

THE "MARQUEE" - CYO NEWSLETTER

"Serving Mercer County Youth Since 1952"

CYO of Mercer County

Spring/Summer 2020

Volume 26 Issue 1

Message From Our Executive Director

We hope you and your families are safe and healthy during this global pandemic. It has been a very challenging time for all of us. Although our CYO facilities and programs have been largely shut down, the CYO has continued to serve the community in a number of ways. Our Pre School staff has transitioned well to the remote teaching model and has effectively stayed engaged with our students and their families. The CYO has also been operating the Bromley Center Food Pantry through our partnership with the Township of Hamilton. Many groups have supported this effort which is serving an increasing number of families during this financial crisis many are faced with now. Lastly, the CYO has partnered with the Capital Area YMCA in providing 300 Grab and Go lunches every weekday at our two Trenton community centers. Our families are very appreciative of these services!

Certainly this public health emergency has caused much financial stress for the CYO and all non-profit agencies. The monthly tuition for all our Pre School and After School Programs came to a screeching halt in mid March. And as of this message, the CYO is unsure if we will be able to run our Summer Day Camps (and a few Summer programs have already been cancelled).

Recovering from these financial losses will be quite challenging. We are asking our friends and supporters to consider making a donation to the CYO securely online through our website (cyomercer.org) or sending your donation to the main CYO Office, 920 South Broad Street, Trenton, NJ 08611. Thank you for your consideration. We are praying that our buildings will be full of laughing children again very soon.

Tom Mladenetz, Executive Director

Yardville Pool House Almost Ready!

The new Yardville Pool House is almost complete! The two story, 5,000 square foot structure will include a much larger changing space with several private changing stalls on the first floor with modern restroom facilities and showers. The second floor has additional bathrooms and a locker room, as well as providing a large area for campers to meet, staff training, and to host a variety of programs. The space features a covered deck overlooking the pool and will also be available for small event/party rentals.

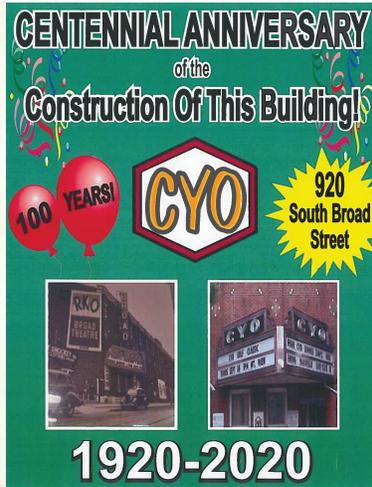


CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF 920 SOUTH BROAD STREET

At a time when movie theaters may become a thing of the past, they can still serve a great purpose. For example, one movie theater in Trenton, NJ welcomes 90 pre-schoolers and over 100 school-age students each school day. In the winter, that location has housed a youth basketball league for the past 67 years. In the summer months, this building also provides a safe environment for over 200 children to play and learn.

Opening in 1920, Trenton's second largest movie house, the RKO Broad Theater, has seen everything from vaudeville acts, ticket prices of \$0.25, and special events such as a wedding and boxing matches; those last two are unrelated. In an attempt to help the WWII effort, the theater even offered a free two-hour show to youngsters who brought in wrapped waste fats.

In 1962, the Diocese of Trenton purchased the theater, an idea of Rev. Leonard Toomey, in hopes of converting it to a recreation hall. Some of the activities offered included basketball in the new gymnasium, ceramics on the 3rd floor, or archery in the basement. Now at 100 years old, the building has never seen more activity serving as the home to a Pre-School, After-School Program, and Summer Camp. The next time you find yourself in the lobby of that historical building, take note of the architecture and layout. You may even be able to still smell the fresh popcorn once served there. Lastly, if you want to honor the memory of the theater at home, you can stream the last two movies to be shown there: "Heller in Pink Tights" and "This Rebel Breed." **Visit our virtual open house at www.cyomercer.org to see many other great photos from bygone days!**



Hamilton Little Lads Basketball Presents Three CYO National Championship Banners Won by the CYO in the 70's!



Pictured left to right: Tom Garafolo, Hamilton Little Lads Administrator, Tom Mladenetz, CYO Executive Director, and Dave Edwards, Hamilton Little Lads President, show the Trenton CYO Banners at Nottingham High School during a Hamilton Little Lads Basketball Game. These banners were recovered from a Little Lads storage area after almost 50 years!

Yardville Pee Wee and Intermediate Basketball Action and Medal Ceremony Photos!



CYO ATHLETICS

Diocesan Basketball Tournament

The Diocesan Basketball Tournament returned to Mercer County in February following the conclusion of the CYO Basketball Playoffs. Each of the four counties in the Diocese (Mercer, Burlington, Monmouth and Ocean) were represented as a total of 8 teams (2 from each county) qualified for this year's tournament in each of the four divisions (GJV, BJV, GV & BV). On Saturday, February 29th, after an exciting week-long tournament, St. Catharine's (Spring Lake) were the champions while St. James (Pennington) took home the runner-up trophy in GJV action and in the BJV final, TCA (Hamilton) defeated St. Leo's (Lincroft). In Girls Varsity action, St. Catharine's (Spring Lake) defeated OLS (Hamilton) while TCA (Hamilton) defeated St. Leo's (Lincroft) in the BV championship game.

