



# The White Plains Examiner



Covering White Plains, Greenburgh and Harrison

May 6- May 12, 2014

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 4, Issue 141

## PTA Sponsored Free Books Fair Promotes Literacy

By Pat Casey

Ten thousand books were distributed over two days to students in grades K-12 in the White Plains School District during the White Plains PTA 2nd Annual Free Book Celebration.

The main event, held outdoors Saturday at Eastview Middle School, attracted over 900 people who took away 8,000 books. The first 100 people arrived within 10 minutes of the celebration opening.

A "mini" celebration on Friday at White Plains High School saw 2,000 books distributed in one hour, with all the SAT prep books gone within eight minutes.

Caroline Furry, co-chair of the event was grateful for the good weather on Saturday morning and happy to see so many people out for the event.

Flurry said the Free Book Celebration was developed by the PTA to support the district and teachers to promote literacy. "This was something that as parents we



(From l to r): PTA volunteers Jen DeMilio, Christine Swenson, Wilber David Thomas (student) and Caroline Furry.

could do," she said.

Reading literacy is a major factor that can determine if children meet their full intellectual and career potential. In White Plains as well as other communities, families often face financial constraints and other challenges that can prevent them from providing their children full access to books. The Free Book Celebration, by its very nature, hopes to address some of these challenges.

Each child received a black canvas shoulder bag with an orange literacy logo (White Plains school colors). The books were arranged according to grade level and included English as well as Spanish titles in fiction and non-fiction categories.

A Favorite Books board allowed students to post the names of their favorite titles along with their school. The information will be used later to create a Recommended Books list.

Furry noted that the Favorite Books *continued on page 2*

## West Harrison Residents Near Lake Street Quarry Vent Frustrations About Dumping on Town Board

By Jon Craig

More than a dozen residents and business owners upset with continued noise, air and truck pollution in and around the Lake Street Quarry in West Harrison told the Town Board on Thursday that they're tired of words without action.

But Supervisor Ron Belmont, Town Trustee Stephen Malfitano and Town Attorney Jonathan Kraut told residents everything is being done within the law and that they cannot comment in detail because of continuing court action, postponements and appeals by the

quarry owner.

"The lack of response has to do with litigation," Malfitano said.

Kraut told the residents he had been to the quarry earlier on Thursday with members of the town's enforcement department. He did not elaborate.

Quarry owner Lawrence Berrengo also declined comment, referring questions to his attorney, who could not be reached.

The quarry owner was reportedly issued 18 summonses by town Building Department officials. The next court date is May 15 on the alleged violations.

Resident Lucille Held, noting that

*continued on page 5*

## Greenburgh Up in Arms Over Secrecy, Nepotism, Hasty Pick of Fairview Fire Chief, Deputy Chief

By Jon Craig

A new firestorm has erupted in Greenburgh after the Fairview Board of Fire Commissioners held an unannounced meeting Thursday to promote two firefighters as Chief and Deputy Chief.

Howard Reiss, the new Fire Chief, is a 27-year member of the department. He has been one of four Deputy Fire Chiefs since January 2010.

But the newest deputy chief, Eryk Simmons, happens to be the son of Vikki Simmons, the decades-long chairwoman of the Fairview Board of Commissioners,

further alarming Supervisor Paul Feiner and other town residents who have fought to control taxpayer expenses.

Thursday's surprise move, which came just three weeks after the five-member Fairview Fire Commission assured a heated public meeting that their concerns about favoritism and fiscal constraint were being heeded, prompted Feiner, retired newspaper editor Milton Hoffman and other critics to begin circulating a petition for a Nov. 5 public vote on consolidation. The November referendum would call for merging paid firefighting services within Fairview's

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### Greenburgh Up in Arms Over Secrecy, Nepotism, Hasty Pick of Fairview Fire Chief, Deputy Chief

continued from page 1

Fire District with the Hartsdale Fire District, also within the town, to eliminate duplication and save taxpayer money.

"I am disappointed that the Fairview Commission, in a secret session, did what it did," Hoffman said. "Howard Reiss happens to be a fine person and I am sure he would be superior to the outgoing chief. But his appointment slows the process of getting one chief for the two departments."

Feiner said that Vikki Simmons should not have participated in interviews that led to the promotion of her son as deputy chief. "It's not fair to other candidates who hoped to be promoted to deputy chief when the mother of a candidate is the chair of the board and has the ability to determine who gets promoted. Eryk Simmons may be very qualified for the position. I do not question his professionalism. I have concerns about the appointment process."

Hoffman added: "Vikki Simmons for almost 25 years has run the Commission like her own fiefdom." Simmons could not

be reached for comment.

Feiner noted that the town's three paid Fire Chiefs are costing town taxpayers more than \$600,000, with their annual salaries of more than \$200,000 apiece. That's more than the Greenburgh Police Chief, who serves the entire town.

Other portions of unincorporated Greenburgh are served by volunteer fire departments in the villages of Ardsley, Hastings, Elmsford, Irvington and Tarrytown.

"We don't need three Chiefs," Feiner said. "Fire district taxes are almost as high as town taxes, and we provide many more services." Feiner suspects that talk of consolidation led to the accelerated timetable resulting in last week's promotions of the Fairview Fire Department officers.

The promotions, which included appointment of John Baker as captain, hastened the retirement of Fairview Fire Chief Anthony LoGiudice, who on April 10 announced he would be stopping down "by the end of the year."

In December, LoGiudice told the Board of Commissioners he planned to retire "within three years." But the ex-Fire Chief has since gotten ensnared in a federal age discrimination lawsuit filed by a firefighter job applicant. Testimony during that lawsuit revealed anti-Semitic remarks made by LoGiudice and directed against Feiner years ago.

LoGiudice has said his early retirement after 33 years had nothing to do with the remarks, which he has publicly apologized for making. According to sworn depositions by Reiss and a former Fairview firefighter, LoGiudice made a slur about Feiner to fire department subordinates.

During the April 10 meeting, Hoffman, a retired senior editor with The Journal News, Fairview Fire District resident and longtime critic of its rising cost to taxpayers, said petition signatures were being collected to encourage major organizational changes, including merging fire operations in Fairview, which has 45 paid firefighters at two fire

stations, with Greenville Fire District's station and two stations in the Hartsdale Fire District. Fairview's is the largest and costliest of the three paid fire districts within Greenburgh. Hoffman said that petition, which asked Fairview and Hartsdale to voluntarily cut costs while consolidating services, would have saved taxpayers \$100,000 initially.

Hoffman previously favored consolidation without resorting to a public referendum, which also costs taxpayer money. In 2007, voters defeated a bond issue to spend \$8 million on repairs to Fairview's Station 2.

Several residents had suggested not filling LoGiudice's job to save taxpayers money. Fairview is the largest of three fire districts that protect the unincorporated parts of Greenburgh. It covers 5.5 square miles and has an annual budget of \$12.4 million. The other fire districts within Greenburgh, Greenville and Hartsdale, have budgets of \$11 million and \$8 million, respectively.

### PTA Sponsored Free Books Fair Promotes Literacy

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posting encouraged students to think and then discuss the titles they liked with other students gathered around the board. Older students helped the younger children write their posts.

Wilber David Thomas a 7th grade student at the Highlands Middle School said he had selected mystery and non-fiction titles, which he enjoyed reading "just for the fun of it."

Thomas arrived early to get a jump on his selections and then volunteered with the PTA team.

Students and families participating enjoyed pizza, water supplied by Stop and Shop and cotton candy served up by White Plains resident Nick Wolff.

