

YONKERS RISING

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Springtime on the Hudson; The Science Barge is Open



Celebrating the ribbon-cutting for the re-opened Science Barge are, from left, volunteer Jaspreet Singh, Councilman Michael Sabatino, Mayor Mike Spano, Groundwork Hudson Valley Executive Director Rich Magder, Senate Democratic Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Council President Chuck Lesnick, volunteer Kari De la Cruz, Councilman Christopher Johnson, and Science Barge Director Bob Walters. Photo by Donna Davis.

By Dan Murphy

Mayor Mike Spano and the City of Yonkers welcomed the re-opening of the Science Barge on Saturday, April 13 with a celebration on the Hudson River and a kickoff to another year for the floating sustainable urban farm and environ-

mental education center.

Rick Magder, executive director of Groundwork Hudson Valley, and the Groundwork HV staff, including Robert Baron, president and board chairman, and Ann-Marie Mitroff, River

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Sacred Heart Players Present 'How to Succeed in Business'



Mayor Spano's Budget 1.78% Tax Increase

By Dan Murphy

On Monday, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano released his proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2014, which starts July 1. Spano's budget plan closes an \$86 million budget hole with a 0.9 percent tax levy increase and a 1.78 percent property tax increase — under the property tax cap and the lowest property tax increase Yonkers homeowners have seen in 15 years.

Spano's budget also does not include any cuts or layoffs to municipal workers or teachers and Yonkers Public School employees, and increased education funding to the YPS from the Yonkers' budget by \$17 million.

"The fiscal year 2014 budget I present to you today closes an \$86 million deficit while restoring and reinvesting in programs that support our future and our tax base without placing an undue burden on taxpayers," said the mayor at his budget briefing for the City Council on Monday at City Hall. "It recognizes that we will never cut or tax our way to prosperity. This budget provides significant new investment to restore educational programs and positions that have been cut over the years while staying within the property tax cap for the second consecutive year."

The \$990.9 million spending plan for Yonkers includes \$460.9 million for municipal operations, a 1 percent increase, despite a decrease of \$1.2 million in state aid. The municipal budget includes a total of 1,899 positions with some restorations that will enable the city to recover lost revenues and improve quality-of-life services that long have been ignored.

"The restoration included in the budget will lessen our reliance on costly outsourcing, save millions in the future and provide for more accurate, effective and timely city services," said Spano.

Board of Education

The executive budget includes a \$5.3 million appropriation for the Board of Education, 53.5 percent of the total city budget, and keeps the city's commitment to education. The 2014 budget includes a \$17.4 million increase in education fund-

ing over overall Maintenance. "For put forth years," tion dol Board o stored la We are to restor ations w ers to pr is a top The lobby fo ten, who pete wit \$25 mill Yo lion in s budget. In budget ing New smoothi million the city for payn \$15 mil cation a "A addictio uted to sustaina \$30 mil Yonkers and unfe it will t model fo The restorati

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