

**Santa Claus
is Coming to
Town....**
See Page 7



twitter.com/ExaminerMedia

The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER Examiner

**Buckets in Bushels:
2014-15 Hoops
Previews...**

See
Sports



Covering Yorktown, Somers, Cortlandt, Croton-on-Hudson, Buchanan, Ossining and Peekskill

FREE

December 2 - December 8, 2014

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 6, Issue 259



Yorktown Eagle Scout Completes Special Project

Frank A. Heagle, shown with his parents, sister and Yorktown Councilman Vishnu Patel, recently received a certificate of achievement from the Town of Yorktown after his Eagle Scout Court of Honor on November 22 at the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown, the sponsor organization for Troop 165. Heagle wrote, filmed, and produced a Public Service Announcement about Breast Cancer, which was posted on the website of Support Connection, a Yorktown-based cancer support group which helped his mom, Mary, a breast cancer survivor. The film, entitled "An Insight to Breast Cancer," features teenagers from families with individuals who have had breast cancer explaining the need for early testing, and has been shown in several high school health classes.

Peekskill Council Votes Not to Exceed Tax Cap in Budget

By Rick Pezullo

The Peekskill Common Council voted unanimously last week not to exceed the state mandated tax levy cap in the 2015 city budget.

The somewhat surprising united front means the spending plan the council had to adopt by last night (Monday) cannot raise taxes for property owners more than 2.26%, or approximately \$47 for homes with an average assessment of \$8,700.

The consensus reached to not even hold a public hearing to consider breaking the cap came after Peekskill Mayor Frank Catalina and Councilman Vincent Vesce made detailed presentations on how the \$53 million budget, which Comptroller Ann

Maestri described a few weeks ago as "scary," was "negligent," contained unrealistic projections and "doesn't hold water."

"These are budget numbers that will wreak havoc next year," Catalina maintained in his power point summary. "These numbers are not Republican or Democrat. We are not budgeting for the services that we will have to provide to the City of Peekskill. It's not the way to govern."

As examples, Catalina explained in this year's budget, workman's compensation for the police department totaled \$198,000, but next year only \$75,000 is set aside for the same expense. More glaring is overtime in the fire department,

continued on page 2

City DPW Employees Pitch In to Plow Out Buffalo

By Rick Pezullo

Two City of Peekskill Department of Public Works employees traveled to Buffalo to help the upstate city dig out from 13 feet of snow.

DPW Central Garage Foreman Greg Rich and Jim McGrath made the seven-hour trip the third week of November after the state's Homeland Security Department requested assistance from municipalities.

"It was such a privilege that Peekskill had a chance to bail out another municipality. It's a great credit to the city," said Peekskill Mayor Frank Catalina. "We know they would do it for us."

DPW Manager Brent VanZandt said Rich and McGrath put in 38 hours worth of work in Buffalo. The state paid for the lodging and meals of Rich and McGrath, while Peekskill will cover their overtime

costs.

"It's the right thing to do for the city," VanZandt said of Peekskill taking part in the cleanup effort.

Rich and McGrath were both grateful for the chance to lend a helping hand. Besides plowing mountains of snow, McGrath also assisted a state Department of Transportation vehicle that was stuck in a ditch.

"It was a disaster. It was just a mess

down there," Rich said of the state of Buffalo. "I'm glad I had the opportunity to represent the city."

"It was unbelievable," McGrath said of the amount of snow that paralyzed Buffalo. "We made a lot of people happy. It was a great experience."

Rich noted he ran into several former Peekskill residents in Buffalo who were happy to see Peekskill trucks in their neck of the woods.



FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1965

Complete Design and Installation Services

164 Harris Road
Bedford Hills
914.241.3046
www.euphoriakitchens.com

HOURS:
Tuesday - Friday 10:30am-5pm
Saturday 11am-4pm

GC Lic.#WC-16224-HO5



Dream Kitchens & Baths

- CRAFT-MAID
- BIRCHCRAFT
- HOLIDAY
- CABICO
- STONE
- QUARTZ
- CORIAN
- DECORATIVE
HARDWARE

Peekskill Council Votes Not to Exceed Tax Cap in Budget

continued on page 1

which so far this year has clocked in at \$480,000, but next year is budgeted at only \$120,000.

"It's a fallacy. These are not real numbers," Catalina said.

Vesce went one step further, pointing out adopted budgets in Peekskill were underfunded by \$3.6 million in 2011, \$2.3 million in 2012 and \$2.5 million in 2013.

"This 2.2% philosophy has built this hole the City of Peekskill is in," Vesce said. "It takes a little bit of political courage, but we do need to be responsible."

Catalina also reiterated the hefty pension cost obligations the city was facing. Over the last three years, the city has deferred \$2.5 million in pension expenses to the state. It is mandated to pay at least \$267,000 next year. After considering utilizing some fund balance to lower the pension costs, the council opted a few weeks ago not to fund a few proposed positions in the budget and allocate about \$150,000 to pay the state.

Included in the current proposed budget

is an increase in parking meters to \$1 per hour and increases in water and sewer rates.

Several residents who are among the 60% of city dwellers who own homes told the council any tax hike would be difficult for some constituents to absorb, particularly residents on fixed incomes.

"\$300 to me is 100 gallons of heating oil, two months worth of Con Edison bills, three weeks worth of groceries," said Deb Adams. "I want services and I'm willing to pay for services. I hope you realize what a

couple of hundred dollars really means to people of this community."

Leslie Lawler said some members of the council should stop pointing fingers at past administrations for the city's financial woes.

"We know how we got to where we are. Why are we beating a dead horse?" she said. "Tell us what we need to do to go forward. You all need to drop the political stink that suffocates everything you do."

When George Ondek asked why some

neighboring municipalities such as Yorktown and Cortlandt were able to deliver budgets well under the tax cap, Councilwoman Drew Claxton said all municipalities were dealing with skyrocketing pension costs and other mandates.

"All of these municipalities are in the same position. All municipalities are hurting, not just Peekskill," she said. "We have been hit with more than \$8 million in tax certioraris. We have to look at how we can reduce costs and increase revenues."

Local Choruses to Perform in Paramount Charlie Brown Show

In 1965, the first ever "Peanuts" animated special took place. It was a landmark event and it was the start of a tradition that would continue year after year. "A Charlie Brown Christmas" is a tradition enjoyed around the world by fans of all ages. Now, 50 years later, Contemporary Jazz Piano Legend, David Benoit is paying tribute to this incredible piece of entertainment history, with "David Benoit's Christmas Tribute to Charlie Brown" at Paramount Hudson Valley in Peekskill on Thursday, December 4 at 7 p.m.

This inspirational tribute concert will be performed with five school choruses from around the region under the musical direction of Larry Del Casale, music director from Peekskill Middle School. The choirs come from Peekskill, Croton and Cold Spring.

The show also features the classic music of Vince Guaraldi along with "Charlie Brown Christmas" originals from Benoit, who took over the helm as music composer for the new Charlie Brown Christmas TV Specials more than a decade ago. The young voices of a local children's choir serve as a wonderful way of engaging the local community. The heart-warming show is sure to get the audience in that Christmas Spirit and bring out the 'kid' in everyone this holiday season.

HunterDouglas

SEASON OF STYLE event

SEPTEMBER 16 - DECEMBER 16, 2014

\$100 REBATE*

on any of the following purchases:

4 Duette® Honeycomb Shades
or 4 Solera® Soft Shades
(plus \$25 rebate each additional unit)

2 Pirouette® Window Shadings
or 2 Silhouette® Window Shadings
or 2 Vignette® Modern Roman Shades
(plus \$50 rebate each additional unit)

1 Duette Vertiglide® Honeycomb Shade
or 1 Luminette® Privacy Sheer
or 1 Skyline® Gliding Window Panels
(plus \$100 rebate each additional unit)



Duette Architella® Honeycomb Shades

It's time to decorate your windows for the holidays.

Save with mail-in rebates on a selection of stylish Hunter Douglas window fashions, September 16-December 16, 2014. Ask for details.



1821 E. Main St • Rt 6
Mohegan Lake
(Near Sprint and Peachwave Yogurt)
914-737-6780
NilesFloorsandBlinds.com

NILES
FLOORS & BLINDS

HunterDouglas
Gallery

Store Hours

Monday: 9:00-6:00 • Tuesday: 9:00-6:00 • Wednesday: 9:00-6:00 • Thursday: 9:00-7:00 • Friday: 9:00-6:00
Saturday: 10:00-5:00 • After Hour and Sunday appointments available upon request.

* Manufacturer's mail-in rebate offer valid for qualifying purchases made 9/16/14 - 12/16/14 from participating dealers in the U.S. only. A qualifying purchase is defined as a purchase of any of the product models set forth above in the quantities set forth above. If you purchase less than the specified quantity, you will not be entitled to a rebate. For each qualifying purchase, only the higher applicable rebate amount will apply. Offer excludes Nantucket™ Window Shadings, a collection of Silhouette Window Shadings. Rebate will be issued in the form of a prepaid reward card and mailed within 6 weeks of rebate claim receipt. Funds do not expire. Subject to applicable law, a \$2.00 monthly fee will be assessed against card balance 7 months after card issuance and each month thereafter. Additional limitations apply. Ask participating dealer for details and rebate form. ©2014 Hunter Douglas. All rights reserved. All trademarks used herein are the property of Hunter Douglas.



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

Creative floats have become a staple of Electric Lights Parade.

Third Annual Holiday Electric Lights Parade Saturday in Yorktown

By Rick Pezzullo

It has quickly become a holiday tradition in Yorktown, and it has grown each year in popularity and participation.

On Saturday, town officials and the Yorktown and Mohegan Lake volunteer fire departments will be hosting the third annual Electric Lights Parade “Jingle Bells,” kicking off at 6:30 p.m. in downtown Yorktown, stretching from Front Street to Veterans Road.

“We’re going to have fun that night,” Town Clerk Alice Roker said during a recent meeting.

This year’s extravaganza will be hosted

by Steve and Lindsay Calleran of Shrub Oak. The parade of creative and festive holiday floats will conclude at Jack DeVito Memorial Field with the lighting of a Christmas tree, along with hot chocolate and snacks, provided by Yorktown Auto Body.

In conjunction with the season of giving, boxed or canned non-perishable food items and/or hat and gloves can be dropped off in collection boxes at the field to benefit local food pantries and Yorktown Community Help.

The rain/snow date for the parade will be Sunday, December 7.

Yorktown Heights Fire District Voters to Decide \$1.5M Bond

By Rick Pezzullo

Voters in primarily the southern end of Yorktown will be given another opportunity next week to weigh in on a \$1.5 million bond to fund improvements to the Locksley Road firehouse.

On June 17, in a special election, voters in the Yorktown Heights Fire District rejected the same proposal to add a second story addition to the 30-year-old building, which is known as Station #2.

This time around, the vote will be held on Tuesday, December 9 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the district’s main firehouse on Commerce Street.

According to district officials, the roof on the Locksley Road firehouse leaks and must be replaced and it’s more cost effective to add a second level. The 15-year bond would also cover new kitchen equipment and other need repairs.

“Our fire district has been for some time now planning several projects that are needed to enhance the safety and the

protection of both the general public and our firefighters,” Art Orneck, chairman of the Yorktown Heights Board of Fire Commissioners, stated in a public letter.

However, Brian Carroll, a district resident who has opposed the construction of a new firehouse on Route 134 that has been given a thumbs down four times by voters, believes fire officials are planning to add the \$1.5 million bond to an existing savings of \$1.5 million to construct a new fire station.

“Instead of persisting in building a new structure, which will be difficult to staff and of little benefit to the residents, the Yorktown Heights Fire District should consider whether it makes more sense to pay the Millwood Fire District to provide primary protection for the part of Yorktown, which is south of the Croton Reservoir,” Carroll stated in a letter. “Such arrangements are legal, and not uncommon.”

914-864-0878
advertising@theexaminernews.com
www.theexaminernews.com

**Thinking about the Holidays?
Think Fit.**

Even Santa is toning up in time for the Holiday season! Keeping your body in shape is an essential part of your good health.

Bring in a new, unwrapped gift for Toys for Tots and receive **FREE enrollment now through Dec. 31st**

Call or visit us today!
914.962.4094
 201 Veterans Rd., Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

SOLARIS
SPORTS CLUBS

WILLIAM RAVEIS
 — REAL ESTATE • MORTGAGE • INSURANCE —

How To Pronounce William Raveis

A Public Service Announcement by Bill Primavera, “The Home Guru”

Since you’re going to be hearing the name a lot as the fine quality real estate company moves to Number One spot in New York, please know that its name is pronounced:

“RAY - VIS”

Not “Ra-vee-ass,”
 Not “Ra - vees,”
 Not “Raa - vice,”
 Not “Ree - vase,” but

“RAY - VIS”

And if you want to want to know how to say, “My home is sold,” call Bill at (cell) 914.522.2076

William “Bill” Primavera is a Licensed Real Estate Salesperson who works from the Yorktown Heights office of William Raveis Real Estate, 1820 Commerce St., Yorktown Heights, NY., 914.245.0460, www.raveis.com.

Police Blotter

State Police

November 22 - 12:55 a.m. – Daryl McKee, 37, of Croton-on-Hudson, was charged with felony driving while intoxicated after being stopped for failing to maintain a lane of travel. Troopers observed clues that indicated McKee was intoxicated and a breath sample revealed a blood alcohol content more than twice the legal limit. He is due in Croton Village Court on December 3.

1:41 a.m. – Angel Serrano, 48, of Yorktown, was charged with driving while intoxicated after being stopped for traveling over 95 miles per hour in a 55 miles per hour zone. He is due in Mount Pleasant Court on December 4.

November 23

Robert Kilichowski, 56, of Montrose, was charged with driving while intoxicated after being stopped for failing to keep right and maintain a lane of travel. A breath sample revealed a blood alcohol content more than two times the legal limit. He was due in Cortlandt Town Court on December 1.

November 24

Two employees at Ya Ya's Nail & Spa on Route 202 in Somers were arrested following a compliance check. Xiaomei Zheng, 44, and Qiumei Zhang, 44, both of Flushing, were charged with unauthorized practice of profession (class E felony) for performing body massages without any form of license. Zhang was also charged with promoting prostitu-



Xiaomei Zheng



Qiumei Zhang

tion in the fourth degree as a result of sexual contact she had engaged in with a customer. They were both due in Somers Town Court on December 1.

November 25 - 3:50 p.m. – Thomas Rodrigues, 43, of Mohegan Lake, was

charged with aggravated driving while intoxicated after being stopped for driving while using a cell phone. A breath sample revealed a blood alcohol content more than twice the legal limit. He is due in Cortlandt Town Court on December 5.

Yorktown Police

6:20 p.m. – Kevin Olsen, 29, of Lake Peekskill, was charged with petit larceny for allegedly leaving Sears at the Jefferson Valley Mall without paying for a pair of headphones and bolt cutter valued at \$71.98. He was remanded to Westchester County Jail in lieu of \$250 cash bail. He is due in Yorktown Town Court on December 18.

Jessica Lynn to Perform Saturday at Daryl's House

Jessica Lynn, Westchester County's rising Country Music star, will perform music from her latest show, "Takin' Over" on Saturday, December 6 at 9 p.m. at Daryl's House, Daryl Hall's new restaurant & live music club in Pawling, NY. Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.darylshouseclub.com/shows>

Singer/Songwriter Lynn recently filmed her second full-length concert

television special, "Jessica Lynn – Takin' Over – Live at the Paramount," which is scheduled for release along with her brand new studio album around Christmas this year.

The Yorktown native's first album, "This Much Fun – Live from the Winery at St. George," went nationwide on television screens across America. She sang our country's National Anthem twice in

New York's famed Madison Square Garden by special invite and, signed a major publishing deal with publishing giant, Round Hill Music, that has her in Nashville writing with today's top hit writers.

This past summer Jessica completed her first national tour where she shared the stage with Country Music icons such as Brad Paisley, Lady Antebellum, Hank Williams Jr., Eric Church, Sammy Ker-

shaw, Jake Owen, Chase Rice, Dierks Bentley, Montgomery Gentry and others.

Daryl's House Restaurant & Live Music Club was born out of Daryl Hall and his acclaimed television show, "Live From Daryl's House," where he invites his favorite musicians to his home in upstate New York for an afternoon of music and great food.

GREAT FOOD! GREAT MUSIC!

DARYL'S HOUSE

"Come for the music & enjoy fine dining." "Incredible experience!"