Local dignitaries, including Mayor Tom Roach, State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, State Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, State Assemblyman David Buchwald, and County Legislator Ben Boykin, pitched in and helped the PTA distribute books during the latter part of the morning

Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, who serves on the State Assembly Committee on Education, said at the event, "Reading is at the core of everything we do. It opens doors. It allows us to learn and plan for the future. When a community embraces reading, they demonstrate to our children how important it is to us all. The White

Plains PTA Council should be applauded for their efforts"

Supporters for this year's Free Book Celebration include the Entergy Foundation, Stop and Shop, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, the Princeton Review, and the Main Street Book Company.

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**SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS**

# Astorino Vows No Tax Hike, Takes on HUD in State of the County

By Martin Wilbur

County Executive Rob Astorino pledged no tax increase and defiantly outlined a plan to substitute federal Community Development Block Grant money with a county-run program during last week's State of the County address in White Plains.

Delivering the hour-long address on May 1 four months into his second term, Astorino highlighted the accomplishments of his first four years and what he hopes to tackle as he starts his second term. He also explained his decision to run for governor even as political opponents on the Board of Legislators called last week for a special election to replace him because of his extensive campaign schedule that has seen the Republican traveling around the state and country in his bid to upset Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo in November.

An upbeat Astorino said that he has made good on promises to protect taxpayers, preserve essential services and promote economic growth. He vowed that in the budget he will propose later this year for 2015 there will be no tax levy increase.

"Protecting taxpayers recognizes the simple truth that government must live within its means," Astorino said. "Preserving essential services defines our mission that as a government we must do all we can to meet the critical needs of our



County Executive Rob Astorino delivers his State of the County address last week.

people. Promoting economic growth is how we take care of the first two."

Astorino said in his first four years in office the county tax levy declined 2 percent compared to a 23 percent spike from 2005 to 2010. Spending has been reduced by \$8 million since he took office.

The comments that prompted the most enthusiastic applause from the supportive crowd at the county building was Astorino's announcement that he would push for the county to invest in a bond that would generate \$5 million a year to replace the CDBG grant money from

the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

About two weeks ago, HUD informed Westchester officials it would revoke the county's \$5.2 million for Fiscal Year 2012 because six of the 31 mostly white municipalities named in the settlement have what the federal monitor deemed exclusionary zoning. The county also lost \$7.4 million in CDBG grants for Fiscal Year 2011.

However, Astorino last week accused HUD of looking to dismantle local zoning regulations and using affordable housing to disguise its true intentions.

He reiterated that Westchester is ahead of schedule to build the new 750 affordable units required in the settlement. Currently, the county has financing in place for 403 units and building permits have been issued for 385 units. Astorino said it is impossible for the county to be ahead of schedule if it wasn't in compliance with the settlement.

"The Community Development Block Grant has been HUD's prime weapon," Astorino said. "The strategy was simple: withhold the money meant for the county to capitulate on zoning. But that didn't happen and it won't happen while I'm county executive."

"Westchester is not for sale, not for \$5, \$5 million or \$5 billion," Astorino later added.

He stated that the bonding for the grant money would cost the average taxpayer about \$1 a year.

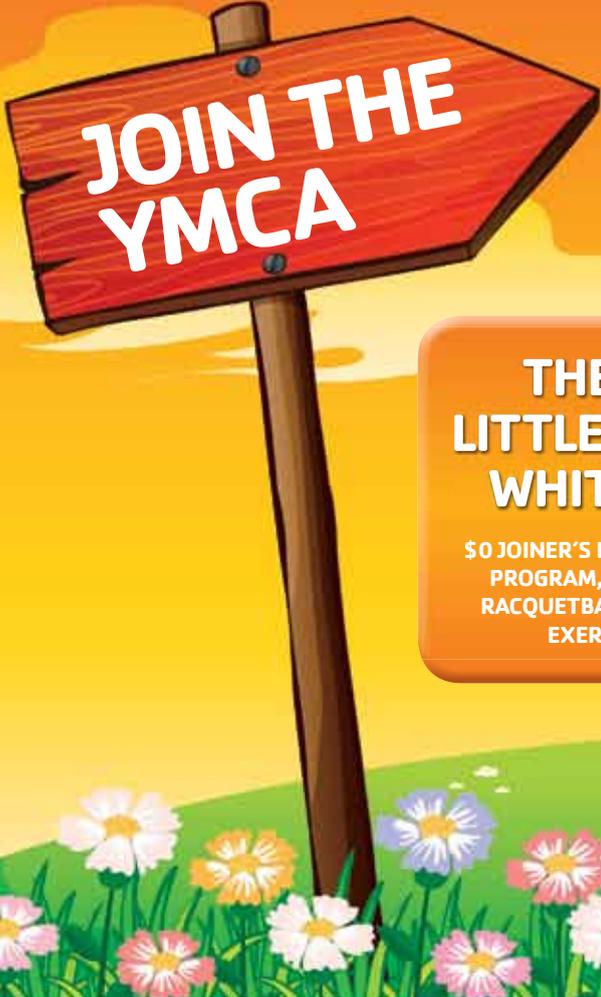
Other initiatives proposed by Astorino last week included the County Road and Bridge Restoration Program, which would set aside \$25 million over the next five years for urgent repairs on roads and bridges. The program could also help pay for long-term projects, he said.

The county executive also announced the appointment of Katherine Delgado, his deputy chief of staff, as an immigrant affairs liaison. With more than 20 percent of Westchester's residents having been born in foreign countries, the need to help break down cultural and language barriers and help the immigrant population navigate government bureaucracy have never been more critical, Astorino said.

He touted how his administration has made it more attractive for Westchester-based companies such as Regeneron, Acorda Therapeutics and PepsiCo, among others, to remain in the county and expand operations. Establishment of a Local Development Corporation to allow nonprofits to obtain low-interest financing has also resulted in millions of dollars in expansion projects at Pace, Northern Westchester Hospital, Phelps Memorial Hospital and other sites.

Astorino told the audience that his

*continued on page 8*





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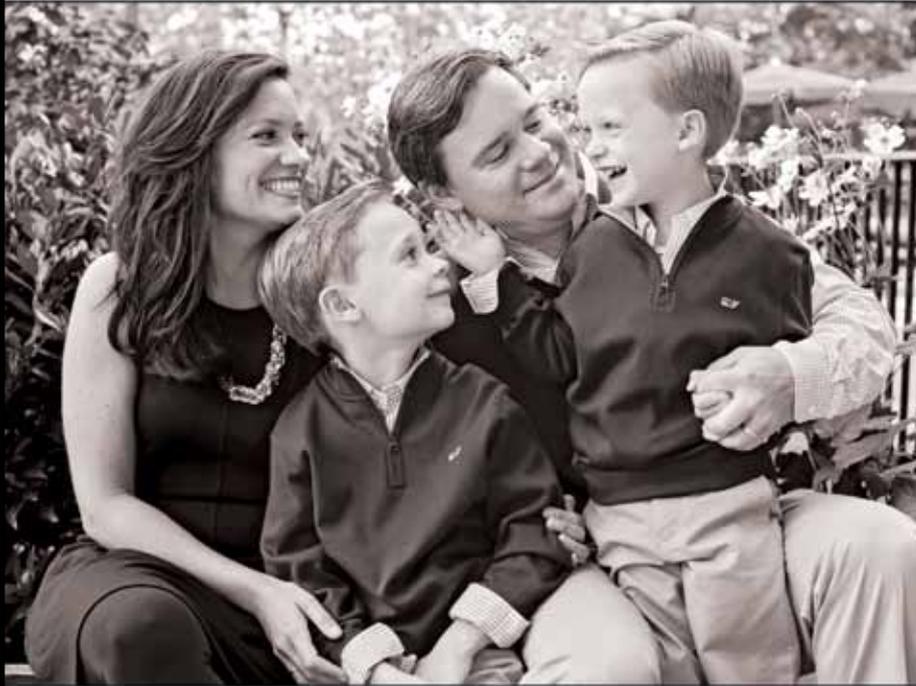
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# White Plains to Require Phasing Out of Heating Fuel No. 6 and No. 4

**By Pat Casey**

The White Plains Common Council was expected to pass legislation Monday night that would require building owners in the city who currently use No. 6 Heating Oil and No. 4 Heavy Oil to phase out their old burners in favor of cleaner No. 2 Heating Oil and Natural Gas.

