASHBACK

Mt. Vernon Chamber of Commerce sponsors Annual Secretaries Day Luncheon



Gerrie Post



Karen Thomas and Scott E. Weiner

Administrative Professionals Week is always the last full week of April, with Wednesday of that week being designated Administrative Professionals Day, or Secretaries Day.

Administrative Professionals Day recognizes and celebrates the work of secretaries, administrative assistants, and other office professionals for their growing and diverse contributions to the workplace. In the United States, it is customary to take administrative professionals out to lunch

on this day, and/or to give flowers or other gifts of appreciation.

On Wednesday, April 25, 2007, over 80 women attended a celebratory luncheon in their honor at a local Mount Vernon restaurant, led by Gerrie Post, President of the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce. The popular event is a yearly function sponsored by the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, where participants are provided with a sumptuous lunch and are showered with an assortment of gifts donated by area companies.

As in previous years, the April 25 event was extremely well attended and the guest speaker was Scott E. Weiner, a certified hypnotist.

Karen Thomas, Chair of the event greeted the large crowd following the opening remarks by Post, who then introduced Weiner.

The attendees gladly participated in a stress reduction workshop, since our work environment can be particularly stressful. Weiner provided not just theory but concrete, practical techniques to help the

women in attendance immediately reduce their stress and improve their day-to-day work and personal lives.

The attendees participated in a raffle in which nearly \$200.00 was collected. The raffle prizes were fantastic, as well as the gifts presented to the participants near the end of the event.

The event was once again a resounding success, with most of the participants returning to their offices in high spirits after closing remarks from Post.



Participants at the restaurant's salad bar



Adele Zeller presenting a gift to a participant

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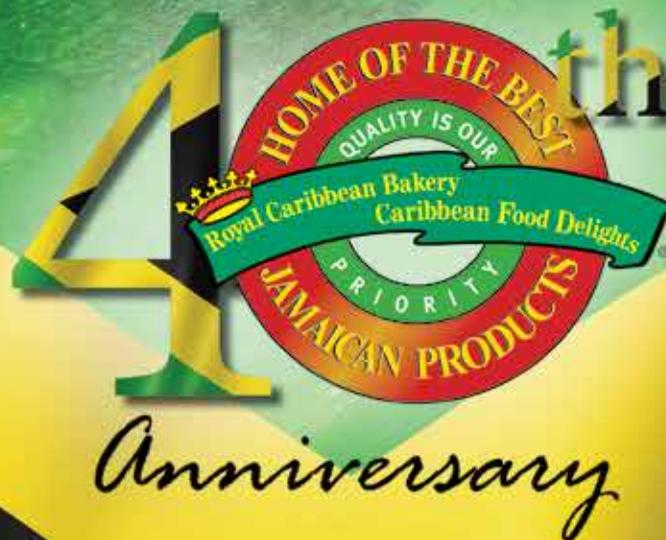
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