RESTAURANT, BAR & LIVE MUSIC CLUB

DEC. 5 AT 9PM
KANDACE SPRINGS

DEC. 6 AT 9PM
JESSICA LYNN

DEC. 12 AT 9PM
JIMMY WAYNE

DEC. 13 AT 9PM
KASIM SULTON

www.darylshouseclub.com Wed-Thu-Sun 3:30pm - Midnight
Call for Reservations Fri-Sat 3:30pm - 2am
845-289-0185 130 Route 22, Pawling, NY

Bethel

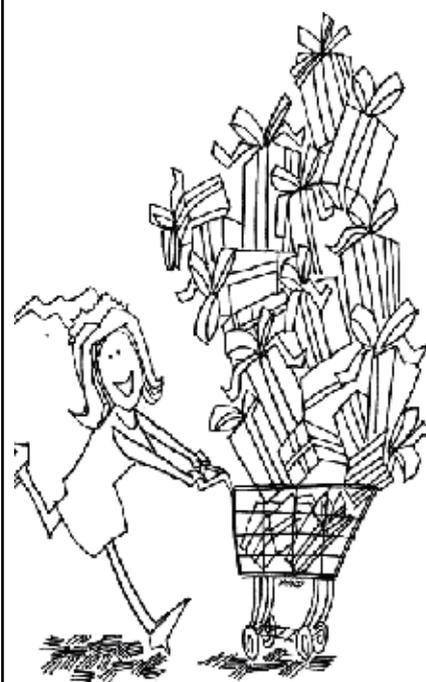
HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE

at Bethel's Springvale Inn

Boscobel Room
62 Springvale Road
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

Sunday
December 7
11 am – 4 pm

Free Admission
& Parking



Bethel
At the Heart of Senior Living

For information, please call
914-739-6700 x1220

Bakery Owner Frosted Over Loss of Parking from Lincoln Project

By Rick Pezzullo

Rose Sanca will not be putting out a welcoming mat any time soon for a new visitor's center and public plaza being constructed in front of the Lincoln Depot Museum on South Water Street.

Sanca, who has owned popular Homestyles Desserts for the last 30 years, asserted last week she had been disrespected and "bullied" by the city to make room for improvements outside her door that she claims is hurting her business and creating a safety hazard for employees and customers.

"I'm being blocked in like a sardine. I feel like you want me to leave," a passionate Sanca told the Peekskill Common Council. "I feel like a criminal. If someone is going to block me off with a fence I would think someone would tell me."

Sanca appeared before the council the same day a gas leak caused by a construction mishap on the site led to the evacuation of her business, with 350 pies in the oven, and other businesses in the area. No injuries were reported, but Sanca fears it's just a matter of time before someone is hurt by the elimination of parking spaces that make it impossible for customers to safely enter and exit the premises.

"Parking is crucial. This is embarrassing to me and my store. Sometimes I just want to cry," she said. "I can't be here



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

Only one vehicle can now pull in next to Homestyles Desserts on South Water Street.

will an alley way and a building being obstructed so you won't even be able to see Homestyles. I feel lucky to be alive today."

A few years ago, Sanca obtained 5,562 signatures on petitions opposing the city's plans for a then multi-story visitor's center that would have taken away at least a dozen spaces where the front door to the bakery is located and force her to "flip" the entrance to the other side where a city-owned, metered municipal

lot exists.

Those plans remained dormant until this spring when a reworked one-story visitor's center surfaced and a contract was awarded for work to begin so Peekskill didn't risk losing funding provided by the state.

Mike Welti, director of planning and development for the city, said city officials met with Sanca to discuss the project in August, although City Manager Anthony Ruggiero conceded she was not notified

of the actual starting date.

"Nobody wants businesses next door to feel uncomfortable," Welti said. "The building isn't located there because we want to be bad neighbors. We shrunk the building as much as we can. The location of the building are all elements of a plan that have been adopted by the council since 2011."

Sanca had requested a 10-foot easement between the visitor's center and her store to allow customers the ability to turn around, but she was denied by the council. "I don't think asking for 10 feet is a lot," she said. "That 10 feet would have made such a difference."

Peekskill Mayor Frank Catalina suggested the council simply approve an amendment to the original plans for the plaza that would restore the parking spaces customers of Homestyles Desserts had utilized, but Welti said that change could jeopardize the funding for the project.

Jeff Dain, owner of neighboring Dain's Lumber, said the city should bend over backwards for Sanca, who he noted transferred a former printing building into a successful venture that has transformed the Riverfront Green area.

"Sometimes it's more important to do the right thing than to be right," he said.

A Children of America
EDUCATIONAL CHILDCARE & ACADEMY

**EXPERIENCE OUR
Childcare Difference**

**MOHEGAN LAKE, NY
Grand Opening Event**

SATURDAY JANUARY, 24th from 10AM to 2PM
EXCITING RATE OFFERS | 10% OFF TUITION

CALL TODAY 914-930-6084

childrenofamerica.com or find us on  & 

INFANT • TODDLER • PRESCHOOL • PRE-K • KINDERGARTEN • BEFORE/AFTER CARE • SUMMER CAMP

Childcare Advocates Plead for More County Funding in 2015

By Janine Bowen

Calls for increases in childcare funding dominated the conversation at last week's public hearing on the 2015 county budget at Somers High School.

Parents and childcare providers called on the Board of Legislators to increase Title XX subsidy funding by \$1 million and hike reimbursements to childcare facilities. They also pleaded for the parent contribution to be reduced from 27 to 15 percent.

"For every single family we can help, this funding makes a huge difference in the lives of those families. But we're reaching the point now where, even with the subsidy, it's becoming out of reach," said Dawn Meyerski, program director at Mount Kisco Child Care Center.

Meyerski said that a 27 percent parent share is too high and that many parents need to rely on additional scholarships provided by childcare centers and non-profit organizations to afford care for their children.

Mistie Eltrich, president of the Child Care Council of Westchester, noted the cost of childcare is highest in Westchester, costing about \$20,000 per year for an infant compared to \$14,000 in Rockland and \$16,000 in Nassau. Her organization provides scholarships to more than 40 families in need annually, but with the original donor now deceased, that program will end in June, making an increase in county funding more critical.

Many parents who spoke during the hour-long hearing said that because of the high cost of childcare, they are forced to make difficult choices. Some noted that with the 27 percent contribution rate, payments often exceed their rent or mortgage. In addition, many fear that if the cost isn't lowered, they will be forced to move away or opt for subpar childcare options.

Tarrytown resident Maciel Burgos, a mother of a five-year-old who attends the Ossining Children's Center and a seven-month-old who attends Mount Kisco Child Care Center, said the pro-



JANINE BOWEN PHOTO

Most of the speakers at the Nov. 25 public hearing on the 2015 county budget urged legislators to increase childcare subsidies for next year.

grams have greatly benefitted her family. However, she is going into debt making payments and a lower parent contribution would help keep her children in the program.

"I don't want to lose this. I don't want to be giving my child to someone that's just going to put my child in front of the TV," Burgos said. "I've been working since I was 14 years old; I never have asked for help except for now, which I really do need. I don't want to be a statistic, I don't want to be on welfare and I don't want to stay at home."

Last year, the county allocated \$1.4 million to expand Title XX subsidies to allow more qualified families to benefit; however, the funding is slated to be cut in half for the 2015 budget because those funds remain largely unused.

Howard Milbert, executive director of the Ossining Children's Center and the co-president of the Westchester Early Childhood Directors Association, explained that the funds were unused because of late enrollment and failure to publicize the subsidy's availability.

"It's true they were unused, but to say that they were unneeded is a misinterpretation," Milbert said.

Many who spoke at the Nov. 25 hearing noted that children who are able to attend proper day-care facilities have an advantage when they start kindergarten. They noted that county funding for childcare services is an investment in the future, enabling children to get a good start in their education, which helps them as they get older.

"Because of the high cost of quality childcare, some children do not receive the tools they need to succeed in school and beyond in the rest of their lives," said Katherine Loda, a member of the Mount Kisco Child Care Center's board of directors. "Yet those children are our future leaders and no one benefits if half of the future leaders do not receive the tools that they need to succeed in life."

While funding for day-care was the main focus of those attending the hearing, representatives from other organizations also called for increased funding. Several asked for a cost-of-living adjustment for nonprofit organizations.

Although the 2015 budget calls for a 3 percent increase in funding to nonprofits, Joanne Mongelli, deputy director of ArtsWestchester, noted her organization's funding would still be \$216,000 less

than what it received in 2011.

ArtsWestchester Board of Directors Vice President Bob Roth noted that the funding reduction over the past three years has forced program cuts, particularly for special needs residents. ArtsWestchester was able to fund 11 special needs projects in 2012 compared to two in 2013 and 2014, he said.

Tammy Evans, a representative from Open Door Family Medical Center, with five locations in Westchester, asked that the county restore \$1.5 million in funding for federally qualified health centers. Prior to the termination of its contract with the county in 2013, Open Door received more than \$500,000 annually to fund screenings for diseases, immunizations and treatment of communicable diseases.

Evans noted that Open Door currently serves 40,000 uninsured Westchester residents and is more accessible than the two county-operated health clinics, which are open fewer days and have shorter hours.

The third and final budget hearing is scheduled for this Wednesday, Dec. 3 at the county building in White Plains. The budget is required to be adopted by Dec. 27.

Cortlandt Farm Market

**Premium Cut
Christmas Trees • Custom Wreaths
(Decorated & Undecorated)
Pointsettias • Roping
Cemetery Pieces**

Call for our Extended Holiday Hours
*Open 7 Days a Week
April-December*
**2267 Crompond Rd.
Cortlandt Manor
914-739-0686**

FRUIT BASKETS

CHRISTMAS TREES!

Apple Cider
Donuts
Pies
Loaf Cakes

**YELLOW SHED
ANTIQUES**

Visit Us for a
Unique Shopping Experience
Buying & Selling
Jewelry • Coins • Antiques • Glassware • Gifts • Etc

571 Route 6 • 845-628-0362

Open 7 Days

Santa Claus is Coming

Santa Run In Yorktown

Santa will be making his rounds handing out candy canes with the Yorktown Heights Engine Company #1 on Sunday December 14 th (rain date Dec. 21nd) Visit the departments web page at www.yorktownfire.com for the schedule of Santa's stops.

Route 1

TIME	STREET	CROSS-STREET
08:45AM	CURRY	WEATHERBY
08:55AM	CURRY	DREW LA
09:05AM	DOUGLAS DR	HOLMES CT
09:10AM	DOUGLAS DR	WHITMAN RD
09:15AM	MUIR CT	
09:20AM	WHITMAN RD	POPLAR ST
09:30AM	FOREST CT	SYCAMORE LA
09:40AM	POPLAR ST	SHIELA CT
09:50AM	DEERHAUNT ST	SOMERSTON RD
09:55AM	CORDIAL RD	RAVENCREST
10:00AM	CURRY ST	RAVENCREST RD
10:05AM	CURRY ST	STONELEIGH
10:10AM	HITCHING POST LA	
10:15AM	LONDON RD	LILY CT
10:20AM	SMITH RD	BONNIE CT
10:30AM	WHARTON RD	LONDON RD
10:35AM	WHARTON RD	RADCLIFFE DR
10:40AM	QUINLAN ST	RADCLIFFE DR
10:45AM	LUELLA ST	MEAD ST
10:50AM	MEAD ST	QUINLAN ST
10:55AM	QUINLAN ST	OGDEN RD
11:05AM	HICKORY ST	HEMLOCK ST
11:10AM	HICKORY ST	CORDING RD
11:20AM	STERLING TER	FARM WALK RD
11:25AM	ESSEX FIELDS	FARMWALK RD
11:35AM	SPRINGHURST ST	LOCKSLEY RD
11:40AM	SPRINGHURST ST	SHARON LA
11:45AM	SPRINGHURST ST	SPRINGHURST CT
11:50AM	DEERFIELD AVE	HEATHERCREST DR
11:55AM	HEATHERCREST DR	GARTH CT

12:00PM	CECILE DR	SHARON LA
12:10PM	MEADOWCREST CT	MEADOWCREST DR
12:15PM	MEADOWCREST DR	FERNCREST DR
12:20PM	SADDLE RIDGE RD	BOSTON CT
12:25PM	CROMPOND SCHOOL	MANOR ST
12:30PM	BREAK	BREAK
1:40PM	FREYERS FLORIST	
1:50PM	STRANG BLVD	BARBERRY RD
1:55PM	FOX MEADOW CT	STRANG BLVD
2:00PM	WENDELL LA	CARR CT
2:05PM	LARKSPUR ST	FERRIS PL
2:10PM	FERRIS PL	DENBY DR
2:15PM	FOX MEADOW RD	LARKSPUR ST
2:20PM	HOLLY RD	DENBY DR
2:25PM	LORETTA ST	LESTER RD
2:30PM	DARNLEY PL	LESTER RD
2:40PM	GRANVILLE CT	*
2:45PM	PARK LA	MOHANSIC AVE
2:50PM	SHERRY DR	ELLEN LA
2:55PM	ELLEN LA	MARK RD
3:00PM	MARK RD	EDCRIS RD
3:05PM	EDCRIS RD	EDWARD LA
3:10PM	EDWARD LA	LELAND DR
3:15PM	WALTER RD	MARK RD
3:20PM	WILLIAMS CT	*
3:25PM	WILKENS FRUIT & FIR FARM	

Route 2

TIME	STREET	CROSS-STREET
9:00AM	YORKRIDGE APTS	ROCHAMBEAU
9:20AM	FRENCH HILL RD	UNDERHILL AVE
9:30AM	HEIGHTS DR	MORNINGVIEW DR
9:35AM	HEIGHTS DR	WESTVIEW
9:50AM	HAYES DR	WINSLOW DR
10:00AM	RUSTIC RIDGE	
10:10AM	BRIDGE POINTE LA	
10:20AM	HUNTERBROOK RD	WILSON RD
10:30AM	HUNTERBROOK RD	OLD LOGGING RD
10:40AM	BAPTIST CHURCH RD	HUNTERBROOK RD
10:50AM	BAPTIST CHURCH RD	BALDWIN RD

11:00AM	GAMBELLI DRIVE	*
11:15AM	ILLINGTON RD	GRANT LA
11:20AM	ILLINGTON RD	ESTATE DR
11:30AM	CHADEAYNE RD	LOG CHURCH
11:35AM	SYSKA RD	CHADEAYNE RD
11:45AM	ERIN LA	PINESBRIDGE RD
11:55AM	CROW HILL RD	CROW HILL PATH
12:00PM	SPRING MEADOW RD	SPRING POND RD
12:05PM	SPRING POND RD	SPRING HILL RD
12:15PM	BIRDSALL RD	JEROME RD
12:25PM	SIDNEY CT	
12:35PM	CHATHAM LA	WELLINGTON RD
12:40PM	CROTON HTS RD	PETER PRATTS'S INN
12:45PM	CROTON HTS RD	CARTER'S GROVE
12:50PM	CROTON HTS RD	WHITEHORSE LN
12:55PM	BREAK	BREAK
1:55PM	MCKEEL ST	REVERE DR
2:00PM	RUTLEDGE DR	PICKENS CT
2:05PM	CHESTNUT CT	TROUT BROOK DR
2:10PM	PINE BROOK RD	HEATHER CT
2:15PM	PINE BROOK RD	OLD COUNTRY WAY
2:20PM	CAROLINA RD	GEORGIA ST
2:25PM	INDIANA AVE	CALIFORNIA RD
2:30PM	CALIFORNIA	EDGEWOOD ST
2:35PM	CENTRAL ST	MONTROSS RD
2:40PM	CENTRAL ST	HUDSON RD
2:45PM	CENTRAL ST	MOSEMAN RD
2:50PM	CENTRAL ST	RICHARD PL
2:55PM	MAXWELL DR	MOSEMAN RD
3:00PM	UNDERHILL AVE	HIGHBROOK ST
3:10PM	HALYAN RD	LONGVUE ST
3:15PM	FRIENDS RD	EDGEWATER ST
3:20PM	UNDERHILL APTS	SOUTH LOT

Route 3

TIME	STREET	CROSS-STREET
8:45AM	BEAVER RIDGE APTS	ALLAN AVE
9:00AM	BRETON CT	ALLAN AVE
9:05AM	ALLAN AVE	ETNA PL
9:10AM	ALLAN AVE	BALDWIN RD
9:20AM	YORK FARM ESTATES	BALDWIN RD

