

— WESTCHESTER'S OLDEST AND MOST RESPECTED NEWSPAPERS —

# YONKERS RISING

PRECOST-STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
White Plains, NY  
Permit #7164

Vol 108 Number 16

www.RisingMediaGroup.com

Friday, April 19, 2013

## 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 Rick 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

*Continued on Page 12*

# Springtime on the Hudson - the Science Barge is Open

Photos by Donna Davis



Mayor Mike Spano presents a proclamation from the city to Science Barge Director "Captain" Bob Walters, with Groundwork Hudson Valley Executive Director Rick Magder, Council President Chuck Lesnick and Councilman Michael Sabatino looking on.



The Nepperhan Community Center Drum Corps performs.



Mayor Spano is the first guest on the Science Barge for 2013.



Science Barge educator Jennifer Sloan shows Mayor Spano and guests how vegetables are grown on the barge with renewable energy.



A Science Barge volunteer works with a young visitor in the hydroponic potting of basil plants.



Sobeida Cruz of the New York Power Authority, County Legislator MaryJane Shimskey and Council President Lesnick.



A young Science Barge visitor makes his mark by sketching a flower on the barge floor.



Meena Chen and Debiki Arora from the Indian Center of Westchester dance on the Science Barge.

## Springtime on Continued from Page 1

Program director, welcomed the mayor, Council President Chuck Lesnick, Council members Christopher Johnson and Michael Sabatino, Senate Democratic Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Congressman Eliot Engel, Sobeida Cruz of the New York Power Authority, Parks Commissioner Yvette Hartsfield, and Deputy Director Steve Sansone -- as well as a throng of Yonkers residents and families -- to the ribbon-cutting to open the Science Barge for its fifth year.

The Science Barge has become an important part of the revitalization of the downtown waterfront, with 8,000 yearly visitors from all over the world coming to Yonkers to learn about sustainable agriculture and board a floating urban farm, and take a look at the only fully functioning dem-

onstration of renewable-energy-supported food production in New York.

The celebration started with a performance by the Nepperhan Community Center Drum Corps and continued with traditional Indian dances by students from the India Center of Westchester. Families also enjoyed hunting for glass eels, kite flying and plastic boomerang demonstrations.

Spano presented a proclamation to the Science Barge and Science Barge Director "Captain" Bob Walters, who epitomizes the hard work and dedication of the many volunteers and staff, whose work to keep the barge afloat for five years is a true gift and treasure for Yonkers.

Together with visit to the Sun Mill River at Van der Donck Park, and a meal at N20 or Dolphin Restaurant and a walk up the Yonkers Riverfront Esplanade, a visit to the Science Barge is a great day -- pay a visit this spring and summer!