CYO Basketball

The Mercer County CYO celebrated its 67th season of CYO Basketball during the 2019-20 season. This year there were over 60 teams that participated in the 8 CYO Leagues for grammar school-aged children and the Boys and Girls High School Leagues. Congratulations to all of this year's winners that were crowned in February. In CYO playoff action, St. Gregory's Blue won the title for the Girls Freshmen Playoffs. In the Boys Freshmen League, TCA won the championship for the Blue Division while St. Gregory's Blue captured the championship for the Red and White Division. In Junior Varsity playoff action, St. Gregory's Blue won the Girls Championship and TCA the BJV title. In Varsity playoff action, St. Gregory's Blue won GV Championship and TCA Blue won the BV title. In the CYO High School League Championships, St. Paul's captured the Girls title while St. Gregory's Gray won the Boys Championship.



St Greg's Girls Varsity Blue rush for their trophies after their playoff championship.



Girls JV Championship Action



Boys Varsity Championship Action



Left to Right: Noel Powell, CYO Hall of Famer; his son Myles Powell, former TCA and Seton Hall star, and Quincy Walzer, CYO Athletic Director pose for a picture at the CYO Center where Myles stopped in to see his younger brother play!

Trenton Health Team Recognizes CYO

For the past few years, the CYO has been working with an agency in Trenton whose goal was to promote health and wellness. The Trenton Health Team (THT), in partnership with Trinity Health, brought the CYO together with other members of the community to see what could be done to improve the wellbeing of our CYO families. The creation of a Wellness Council, workshops with the Rutgers-Camden School of Nursing, and a "Food Carnival" that gave our pre-schoolers the opportunity to try new, healthy foods were just some of the benefits that resulted from this endeavor. In January, the THT recognized CYO with an award and donation for fully embracing the ideals that were the impetus of Trinity Health's Transforming Communities Initiative.

Pictured from left, John Soss (CYO), Kathie Soss-Prihoda (Rutgers School of Nursing-Camden/CYO), Matthew Broad (THT), Elena Cromeyer (THT/TCI Program Director), Mary Jo Abbondanza (St. Francis Medical Center), Debra Grier (CYO), and Monica Carmichael (Trenton Office of Early Childhood Education).



CYO Celebrating Black History Month

Pictured Right: Black History Month Celebration at the East State Street Center Gymnasium
Pictured Far Right: Ewing Pre-Schoolers celebrate Martin Luther King Day



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AROUND THE CYO

*CYO recently purchased a new 15 passenger van!
 Donors included the Kerney Foundation and the
 Arvesen Fund of the Community Foundation of NJ.*



CENSUS 2020

CYO joined the Trenton Area Compete Count Committee to collaborate on ways to ensure a complete Census 2020 count. Shown at left is one of the 3 job fairs held for Census 2020 at the CYO Bromley Center.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF LISTING

Executive Director
 Thomas G. Mladenetz, M.Ed.

Yardville Branch/Bromley Director
 Patrick M. Hardiman

Trenton Pre-School Director
 Debora Grier

South Broad Street Program Director
 John Soss

Athletic Director
 Quincy Walzer

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 Kate Monroe

Yardville Program Coordinator
 Dan Bossio

Ewing Administrative Director
 Debbie Kirschenbaum

East State Street Program Director
 Robert Donaldson

Ewing Education Director
 Patricia Staltari

CYO PRE-SCHOOL

COVID-19 didn't stop CYO Pre-School students from working and learning from home! Additionally the CYO is serving lunch to 300 families a day at our South Broad Street and East State Street Centers during the pandemic.



**CYO PRE-K
 Online Learning**

**GRANTS AWARDED SINCE LAST MARQUEE
 11/1/19 - 4/15/20**

- Arvesen Foundation: award for van purchase, 1/20.
- Catholic Campaign for Human Development: award for Broad ASP tutoring program, 11/19.
- Janssen Pharmaceuticals: award for Broad ASP tutoring program, 12/19.
- Kerney Foundation: award for van purchase, 11/19.
- Kiwanis of Trenton: \$3K award for Trenton camps scholarships, 1/20
- Mercer Fund of Community Foundation of NJ: award for Bromley healthy teen program & food pantry, 1/20.
- NJ Department of Children & Families: award for new gym mats & carts at Broad, 9/19.
- NJ Department of Children & Families: award for ESSC playground mulch, 10/19.
- NJ Department of State: award to carry out 2020 Census promotion activities, 12/19.
- NJ Juvenile Justice Commission: award for Broad & ESSC summer camp basketball & life skills clinic program, 3/20.
- Princeton Area Community Foundation: award for Bromley food pantry stock, 4/20.
- Rummel Foundation: award for Broad ASP tutoring program, 1/20.
- Wawa Foundation: award for Bromley food pantry stock, 4/20.