9:30AM	DOGWOOD DR	FIELDSTONE CT
9:40AM	GIORDANO DR	BLOSSOM CT
9:45AM	GIORDANO DR	GLENROCK ST
9:50AM	COUNTRY HOUSE	BALDWIN RD
10:10AM	LAVOIE CT	BALDWIN RD
10:20AM	VIEWLAND DR	VISTA CT
10:30AM	MADISON CT	*
10:40AM	HAWTHORNE DR	LORING PL
10:45AM	LORING PL	YORKHILL RD
10:55AM	HILLTOP RD	ROUTE 202
11:05AM	ELIZABETH RD	RIDGE ST
11:15AM	RIDGE ST	WAVERLY CT
11:20AM	WAVERLY RD	BARRY CT
11:25AM	WAVERLY RD	COLONIAL
11:35AM	BARWAY DR	GOMER ST
11:40AM	BARWAY DR	GRANITE SPRINGS RD
11:45AM	DUNNING DR	GRANITE SPRINGS RD
11:50AM	HEDWIG DR	ALDEN RD
12:00PM	HYATT ST	GARY RD
12:05PM	GREGORY ST.	GRANITE SPRINGS RD
12:10PM	SARA CT	*
12:20PM	BENJAMIN BLVD	PINTREE PL
12:30PM	GREENWOOD ST	BROOKSIDE AVE
12:35PM	BROOKSIDE AVE	LANDMARK CT
12:40PM	BREAK	BREAK
1:40PM	WINDMILL DR	WINDMILL CT
1:45PM	WINDMILL DR	SUNRISE ST
1:50PM	WINDMILL DR	SARLES DR
1:55PM	QUAKER CHURCH RD	GRANITE SPRINGS RD
2:00PM	EVERGREEN ST	CHRISTOPHER CT
2:05PM	EVERGREEN ST	OSLO DR
2:10PM	OSLO DR	FARSUND DR
2:15PM	FARSUND DR	EVERGREEN ST
2:20PM	EVERGREEN ST	LODER RD
2:25PM	TRELAWN ST	WHIPORWILL ST
2:35PM	VAN CORTLANDT CIR	PARKER LA
2:50PM	FOUNTAIN CT	FISHERPOND RD
2:55PM	SULTANA DR	SABER CT
3:00PM	LAUREL CT	HAMBLYN ST
3:10PM	VETERANS RD	COMMERCE ST

Somers Volunteer FD Santa Claus and Candy Cane Runs

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Route 1 (ENGINE CO. 183)

9:00am	LINCOLNDALE POST OFFICE
9:15am	LOVELL STREET & FRANKLIN DRIVE
9:20am	LAKE LINCOLNDALE CLUB HOUSE
9:30am	LAKE SHORE DRIVE, NO. & LAKE SHORE DRIVE, SO.
9:45am	LOVELL STREET & FLORENCE DRIVE
9:55am	VILLAGE PLAZA (ROUTE 202 & LOVELL STREET)
10:05am	KRYSTAL DRIVE, THE WILLOWS
10:25am	WILNER ROAD & LONDONDERRY LANE
10:30am	LONDONDERRY LANE & MOUNTAIN VIEW DRIVE
10:35am	HALLOCKS RUN (AT POOL HOUSE)
10:45am	HALLOCKS RUN & WELLINGTON LANE
10:55am	SOMERS MIDDLE/ INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
11:10am	OPENGATE, WARREN STREET
11:20am	GREENBRIAR CLUBHOUSE, GREENBRIAR DRIVE
11:35am	HERITAGE HILLS ACTIVITIES CENTER
11:45am	HERITAGE ROUTE 202 CENTER
12:00pm	SOMERSTOWNE CENTRE, (IN FRONT OF

Route #2 (ENGINE CO. 181)

9:00am	MANCINI DRIVE & WARD DRIVE
9:15am	HORTON DRIVE & BROOKSIDE DRIVE
9:30am	SHENOROCK POST OFFICE
9:40am	TRAVIS ROAD & CHAMBERS DRIVE
9:45am	TRAVIS ROAD & PUTNEY DRIVE
9:50am	LOOMIS DRIVE & PUTNEY DRIVE
9:55am	LOUNSBERRY DRIVE & CORNELIUS LANE
10:00am	SOMERS COMMONS SHOPPING CENTER (STOP&SHOP)
10:15am	VINE AVENUE & HOLLYWOOD PLACE
10:20am	COUNTRY HOLLOW DRIVE & CORRAL COURT
10:25am	CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
10:35am	RICHARD SOMERS ROAD & RAEMONT RD (MONUMENT)
10:40am	RAEMONT ROAD & JAMES WAY (BOTTOM OF HILL)
10:55am	GRANITE SPRINGS ROAD & HILLTOP Dr.
11:00am	HILLTOP DRIVE & MULLEN ROAD
11:10am	BEDELL ROAD & GREENLAWN ROAD
11:15am	GREENLAWN ROAD & MCKEEL STREET
11:20am	WOOD STREET & MCKEEL STREET
11:30am	AMAWALK FIRE HOUSE, CHALMERS

11:35am	BOULAVARD
11:40am	AMAWALK AVENUE & HILLSIDE TERRACE
11:50am	MAHOPAC AVENUE & WOODCREST TERRACE
11:55pm	MAHOPAC AVENUE & ELISHA PURDY Rd.
12:00pm	WATERGATE DRIVE & WOODCREST TERRACE
12:10pm	WATERGATE DRIVE, NO. & CALE ROAD
12:20pm	WATERGATE DRIVE, NO. & OLD FARM Rd.
12:20pm	GRANITE SPRINGS FIRE HOUSE, OLD TOMAHAWK ST.

Route#3 (ENGINE CO. 180)

9:00am	SUNDERLAND LANE & TITUS COURT
9:05am	SUNDERLAND LANE & KNIFFEN ROAD
9:15am	STONEHOUSE ROAD AT Y
9:25am	DEANS BRIDGE ROAD & DEANS POND LAKE PURDY'S CLUBHOUSE
9:30am	ELMER GALLOWAY ROAD & FRANCES DRIVE
9:45am	FRANCES DRIVE & PARENT ROAD
9:55am	FIELDSTONE LN & SILVER SPRINGS CT, TWIN KNOLLS
10:00am	FIELDSTONE LANE & SHARD COURT, TWIN KNOLLS

10:10am	CROSSBUCK ROAD & HONEY HOLLOW RD, WOOD LOT
10:15am	CROSSBUCK ROAD & STUART LANE, WOOD LOT
10:20am	MOSEMAN AVENUE & SOUTH LANE
10:25am	TALL TREES COURT & TIMBERLINE DRIVE, MUSCOOT RIDGE
10:35am	LAURA LANE & LOIS PLACE
10:40am	PINES BRIDGE ROAD & DEER FIELD LANE
10:45am	SUN HILL ROAD & HOPKINS LANE
10:55am	COBBLING ROCK ROAD & WHITMANN Dr.
11:00am	DR. TONY'S ROAD & COBBLING ROCK Rd.
11:10am	ORCHARD HILL ROAD & HILLTOP DRIVE
11:15am	KINGSWOOD ROAD & WILLOW CREST Dr.
11:20am	LAKE ROAD & ASHTON ROAD
11:30am	CORTLANDT MANOR ROAD & VAN RANSSELEAR ROAD
11:40am	REIS PARK, ROUTE 139
11:45am	PRIMROSE DRIVE & BLACKBERRY HILL Rd.
11:55am	LALLI DRIVE & EDGEWOOD DRIVE
12:00pm	LALLI DRIVE & ADAMS FARM ROAD
12:05pm	LAKEWOOD DRIVE & MANOR LANE
12:10pm	VALLEY POND ROAD & COLONIAL DR.
12:15pm	COLONIAL DRIVE & FOLEY ROAD
12:20pm	PRIMROSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

To advertise in The Examiner, call
914-864-0878 or e-mail
advertising@theexaminernews.com

The Northern Westchester Examiner

Adam Stone
astone@theexaminernews.com
Publisher

Laura Markowski
lmarkowski@theexaminernews.com
Associate Publisher

Peter Stone
pstone@theexaminernews.com
Chief Financial Officer

Rick Pezzullo
rpezzullo@theexaminernews.com
Editor-in-Chief

Martin Wilbur
mwilbur@theexaminernews.com
Assistant Editor

Neal Rentz
nrentz@theexaminernews.com
Reporter

David Propper
dpropper@theexaminernews.com
Reporter

Ray Gallagher
rgallagher@theexaminernews.com
Sports Editor

Stan Gitner
Freelance Photographer

Mekea Fishin
mfishin@theexaminernews.com
Layout Designer

Dina Spalvieri
dspalvieri@theexaminernews.com
Ad Designer

Jeff Ohlbaum
johlbaum@theexaminernews.com
Senior Account Executive

Paul Cardi
pcardi@theexaminernews.com
Senior Account Executive

Nina Harrison
nharrison@theexaminernews.com
Account Executive

Corinne Stanton
cstanton@theexaminernews.com
Consultant

Examiner
MEDIA
also publishes
The Examiner
The PUTNAM
Examiner
The WHITE PLAINS
Examiner

PO Box 611, Mount Kisco, NY 10549
914-864-0878

www.TheExaminerNews.com

To inquire about paid subscriptions,
email subscriptions@theexaminernews.com
for pricing and other details.



Guest Commentary

I Read Obamacare, Now See What You Think

By Ken Ryan

The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) is suddenly back in the news, front and center. Video tapes have surfaced of Obamacare Architect Jonathan Gruber openly discussing how they deliberately misled the American people and relied on the “stupidity of the American voter” to get President Obama’s signature legislation passed. If they had to be transparent, says Gruber, the bill would have never passed. Doesn’t that make you feel great knowing that this arrogant jackass is one of the masterminds constructing laws that you and I have to live by or in this case die by?

Putting this recent revelation aside, this law has annoyed me from the start. Immediately following it being signed into law by President Obama on March 23, 2010, there was an uproar when it became clear that the Senators, Congressmen and Congresswomen who voted for the bill did not read it. When cornered, some admitted as much, indignant at being asked. They had absolutely no idea how it would actually affect our lives once implemented. In order to get it passed, proponents simply hammered home a few choice talking points that they knew the public would understand, digest and repeat. And this includes all the cheerleader pundits, Hollywood celebrities, news outlets, national union leaders, trade association leaders, and the countless other groups and individuals that lobbied hard to get the bill passed. Not one of them read the whole bill. We all remember, “If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor,” or, “Insurance premiums will go down.” And there were others. Well that was over 4 ½ years ago and none of those promises have proven to be true.

From where I’m sitting I think the point-of-view of the house and senate members was that there was no real need to read and understand the bill. Clearly in this instance, that was

secondary, if even that. The goal was to win the fight, period. Beat your opponent, and win the fight for your team, American citizens be damned. To this day, I guarantee that those who voted for it and those that lobbied hard for it still haven’t read it. Once this thing passed their job was done. And I can definitely tell you that none of them understand it in its full implementation.

All the issues in the larger discussion of the Governments proper role in Healthcare aside, I became focused on the fact that this bill passed with very few people, if any at all, having read it and understood it. Perhaps that’s the normal M.O. in Washington, I suspect it might be, but who knows. Multi-thousand page bills pass. Then a whole assortment of federal or state agencies filled with nameless, faceless bureaucrats (some I’m sure like our pal Jonathan Gruber) spit out thousands of pages of rules and regulations necessary to implement the multi-thousand page bill. Take Obamacare as an example. The Department of Health and Human Services (and other departments) has created and is creating thousands of pages of rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of the bill. Who can understand and keep track of all of this? They want you to believe that they can. They can’t! It’s virtually impossible.

So I had an idea. I’ll read Obamacare. I’ll videotape myself reading the bill and post it on-line for all to see and hear. I wanted to create something so that the American people can judge for themselves what they think of the bill. I knew the average American was never going to read it. But perhaps they will listen to a few minutes of it, or watch a few minutes of a video reading of the actual bill. They will not have to rely on someone else’s skewed interpretation of the bill, remember those misleading talking points. I wanted to make

it possible for them to listen to the actual bill themselves and come to their own conclusions.

As I thought about doing it I realized I could dovetail the reading with a lesson to my kids about self-motivation, entrepreneurship, capitalism and the free market system in general. I mentioned the idea to them and they thought it was a good idea, a little crazy, but a good idea just the same. We discussed whether or not the videos might be a product that some people would be willing to pay for. We concluded that it just might. The videos would provide a service to the customer. The service would be the unvarnished presentation of information about a very important subject that is the topic of heated national discussion, and one that affects every person in this country. People might be willing to pay a nominal fee for that. So we decided to do it. We had the idea for the product. Now we just had to manufacture the product, start the company, market the videos and present them for viewing.

So we did just that. I videotaped myself reading all 2,407 pages. We filed all the necessary paperwork to start an official company and created a website for viewing the videos at www.Ireadobamacare.com

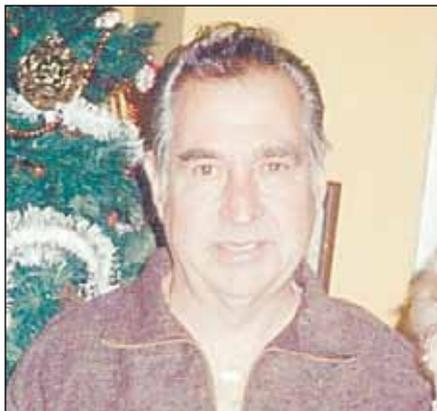
Unlike what the architects of this bill think, although we’re not all experienced legislators and lawyers, we’re not all stupid. I think people should review this bill and judge it for themselves. I personally think its 2,407 pages of undecipherable confusion, but don’t take my word for it. That’s the whole point of the videos. Don’t take my word for it! Don’t take a politician’s word for it! Don’t take a millionaire movie star’s word for it! Don’t take your union leader’s word for it! etc. etc. etc.

Listen to the videos and come to your own conclusion. You’re smart enough for that.

Ken Ryan is owner of Somers Custom Framing

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS
914-864-0878

Obituaries



Ralph Cardi

Ralph Cardi

Ralph Cardi, a resident of Pleasantville, died peacefully November 29 at Westchester Medical Center. He was 80.

Mr. Cardi was born in the Bronx on April 9, 1934 to Louis and Ida Cardi. He is survived by his loving sons Paul and John Cardi, and siblings Louis Cardi and Virginia Rago.

After graduating from Samuel Gompers High School, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and proudly served in Korea. On June 9, 1957, he married Frances Marciante of Mt. Vernon. Together they spent 57 wonderful years together until Frances' passing

this past July.

Mr. Cardi worked as a surveyor for Mt. Vernon Contracting and Yonkers Contracting until starting his successful landscaping business in 1981. A kind, decent, loving man with a sharp wit and a soft heart, he will be missed by those who had the gift of knowing him.

Wake services will be held on Wednesday December 3 from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday December 4 at 10 a.m. at Holy Innocents in Pleasantville, with burial following at All Souls Cemetery in Pleasantville.

Doris Atwell

Doris Catherine Atwell, a longtime resident of Somers, died on November 21. She was 87.

Mrs. Atwell worked as an Administrative Assistant for Maryknoll in Ossining, before retiring in 1992. She was born in 1927, in Newburgh, to James and Dorothy Fitzpatrick. She graduated from White Plains High School in 1945. In 1950, she married Robert Joseph Atwell at Sacred Heart Church in Mount Vernon. Mrs. Atwell was a parishioner of St. Patrick's R.C. Church in

Yorktown Heights. A woman of deep faith, Mrs. Atwell was warm, kind, fun, loving and generous of heart. She was a wonderful wife, mother, sister and friend. Interested in life, she made everyone she touched feel special.

Mrs. Atwell is survived by her son, Robert J. Atwell, Jr. and his spouse, Jane; her daughter Susan A. Napoleon and her spouse Gil; her daughter Ann L. Atwell; her daughter Dorothy A. Cassetta and her spouse Dominick and her daughter Virginia M. Atwell-Greenwood and her spouse James. She is also survived by her grandchildren: Joe, Christine, Nicholas, James, Amanda, Richard, Gus, John Michael, Drew, Kathryn, Victoria, Daniel, Kelly and Luke, as well as one great-grandchild, Robbie. In addition, she is survived by her sister Barbara Cervi and nieces Dawn and Wendy. She was predeceased by her husband, parents and brother, Jim.

Thomas McLaughlin

Thomas Joseph McLaughlin, a veteran of World War II and the U.S. Navy, and a resident of Cortlandt, died on November 24. He was 87.