Both No. 6 and No. 4 oils have a severe effect on air quality as shown by their black smoke, which contains noxious gases. Both products fail EPA standards when it comes to emissions.

No. 6, the more viscous and most toxic, would be disallowed in White Plains by 2016 and No. 4 by 2020.

Commenting that this was something the city had been looking at for a while, Mayor Tom Roach said: "The black smoke was unnecessary and harmful. There already is a natural migration off use of these older heating oils, but White Plains is putting a time line on it."

The new law would amend Title III of the White Plains Municipal Code by repealing Chapter 3 titled Air Pollution and replacing it with an updated version.

Similar legislation has already been adopted by New York City and Westchester County is looking into changing its codes as well, according to Building Commissioner Damon Amadeo.

Amadeo told the Council at a meeting April 30th that approximately 15 buildings in White Plains are now using No.6 and another 40 use No. 4.

"Most are the larger scale (six to 10 story multi-family) pre-war co-ops on Old Mamaroneck Road and North Broadway. There are some institutional and corporate buildings on the list as well," Amadeo said.

Packets of information will be sent to each noncompliant building and Amadeo noted he would talk to owners and co-op boards about the intention to help make the conversions manageable.

It was observed that a conversion to No. 2 heating Oil would be less costly and more straightforward, although reconfiguring to natural gas was preferred.

Con Edison and NYSERDA have energy incentive programs that would be investigated as well as an EIC financing alternative that might be available for building owners that can demonstrate energy savings in their plan.

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## YMCA Holds Healthy Kids Day



The YMCA in White Plains held Healthy Kids Day April 26. More than 100 families enjoyed a morning full of healthy tips and snacks, fun physical activities and a chance to meet the New York Knicks D Team representatives who will start their season at their new home court at the Westchester County Center this fall. Learning about dental hygiene as well as having a pretty design applied with face paint was a highlight for one young guest.

## Open House on May 20 at Westchester Community College



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# Greenburgh Public Library, First in Westchester to Get "Looped" In

The Westchester Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) recently unveiled Greenburgh Public Library's state-of-the-art audio induction loop, which came as a donation from the local chapter's 2013 Walk4Hearing proceeds. An audio induction loop makes it possible for people with hearing devices to listen to and enjoy events that require PA systems that would otherwise be inaudible. Greenburgh Public Library, one of the largest free libraries in Westchester, is the first in the county to receive a system of this kind.

Metro Sound Pros, Leo Garrison,

spoke to the audience about his company's installation of the loop and the importance of this system to the hearing impaired population. Garrison said that while assistive listening technology is mainstream in Europe, less than 1 percent of the United States is looped. "This technology has allowed us to help so many people, but we still have a lot of work to do," said Garrison. "We have to advocate for the 17 percent of the American population with hearing loss, and unfortunately that number is increasing."

John Sexton, acting director of the Greenburgh Public Library, thanked the

Westchester Chapter of HLAA for its generous funding of a permanent looping system, which cost nearly \$5,000.

The 2014 Westchester/Rockland Walk4Hearing is scheduled for 11 a.m. on May 17 at FDR State Park in Yorktown Heights. The 5K walk additionally supports college scholarships for high school students with hearing loss, service dogs for hearing impaired people, help for soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan who

have suffered hearing loss, and many other programs and activities at the local and national level that serve the 48 million Americans with hearing loss.

Registration is available online at [www.walk4hearing.org](http://www.walk4hearing.org). To volunteer, contribute, or find out more about sponsorships, please contact co-chair Steve Wolfert at 914-960-4692 or [swolfert@optonline.net](mailto:swolfert@optonline.net). Current sponsors include Phonak Hearing Systems and Oticon.

## West Harrison Residents Near Lake Street Quarry Vent Frustrations About Dumping on Town Board

*continued from page 1*

Harrison is "the fifth richest town in Westchester," said she expected more for her tax dollars. Held said the citizens "are being screwed and tattooed. You know this is polluting the air. It is now time to stop all this talking. This has got to stop right now. How dare we allow one bit of extra dust. Why can't we stop what he is doing?"

Belmont took exception to her comments, saying decades of inaction and citizen complaints about the quarry long preceded his tenure as town supervisor. "This has been going on a long, long time. I have been here two

years," Belmont said. "If it were that simple, it would be done."

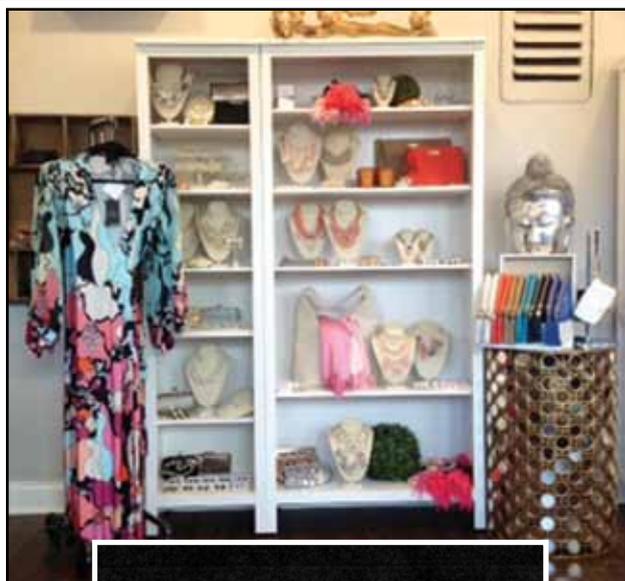
Glenn Dahar, who lives near the quarry, said his family has had to endure noise, dust, odors and other disturbances from the quarry-turned-compost and recycling center since 2000. He said his daughter suffers from asthma, which has been further aggravated by continued quarry activity.

Berengo previously argued that his business has been in operation since 1922, a year before Harrison's zoning laws were adopted, exempting the quarry from most town regulations.



(From left to right): NYS Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti (D-92nd District); Robert Glazer, CEO of ENT and Allergy Associates and HLAA Westchester's 2014 Health Hero of the Year; Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner; 2014 Walk4Hearing Co-Chair David Goldwasser; News 12 Anchor and event emcee Lisa LaRocca; Cory Deitchman, assistant to the director of the Greenburgh Public Library; 2014 Walk4Hearing Co-Chair Steve Wolfert; and Leo Garrison, senior integration specialist at Metro Sound Pros.

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# Westchester Digital Summit Inspires Smarter Business with Leading Edge Ideas

By Pat Casey

Chris Dessi CEO of Silverback Social and Producer of the Westchester Digital Summit has had his eye on digital technology and how it can affect business growth for some time. As a curious intellectual he has watched new technology impact television, the web, online communications, mobile communications, the entire media landscape.

"Digital technology has changed our lives, the way we get and share information and our relationships," Dessi says. "I wanted to apply that change to how we market. In Business to Consumer and Business to Business markets, digital is driving relationships in new and evolving ways."

Referring to an attention study done in the 1990s, Dessi explained the test subjects were asked to focus intently on a black and white screen and report any change in the white area. At some point a gorilla walked across the screen, but none of the test subjects saw it. "It was like they were wearing blinders," Dessi said.

That story became the basis for Silverback Social, named for the Silverback Gorilla that has been standing in the room all this time.

