

Neighborhood UPDATE



MHACY
Municipal Housing Authority
for the City of Yonkers

JANUARY 2022

THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

A Letter from Wilson Kimball



“An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.” — Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Happy New Year, 2022! My year got off to a rocky start when I was diagnosed with COVID for the second time. It started with what felt like a very severe head cold. I was stuffy and sneezing. Did I have a cold? Did I have the flu? I was not only vaccinated but also boosted. It never occurred to me that I could have what they call a “break-through case”. But, on Wednesday when our unvaccinated staff members get their weekly COVID test, I decided to wait in line and see, just to make sure. Imagine my surprise when it came back positive! I was grateful I was sitting in my car and not with my colleagues. I did not want to give it to them. The next step was off to the doctor’s office for a PCR test to confirm the rapid test results. Again, I was sitting in my car in a parking lot while the doctor’s office took swabs of my nasal cavities. I was achy, tired, and longing for bed. But I needed to know if I had just blown up our family Christmas. And, I had.

I am not a medical doctor. I do not know about anyone else’s experiences. But I do know, having had COVID twice now that this last time was much worse for me than the first time that I had COVID. In March of 2020 I didn’t even know I had COVID. I found out later when I did an anti-body test. This time I knew something was very wrong. This time I was in bed for almost a week. I am overweight and pre-diabetic, but I still go to the gym several times a week. Lately, my husband and I have decided to skip the gym, where I think I caught COVID for

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Hundreds Attend Hip Hop History Month Contest and Live DMX Birthday Concert

A huge congratulations to DQ The Don and Daa for winning the title of “X factor” at the DMX Birthday celebration on December 18.

More than 300 people attended the celebration in the gym at 10 Brook Street with live performances by finalists in the month-long contest to celebrate musical talent in Yonkers.

In the spirit of late rapper Earl “DMX” Simmons, contestants performed for celebrity judges. The evening, organized by

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A Letter from Wilson Kimball

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the second time and go for long walks in our neighborhood. Usually, we make it three miles or more.

I am not asking you. I am begging you. Please, get vaccinated. While I did get COVID again and I was sick, another friend of mine, who is not vaccinated, has been hospitalized twice because of COVID. I have not been hospitalized. And now instead of wearing cloth masks I am double masking. What we learn from COVID is that every day we are learning something new. I used to only wear cloth masks. Now I wear a medical mask and a cloth mask. MHACY will be distributing N95 masks to staff and residents. Wear your mask! Not just when you go out of the building and into the world but when you go to the trash shoot or into the elevator. Wear your mask when your friends come over to socialize, your family comes over to spend time with you or our staff goes into your apartment to fix something.

They say some people wear their heart on their sleeves. I am asking you to wear your masks over your nose and mouth to show you care. Wash your hands often. And hand sanitize like there is no tomorrow. Because for some of us, the most vulnerable, there may be no tomorrow. But if we all work together to get vaccinated, wash our hands, sanitize surfaces, and wear our masks we will prevail.

Wilson Kimball

President & CEO

Municipal Housing Authority for
the City of Yonkers

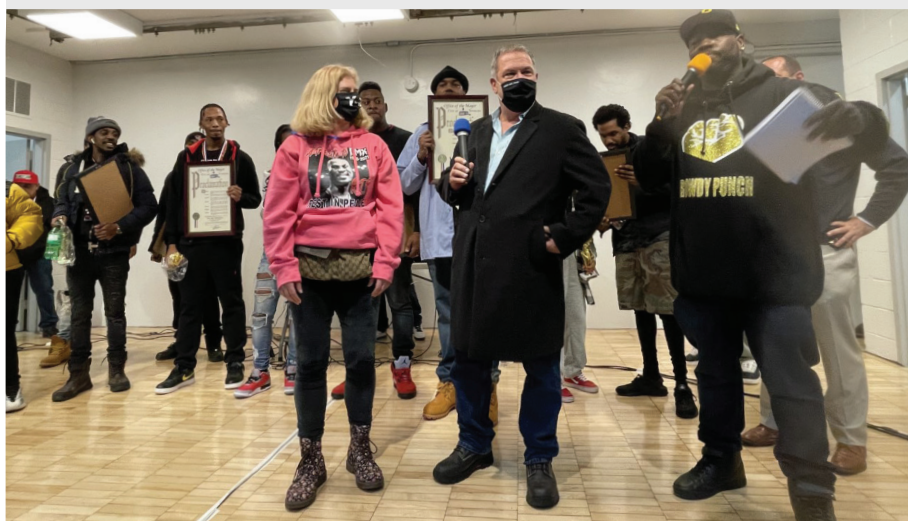
Hundreds Attend Hip Hop History Month Contest and Live DMX Birthday Concert

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MHACY and DJ Superior, was widely publicized and shed a positive light on the City of Yonkers.

The top 5 winners and their videos are as follows:

1. "Yonkers Down To Ride" by DQ the Don & Diaa
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1uPQ7JUjQY>
2. "Check The Stats" by MellzS & Jakk Blakk
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ul7iVsStt8>
3. "Battle Lion" by Crittermake & TDIMuzik
<https://youtu.be/0SkvmVv-ZMo>
4. "Henny" by Franziole B Buttons & CJP
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gb08-l9Rjr0>
5. "Hard As Hell" by Big Dev the Bad Guy
<https://vimeo.com/496282250>



Wilson Kimball Named Person of the Year by Westfair

Congratulations to MHACY President & CEO Wilson Kimball on being named one of Westfair Online's 2021 Persons of the Year!