Born in New York City on February 4, 1927, he was the son of John and Catherine Tierney McLaughlin. On January 27, 1951,

he married Flora McPhee at the Church of the Holy Agony in NYC. He was a communicant at Assumption Church, Peekskill. During and after World War II, he was stationed in England and Allied-occupied Germany.

He is survived by his sons Thomas M. (Charlene) and John D. (Ave) McLaughlin, daughter Elizabeth A. (Clifford) Purdy, grandchildren Catherine, Ave, Jacqueline, James, Courtney, and great-grandchildren Alec, Aidan, and Emma. He was predeceased by his wife Flora F. and his son James A. McLaughlin.

Anne Taylor

Anne C. Taylor, a longtime resident of Somers, died on November 23 at Putnam Hospital in Carmel. She was 83.

She was born October 23, 1931 in Wilkes-Barre, PA to Richard and Nellie Corcoran. She was predeceased by her husband, Robert C. Taylor, on November 1, 2013. She is survived by her six children, Robert, Katherine, Richard, John, Karen and Chris; her grandchildren, Robert, Jennifer, Jeffrey, Eric, Michael, Michelle, Benjamin, Anne and Madeline; and her great-grandchildren, Maximillian and Mikaela.

continued on page 15

Advertorial

Tax Savings to consider Before Year-End...(Part 1 of 2)



Max out retirement savings. One of the best ways to lower your tax bill is to maximize your retirement savings. This

not only increases your retirement savings, but also lowers your taxable income for the current year. You can contribute to up to \$17,500 to your 401(k) or similar retirement savings plan in 2014 (\$23,000 if you are 50 or older by the end of the year).

Fund an IRA. You can contribute up to \$5,500 (\$6,500 if you are 50 or older by the end of the year). Deductibility depends upon your income level and whether you participate in a retirement savings plan at work.

Go for a health tax break. Medical reimbursement

accounts, sometimes called a flex plan, let you divert part of your salary to an account which you can then use to pay medical bills. This move will avoid both income and Social Security tax on the money.

Pay child-care bills with pre-tax dollars. If your employer offers such a plan, take advantage of it. This will help you to avoid both income and Social Security taxes.

Ask your boss to pay for your education. Companies can offer employees up to \$5,250 of educational assistance tax-free each year. That means the boss pays the bills but the amount doesn't show up as part of your salary on your W-2.

Pay back a 401(k) loan before leaving the job. Failing to do so means the loan amount will be considered a distribution that will be taxed in your top bracket and, if you're younger than 59 ½ in the year you leave your job,

hit with a 10% penalty, too.

Keep track of your job-hunting expenses. As long as you're looking for a new position in the same line of work (your first job doesn't qualify), you can deduct job-hunting costs including travel expenses. Such costs are deductible to the extent all such costs exceed 2% of your adjusted gross income.

Go green. A tax credit is available for homeowners who install alternative energy equipment. It equals 30 percent of what a homeowner spends on qualifying property such as solar electric systems, solar hot water heaters, geothermal heat pumps, and wind turbines, including labor costs.

Donate appreciated assets. If you plan to make a significant gift to charity, consider giving appreciated stocks or mutual fund shares that you've owned for more than one year instead of cash. Your charitable con-

tribution deduction is the fair market value of the securities on the date of the gift, not the amount you paid for the asset, and you never have to pay the capital gains tax. However, don't donate stocks or fund shares that lost money. You'd be better off selling the asset, claiming the loss on your taxes, and donating cash to the charity.

Charitable miles driven. A deduction is allowed for the number of miles you drive your car for charity (14 cents a mile).

Robert F. Joyce is a certified public accountant and financial planner located in Yorktown Heights, NY. Robert provides tax preparation services for individuals, businesses, trusts and estates, as well as book-keeping services. Robert can be reached at 914-960-9285 or www.rfjoycecpa.com.

Santa and Pet Photo Nights at Jefferson Valley Mall

Eager children and their families can experience the joy and magic of the holiday season with a visit to the Santa Photo Experience at Jefferson Valley Mall. Children can visit and be photographed with Santa now through December 24 in Center Court.

Jefferson Valley Mall also provides children with special needs and their families with an opportunity to enjoy a carefully managed Santa photo experience through the Caring Santa program. Caring Santa will occur on Sunday, December 7 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Guests can register in advance at simon.com/caringsanta.

For local pet owners, the popular Pet Photo Nights with Santa will occur on Sunday, December 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. During the Pet Nights, Recycled Paws Rescue will conduct pet adoptions and Groomingdales of Mahopac will distribute information about their services as well.

Also on December 7, Jefferson Valley Mall will host a Pet Holiday Fashion Show from 4 to 6 p.m. As part of the event, vendors such as groomers, boarding facilities, veterinarians and more will be on-site, along with pet-friendly activities and giveaways. Local residents who have an adorable pet they'd like to see on the catwalk are encouraged to volunteer. Anyone interested in having their pet participate can

contact Alexa O'Rourke at (914) 245-4688.

The Santa Photo Experience is sponsored by Gymboree. The Gymboree Corporation is a specialty retailer operating stores selling high-quality apparel and accessories for children under the Gymboree, Gymboree Outlet, Janie and Jack, and Crazy 8 brands.

"One of the great traditions of holiday shopping at Jefferson Valley Mall is the annual family visit to the Santa Photo Experience," said Alexa O'Rourke, director of marketing and business development at Jefferson Valley Mall. "I know Santa can't wait to greet children bringing him their holiday wishes."

Caring Santa provides a sensory-friendly environment for families of children with special needs, to safely experience the time-honored tradition and magic of Santa on Sunday, December 7 prior to mall opening. Guests can register in advance at simon.com/caringsanta.

The popular Pet Photo Night returns to the Santa Photo Experience at Jefferson Valley Mall this year. Many pet owners view their pet as an integral member of the family and are just as committed in caring for their pets as their "human" family members. Pet Photo nights are hosted after regular mall closing and the set gets an extensive cleaning following the event to re-

move any potential risk to allergy sufferers.

The Noerr Programs, providers of the Santa Photo Experience, will be sharing the heart of Santa online this holiday season through "BeMerrySanta", where families can keep up with Santa's daily musings on his Facebook page at facebook.com/BeMerrySanta, on Twitter @BeMerrySanta or Instagram at BeMerrySanta. Parents can also share their child's good deed with Santa by going to his Magical Badge Generator at simon.bemerrysanta.com. After their child creates their badge, they can show Santa on a mobile device or print out their child's customized badge. He will merrily reward each child for their kind act with a very special chocolate treat from Lindt, while supplies last.

Guests to every Noerr set will have another opportunity to share Santa's heart by making a donation via The Noerr Programs to Save the Children. For nearly 100 years, this non-profit has given underserved children in the U.S. a healthy start, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. Since this program began four years ago, Noerr has collected over \$708,000 largely due to the generosity of shoppers. Each holiday season, Noerr kicks off the fundraising campaign by visiting a Save the Children location. Each launch is connected to a Simon mall. This year, Santa will travel to the community of Union, South Carolina to spread holiday cheer for those in need.



Yorktown Athletics Win Crown

The 8U Yorktown Athletics won the 2014 BU Westchester Baseball Association silver bracket championship last month at the Route 202 fields. In the semifinals, Yorktown defeated Hillcrest 5-1 before capturing the title with an 11-2 victory in the finals over Rye Brook. Team members were Ryan DiNapoli, Jason Douglas, Cole Haddock, Ruslan Makarenko, William McCarthy, Nicholas Pace, Derek Patrissi, Michael Ryan, Sean Ryan, Anthony Sabatello, Christian Sanchez, Matt Sanchez, Thomas Shkreli, AJ Solla and Matt Stettinisch. Coaches were Jim McCarthy, Pat Pace, Robert Patrissi and Igor Makarenko.

JEFFERSON VALLEY MALL

Join the club! Join the fun!

The Simon Kidgits Club® is a kids' club with interactive games, giveaways, prizes, and events for the whole family!
\$5 annual membership fee. See Simon Guest Services for membership information and details.

SIMON | more choices simon.com/kidgits

**20% OFF
ANY SERVICE**

Advanced Computer Repair
253 Route 202 Samers, NY 10589 (914) 689-6666



Protective Safety Training LLC Putnam Valley

By Neal Rentz

As a Village of Ossining police officer, Putnam Valley resident Mike Lantz had completed required training in such skills as CPR, first aid and AED.

But often a person in distress needs medical assistance before police and other certified emergency services workers are able to respond to the scene.

Lantz owns a company that provides training for both emergency service providers and to the general public in an effort to save lives. .

He explained last week in his police work he responded “to many calls for service where bystanders felt helpless to intervene due to their lack of training” and he wanted to do something about it.

“It’s a side business,” he said. “The public should know what to do when a problem needs to be met.”

Lantz opened Protective Safety Training out of his home in 2008. The company’s staff of public safety professionals travels to wherever his clients want their lessons, including homes and offices. The clients include both those who need certification for their volunteer or professional emergency services work and for individuals not



Putnam Valley resident Mike Lantz, owner of Protective Safety Training LLC.

seeking to be certified, but who want the training to prepare them for a potential medical emergency, he said.

Lantz, who describes himself as an “experienced EMS field provider and educator” as well as a full-time police officer, said that, according to the American Heart Association, 88 percent of all cardiac arrests take place at home

but the general public is often are not prepared to deal with that or other medical emergencies.

As stated on the company Web site, Protective Safety Training LLC is dedicated “to educating those who have a desire to make a difference through their commitment to preparedness.”

All of the company’s courses comply

with American Heart Association standards. Lantz said he and his employees are highly qualified to provide training. “We’re all experienced” professionals with backgrounds in responding to medical emergencies, including police officers and medics, as well as educators in the field.

Lantz said his courses teach skills that could “make a difference” in the event of a medical emergency. Training is offered in such areas as cardio pulmonary resuscitation, first aid, and how to operate an automated external defibrillator, an electronic device use for people experiencing heart irregularities.

Lantz said his company also provides training for emergency service workers, such as emergency medical technicians, in “Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings,” as well as how to deal with blood borne pathogens associated with such illnesses as HIV and hepatitis.

Whether training professionals or the general public the goal is the same –save lives. “It was one of the motivations of starting the business,” he said.

For more information about Protective Safety Training call (845)554-0911 or visit protectivesafetytraining.com.

WE’VE BEEN TAKING GREAT CARE TO MAKE THINGS BETTER.



Metro-North is investing in numerous station enhancements and renovations to make your travel experience safer and more comfortable.

Stations with recent upgrades include:

Mount Vernon East / Pelham / New Rochelle / Larchmont / Mamaroneck / Harrison / Brewster / Goldens Bridge / Croton Falls / Hartsdale / Purdy’s / Fordham / Croton-Harmon / Peekskill / Poughkeepsie / North White Plains / Crestwood / Cortlandt / Scarsdale

For details visit mta.info, or call 511. And download the free Metro-North Train Time app for what’s new. In CT, call 877-690-5114.



Croton Church Gets Matching Grant for Capital Improvements

At a time when a broad range of challenges are confronting houses of worship, the Metropolitan New York Synod (MNYS) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) announced that Croton-on-Hudson's Our Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church has been awarded with a capital improvement grant that will assist the church in making key renovations, enabling it to better serve the community.

The award announcement marks a milestone for the Synod's strategic plan, which seeks to reinvest in member churches by developing creative solutions for recommitting to ministry in places where its presence may be enhanced to more fully serve the community.

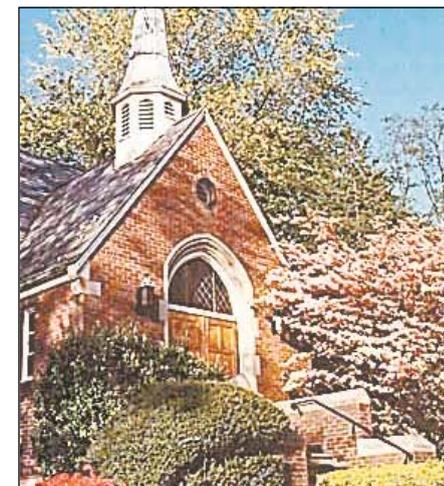
"In an environment where church

closings are becoming more and more commonplace, the Lutheran Church is making a deliberate effort to re-invest in our communities' viable ministries," said Synod Bishop Robert Rimbo. "With these grants, churches like Our Saviour can now take the focus off of an aging physical plant that impedes our ministry and put the focus back on doing God's work."

Last month the Synod Council approved \$200,000 of funding for its first Capital Improvement Challenge Grants, which matches funds raised by the applying churches. With nearly 40 congregations throughout the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island, Long Island, and Westchester and Dutchess counties submitting applications, 21 were selected by the capital improvement grant review

committee to receive funds. Our Saviour will use the funds to finance improvements to its bathroom.

Members of the Metro New York Synod's nearly 200 congregations are worshipping God, helping friends and neighbors, celebrating diversity, feeding the hungry, working for justice, and advocating for peace. In all we do, we strive to reflect God's boundless love for all people. The Synod covers all five boroughs of New York City, all of Long Island, and seven upstate counties (Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester). To learn more about MNYS, call 212-665-0732 or visit them online at www.mnys.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mnyselca.



Our Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church in Croton.

Youth Groups' Dedication to Raising Awareness For Homeless Catches Eye of Cardinal

St. Margaret of Antioch in Pearl River will cross the Hudson River to support Holy Name of Mary's Youth Group, "God Squad," during its annual Homeless Awareness "Sleepout" on Saturday, December 6. Members of both youth groups for high school students will set up their "cardboard camp" on the front steps of the Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church Parish Center, located at 114 Grand Street in Croton-on-Hudson,

from 4 p.m. on Saturday through the night and into the next day at 11 a.m. on Sunday, December 7 as they collect food and clothing donations and raise money to benefit Caring for the Homeless of Peekskill Inc. (CHOP).

Caring for the Homeless of Peekskill, Inc. (CHOP) seeks to alleviate hunger and homelessness in the Peekskill community by providing food and shelter to persons in need. With the help of its

volunteers, CHOP runs highly successful programs including Jan Peek House, Sunny Donut Free Breakfast Program, and Fred's Pantry at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Peekskill. Participants in these programs come from diverse backgrounds, but they are united in their determination to lead fulfilling lives.

The effort of these dedicated teens has caught the attention of Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, who is

expected to visit them Saturday evening to offer encouragement for their efforts.

"Pope Francis' call for Catholics to bring the healing power of God's grace to everyone in need, to stay close to the marginalized and to be 'shepherds living with the smell of the sheep' has been one of the greatest inspirations to continue with this annual event, now in its 10th year," said Carl Barnes, Holy Name of Mary Youth Minister.

Great Gifts for the Holidays at Somers Custom Framing

BEST WESTCHESTER WINNER 2014 **BEST WESTCHESTER WINNER 2009** *2-Time Best of Westchester Winner!*

Custom Picture Framing, Printing and Gift Shop
253 Route 202 • Somers 914-276-3173 • www.somerscustomframing.com

Is Your Lighting Ready for the Holidays?

10% OFF Showroom
With mention of ad

Gift Certificates Available

QUOIZEL TIMELESS DESIGNS
KICHLER
GENERAC

MC Mid-County
LIGHTING SHOWROOM
ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES
P.O. Box 894, 240 Rte 6, Mahopac, New York 10541
845-628-9106 sales@midcountylighting.com

Westchester Putnam Pottery
NOW OPEN!

Give the Gift of Pottery
Gift Certificates
make great stocking stuffers!

Join us for **Ladies Night** on Friday Nights!
Now booking Birthday Parties and events!

54 Miller Rd • Mahopac NY 10541 • 845 628-2127
www.westchesterputnampottery.com

ECONOMY

Fuel Oil Propane
STRETCH YOUR DOLLAR

Same Day Deliveries
One stop shopping

914 739-5590 • 845 222-3384

Downsizing: Meet the Incredible Shrinking Man (and Woman)

Eventually most homeowners get to that stage in life when, after they've raised their families in a large home, full of stuff and memories, they find they have more space and more things than they need and decide it's time to downsize. It's finally happened to my wife Margaret and me.

When we moved to Westchester as mere young'uns more than 40 years ago, I was absolutely delighted. Both compulsive collectors at the time (we've since recovered), we moved from a duplex in Brooklyn Heights of about 1,500 square feet (I'm only guesstimating because in those days, who knew?) to a 3,900-square-foot farmhouse with a tremendous attic and full basement.

Our intention in buying such a big house, even though we had only one child, was to be at-home entrepreneurs, and we have conducted a number of businesses on site through the years. At the same time, a large home allowed us to have an accessory apartment for rental income and to indulge our passion for collecting things big and small.