"Why advertise on a digital billboard, when everyone is looking at their iPhones?" Dessi asked. "Consumers are



Chris Dessi CEO, Silverback Social.

ingesting media in a whole new way and social media is driving the change."

"Brands can no longer sell one concept to the many. Brands need to be a part of the ongoing conversation, and they need to be on top of it," Dessi explained, adding that a key element in today's marketing success is respect for the consumer because that consumer is now driving the discussion. "Social media has caused a cultural shift and it is not a marketing choice anymore whether to use it."

At Westchester Digital Summit these concepts will be discussed. Dessi is confident attendees will leave having learned how to generate their "own"

power and promote their ideas into the conversation.

"With marketing that is compelled by the client, what is the thought process?" Dessi again asks. That is a question, which will dominate break out sessions for different market areas, complete with case studies and ideas that Dessi says attendees will be able to take home and easily execute.

*"Why advertise on a digital billboard, when everyone is looking at their iPhones?"*

Speakers include famed reporter Chris Hansen best known for his work on "To Catch a Predator;" and technology titans Jesse Redniss, chief strategy officer at Mass Relevance, Adam Ostrow, Editor-in-Chief at Mashable, reporting on marketing trends, technology and social media, and David Berkowitz chief marketing officer

at Agency MRY.

Other speakers are from companies such as LinkedIn, Facebook, ESPN, IBM, The Huffington Post, GE and MasterCard, among others; as well as non-profits like The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS).

Westchester Digital Summit will take place on May 15th at the Ritz Carlton in White Plains. The event is co-produced by Silverback Social and Zanzarella Marketing. Registration is available online at <http://westchesterdigitalsummit.com/>.

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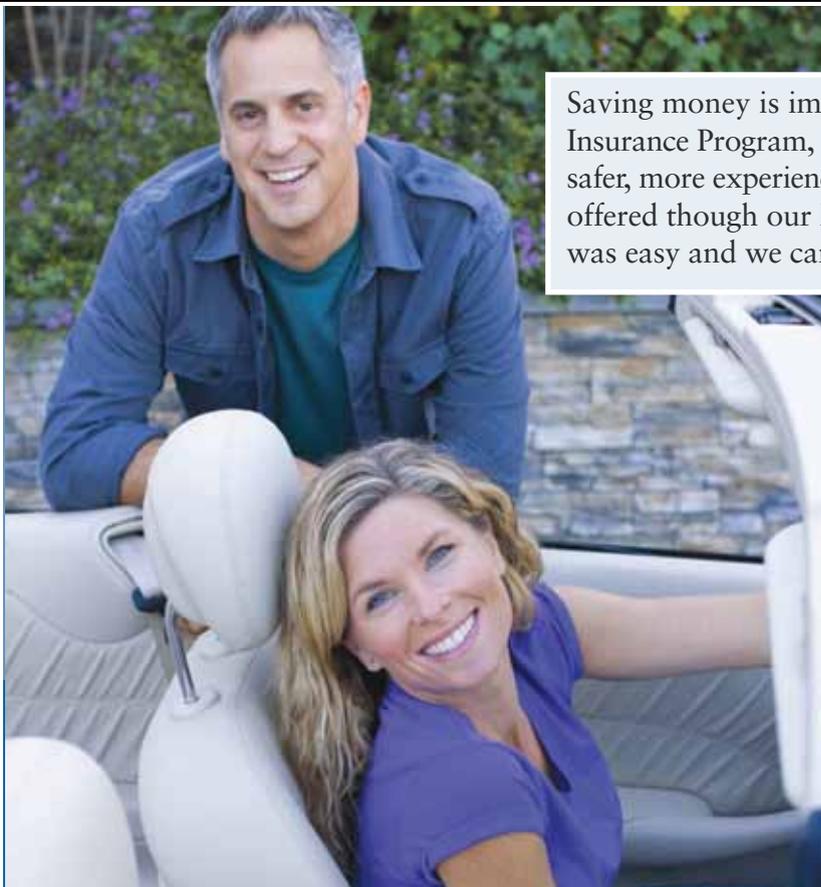
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# Rye Playland's Makeover Back on Track As Legislators, Developers Make Up

By Jon Craig

Ten days before the annual spring opening of Playland Amusement Park, the non-profit developer chosen to assume year-round management of the 86-year-old county attraction returned to the negotiating table to iron out details for its 21st Century redesign.

In a letter sent last Wednesday to County Executive Rob Astorino, Kim Morque, president of Sustainable Playland Inc., clarified concerns as well as SPI's commitment to redeveloping Playland, an Art Deco mainstay that spans 100 acres overlooking the Long Island Sound.

"We wish to emphasize that we remain committed to the vision plan we share with you for the preservation, restoration and rejuvenation of this unique park," Morque wrote.

The Playland Improvement Plan (PIP) review process was suspended a month ago by the county Board of Legislators following a pair of letters sent by Morque that raised concerns about the process. That correspondence unwittingly escalated into a flurry of grandstanding and posturing by public officials and potential investors.

"After thorough deliberation by our board, we are prepared to resume the review," Morque said in his April 30 letter. "We understand that going forward your administration will take a more active role with us in completing the operator agreements (including parking) and providing the relevant necessary information to the Board's reviewing committees. We further understand that the County will represent us in any current and future lawsuits relating to the approval process and implementation of the PIP should SPI be named as a respondent."

Morque concluded that while SPI has made adjustments to its plans in response to input from public and elected officials, "the goals and objectives that we put forth... are unchanged."

Morque reiterated SPI's desire, through a public-private partnership, "to create multiple activities that would draw

visitors to Playland year round."

"The goal is to make the park less dependent on attendance at the amusement component that is weather dependent and has a limited season," Morque wrote. "Multiple uses will enhance the park's economic viability, support the Westchester Children's Museum and bring the private investments and activity that will enable the needed restoration and preservation of buildings and grounds."

Matt Richter, a spokesman for the county Legislature's Democratic majority, said that although five weeks were lost during the 90-day review timetable, approval of SPI's plans could come by late June or early July if no new, major problems emerge.

"We'll pick up where we left off, possibly as early as next week," Richter said on Monday.

Regardless of the restart, Rye residents closest to Playland vehemently object to SPI's plan to build a 35-foot-tall Field House spanning 82,500 square feet on part of the vast parking lot currently underutilized most of the year. SPI calls the addition of at least two indoor sports fields central to its vision of converting Playland into a sustainable year-round county facility and destination, and claims their overall project will return more green space and functionality to the waterfront parkland that is treasured by locals.

Board of Legislators Chairman Mike Kaplowitz, who last month said some of his legislative colleagues were "hopping mad" at SPI's perceived resistance to questions about projected profits, attendance and other details, said he welcomed last week's turnabout.

"We hope that this pause in the review process has allowed SPI the time to address, internally and with their partners the questions that have been posed through our committee review," Kaplowitz said in a statement. "We look forward to establishing a new timeline and scheduling committee meetings with SPI's representatives as soon as possible."

Astorino's spokesman, Ned

McCormack, said that SPI's requests to have the legislative process clarified got all parties back on track and moving forward in line with the county executive's short- and long-term visions for reinventing Playland.

"The last three or four weeks have actually been constructive," McCormack said. "It certainly got everybody focused."

This includes a more active role for the

Astorino Administration in the contract and decision-making process, according to McCormack. This includes negotiating directly with current and prospective Playland vendors, which will operate amusement rides and games, the ice skating rink, education center and newly proposed Field House. "We want to work with all the parties and especially the residents of Rye," he said.

## Playland Opens This Weekend

The 86th season at Playland Amusement Park begins Saturday May 10 with a parade at 11 a.m. Rides, including the historic Dragon Coaster, open at noon. (Rain date for opening ceremonies is May 17.) Special opening day admission is \$15, which is good for unlimited rides until the park closes at 7 p.m. Admission tickets go on sale at 10:30 a.m. Parking is \$5 weekdays, \$7 weekends and \$10 on holidays and certain concert days.