Read the full list of honorees here: <https://westfaironline.com/143687/westfairs-2021-persons-of-the-year/>

MHACY Partnership with Groundwork Hudson Valley Awarded NYS Green Innovation Grant

An innovative green infrastructure plan developed by Groundwork Hudson Valley in partnership with The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (MHACY) has been awarded an up to \$900,000 grant to prevent heat islands and flooding at Housing Authority properties.

The grant announcement was made on December 14 by Gov. Kathy Hochul's office and the Environmental Facilities Corporation. The grant was awarded to The Mulford Corporation, a nonprofit established under the legal authority of MHACY.

Under the plan, native trees and shrubs will be planted to create natural shade and bioswales will be created to improve stormwater management at the Dr. James O'Rourke Townhouses, Francis Reagan Townhouses, William A. Walsh Homes, Joseph F. Loehr Court, Kris Kristensen Homes, and Msgr. Cajetan J. Troy Manor in Yonkers.

The project will use the Green Team — a youth conservation employment program at Groundwork Hudson Valley that hires 30 Yonkers Public High School students every year.

A Big Thank you to Cross County Shopping Center for Holiday Gifts

Eighteen lucky MHACY teens were awarded gift cards to Cross County Shopping Center thanks to the generous donation by Liz Pollack, Senior Marketing Manager. Pollack donated gift cards to MHACY on Giving Tuesday (November 30).

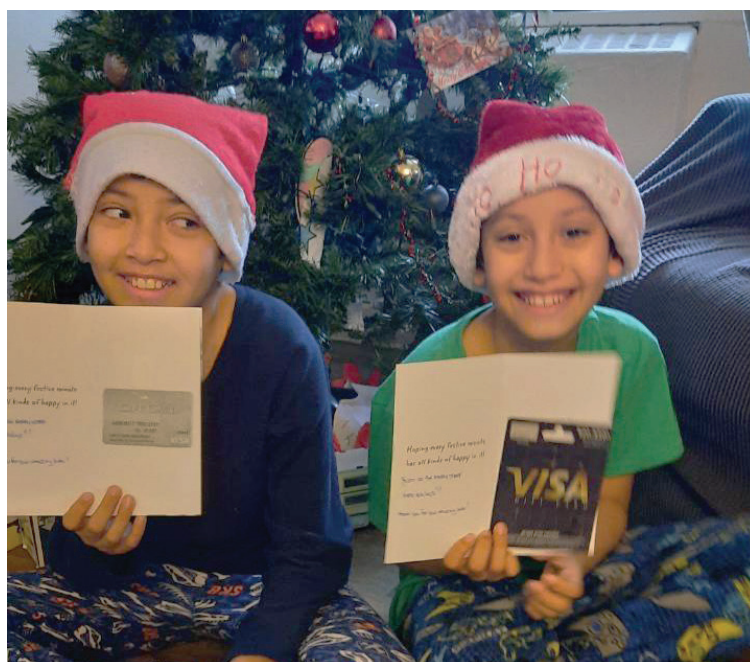
MHACY held a contest asking teens to write a letter about what the holidays meant to them. Eighteen teens who responded were awarded cards. Seven were awarded first prizes of two \$20 cards (\$40). Another 11 teens received \$20 gift cards each.

Here is a sampling of their letters:

"Christmas to me is not only about presents. To me Christmas is about spending time with family and having fun with them. It's also about how we celebrate the birthday of Jesus. This is what Christmas means to me." — Josaiiah Almonte Palisade Towers.

"Christmas could mean many things. It's a day of joy, laughter and love. It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present and hope for the future. Feeling the holiday spirit of this festive season is by lending a hand to those in need. This is what Christmas means to me."

— Joselyne Pascual Blanco, Palisade Towers.



Ebenezer Cruz-Soriano and Jayden Cruz-Soriano of Calcagno Homes show off gift cards they won. Josiah Almonte of Palisade Towers was also a lucky winner.

Wilson Kimball's Healthy Recipe of the Month

MHACY President and CEO has been sharing healthy recipes each month with our residents. If you have a recipe to share, post it on our Facebook Page.

Here's this month's recipe:

Leek Soup

4 leeks (i prefer organic produce)
3 large carrots
5 celery stalks
1 medium onion
32 oz (1 box) reduced sodium bone broth or vegetable broth
2 garlic cloves
1 Tablespoon olive oil
5-6 fresh basil leaves
Salt and pepper to taste*

Cut up vegetables and garlic
Add all vegetables and the garlic to the same pan
Add olive oil and sauté until soft
Add entire box of bone broth and let simmer.
Salt and pepper to taste*

*Because celery and broth are naturally salty you should only add salt and pepper at the very end.



DJ Superior Honored by Nepperhan Community Center



The Nepperhan Community Center honored DJ Superior with an award on December 30 in recognition of his many accomplishments and service to the community.

Among his accomplishments in the music industry, DJ Superior worked with Earl "DMX" Simmons to refine his sound, his lyrics and his hip hop image.

DJ Superior said, "I am deeply honored by this recognition. I have never done anything for the accolades. I do what I do because I love my community. DMX and I raised ourselves in this community and this community, in turn, raised us up."

Wilson Kimball, President and CEO of MHACY, said, "I have been working with Superior on a number of community projects from food distributions and toy drives to the celebration of DMX's birthday at School Street. He is a hard working, thoughtful and successful entrepreneur and philanthropist. But, mostly he is an incredible role model to the young people who are growing up in MHACY properties throughout Yonkers."