Now the time of reckoning is here. We're downsizing to only 1,780 square feet. It's quite a feat of planning to literally

halve ourselves. Margaret is good at that kind of thing, but I am not, and where I am normally the bossy one in our relationship, with this assignment at hand, she has morphed into the drill sergeant.

"Bring all the breakables to the dining room that we're taking with us," she orders.

"Put in those boxes what we're holding for the tag sale," she commands.

"Yes, sir!" I say, snapping sharply to attention, but sensing I've carried the role-play a bit too far.

In a couple of days, while the house looked in a shambles, everything seemed to be taking shape for the big move. By mid-afternoon, the day after Thanksgiving, we both had to take a nap. Our bones and will had given out.

Having written a number of times about the mechanics of downsizing, I can tell you that the emotions that go into "letting go" of "stuff" can be unsettling if you don't prepare yourself. I'm such a softie, I guess I wasn't prepared for some of it, like finding an old box that I hadn't opened since I was in college, originally containing gift pears from Florida, an envelope with the inscription in my mother's handwriting: "From my son William's first haircut at

2-1/2 years old." Inside was a shock of auburn curls that perfectly match the color of my daughter's hair when she was that age.

Thank goodness we have the help of a wonderful mover I discovered named Phil D'Erasmus of Advantage Movers who is giving us very personalized attention. He has personally stopped by the house several times to counsel me, hand deliver boxes and what he calls "contractor bags" to get rid of my tax records for shredding that go back to 1972.

He also brought me three different sizes of boxes and bubble wrap and consulted with us about whether we wanted to pack our own breakables. We decided to have him do that, however.

The most heart-wrenching part of our job was to decide what to let go of. That involves going through every item of clothing, every stick of furniture, every file, even every photograph taken before the days of digital photography. The time involved is almost overwhelming.

I won some points in the romance department for having saved some items my wife didn't know about, like the scrap of paper on which I jotted down her name and home phone number (no cells in those days) when I first met her, and all the love notes I saved when we were going together. "Ahhhh," she cooed.

Funny, but having moved five times in

our first five years of marriage, we vowed when we moved into this beloved house that "they'll have to carry us out of here in a pine box before we'll ever move again!"

But times and circumstances change and it seems we'll be moving happily to new wonderful digs with a concierge, indoor and outdoor swimming pools and a gorgeous gym that will allay any excuses for my not getting back to my long lost 34-inch waist while being able to throw away that snow shovel. So what's to complain about?

If there's a move in your future, be sure to check in first with Phil D'Erasmus at 800-444-0104.

And here's something else: Once we're packed and moved, look for our ad for the neatest tag sale we'll throw at the Ebenezer White Homestead for all the antiques and bric-a-brac that we've decided to let go of. It will be one humdinger of a sale! It will take place about mid-December.

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com), specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. His real estate site is: www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com and his blog is: www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.



By Bill Primavera

Keep winter where it belongs — outside.

Work with a participating Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® contractor to learn how you can lower your energy bills and stay warm.

They will conduct a home energy assessment to show you where your home is wasting energy and what you can do to fix it. The assessment is free for most New York State residents.

Don't wait. Call one of the participating contractors listed below today.

Franzozo Energy Solutions, Inc.
914-271-4572

RES-HP-coop-NWE14-ad-1-v1



For more information on home energy assessments, visit
nyserderda.ny.gov/affordable-winter

nyserderda
Energy. Innovation. Solutions.



Suggestions on Aiding and Abetting the Wine Bottle Genie

The holiday season is in full swing. Celebratory gatherings, family dinners, gift-giving all create a joyful, sharing environment that typically beckons us to splurge a bit – on others and on ourselves. A few more calories are consumed; a few more favorite stories are shared; and a few more glasses of wine are (responsibly) imbibed.



By Nick Antonaccio

You Heard It
Through the
Grapevine

Whether to impress business associates or friends, whether on the receiving or giving end of a celebratory dinner wine, consumers tend to spend more on individual bottles of wine during the holiday season.

So the natural question that

comes to mind for many consumers who splurge on fine wines for special occasions: should my wine breathe?

My general response is given in the form of an if/then algorithm. If it's young (three years or less) and low to moderately priced (under \$25), consume it from the bottle. If it's older and higher priced, decant it.

The principle behind decanting is simple. In the months or years of being confined in the bottle, wine continually evolves as a living, breathing organism. A simple red wine with low tannins tends not to evolve significantly. A complex bottle containing varying levels of fruit, tannins, acid and alcohol will require a longer period of time to mature. In order to speed the aging process along, enabling a consumer to enjoy a complex wine sooner, decanting is recommended, as it increases the amount of surface area exposed to air.

In an age where we increasingly seek instant gratification, aging a bottle of wine for years, even decades, is unacceptable. Decanting is considered an acceptable, even desirable, practice.

I remember anxiously purchasing my first decanter many years ago and my initial disappointment. I had received a bottle of expensive 20 year-old French Bordeaux as a dinner gift. Anxious to share this still maturing wine with our guests, I assiduously poured the contents into my virgin decanter three hours before they arrived.

To my chagrin, the wine's still maturing aromas and taste were unchanged when I poured it. Dejected, I switched wines after pouring approximately half of the decanter contents. The next evening, I retrieved the banished half-empty decanter and was about to pour

the contents down the kitchen drain, but hesitated. Compelled by some transcendent force, I decided to try one last sniff and taste of the wine. Much to my surprise the wine had transformed overnight. It displayed a kaleidoscope of fragrances and a cornucopia of rich flavors. My wine palate was forever changed; built-to-last wines can provide once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

However, if traditional decanting seems unduly time-consuming, fear not.

For lo and behold, 21st century science has come to the rescue with several devices. Here are two:

1. A wine aerator. The aeration principle was developed by Daniel Bernoulli in 1738. I sourced the Princeton University website for an explanation. Simply stated, as the speed of a moving fluid (liquid or gas) increases, the pressure within the fluid decreases, permitting the infusion of air over a

short period of time.

A few years ago I discovered an instant hand-held aeration device (the Vinturi, available at Wine Enthusiast in Mt. Kisco), which enables wine to breathe as it is being poured. I have tested this aerator several hundred times and it has never failed to enhance the wine at hand.

2. A blender. Is there a greater possible enhancement than a Vinturi

continued on page 15



Ski Gains

We're Open Every Day 'til Christmas!
Mon-Fri 11am-9pm
Sat&Sun 11am-5pm
ALL STORES!

SEASON RENTALS!

Vouchers to:
Catamount
Woodbury
Hunter
Windham
Jiminy Peak
Thunder Ridge

FREE

**Packet of 6 Jr. Lift
Vouchers Worth Over
Twice What You Will Pay
For Your Rental
With Every Rental**

Ski Package

Skis, Bindings, Boots & Poles

Junior:

Up to 110cm \$9995

120cm and up \$10995

Adult: \$12995

SnowBoard Package

w/Boots & Bindings

Junior: \$10995, Adult: \$12995

Brewster, NY

1611 Rt. 22 at Rt. 312
2 miles north of Brewster

Phone: 845-279-3100

Poughkeepsie, NY

1890A South Rd. (Rt. 9)
Across from South Hills Mall

Phone: 845-298-9597

New Milford, CT

162 Danbury Road, Rt. 7
Next to the Stop & Shop Plaza

Phone: 860-355-2001

Crossword

ACROSS

1. Pull a heist
4. Salad garnishing plant
9. Yours and mine
10. Rounded
12. In a shocking manner
14. Howard Hawk's 1966 film or Peekskill restaurant
15. Mechanic's container
16. 'Kapow!'
19. "___ Got a Feeling" (Beatles song)
20. Type of site
22. Swearing-in words
23. Law, in La Paz
24. Did gigs all over
26. Camper's supply
28. Trash burner
31. They sit under bowls and dishes
32. What whitesmiths work with
33. Get off the couch
34. Infomercials, e.g.

1. Perfume ingredient
2. Last longer than
3. "American Hustle" star, first name
4. Reproached
5. City near Lake Tahoe
6. Energy unit
7. The pizzeria owner in "Do the Right Thing"
8. Stone of rock
10. Drinking tube
11. Sycamore, for one
13. Mythical bird
16. Catholic clergy cap
17. Of the lymph glands
18. People with new ideas
21. They don't have class
25. It's a free country
26. New Pottery Palace in Cortlandt Manor, Time to ___
27. English author Blyton
28. Employees' photo cards: Abbr.
29. "Just the opposite!"
30. 'Bourne Identity' org.

1	2	3				4	5	6	7	8
9				10	11					
12			13							
14										
15								16	17	18
19				20		21		22		
23					24		25			
			26	27						
28	29	30								
31								32		
33								34		

DOWN

See solution on page 16

Suggestions on Aiding and Abetting the Wine Bottle Genie

continued from page 14

device? The answer comes from several sources and has been dubbed hyperdecanting. Simply pour a bottle of wine into your household blender, press the high-speed button for 30 – 60 seconds and your wine is fully aerated, ready to enjoy.

I can intellectualize the theory: the faster and more massive the introduction of oxygen, the more "open" a wine becomes. However, I find it difficult to rationalize a glass of red wine topped with a purple head of foam.

If you feel the need to aerate that special wine, you have several choices. Whichever you choose, be you a Boomer or a Millennial, your quest for euphoria is at hand.

Nick Antonaccio is a 35-year Pleasantville resident. For over 15 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.

Obituaries

continued from page 9

Barbara Ann Brancaccio

Barbara Ann Napoli Brancaccio, a longtime resident of Ossining, died on November 23, 2014. She was 67.

She was born in Tarrytown on July 28, 1947, to Henry and Helen (Jandrucko) Napoli, Sr. She was a graduate of Sleepy

Hollow High School. She had been a sales associate at Chilmark Health Food in Briarcliff Manor.

She was married to Keith Brancaccio, who survives her. She was also the loving mother of Donna and Christine and the devoted grandmother of Mauricia, Orianna, Aaron and Alec Santiago. She was predeceased by her parents as well as her brother Henry Napoli, Jr.

IS IT COLD ENOUGH FOR YOU YET?

We'll help you Save Money on your heating bills!

- ROOFING
- WINDOWS
- SIDING
- DOORS
- DECKS
- SEAMLESS GUTTERS
- LEADERS
- REPAIRS

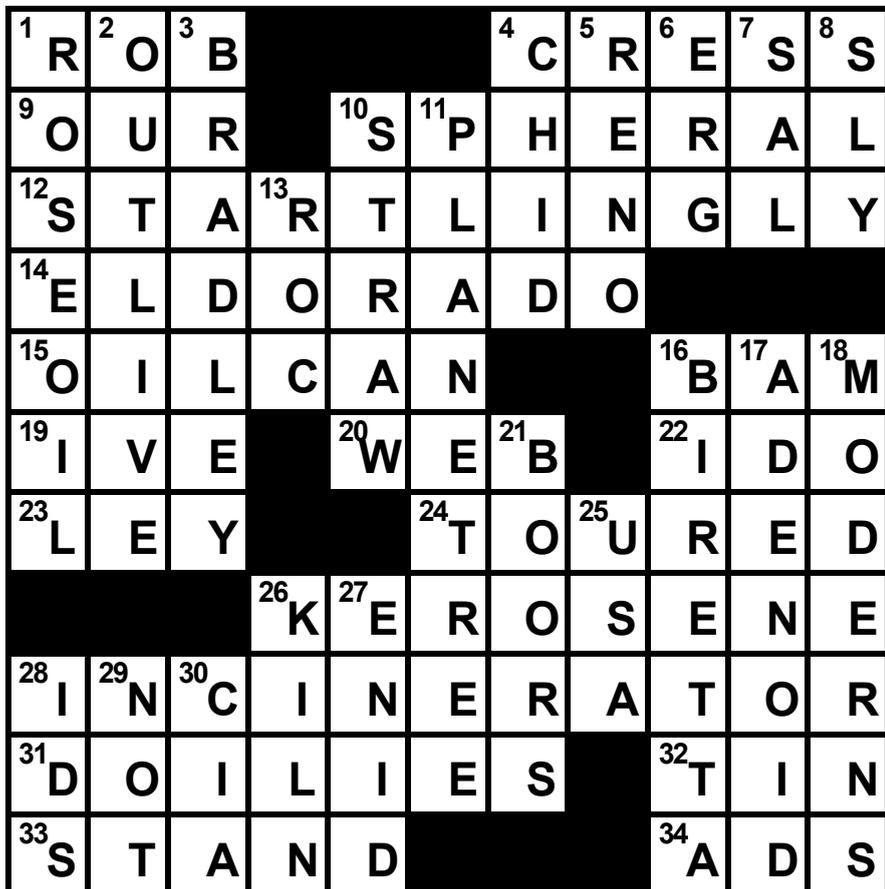
It's a "RUFF, RUFF" winter out there! Is your spouse BARKING at you to replace your windows? It's time to put your PAW down & call Miracle Home Improvements to replace your windows, before you're in the DOG HOUSE!



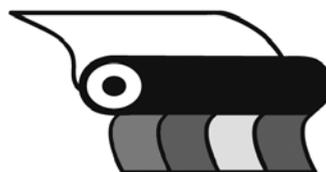
MIRACLE HOME IMPROVEMENTS
NO \$ DOWN!!
under \$20,000
Roofing • Windows • Siding
914-271-9119
www.miraclehomeimprovements.com

Family Run. Owner Supervision on All Jobs.
Exceptional Quality & Service at Affordable Prices.
914.271.9119
Robert & Mary Sniffen, Owners

Visit our office and showroom
Or we will BRING the showroom to you!
www.miraclehomeimprovements.com



SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS



Trumbull
PRINTING

Newspapers • Publications • Shoppers • Catalogs • Magazines
Directories • Coupon Books • College Course Catalogs
Business and Financial Periodicals
Free Standing Inserts • Advertising Supplements

205 Spring Hill Road, Trumbull, CT 06611 • 203.261.2548
www.trumbullprinting.com

**THINK LOCAL
SHOP LOCAL**

In this season of sharing joy with family, friends, and neighbors, we'd like to encourage you to support your local businesses. Watch our "Shop Dine Explore - Enjoy Pleasantville" special on PCTV and pctv76.org for ideas. And as always, thank you for supporting PCTV.



FISHLIN & FISHLIN, PLLC - ATTORNEYS AT LAW
WESTCHESTER, ROCKLAND AND NEW YORK CITY

Probate | Administration | Wills | Trusts
Estate Litigation | Guardianship
Commercial Litigation | Real Estate



TODD FISHLIN | LEWIS FISHLIN

WESTCHESTER OFFICE **NEW YORK CITY OFFICE**
100 SOUTH BEDFORD RD. 60 EAST 42ND STREET
SUITE 340 SUITE 4600
MT. KISCO, NY 10549 NEW YORK, NY 10165

FOR ALL APPOINTMENTS CALL OR EMAIL
(212) 736-8000 | WWW.FISHLINLAW.COM

ATTORNEY ADVERTISING

silkstudiokids

child and family lifestyle photography



portraits • events • westchester • nyc

www.silkstudiokids.com

gift certificates available

Happenings

The Northern Westchester Examiner We're happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event and include the words "Happenings Calendar Submission" in your email subject line. Entries should be sent to Neal Rentz at nrentz@theexaminernews.com.com.

Tuesday, Dec. 2

Free Medicare Counseling: Get help understanding your Medicare benefits and coverage on Tuesdays year-round (except holidays) at the John C. Hart Memorial Library in Shrub Oak, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Field Library in Peekskill. No appointments are necessary for the free service. Meet with a trained counselor for information about Medicare Parts A, B and D, Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Savings Plans, Extra Help and EPIC. You can also call the Senior Benefits Information Center helpline with your questions at 914-231-3260 and a counselor will return your call within two business days. For a listing of all eight SBIC centers in Westchester libraries, go to <http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/senior-benefits-information-centers/>.

Farmers' Market: The Putnam Valley Grange Farmers' Market is held every Tuesday from 3 to 7 p.m. at the corner of Mill Street and Peekskill Hollow Road (Adams Corners).

Senior Benefits Information: Trained volunteer counselors help older adults and their caregivers find information about government benefits to help them stretch their budgets every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the John C. Hart Memorial Library, 1130 E. Main St., Shrub Oak. Get information on Medicare health and prescription plans, nutrition assistance, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), tax relief programs, and much more. Info: 914-245-5262 Ext.227 or <http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/sbic>.

Checkmate: A chess program is held every Tuesday at 4 p.m. at the Ossining Public Library, 53 Croton Ave. It is held in the second floor conference room. Info: 914-941-2416 Ext. 336.

