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 Karl 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 environmental education center.

Rich 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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Photos by Donna Davis

Mayor Mike Spano presents a proclamation from the city to Science Barge director "Captain" Barry Schwartz, with representatives from various Yonkers organizations, including the Yonkers Police and Fire departments, Yonkers Public School Board of Education, and others.

The Appalachian Community Center Drum Corps performs.

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

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

Sebrina Davis of the New York Power Authority, County Legislator Maryanne Shirley and Council President Leon Pitts.

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

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Program director, alongside the mayor, Council President Chokk Lee, Council members Christopher Johnson and Michael Sabatino, Yonkers Community Center Athletic Association's Carol Coleman, Congressman Eliot Engel, Mayor Spano and the Science Barge Director "Captain" Barry Schwartz, among others, offered remarks on the Science Barge. The event was a celebration of the Science Barge's reopening after a long hiatus due to budget cuts and Hurricane Sandy.

The Science Barge has become an important part of the Yonkers community and is a hub for environmental education, hosting various workshops, seminars, and events. It is a unique educational resource that provides hands-on learning experiences for students of all ages. The Science Barge is a testament to the importance of environmental conservation and the role that community centers can play in fostering a greater understanding of the natural world.