A band called Reunion will perform hits from the 1950s, '60s and '70s at 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. from the Music Tower Theater stage. Erik's Reptile Adventures will entertain visitors with his animal ambassadors featuring Wally the 5-foot long American alligator. Shows take place in Kiddyland and at the Music Tower Theater stage; show times will be posted in the park. Playland's Kiddyland

DJ will also entertain with the "Play it DJ" show, in four performances at 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Admission is half-price at \$15 apiece on May 10, 11, 17, 18 and 23: \$15 unlimited rides for adults and children. Starting Saturday May 24, daily tickets for unlimited rides will cost \$30 for adults and \$20 for "Juniors" under 48 inches tall. Westchester County residents with acceptable proof of residency are eligible for a \$5 discount on these prices. Spectator admission (no rides) is free for county residents and \$10 for non-residents. Season passes are also available.

For details on the season schedule go to [ryeplayland.org](http://ryeplayland.org) or call the park at 914-813-7000. Use the Website link to join the Playland E-Club and receive discounts all season long. For public bus transportation, go to [westchestergov.com/beelinebus](http://westchestergov.com/beelinebus).

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# Buchwald, Abinanti to Seek Second Terms in New York State Assembly

By Pat Casey and Martin Wilbur

Emphasizing that "There is more work to be done," New York State Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains), representing the 93rd District announced on the steps of White Plains City Hall Thursday his intention to seek a second term.

Buchwald was accompanied by family members, supporters and other government officials within his district from White Plains, North Castle and Lewisboro as well as several members of the Westchester County Legislature who showed up to encourage the candidate.

Buchwald was introduced by White Plains Mayor Tom Roach, a former colleague on the city's council, who said he supported Buchwald 100 percent.

Buchwald noted that he had decided to make his re-election bid from the steps of White Plains City Hall because that is where he had begun his political career not too many years ago.

"It is with great enthusiasm that I will be seeking re-election for the New York State Assembly," stated Buchwald. "I'm very proud of the work we've done in my first term thus far. Together we've increased state funding to Westchester schools, fought for a less burdensome tax

system, and given New Yorkers hope that one day corrupt officials will be prevented from collecting their state pensions. Together we've made progress, but there's more work to be done. With your help, we will succeed in November and beyond in our efforts on behalf of hard-working Westchester families."

Endorsed by the Democratic, Independence, and Working Family parties in the 2012 campaign, Buchwald went on to win by nine percentage points against the incumbent republican Bob Castelli.

## Abinanti to Run for Re-election

Two-term Assemblyman Tom Abinanti (D-Mount Pleasant) confirmed on Monday that he will also be seeking another term on the state legislature in November.

Abinanti, 67, who first appealed to potential campaign contributors around New Year's that he would run again, said there is still plenty of work to be done in Albany, especially on key issues that often pits suburban areas such as Westchester and Long Island against New York City and rural districts against each other for limited resources.

"I think that I can provide an experienced voice on behalf of our suburban communities in a very heterogeneous



Speakers and family members at the press conference included (l to r) White Plains Mayor Tom Roach, Buchwald's sister with newborn child, his wife of two months Lara Buchwald, Buchwald's father Don Buchwald, NYS Senator George Latimer, and Sandra Garrett, Chairwoman of the Kingsley House Tenants Association.

environment, where you have cities and rural and suburban communities competing for the ever-shrinking resources and attention of state government," Abinanti said.

The Mount Pleasant resident said he and other legislators have worked hard with representatives from the Hudson Valley and Long Island to team up as a suburban block. Lawmakers from both parties were successful in getting a larger than expected increase in state aid for education this spring and fighting for pothole repair money and work for deteriorating infrastructure.

Other issues Abinanti plans to focus on is passing tighter gun control laws and for the state to pay more attention to people with special needs.

Before being elected to the Assembly, Abinanti served on the Westchester County Board of Legislators for 19 years. He started his political career on the Greenburgh Town Board, where he served for six years before that.

He said he was uncertain whether the Republicans will put up a challengers. In 2012, Abinanti won his first re-election bid without opposition.

## Astorino Vows No Tax Hike, Takes on HUD in State of the County

*continued from page 3*

motivation in running for governor is to do a better job at tackling issues such as jobs, taxes, education and the environment.

"I'm hoping to bring to Albany what I've brought successfully to Westchester - and nothing will help Westchester more than a state government that is accountable and lives within its means," Astorino said.

Predictably, reaction from leading Democrats was critical of Astorino's address. Board of Legislators Chairman Michael Kaplowitz (D-Somers), who has broken with his party's ranks on several issues to side with Republicans, including the 2013 budget, called the speech "more political than I wanted."

Kaplowitz was most outspoken against

Astorino's plan to launch the new county community block grants program. Not only will it cost more than the advertised \$1 a year per household, it apparently gives up on the more than \$12 million over two years that Westchester is entitled to receive.

"I don't quite understand why the county executive is going to start a new program when he's not focused on getting the money back," said Kaplowitz, who announced on Apr. 24 that the Board of Legislators would hopefully work directly with HUD to find common ground on the zoning issues in six of the communities.

He also said that Astorino should have avoided including comments about his gubernatorial run.

Legislator Alfreda Williams (D-Green-

burgh), chair of the BOL Community Services Committee, said that the Astorino Administration has failed to adequately fund important programs in childcare and mental health services, which she hopes will change. "The investments we make to better the lives of those who need the help benefit our communities in so many ways," said Williams. "But we need to increase our commitments, as need is being shown to increase as well."

The Astorino Administration has not endeavored enough to create long-term prosperity for all of Westchester's residents either, said Legislator Ben Boykin (D-White Plains) after the speech, who added: "Westchester County needs to focus more at strengthening the regional economy, creating jobs and

encouraging new businesses to settle here. We have seen just small steps in terms of economic growth these past few years. We have to do better."

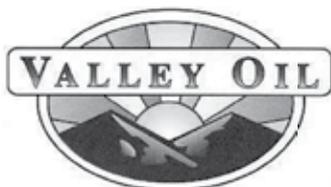
However, Legislator Michael Smith (R-Greenburgh) said the speech was "another homerun" for Astorino for detailing his vision for the next year and for outlining how successful his first term that saw a more efficient government.

He also said Astorino was wise to explain why he wanted to leave the county. Smith said the criticisms are expected.

"Every time an elected official says anything it can always be viewed as political," he said.

*Pat Casey contributed reporting to this article.*

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# The Art of Astrology Offers More than Meets the "Lucky Eye"

By Jon Craig

If you've ever strolled by The Art of Astrology at 242 Harrison Ave. in Harrison, Elm Street in Rye, or Boston Post Road (Route 1) in Larchmont or Mamaroneck, you may have wondered what goes on beyond those mysterious storefronts decorated with jewels, symbols and saints.

Since much of the storeowner's time is arranged by appointment only, it's sometimes difficult to schedule a Tarot card or psychic reading, Chakra realignment, Reiki therapy or Crystal healing on the spot.

But there is no shortage of work in

these trying times, according to Julie Reed, a certified Reiki Master I & II and parapsychologist, who owns the stores. Reed gets assistance from Diane LaVita, who specializes in crystal bowl therapy, offering frequent workshops.

"We're energetic beings in a physical body," LaVita said. "That's why crystals and tones and colors affect us."

It's not surprising, Reed says, that business picks up steam during economic downturns. Her shops

thrived in Astoria, Queens, and near Wall Street during the 1970s, and they are thriving in Westchester County today.