Wednesday, Dec. 3

Ossining Tree Lighting: Santa and his elves will join the Village of Ossining at its annual tree lighting at Market Square. Enjoy the spirit of the season with Christmas carols and refreshments coordinated by the Ossining Parks and Recreation Department. Santa will arrive at 6:45 p.m. sharp via the Ossining Fire Department Express at Market Square, located at the Intersection of Main and Spring Streets. The event is free. The lighting will take place at 6:15 p.m. Info: 914-941-3189. or www.villageofossining.org.

Learn Hebrew: An introductory Hebrew reading class is being held on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Reform Temple of Putnam Valley, 362 Church Rd. The free program will run for five weeks. For further info or to register call 845-528-4774 or visit rtpv.org.

Bingo Wednesdays: Come to First Hebrew for \$2,000 in total guaranteed bingo prizes, plus an average of \$1,000 awarded in specialty games. Doors open 5 p.m. and games begin 7:15 p.m. every Wednesday (except holidays – check First Hebrew's website calendar). First Hebrew is just west of the Beach Shopping Center at 1821 Main St., Peekskill. Info: 914 -739-0500 of www.firsthebrew.org.

Thursday, Dec. 4

Cancer Support: A Breast and Ovarian Cancer Support Group meets on the first Thursday of the month, at 10 a.m. in the Yorktown offices of Support Connection. 40 Triangle Center, Suite100, Yorktown. Advance registration is required for all groups; call 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290. For a complete calendar of groups at all locations, visit www.supportconnection.org.

December Somers Exhibit: Cara Gilroy will be featured at the Somers Library Art Exhibit all through the month of December with an opening reception scheduled for Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. For library visiting hours during the month of December please call 914 232-5717. Gilroy is a local artist primarily involved in acrylic paintings and digital artwork. To see her artwork, please visit the website www.caragilroystudios.com, or contact caragilroystudios.com.

Friday, Dec. 5

Free Play Dates: A free play date program is being held every Friday from 11 a.m. to noon at the Rosenthal JCC Early Childhood Center at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. The program is intended for children between the ages of 16 and 36 months and their parents or caregivers. Children can play, do art and socialize all under the direction of an experienced early childhood teacher. Pre-registration is suggested. Contact Jennifer at 914-962-8430 or e-mail her at Jennifer@rosenthaljcc.org.

Jewish Center Services: Sabbath services now begin at 6:15 p.m. on Friday evenings and at 9:15 a.m. on Saturday mornings at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Info: 914 -245 -2324 or www.info@yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Temple Beth Am Shabbat: Temple Beth Am welcomes all for Shabbat every Friday evening at 8 p.m. Our modern Sabbath service has a spiritual and engaging feel while following traditional modes. Temple Beth Am is located at 203 Church Pl. Yorktown. For information, please call our Rabbi at 962-7500 or e-mail him at rabbibw@optonline.net.

Old Mill Singers: The Old Mill Singers will present "Sing for the Holidays," written by Danny Gray, this weekend at the Clear View School, 480 Albany Post

Road in Briarcliff Manor. The show will be performed on Dec. 5 and 6 at 8 p.m. and on Dec. 7 at 3 p.m. Info: oldmillsingers.org or 914-381-8941.

Saturday, Dec. 6

Handel's Messiah I: First Presbyterian Church, 2880 Crompond Rd. in Yorktown, will hold its 14th annual Christmas Concert, featuring "Handel's Messiah," at 7:30 p.m. The concert will feature guest professional soloists, the Concert Choir and orchestra under the direction of Simona Frenkel on organ, piano and harpsichord. A reception will follow the concert at Fellowship Hall. For more information call 914-245-2186 or visit www.pcyorktown.org

Handel's "Messiah II:": The Taghkanic Chorale will perform Handel's most celebrated oratorio, "Messiah," with soloists, oboists, trumpets, timpani and strings under the direction of maestro Steven Fox. The audience is invited to join chorale members for a reception after the concert. The performance will be held at 4 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 7 S. Highland Ave. (Route 9), Ossining. Tickets are \$25. Seniors: \$23. Students: \$12. Children under 12, accompanied by an adult, are free. Info and tickets: 914-737-6707 or www.taghkanicchorale.org.

Christmas Tree Fundraiser: The Northeast Westchester (N.E.W.) Rotary Club, together with the Bedford Armonk Club and the Mount Kisco Club, are selling Christmas trees in the Bedford Hills Memorial Park through December 21. This is a major annual fundraiser of the Rotary. The N.E.W. Rotary Club started this over 40 years ago when members cut down trees themselves. Tree selling is done in conjunction with a coupon/advertising Journal given to purchasers, sponsors, and local businesses.

Ossining Farmers Market: The Ossining Down to Earth Farmers Market is held year-round on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the corner of Main and Spring Streets. Info: 914-923-4837 Ext. 202.

Overeaters Anonymous: Worried about the way you eat? If food rules your life, Overeaters Anonymous may have the answer for you. There is no weigh-ins, dues or fees. The group meets on Saturdays from 8:30 to 9:30 am at the fourth floor conference at the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, 1350 Route 9, Garrison. Info: call/text Lisa at 917-716-2488.

Sunday, Dec. 7

Breakfast With Santa: The Yorktown Loins and American Legion will hold Breakfast with Santa at the Yorktown American Legion, 235 Veterans Rd. There are three 90-minute sessions, which begin at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon. Admission is

\$7 for children between the ages of 2 and 12, free for children 1 and younger and \$10 for everyone 13 and older. For more information and reservations, which are required, call Maria Marks at 914-407-4162 or send an e-mail to yorktownloinsclub@gmail.com. All children must attend with at least one parent or responsible adult.

Somers Holiday Celebration: The Town of Somers Holiday Celebration will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Elephant Hotel. Several events are scheduled, including photos with Santa, a Somers Historical Society Open House and the Historical Society Toy Drive, all being held from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Children having their photos taken must arrive no later than 4 p.m. The day's events will conclude with the tree lighting at 5 p.m.

Yorktown Christmas Concert: A festive Christmas Concert featuring a 35 voice choir and a 35 piece orchestra will be held at 4 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church on Gomer Street in Yorktown. The suggested donation is \$10 at the door. Info: 914-245-6737.

Somers Christmas Concert: A Holiday Concert and Sing Along with the Joey D. Jazz Ensemble will be held at 2 p.m. at the Somers Library. The event is being sponsored by the Friends of the Somers Library. Also appearing is 13-year-old piano wiz, Eddie Fiscella. Please bring a canned or non-perishable food item to the concert that will be donated to the Food Pantry at St Luke's Church. Admission is free but seating is limited and will be on a first-come, first seated basis Info: 914-232-5717 or somerslibrary.org.

Homestead Holidays: The Somers Historical Society's Holidays at the Homestead will be held on Dec. 7, 14 and 21 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Wright Reis Homestead, located at Route 139 and Sunderland Lane. The event will feature several gingerbread houses created by local residents. Info: www.somershistoricalsoc.org

Peekskill Holiday Concert: A concert of glorious Christmas concert will be held at 3 p.m. at the Church of the Assumption in Peekskill. Performers will include Mary Mancini, Mario Tacca and The Victor Lionti String Quartet. Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$13 for seniors; \$7 for children under 17. Light refreshments will be served after the concert in the Fr. Wilson Hall beneath the church. For more information contact the Assumption rectory at 914-737-2071 or Gioia Productions at 914-737-8872.

Healing Yoga: Yoga classes for women with breast cancer are held at 5 p.m. on Sundays at Hudson Yoga, 5 Old Post Rd. South, Croton-on-Hudson. Weekly classes are being conducted by rotating instructors. The suggestion is \$15. Info: Ellisha Simpson at 914-319-4010 or send an e-mail to info@laughingheartesyoga.com.

EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds 120214

ADOPTION

A childless young married couple (she-30/he-37) seeks to adopt. Will be hands-on mom/devoted dad. Financial security. Expenses paid. Call/text. Mary & Adam. 1-800-790-5260.

AUTO DONATIONS

Donate your car to Wheels For Wishes, benefiting Make-A-Wish. We offer free towing and your donation is 100% tax deductible. Call 315-400-0797 Today!

Donate your car to Wheels For Wishes, benefiting Make-A-Wish. We offer free towing and your donation is 100% tax deductible. Call 914-468-4999 Today!

CONDOS FOR SALE

CENTRAL FLORIDA Direct Water-front Condo at below builder cost! Was \$560,000, Now \$169,900. 3 bedroom, turnkey, close to major cities. Visit online flakefrontcondos.com

HELP WANTED

AIRLINE CAREERS begin here Get FAA approved Aviation Maintenance Technician training. Financial aid for qualified students Housing available. Job placement assistance. Call AIM 866-296-7093

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HAS YOUR BUILDING SHIFTED OR

SETTLED? Contact Woodford Brothers Inc, for straightening, leveling, foundation and wood frame repairs at 1-800-OLD-BARN. www.woodfordbros.com. "Not applicable in Queens county"

IN HOME PET SITTING

PLEASANT PAWS INN LLC Catering to the most discerning dog owners in Westchester. Our home will be their home. 24/7 one on one love. Boarding, daycare, walks & transportation services available. **Book a reservation at info@pleasantpawsinn.com or 914-773-2020 or 914-906-8414. 9 Hobby St., Pleasantville.**

LAND FOR SALE

CATSKILL MTN SHORT SALE! 108 acres - \$189,900 Mtn views, new well, fields, woods, subdividable! Town rd, utils! \$200K under market! Fin avail! 888-479-3394 Newyorklandandlakes.com

LENDER ORDERED SALE! 10 acres - \$29,900 Trout stream, woods, apple trees, town rd, utils, EZ terms! Priced \$30K below market! 888-905-8847 or newyorklandandlakes.com

MISCELLANEOUS

SAWMILLS from only \$4397.00-MAKE & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill- Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship. FREE Info/DVD:

www.NorwoodSawmills.com 1-800-578-1363 Ext.300N

OUT OF STATE REAL ESTATE

Sebastian, Florida Beautiful 55+ manufactured home community. 4.4 miles to the beach, Close toriverfront district. New models from \$99,000. 772-581-0080, www.beach-cove.com

REAL ESTATE

Discover Delaware's Resort Living Without Resort Pricing! Milder winters & low taxes! Gated Community with amazing amenities! New Homes \$80's. Brochures available- 1-866-629-0770 or www.coolbranch.com

Classified Ad Deadline is Thursdays at 5pm for the next week's publication

WANTED

MOST CASH PAID FOR paintings, antiques, furniture, silver, sculpture, jewelry, books, cameras, records, instruments, coins, watches, gold, comics, sports cards, etc. **PLEASE CALL AARON AT 914-654-1683**

CASH for Coins! Buying Gold & Silver. Also Stamps & Paper Money, Comics, Entire Collections, Estates. Travel to your home. Call Marc in NJ: 1-800-488-4175

To Place a Classified Ad Call 914-864-0878 or e-mail classifieds @theexaminernews.com

IF YOU USED THE BLOOD THINNER XARELTO and suffered internal bleeding, hemorrhaging, required hospitalization or a loved one died while taking Xarelto between 2011 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation. **Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 1-800-535-5727**

DONATE YOUR CAR

Wheels For Wishes benefiting

MAKE-A-WISH®

Hudson Valley

100% Tax Deductible

*Free Vehicle/Boat Pickup ANYWHERE
*We Accept All Vehicles Running or Not
*100% Tax Deductible

Share the Power of a Wish.

WheelsForWishes.org **Call: (914) 468-4999**

The Northern Westchester
Examiner
Sports
 Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

December 2 - December 8, 2014

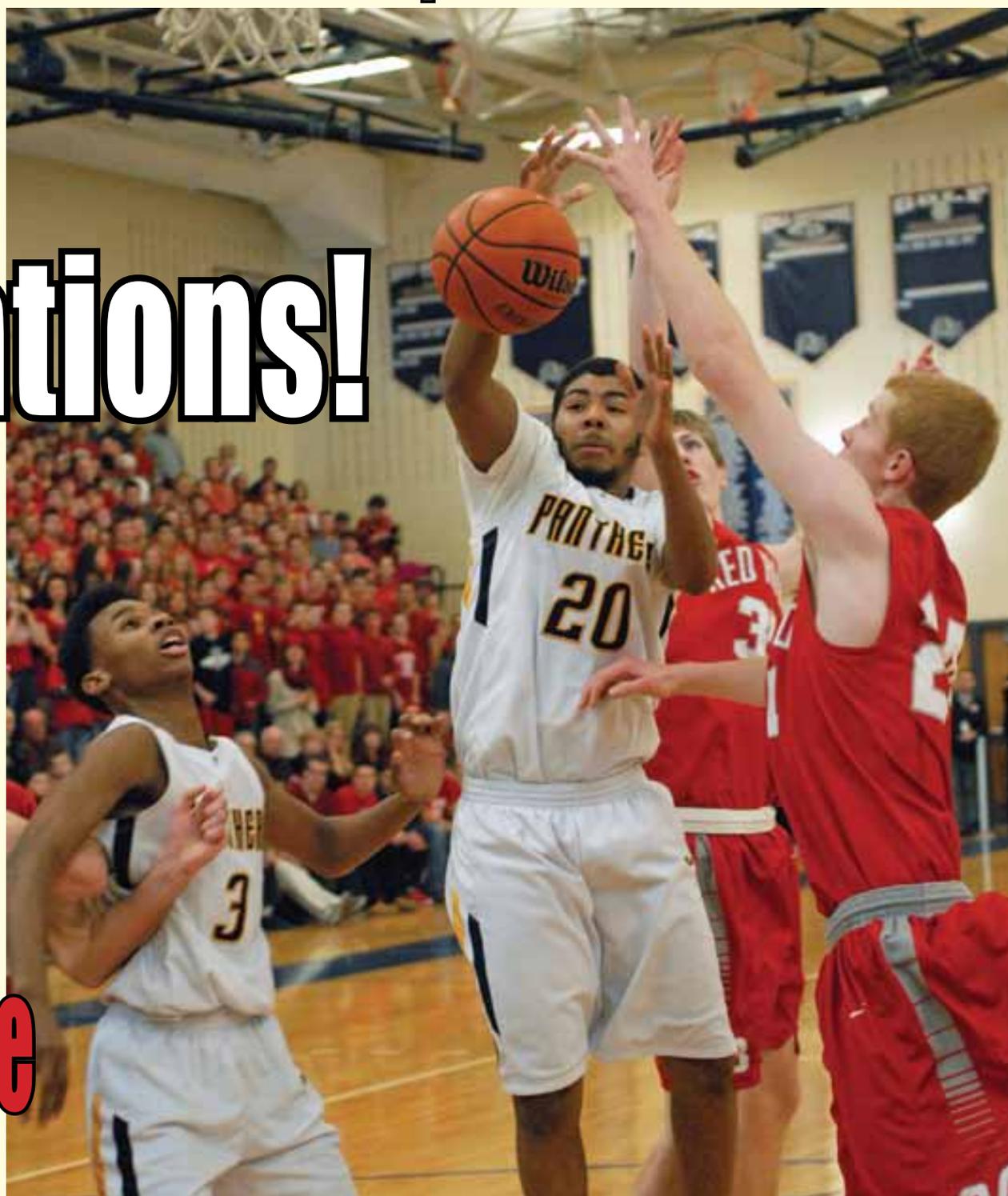
SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

SPORTS SECTION

Buckets in Bushels: 2014-15 Hoops Preview Edition

**False
 Accusations!**

**Panas out
 to Prove
 2014 Title
 Was No Fluke**



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Panas seniors Mike Evans (L) and Brandon Collins (20) are the lone returning players who saw significant playing time last season when the 2014 Class A Panthers got hot at the right time and shocked the Section 1 hoops world, winning their first sectional championship since 1997 before fading in the opening round of the NYS tournament. Like Toni Basil and Laffy Taffy before them, skeptics far and wide are calling Panas a one-hit wonder, so it'll be up to Evans, Collins and the rest of the Panthers to prove 2014 was anything but a fortuitous bounce when the 2015 season tips off this week on a hardwood near you... see Boys' Hoops Notebook

Sports

Boys Hoops Notebook

Repeating 2014's Success Will be Difficult Task

A Pre-Season Glimpse into 2015 Hoops Season

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

Last year was one of the greatest basketball seasons in the history of Northern Westchester and Putnam County, possibly the best ever in Putnam, what with Class AA semifinalists Mahopac, Class B finalists Putnam Valley and the Section 1 Class C champion Haldane boys all representing in the Final 4 at the Westchester County Center, while the 2014 Class C champion Haldane girls and Class AA runner-up Mahopac joined the party as well.

Northern Westchester was reppin' even harder with the Walter Panas boys and the Ossining and Peekskill girls winning Section 1 titles, with the Ossining girls repeating as NYS Class A champions before turning their attention to a three-peat that only one other Class AA program in NYS has done (Rush-Henrietta, 2006-08).

It was wild fare for local basketball aficionados to gobble up, and most of us are counting on an encore performance to carry us through another long winter. However, most-pre-season pundits and so-called savvy media-types are calling for a down campaign for local boys' teams, so we'll try, in the space below, to build up hope and express a feasible County Center Final 4 path for those teams that can dance with the best in the business.

LEAGUE I-A

CARMEL – Second-year Coach John Venditto's Rams (9-10) return three integral pieces return from last year and the unit that has the pieces in place to



Mahopac's Chris Esernio (12) will go toe-to-toe twice with Matt Cawley and the Carmel Rams this season with a league title potentially on the line as early as Jan. 23.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

For as big as Lakeland is up front this season, Hornet G Michael Morelli could be the biggest key,

make a run at the League I-A title where Mahopac and the Dutchess County powers that be (Lourdes, Arlington, RCK and John Jay EF) provide for an interesting mix of teams. Freshman Josh Alexander, a 6'6" center, is a blooming big, who the Rams are pinning their future on. If his development is on the fast track, as many have intimated, the Rams have one of the premier frontcourt players in the league and an a potentially un-guardable player in the paint. How long he remains a Ram remains to be seen with the Stepinacs and Ionas painting a rosy CHSAA scenario.

Quinn Willman (5'9") and Ryan Train (6'1") are a pair of gummy, experienced backcourt juniors looking to make their mark on the circuit.

"I have a very good feeling about our club," Alexander said. "We should be very good this year. We have some pretty high expectations to fulfill."

The unit is still fairly young but experienced at the same time after cutting its teeth on the varsity circuit last year, but expectations are high at Ram Nation.

"We're a young team," Willman admitted, "but we are very talented. We have many returning players that are familiar with the offense and most importantly familiar with each other."

Others with varsity experience include Matt Haughney (6-2) Jr., F; Matt Cawley (5-10) Sr., G; and Justin Mordecai (5-11) Sr., G/F. Key newcomers include: Ryan Sullivan (6-3) Jr., F; Brendan Cody (6-0) So., G; and Beau Kershaw (5-8) Jr., G.

MAHOPAC – New coach, new center,

new back court... a whole new era. Coach Jim Harter will try to mold great athletes into formidable basketball players, just as former Coach Kevin Downes did during his unprecedented seven-year reign before his resignation last winter. Harter, the former Pace University Coach, is old school. Mahopac was once the last bastion for old-school student athletes. Harter will lend instant credibility to a program that has found its way to the Class AA Final 4 four years running. Last season's record of 17-4 and an eventual semifinal loss to Mount Vernon at the County Center was nothing to sneeze at. Key returners include: Chris Esernio (6-4), Sr., F; Dan Foley (6-2), Jr., G; Aidan Hynes (6-2), Jr., F; and Brandon Davis (6-4), Sr., C, who all saw minutes last season. Athletic newcomers include: Christian Donahoe (6-2), Jr., G; and the welcome addition of 6'6" junior Ryan Vitkus.

Based on the early returns, Arlington figures to be the favorites in the league with Mahopac and Carmel right behind. But Mahopac has owned the Admirals in recent seasons, including the playoffs.

LEAGUE I-B

LAKELAND – Coach Henry Weltman's Hornets are as big as any Lakeland team in history, showing five frontcourt players 6'3" or better, including Jack Harrison (6'4" F), Kevin Cahill (6'3" F), Jarrod Anzalone-Wimmer (6'3" F/C), Nick Fazio (6'8" C) and Nick Jarosz (6'4" F/C). But for all the height the Hornets have, Weltman knows the key to turning things around from last year will be the performance of the guards.

"The guards have to do the job for us to be successful," the veteran coach said. Even the guards are big this year, with All-Leaguer Mike Morelli, Ryan Thomas, Joe Martin and Trevor McCarthy all listed at 6' or better. Morelli is just coming into his own and should pop eyes open this winter.

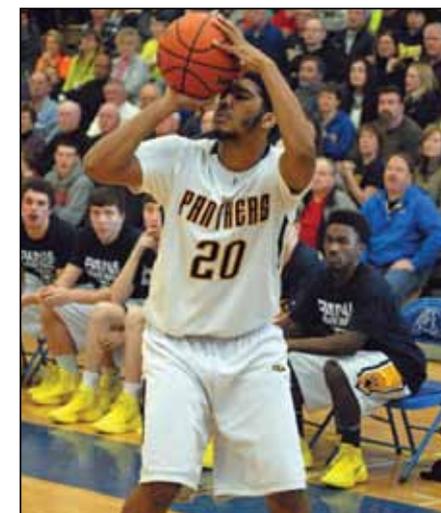
League I-B is certainly ripe for the picking, with Peekskill entering the fray under new ownership, now coached by longtime assistant Tony Turner, who inherits a team with less experience than most Red Devil teams. Walter Panas is in the league mix with Beacon, Hen Hud and Ossining rounding it out.

WALTER PANAS – The defending Section 1 Class A champion Panthers have been plucked clean of four starters by graduation, losing All-NYS G Tim McCauley, Tom Frost, Tom Parish and Tyler Mason. The quartet were pivotal in guiding the Panthers to their first Section 1 title since 1997. Coach Shawn Sullivan will go into full rebuilding mode this season with senior veterans Mike Evans, a sixth-man a year ago, and Brandon Collins, the

lone returning starter, assuming major minutes and primary roles after playing lesser roles a year ago. Swingman Evans has some big-time hops to his game and Collins, a wide-body 3, can knock stroke it from downtown. Junior Jeremy Keefe was brought up to the varsity last season as soph and used his 6'5" frame to develop a solid paint presence. He is the X-factor this season. If Keefe can provide Sullivan with a triple-threat attack, Panas should contend because 6'1" F Justin Lee will do all the dirty work the Panthers need,

"Our mindset is we won the championship in 2014 and it is ours to keep," Sullivan said. "We are not defending it, we are trying to win another. All the guys know what it takes to win and we constantly talking about the effort, sacrifices and teamwork that it takes to be successful. We are using the same formula as last year: great defense, great rebounding, a strong transition game and getting our best player the ball where they can be successful. The team is working very hard and we will just have to wait and see if all guys can step up and assume new roles to replace our seniors from last year. We are playing a very competitive schedule with the hopes that we will learn from each game and be playing our best basketball in February."

PEEKSKILL – NYS Hall of Fame Coach Lou Panzanaro has moved on, leaving longtime assistant Tony Turner in charge of the one boys' athletic program that has kept the Red Devils on the map. This is a program very much in transition, as the coaching and graduation losses have left little of the past intact. Seniors Jalen Tookes and Julian Culthberson return with some experience, but the Red Devils are lacking size outside of 6'10" sophomore James Robinson. If Peekskill is going to win this



Panas G Brandon Collins will play a primary role this season for the defending Section 1 Class A champion Panthers.

Sports

Boys Hoops Notebook



Putnam Valley G Ryan Basso is among the elite shooters in Section 1 this season.

league it will need to get back to its roots of defensive intensity, tenacious pressure and transition basketball.

HEN HUD – Second-year Coach Jordan Hirsch hopes to build on last season's 7-12 record, which resulted in a first-round playoff loss. His Key returners include: Jesse Breeding (6-3), Jr., G; Jake Spitz (5-11), Sr., G; Carson Jacobs (6-5), Sr., C; Aaron Treinish (6-2), Sr., F; Jeremy Morris (5-11), Sr., G; Michael Smith (5-10), Jr., G; Nick Marra (5-11), Jr., G; and J.T. Kertelits (6-0), Sr., F.

"We have senior experience in J.T. Kertelits who had a great off season," Hirsch said. "We expect Jake Spitz to provide our team with strong leadership on and off the court. Jeremy Morris plays with great energy and often provides us with a spark. Aaron Treinish is an explosive player who we believe has the potential to have a very strong senior season. Carson Jacobs has worked very hard at rounding out his game and is another senior that has great potential to have a breakout season. Jesse Breeding is a junior wing that was our leading scorer last year."

The Sailors will start the year by honoring the memory of the late Jack McGuire, who would have been a senior this year if not for the unfortunate circumstances surrounding his young but inspiring life. A rousing ceremony is planned for Friday, Dec. 12th at 6:30 p.m.

LEAGUE I-C

PUTNAM VALLEY – With the best season in school history still fresh in their minds, just two starters return to the fold with a renewed outlook in Tiger Town. Senior guards Zack Nolan (6'1") and Ryan Basso (6') return for their fourth and third full seasons, respectively, on the varsity circuit, minus the services of the programs two best players ever, All-NYS G Zach Coleman (8th team choice) and All-NYS F Jelani Bell-Isaac (6th team). Second-year Valley Coach

Mike McDonnell (who has 20 years on the varsity circuit) guided the unit to the Section 1 Class B finals last season before Woodlands figured the Tigers out, and those very same Falcons remain the team to beat this season with first-team All-NYS selection Jamil Gambari returning. The Tigers will turn to second-year veterans – versatile G Kevin Gallagher (6') and promising F Joey Spinola (6'3") -- to take on an increased role in what should be a guard-heavy alignment. Expect junior guards Harrison Deegan and Anders Spittal (5'10") to get plenty of burn. First-year senior Mike DelGuidice (6') and junior F Charlie Pagani (6'1) should provide grunts on the low blocks; what they lack in pure size, they make up for with determination and technique. The talk around town has the Tigers exhibiting the potential to get back to the County Center for a third-straight year, but they have their work cut out for them as opponents attempt to lock of Basso, a sniper who needs to average 18-20 PPG this season if the Tigers are to amount to much. Nolan is the X-Factor. Nolan can't be the compliant Ringo Starr this season; he needs to be Paul McCartney to Basso's John Lennon-like lead (Beatles metaphor) if PV is to swag its way back to the County Center and challenge Haldane and North Salem for league bragging rights.

"The returnees are determined to keep the program competing at a very high level and the juniors are talented and eager to fill big shoes," the coach said.

HALDANE – The defending Section 1 Class C champions are loaded and enter the 2015 season at the pre-season favorites to repeat, according to most coaches in the know. Blue Devil Coach Joe Virgadamo, now in his ninth season, returns many of the key components of a team that went 15-7 before falling in the regional finals to Long Island powerhouse and Class C semifinalists Friends Academy.

All-NYS F Peter Hoffmann, a 6'5" captain, will stir this drink, doing so with an array of versatility that Haldane hasn't seen since Action Jackson Zuvic, now doing his thing at Oneonta. Hoffmann dropped 24.3 PPG last season and can spot up for 30-40 on any given night. He should average close to 30 PPG in the league this season, as he is a match-up nightmare for teams like Put Valley, Pawling and North Salem.

What you have like more than anything is Haldane's size, which will be tough for any Class C foe in the state to match up with. Edmund Fitzgerald (6'7, Sr., F), Will Zuvic (6'4", Sr., F), Garret Quigley (6'4", Sr., F), Miguel Toribio (6'3", Jr., F) and Ryan McCollum (6', Sr., G) are all 6-foot or better.

Key Newcomers include: Tucker Beachek (5'11", Jr. G); Nick Allen (5'11", Sr. G); Aiden Siegel (6' Fr. G), Nick Chierre (6'2", Jr. G) and David Rotando

(5'8", Jr. G).

Virgadamo, a gritty guard in his day, sees the potential in this unit, just as everyone else does.

"We have a lot of potential this season behind Hoffmann," the coach said. "He is one of the best in the section and he proved it this summer earning a spot on the BCANY team and last season earning 1st team all-state. We are big, long, and athletic and have potential to be deep. Our chemistry has been outstanding and we are going to focus on communication and intensity every time we get on the court. We have multiple guys that will score in double figures this season and hope it happens often. Our schedule is extremely difficult which we hope will help us earn another trip to the county center." And so long as the tested veteran seniors welcome these savvy new additions with open, unselfish arms (like Coleman and Bell-Isaac did), the unit should continue to prosper. If not, too much one-on-one ball could hurt their chances.

LEAGUE I-D

YORKTOWN – Don't look now, but the Huskers (6-13) got themselves one of the best coaches in Section 1 and we all should expect immediate improvement under former Mahopac boss Kevin Downes, who drew blood from every stone in Mahopac. Yorktown failed to crack the field of 16 last year, but Downes will not tolerate a team that isn't willing to break barriers.

And the Huskers, despite the loss of slick G Luis Cartegena (transfer to White Plains), are not bad off in terms of talent with an experienced unit of Mason Dyslin (6-6), Sr., F; Mike Nardone (6-2), Sr., G; Nick DelBene (6-4), Sr., F; Nick DeGennaro (5-11), Jr., G; Luke Shkreli (5-11), Sr., G; and Matt Broder (5-10), Sr., G returning. Dyslin, lanky and lean, has made the varsity scene three years running and should be the primary go-to in most sets. He can finish around the tin and has refined his pull-up jumper.

Three rookies bring additional size in Jesse Bambach (6-4), Jr., F; Glen O'Loughlin (6-5), Jr., F; and Ben Schmitz (6-4), Jr., giving the Huskers a front line that might match up against Lakeland's massive front court. Don't be shocked if Yorktown is in the mix of league title contenders in a very interesting, balanced mix of teams, including Lakeland, Somers, John Jay, Brewster, Fox Lane and Greeley. On paper, it looks wide open, and Yorktown could challenge, despite the fact most teams are banking on a win against the Huskers.

"I think we can be a solid team," Downes said. "Dyslin is going to be a very good player. He poses matchup problems as he can be effective both in the post and facing the basket. DeGennaro will be one of the better point guards around. He makes great decisions with the ball,

has the ability to score but looks to pass first and get everyone involved. DelBene and Nardone will be solid offensive contributors and excellent defenders"

BREWSTER – The Bears went 6-13 last year during 33-year Coach John Martino's final year, which opened the door for assistant Coach Tom Nelligan to take over. Nelly has been around the Section 1 block a few times, with a championship stop at Kennedy Catholic before several years at John Jay.

Key returnees for the Bears include senior F Dima Monaghan (6'1"), senior point guard Adarsch Budathocki (5'9"), senior F Matt Gargano (6'1"), senior F Tom Trainor (6'2"), senior F Jason Jacobus (6'3") and senior F Rob Chamberlain (6'3").

"We worked hard this fall," Nelligna said, and we're working on building team chemistry now. Our success will depend on how well we rebound, defend and take care of the ball."

SOMERS – A trusted birdy close to the Tusker scene has indicated that Somers, despite significant loss to graduation, will give opponents fits this season. Seniors Anthony Maestri, Ryan Grossman, Tom Gargulo, Pat Melly and Nick Lombardo all return with varsity experience, and they will be joined by Matt Maloney, who is back at Somers after a brief stint at Iona Prep.



Haldane senior Peter Hoffman will light up Section 1 this season with a versatile skill set.

LEAGUE III-A

CROTON – The loss of Patrick Gallagher to a private school transfer certainly hurts the Tigers' chances of competing for a Class B title, but the Tigers were on the uptick last year when they met their match against Putnam Valley in the Class B quarters. Senior G Teejay Searight (5'10") is full of swag and bravado, enough to make him a better than average baller. Searight runs the point and is a strong defender who sticks the trey and finishes around the rim off quick penetration. He'll need big-time support if Coach Bill Thom's disciplined Tigers are going to knock off Briarcliff for the league title.

Sports

Girls Hoops Notebook

Ossining Primed to Continue NYS Reign of Dominance

Peekskill Starts Post-Headley Era; Other Locals Ready for the Hoops Grind

By A.J. Martelli

If you're driving on Highland Avenue in OSSINING and pass the high school, you'll see the swagger on display: "Girls' Basketball: Two-Time State Champions!" It's been up for everyone to see since this past March, when the Pride captured its second consecutive NYSPHSAA Class AA championship.

Simply put, the Pride is proud, and after graduating a grand total of zero players from last year's state title winning squad,



Ossining's Shadeen Samuels is about to go off on Section 1 and NYS.

Ossining is gunning for its fifth-straight AA section title and a NYS three-peat this year.