"People are at war with themselves," Reed said. "They are carrying the job in a suitcase. They can't grow. They can't let go. Physically, mentally, they're lost. We help them let go of that suitcase."

Custom-made jewelry featuring the "Lucky Eye" for protection, healing and fashion is sold at the stores as well as spiritual oils, cashmere scarves, purses and sage. Reed offers free initial readings and discounts on subsequent visits. Part of all proceeds go to The Shrine of St. Jude and local homeless shelters. Reed said she makes pilgrimages to St. Jude near Baltimore, Md., every Oct. 28 to light Novena candles for her clients, and to the Shrine of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupre in Quebec, Canada, on July 26.

Reed has practiced Reiki energy and crystal manifestation work for 44 years. As a spiritual healer, she often donates her time for such clients as White Plains Hospital, Henri Bendel, Saks Fifth Avenue or Bloomingdales, as well as weddings, parties, fund-raising events or other private affairs. She's done readings at Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, Larchmont Yacht Club and elsewhere.



JON CRAIG PHOTO

Julie Reed, left, who owns The Art of Astrology, and Diane LaVita outside the store at 242 Harrison Ave.

For more details, go to [www.awakenfair.com](http://www.awakenfair.com), [www.newagebeginnings.com](http://www.newagebeginnings.com) or [www.spiritualhealingspa.com](http://www.spiritualhealingspa.com). Appointments can be made by calling 914-835-7015 or simply stop by one of their stores if you are feeling lucky, or in need of some luck.

"It's like a swimming pool," Reed said. "Come when you feel like being cleansed. You can dive in and leave."

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

## No One Wants to Be the Dirty Stinker on the Block

The White Plains Common Council is to be heartily commended for considering legislation that would phase out the use of heavy low-grade dirty heating oil from the city over a six-year period. And, to have been concerned enough to look into possible financial solutions for building owners that will be making the adjustments in the way of existing energy savings programs.

The low-grade No. 6 heating fuel is the cheapest on the market, with No. 4 right behind it. Those buildings currently

using the unacceptable fuels will need to consider other cost saving alternatives when it comes to energy efficiency.

For co-ops, the boards will be looking at long-range plans, and at the rental properties, building owners will hopefully consider the well being of their tenants as well as the health of their own pocketbooks.

With soot from such belching chimneys in many urban areas, especially New York City dirtying windows and found to be a prime contributor to

thousands of premature deaths, hospital admissions for lung and respiratory illness, and emergency room visits for asthma each year, White Plains will be a leader as a responsible suburban/urban community when it comes to air quality.

Such action will make the city more attractive to new residents and will highlight its advantages as a hub that is currently a source of attraction for a growing tech and medical business community.

## Bronx River Parkway Bicycle Sundays Begin this Weekend

The Northbound and Southbound Bronx River Parkway between the County Center and the junction with the Sprain Brook Parkway will be closed to vehicles between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for biking and skating on Sundays May 11, and 18; June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29; September 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2014

(weather permitting).

In 2011, the program was cut from the county budget, but with the support of Con Edison and Friends, the program continued when each donated \$20,000. Since then, both have committed to saving the program each year with the same donation. 60,000 people take part

in Bicycle Sundays each year. This is a program of the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation. For additional information contact Westchester County Parks at 914-864-PARK or the Westchester County Center at 914-995-4050.

## Registration for White Plains School Board Election

Registration for the White Plains Board of Education Annual Budget Vote and Election will take place on Saturday, May 3, Noon to 5 p.m., at Mamaroneck Avenue School, Nosband Avenue. A registrant must be a citizen of the United States, 18 years of

age or more, and a White Plains resident for at least 30 days prior to the election. If a resident has voted in a General Election in the past four years, he/she is automatically registered and need not re-register.

Voters who have moved within the City

of White Plains since they last voted may also re-register at this time.

The election will take place on Tuesday, May 20, from Noon to 9 p.m.

For your polling place and further information, call 422-2000.

## Juneteenth Gala to Honor Former White Plains High School Administrators

The Second Annual White Plains Juneteenth Awards Dinner and Gala will be held on Thursday, June 5th at the Double Tree Hotel in Tarrytown.

Two former White Plains High School administrators Harry Jefferson, Jr. and Daniel Woodard will be recognized.

Tickets are still available and can be

reserved by contacting 914-715-2762 or gala@wpjuneteenth.com.

## Obituaries

### Lorraine Davidson

Lorraine Marie Davidson passed away on April 30 at the age of 83. She was born on September 23, 1930 in Yonkers to Joseph and Maria (Pace) Cianciulli. She was married to Joseph Patrick Davidson for many wonderful years. He predeceased her on November 18, 2007. The family lived in White Plains since 1987. She is survived by four children Jeanne Davidson of Babylon, Long Island, Cathleen Davidson of Pleasantville, Doreen Davidson of Pleasantville and Doug Davidson of Baldwin, Long Island. She is also survived by one sister Viola Caquila of Mt. Kisco.

### Howard Garson

Dr. Howard S. Garson, 86, died suddenly Tuesday, April 29. Beloved husband of Bettijane Sills Garson, devoted father of James Garson and step-daughter Frances Garson Trocki, grandfather to David, Peter, James, Susan and Henry, and great grandchildren Nora and Ellen. After serving in the United States Navy from 1945 to 1947, Dr. Garson went to NYU on the G-I Bill, attended medical school in Bern and Zurich, Switzerland and opened a private practice in Pediatrics in

Bronxville in 1960. He served as Director of Pediatrics and was President of the Medical Staff at Lawrence Hospital. After retiring from medicine Howard enjoyed life and lived it to the fullest playing tennis and golf and attending dance performances whenever he could.

### Maddalena Cesareo

Maddalena Cesareo, 92, of White Plains, died April 26. She was born April 26, 1922 in Reggio Calabria, Italy to Francesco and Filomena D'Amato Foti. On March 18, 1972 she married the late Antonio Cesareo.

Maddalena is survived by her four children Concetta (Pino) Marchese, Thomas (Elizabeth) Amedeo, Francesco (Maria) Amedeo and Joseph (Marietta) Amedeo, seven grandchildren Tommy, Marilena, Francesca, Anthony, Caterina Amedeo Gracie and Marilena Marchese and her caregiver Faustina.

### Salvatore Farago

Salvatore Farago, 71, of North White Plains, NY passed away April 27, 2014. He was Born March 18, 1943 in Catanzaro, Italy to Domenico and Maria Grazia

Farago. Salvatore is survived by Antonietta his loving wife of 45 years, his three loving children, Maria, Nicolina and Domenick (Tina), one dear sister Victoria and four cherished grandchildren Briana, Ella, Gianna and Massimo. He was predeceased by one brother and four sisters.

The Funeral Mass was Friday May 2nd at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. Interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.



## Letters Policy

We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. We will do our best to print all letters, but are limited by space constraints. Letters are subject to editing and may be withheld from publication on the discretion of the editor. Please refrain from personal attacks.

Email letters to [pcasey@theexaminernews.com](mailto:pcasey@theexaminernews.com).

The White Plains Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.

# Police Blotter

## Harrison Police Department

**Suspended license.** On April 25, a police officer on stationary patrol near 480 Mamaroneck Ave. observed a car traveling south at 66 mph in a 40 mph zone. The car's driver, Frank J. Russo, 37, of 56 Purcell Drive, Danbury, Conn., was asked to produce his license and registration. A database check showed his driving privileges in New York had been suspended for failing to answer three summonses. Russo's car was impounded; he was released on \$125 bail pending a May 13 court appearance.

**Buckle up.** A driver spotted on Anderson Hill Road, not wearing a seatbelt, was stopped near 548 Anderson Hill Road on April 25. Jason M. Fox, 24, of 107 Meehan Road, Hamden, N.Y., was asked to produce his license and registration. While speaking to Fox about 3 p.m., the police officer noted a strong odor of marijuana coming from inside the car. Fox was asked when he had last smoked marijuana and told the officer that it was that morning. A passenger in the car gave police the same answer. Fox was asked if he was in possession of any marijuana or other drugs. Fox produced a large plastic bag containing several smaller bags holding a brown mushy substance and four clear plastic bags containing a white crystal substance. Police determined that this white substance was MDMA, commonly known as ecstasy, which is classified as a hallucinogenic substance. The brown mushy substance turned out to be psilocybin, or psychedelic mushrooms, also classified as a hallucinogen. The passenger, Zachary E. Meehan, told police that the bag was his. Fox was released at the scene and ticketed for the seatbelt violation. Meehan was arrested, arraigned and sent to County Jail.

**Driving without insurance.** On April 25, at the intersection of Lake and Hancock streets, police stopped a car with an obstructed view due to an object hanging from the center of the rearview mirror. A check showed that the car, which was listed in the name of the front seat passenger, Quincy McQuaid, had a suspended registration due to lapsed insurance as of Feb. 8. The car's driver, David F. Luzzi, 46, of 76 South Lexington Ave., 8G in White Plains, was arrested and processed at the scene. Summonses were issued and Luzzi is due to appear in court on May 20. The car was impounded and the license plates were confiscated.

**Possession of marijuana.** Police stopped a car driven by Raymond Ortiz Jr., 22, of 115 Woodlawn Ave., Yonkers, on April 28 after a "license plate reader" found the vehicle's registration had been suspended for five parking violations. Ortiz was arrested and processed at the scene. Police asked to check the car after they smelled marijuana emanating from the car's center console. A police officer found a glass pipe with marijuana residue

behind the front passenger seat. Ortiz told police that the pipe was his. The same officer found a bong and one small clear plastic bag containing marijuana in the front passenger side door compartment. At that point, Ortiz' passenger, Anthony Atherto, told police that the items were his and that he had an additional small bag of marijuana in his front right pocket. Atherto was then placed under arrest for unlawful possession of marijuana. Ortiz also was issued a summons for driving with a suspended registration. Both men were issued summonses for possessing marijuana and are due to appear in court May 20. The car was impounded and the license plates were confiscated.

**Possession of marijuana:** On April 25, police stopped Luis E. Arias, 23, of 7 Washington Mews, Port Chester, for driving with a rear license plate light out. The stop was made near 105 Lincoln Ave. Arias produced his driver's license and registration but while doing so, police noticed a smell of marijuana coming from inside of the car. Police saw a partially smoked marijuana cigarette in the ashtray. Asked if there was any marijuana in the car, Arias replied: "There may be. I smoke a lot of weed." A further search turned up another marijuana cigarette and a small plastic bag with marijuana in the glove compartment. Arias admitted owning the illegal items and was placed under arrest for unlawful possession of marijuana.

## Greenburgh Police Department

**Larceny.** On April 19, John Rosenfield, 48, of 4 Ivy Place, Hartsdale, reported that his wallet and laptop had been taken from his vehicle sometime since April 18. His wallet had been in the front seat and his computer, a Dell xps1300, was in the backseat. Rosenfield told police that he was not sure whether the vehicle had been locked. The contents of Rosenfield's wallet included a credit card that was used illegally numerous times in New York City on April 19, according to the American Express Fraud division.

**Verbal threats.** Jun Duk Lee, 52, of 371 Central Ave., Hartsdale, was the recipient of verbal threats allegedly made by Marcelo Mazariegos while Duk Lee was conducting an exit interview for termination prior to April 20. An off-duty police officer was there during the interview as a witness. The witness heard Mazariegos tell Duk Lee "you will remember me," with clenched fists. He reportedly said this one more time while pointing his index finger at Duk Lee. Duk Lee told the witness that he didn't know if Mazariegos would return to the store but that he wanted to have the interview documented. Duk Lee told police that he did not wish to press charges at that time.

**Grand larceny.** Jena Smith, 81, of 8 Thomas St., Scarsdale told police on April 21 of a prior larceny greater than \$3,000.

She reported that the previous day she noticed that two items were missing from a cabinet in her room. The first item was a seven-carat sapphire ring surrounded by diamonds; the second was her U.S. passport. Smith told police that she was sure that she hadn't lost the items and that they had to have been stolen, saying that she was sure she'd seen both items in her room "sometime in the last few months." On April 18, Smith told police, she had work done on her home by three males who had free run of the interior of her house while installing a stair lift for Westchester StairLift LLC. No further details were listed in the report.

**Petit larceny.** Robert White, 57, of 53 Bellwood Road, White Plains reported that sometime between April 19 and April 20, an unknown party came onto his driveway and removed the entire tire valve from the two passenger side tires of his vehicles, flattening both. White said he hasn't had any disputes with neighbors or anyone else.

**Robbery.** On April 22, Angel Pettitt, 35, reported to police that in the course of investigating a worker's compensation claim at 37 North Central Ave. in Hartsdale, Thomas K. Milo took his cell phone. An argument between the two men broke out after Pettitt rang the buzzer for Milo's apartment, telling him that he needed to speak to him in regard to an ongoing investigation. Milo allegedly became irate and told Pettitt to leave and "you can speak to my lawyer!" The incident escalated when Milo confronted Pettitt in the building lobby as Pettitt apparently held the front door open for a woman pushing a baby stroller. Milo said to him: "Are you the weasel that just rang my buzzer?" Milo then grabbed Pettitt by the arm and pushed him. Pettitt fell to the floor and Milo grabbed his cell phone from his hand. Pettitt said: "Hey! Give me back my cell phone!" In response, Milo slammed the door and kept Pettitt's cell phone. An officer responding to the call observed that Pettitt had swelling and redness on his left temple and a superficial scratch on the right side of his head. The same officer approached the doorway to Milo's third

floor apartment and observed Pettitt's cell phone on the hallway floor. Milo refused to come to the door to discuss the incident. Pettitt gave a statement at Greenburgh Police headquarters. His cell phone was later returned to him.

**Criminal mischief:** On April 23, Jennifer Freeman, 29, of 522 Colony Drive told police that while parked at 393 North Central Ave. in Hartsdale — outside the Christmas Tree Shop — someone had "keyed" her car. The incident occurred after Freeman got into a verbal spat with another driver, who partially blocked a parking space located near the front of the store. Freeman attempted to get into the space, blowing her horn to signal to the other driver that she wished to pull in. The other driver did not respond, so Freeman honked again. At that point, she gave up and pulled into another space. When she exited her vehicle, she voiced her concerns to the other driver and then went inside the store. The suspect followed her into the store and began to berate her, challenging her to a physical fight. Freeman refused to engage with the suspect and walked away. After she left the store, Freeman discovered that her car had been keyed with the word "R Bull 1" along with an obscenity. Freeman told police the suspect was a heavy-set, medium to dark-skinned black female in her forties who wore pink clothing and a ponytail. She was unable to supply the exact make and model of the suspect's vehicle or the license plate number.

**Fatal fire.** On May 5 at approximately 6:10 a.m., the Greenburgh Police Department received a report from a resident of Frost Lane, reporting a fire and smoke condition at 7 Frost Lane. Upon arrival of Police, Fire and EMS units entry was made by the Fire Department into the premises and an elderly female victim was discovered unresponsive and transported to Westchester Medical Center. The female victim is in serious but stable condition. Additional search of the home discovered a deceased elderly male John Chu, 89, inside the premises. At this time the cause of the fire is undetermined, Police and Fire personnel remain on scene.