"We lost no one, so the biggest thing is trying to take a different approach this year," said boss Dan Ricci. "Last year we kind of surprised people; we were like the



Somers F Kayleigh McGuire will be difficult to contain in the paint this season.

hunter, this year I'm telling the kids we're the hunted. We're expecting to win the section and get back to states – all that, but you have to realize how difficult it is. You have to stay injury free, you have to get better; you can't slip up in a big moment. There's a little more pressure, but I think the kids are up for it."

The Pride's biggest threat in recent times was All-NYS G Saniya Chong, who won a national championship with UConn earlier this year. Taking up Chong's mantle last year were the likes of Jalay Knowles, a sharpshooter headed for Hartford, junior forward Shadeen Samuels, and Pace bound sniper Stef Svoboda. Abby Squirrell and NYIT-bound Madison Strippoli added a pair of inside weapons to the Pride's arsenal and will undoubtedly keep it up this year, as size and depth continue to be the Pride's biggest advantage.

"Everybody plays their role," Ricci said. "Most of our points on a regular basis are going to come from Shadeen and Jalay, and then it'll be a different kid each day. Stef's our ball handler, our distributor; Abby's our rebounder and our good post defender. Then we have kids who can come off the bench and shoot the three, who can defend. Everybody understands their role and accepts their role."

Ossining has quite a few games against Class A opponents on its schedule this year, including two matchups apiece with Lakeland, Panas, Hen Hud and Peekskill. But that's not exactly pleasing to the Pride head coach.

"I was not happy with our schedule," Ricci said. "I was hoping to play everybody in our league once, like we did two years ago when we were real good. Peekskill is good, they'll give us a game, but besides that – the Hen Huds, the Panas and the Lakelands – we're just on a different level right now.

"I don't think it's a good thing for the kids on either side. It's a mismatch; not a healthy thing, but we're going to scrimmage against teams from New York City, because we have to push our kids or else they're not going to get any better."

The Pride will be tested, though, on Dec. 17 when they host Archbishop Molloy and on Dec. 28 when they face off with Jamesville-Dewitt in the first round of the Slam Dunk tourney at the County Center.

There's no reason to believe the Pride won't be the last team standing at the end of the year.

"The kids are excited – and hungry," Ricci added.

An Ossining team with no appetite is dangerous enough. A hungry Ossining

team? Might as well pencil the Pride in now for another trip to states.

MAHOPAC happened to be the team the Pride beat to capture the AA section title last year. It's tough to say whether or not the Indians will go on that sort of dream run this year, having graduated 1,000-point scorer Mairead Hynes. Yet second-year coach Chuck Scozzafava will have senior Alayne Felix and sophomore Amanda Geyer at his disposal, with senior Caroline Horan and junior Tara Ravoli issuing backup, so the Indians should make plenty of noise in League I-A against the like of CARMEL, RCK, Jay EF, Arlington and Lourdes.

The PEESKILL lady Red Devils are hoping to keep up their reign in Class A, despite graduating senior leaders Latisha Clark, Shaina Iton, Morgan Beechum and Adriane Jackson, all of whom did the dirty work. What's more, they will be without former Coach Rodney Headley, Jr., who resigned after some unsettling allegations and an unceremonious benching from the regional playoffs.

Taking the reigns is Steven Loscher, coming over from SUNY Purchase where he coached the women's hoops team for eight years. The new coach is happy to be aboard, and wants nothing more than to keep the Peekskill dynasty of three gold balls in five years alive.

"I'm excited and grateful for the opportunity," he said. "The style will be a little bit different and I just asked my kids to play as hard as they can for every minute that they're out there. They're listening well and they've been very receptive to everything that I've asked of them. It's a team that's here to win."

Talented junior Lanay Rodney will likely be Peekskill's key offensive threat, along with sophomore Nyrie Holliman. The senior Dillard sisters, Kiarra and Tierra, and junior Lisana Burnett will also fill the void left by last year's gradutors.

"It's hard to say who our best scorer is because we've only had a few scrimmages and I play everybody," Loscher said. "I think that'll take care of itself because we're not really going to lean on just one



Mahopac's Alayne Felix will need to ramp up her game in the absence of Mairead Hynes.

person; try and stress the team concept, and hopefully a few people step up. We graduated a lot and I think they're ready to take over."

If you ask this writer, the Red Devils have a lot to prove. Last year Rodney said not having Headley on the sidelines for the regional final vs. Maine-Endwell was "like not having our best player," creating a couple obvious questions: can the lady Red Devils win without Headley? Can they adapt to the new style Loscher will be employing?

On the flip side, if you ask the new coach, it's merely going to come down to how bad they want it.

"It's all about the effort," Loscher said. "If you give the effort, the results that you want will be there."

With Class A wide open, SOMERS has a chance to make its mark in girls' hoops – the ladies having already made waves in both lacrosse and soccer this past year with a sectional and NYS title, respectively. The Tuskers won their league last year and have been upended by Albertus Magnus in the quarterfinals the past two years, yet Coach Kristi Dini thinks the energy level this season will be at an all-time high.

"We're excited about the team this year," she said. "We have four freshmen and two up from the JV squad last year, plus some great leadership and energy from

Sports

our seven returning players. Even though things are different, we're coming off a solid season and a league championship, and this group of girls is bringing a positive and enthusiastic energy to Somers basketball."

Senior Nicole DeMase poses a presence inside while Kayleah McGuire and Gabby Rosenzweig are sure to be two of the Tuskers' best outside shooters. Somers should be ok on both sides of the floor, Dini thinks.

"Our man-to-man defense is very tough and gave people problems last year, so we built on that in the offseason and preseason, and added some new components to our game so we can have other options we're confident with," she said.

If the Tuskers can get over that hump come sectionals – the hump being Albertus Magnus – they have as good a shot anyone this year.

HENDRICK HUDSON is coming off a 13-7 season in Class A, and lost bigs Cassidy Boyle and Leatina Hutchings. This year size isn't on the Sailors' side, but head man Ken Sherman is feeling optimistic nonetheless.

"Our problem this year is going to be height – we have no height, but we have scorers," he said. "We had a scrimmage last week against Rye Country Day, a much taller team, and we held our own. I was pleased with that. We'll be scrappy and we'll run a lot, so that's what I'm hoping will set us apart a little bit more, even though we don't have the height."

At 5-9, senior Amber Feminella looks to be the Sailors' top talent, along with Amy Glashoff and sophomore shooting guard Jaelyn Smith.

"Our strength is that we move the ball well and do well with our offensive sets,"

Sherman added. "My team goal is to play really hard each game; 10 girls are going to be playing every game, and I want them to be playing hard. We'll see what happens in the win and loss column, when that happens."

Be on the lookout for Coach Matt Castaldo's **BREWSTER** squad. These past two years the Bears have taken some lumps, but Brewster's JV squad absolutely punished Peekskill's junior varsity team on last season's opening night. If their JV girls are able to cut it at the varsity level, the Bears will be growling in 2014.

LAKELAND graduated 3-point shooter Kate Weldon and inside force Nikki Kardias. The Hornets not only lost two of their key players, but said goodbye to longtime leader Steve Fallo, who moved over the boys' side of the court, ushering in young Miranda Lustig to coach. She will lead the likes of senior distributor Ellie Dineen-Carey and sophomore outside sniper Jordan Cotino. Two years ago the Hornets won the league at 14-3, but with such a tough schedule it's hard to see them going to the County Center this year.

PANAS graduated a whole ton of players, and will likely struggle to stay competitive this year. But expect big things from senior Sam Sudol, who has been an effective shooter and rebounder these past few seasons.

Down in Class C, **HALDANE** has a shot to maintain the school success on the girls' side, perhaps following the lead of the soccer and volleyball teams this fall. The Blue Devils worked their way to the Class C state semis last year, and according to senior Allie Monteleone – who last season was the section tournament MVP – the girls are focused.

"We have a very young but athletic

team," she said. "We are determined to win the gold ball for the second time in a row."

Allie and her sister, sophomore Hannah Monteleone, are going to be forces to be reckoned with on the floor, alongside Missy Lisikatos.

KENNEDY has already started this season, competing in the Albertus Magnus McNichols Turkey Tip-Off this past weekend. The Gaels were aced by Magnus 80-23 in round one Friday night, and fell to a strong-willed Clarkstown South squad 54-41 in the consolation game Saturday.

"We took it on the chin the first game against Albertus Magnus," said boss Lance DeMarzo. "Albertus came out firing on all cylinders and I didn't do too good of a coaching job but things will look up."

Kennedy brings back a healthy senior Megan Weidenhamer, after suffering multiple knee injuries over the past year. Seniors Grace Cunningham and the Heslin-Scott sisters will sure up the Gaels starting lineup, in addition to sophomore sensation Raiven Encarnacion.

"Megan Weidenhamer is starting to get her feet under her – she's coming back from that ACL injury and she had a meniscus tear in that same knee over the summer," DeMarzo said. "She's starting to play more minutes and the game is starting to come back to her. The Heslin-Scotts are starting to come around and I'm really impressed with Raiven. She's raw, but she goes to the basket. You're going to remember that name for the next two or three years."

Kennedy is now in its second season in the CHSAA, though there are plenty of games vs. Section 1 foes on the schedule, notably a faceoff at home with New Rochelle on Dec. 15, a home game

Girls Hoops Notebook



Peekskill junior G Lanay Rodney leads the two-time defending Section 1 Class A champion Red Devils.

vs. Scarsdale on Jan. 17, and a game in the Lourdes tournament Jan. 19 against Newburgh Free Academy. To DeMarzo, a year of experience is going to benefit the Gaels, who not to mention went 9-1 in league play last year to earn a first round playoff bye.

"I think the girls now know how to practice and how to allot their time – plus the other teams know us, the referees know us and how we play," he said. "I think going into our second year it's going to help us immensely."

PUTNAM VALLEY expects to make significant gains this season with Alyssa Stockinger, Gina Valentino and Reena Olsen back in the fold. The Tigers are still a few years away from making their mark, but the modified and JV programs are blooming with talent.

Ice Hockey Notebook

Carmel Comes up Short in IceBreaker Title Bid

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

Ram sniper Mike Gamby had two goals and two assists to lead Carmel to an 8-3 win over Yorktown in the Conference I IceBreaker Tournament last Friday, and the Rams were on their way to an impressive start to the 2015 campaign, snagging second place in Orlando Division after a 4-3 loss to Pawling Sunday night at the Brewster Ice Arena.

Sandwiched in between was a thrilling 6-5 shootout victory over John Jay on Saturday as the Rams (2-1) got off to a solid showing



NIKKI/RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Carmel D Paul Murphy turns the corner in Rams' 6-5 shootout win over John Jay Saturday at the BIA.



Carmel's Willow Barnes looked sharp in nets for the Rams.

under first-year Coach Mike Chiacchia, who takes over an 8-11 squad from a year ago. Gamby (3G, 2A) & Tyler Alfonzetti (2G, 1A) led the Rams against the Indians. Gamby scored twice in regulation before putting the Indians on ice in the shootout, sending Carmel into the championship game.

Against Yorktown, Alfonzetti added two goals and an assist for the Rams and freshman goalie Willow Barnes, the sister of the famous Barnes brothers, stopped 25 shots between the pipes and looked good in doing so.

Jalay Knowles Best!

Ossining Senior on Hunt for 3rd-Straight NYS Title

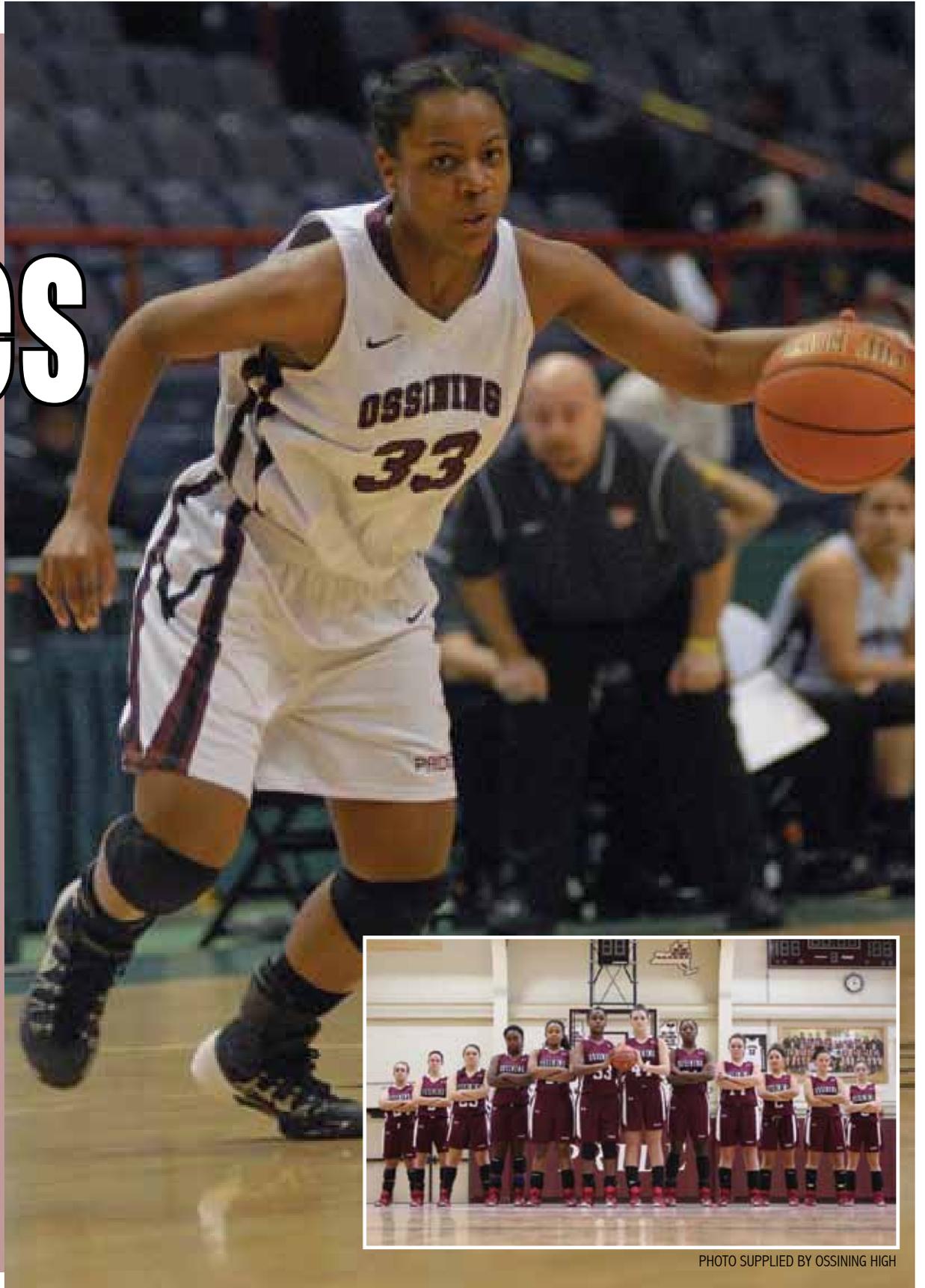


PHOTO SUPPLIED BY OSSINING HIGH

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Going for an unprecedented fifth consecutive Section 1 Class AA championship as a starter this season, Ossining senior Jalay Knowles, a starter for the Pride (inset photo) since the 8th grade, is on the brink of state history this season as she, and teammate Shadeen Samuels, attempt to become just the second and third starters in NYS to win three consecutive state championships, hoping to join WNBA star Sheneshe Johnson (Rush Henrietta High School) as starting players for a three-time NYS Class AA champion... see Girls Hoops Notebook

Ozzy's Auto Clinic and Discount Tire Center

<p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold; color: #0056b3;">Oil Change \$24⁹⁵</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Includes Tire Rotation & Safety Check</p> <p style="font-size: 8pt;">MOST CARS. \$2.50 Hazardous Material Disposal Fee. With this coupon • Not to be combined with any other offer. Exp. 12/31/14 • See Store For Details</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">Beach Shopping Center</p> <p>47 Dayton Lane • Peekskill (914) 739-3333</p> <p style="color: #0056b3;">Visit our website: ozzyautoclinicny.com</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Mon-Fri 7:30-6pm • Sat 7:30am - 5pm Now Open Sundays</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0056b3; font-size: 18pt;">FALL TIRE REBATES</p> </div> <p>GOOD YEAR..... UP TO \$160 MICHELIN UP TO \$70 GENERAL..... UP TO \$70 ALL OTHER BRANDS .. UP TO \$50</p> <p style="font-style: italic;">See store for details</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------