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# From the Harrison Mayor and Town Hall, May 5, 2014



**Ron Belmont,**  
Supervisor/Mayor of  
Harrison

Since coming into office, it has always been my mission to streamline municipal spending while maintaining services. I believe the Town Board has acted responsibly in

developing strategies and cost saving measures that will benefit our entire community. Over the past several years, Harrison's corporate tax base has diminished due to the departure of many large corporations. This is especially true along our Platinum Mile. The corporate tax base has also been affected by successful certiorari filings. This reduced tax base has resulted in an increased tax burden for Harrison residents. Adding some new uses to the Platinum Mile, along with some improved infrastructure and pedestrian connectivity, could help revitalize the area and improve our taxes.

I would like to bring your attention to

Harrison's newly adopted master plan. The Town Board spent much of 2013 laying the ground work for the master plan update. Through public engagement, with interested stakeholders, a draft plan was compiled and ultimately adopted, by the Board, in December, 2013. The adopted plan is currently posted on our Town web site at [www.harrison-ny.gov](http://www.harrison-ny.gov).

The plan identifies guiding principals concerning our municipality's development and revitalization. Our Planning and Zoning Board will use it as a reference, for more efficient decision making, and the Town Board will use it to review and approve planning and zoning decisions. It is a critical component in creating a new vision for Harrison and I am very happy with the finished product.

In an effort to fuel economic vitality and development in our region and stimulate new business formation, thereby creating new job opportunities, the plan addresses the development of the properties along the I-287 corridor,

also known as the Platinum Mile. The adopted plan will be an important vehicle in the redevelopment of this area and includes a mixed use development approach.

The establishment of a new mixed use zone, to expand permitted uses, reflects the Board's desire to repurpose the vacant corporate office parks. New uses may include residential projects with supportive retail and will be carefully controlled through special permit regulations. Density issues and environmental impacts will be carefully examined and the Planning Board will have approval authority. All new uses will be subject to the review and confirmation of the Town Board.

Save the date for this year's "A Taste of Harrison." On Sunday, May 18th, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., The Friends of the Harrison Public Library will be sponsoring this event to benefit the Library. At your own pace, visit restaurants, in any order, and enjoy a delicious sample of the chef's specialties. Almost all of the downtown

Harrison restaurants are participating. See Library's website ([harrisonpl.org](http://harrisonpl.org)) for list. Adults: \$20 in advance /\$25 day of event; Children under age 12: \$10 in advance/\$15 day of event. On May 18, an information table will be in front of the Commuter Parking Lot on Halstead and Harrison Avenues. The Harrison Senior Transport will be available. For info call Angela Brandt 914/373-4956.

Congratulations to student artists, James Duffelmeyer, Matthew Fertig, Jacee Cappelli and Claire Furio, this year's winners of the Mayor's Choice Award. Be sure to come in to Town Hall and see the talent that these students have exhibited. I am proud of all the art show participants and look forward to seeing more beautiful pieces, in the years to come.

The next "Lunch with the Mayor" is on May 16th and I will be at Silver Lake Asian Fusion and Sushi Bar located at 87 Lake Street in West Harrison. I will be at this location from 12:30 to 1:30 and look forward to meeting with residents and talking about issues facing our community.

**Guest  
Column**

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## Avoiding a Horror Story When it's Time to Move

When I told my wife that I received a cold call from a moving company and agreed to meet with a representative because the caller seemed so nice, she went into panic mode. "Oh, my," she said, "haven't you heard all the horror stories about movers?"

Before the end of the day, she had printed out 89--count them--89 online postings of moving stories from hell, everything from drivers showing up drunk to not showing up at all, to holding truckloads of furniture for ransom until inflated prices were paid to victims of a scam. Even we had experienced a couple of them ourselves. With our last move when the company did the packing for us, hadn't they unbelievably thrown our hammer into the same box with our signed Tiffany candy dish, shattering the latter to bits?

By the time I had skimmed through all the postings, I was really anxious and was prepared to ask a lot of questions, even though my move will be barely four miles across town.

However, within moments from the time Phil Derasmo of Advantage Moving & Storage Systems arrived, I felt at ease. First of all, even though his direct marketing representative, the nice lady on the phone named Felice, had called from someplace in New Jersey, I learned that Derasmo is the president of the company

and a neighbor, hailing from Mahopac. Even though I do a lot of business with global companies, I, like everybody else, feel good about shopping and supporting local as well.

When I asked how long the company had been in business, he said three generations, and it came with a story with real heart.

"My grandfather Mario started the business in the early '50s by making arrangements with his neighbors in the Bronx to go down to the port in lower Manhattan in his open wagon to pick up their relatives who were arriving by boat from Italy," Derasmo said. "There were a lot of Italian immigrants coming over at that time, and they didn't come just with suitcases. They came with trunks. With many, maybe 2,000 or more, he was the first person they met when they got off the boat. He would charge them about \$25 to get them up to the Bronx, and it took about two hours because it included an impromptu tour of Manhattan. He



By Bill Primavera

then started moving people, a natural progression"

Today, Derasmo's company is highly advanced with a contingent of trucks and warehousing. He also has the most technically sophisticated website you can imagine, which takes the guesswork out of calculating the cost of a move. You simply move your browser over a map.

"That's the biggest problem with some companies in the business today," Derasmo said, "getting a straight answer about what the bottom line is with cost when you do comparative shopping among several movers. With our company, you just go to

our website, and our cost calculator can take you anyplace in the country and you'll know what the basic cost will be."

It's true. Visit [www.advantagemoving.com](http://www.advantagemoving.com) and check it out. It's like a game.

But as technically advanced as Advantage may be with its marketing, the personal touch that its president offers, along with just a few other representatives who deal directly with customers, is actually disarming.

I knew I was dealing with an honest,

straight shooter when we were going through the rooms of my home and my biggest concern was my paintings. I was trying to calculate what it would cost to package our paintings and framed prints, which we've collected over the years. He simply said, "Why go through that expense? I'll give you a some big boxes with separators, either cardboard or bubble wrap and package them up, and why not move them yourselves? It will save you a lot of money."

Derasmo said 75 percent of his business comes from personal referrals. I can understand why. His information kit gives the names and telephone numbers of people in my community that I can call for recommendations.

Be sure to check out Advantage's really fun website even if you're not planning a move soon. But if you are, call 1-800-444-0104.

*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](http://www.PrimaveraPR.com), specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. His real estate site is: [www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com](http://www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com) and his blog is: [www.TheHomeGuru.com](http://www.TheHomeGuru.com). To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.*

## Following the Winding Trail of a Virtual Winery



By Nick Antonaccio

In recent weeks, we've explored the state of winemaking and winemakers in 2014. From traditional winemakers who grow their own grapes and produce their own wines, to trend-setting winemakers who own no land, no winery and no storage facilities, we've become accustomed to focusing on what's in the bottle, not on the label.

Likewise, regardless of the ownership (or lack thereof) of the physical location and facility where wine is produced, we've considered whether wine is made in the vineyard or in the winery.

The final wine produced is the result of where the grapes are grown. But what influence does the winemaker have over the ultimate product? This has been a running debate for decades, but more so in the last 10 years, as the number of virtual wineries has grown exponentially. Nowhere has this phenomenon been as evident as in the United States – with California leading the way.

Many of these virtual wineries are owned by nouveau wealthy entrepreneurs who amassed fortunes during the last 15 years, most notably during the last two technology booms and the

financial run-up prior to the Great Recession. "Gentlemen winemakers" is a term I've been using to describe these entrepreneurs, who became aware of the finer luxuries of the good life and then invested in those industries that piqued their interests.

Napa Valley is dotted with the likes of winelovers turned winemakers. A number have grape-stained hands from crafting their own wines while others have ink-stained hands from writing checks to purchase wineries and hire talented winemakers who are imbued with their employers' passion for a particular style of wine from a particular grape.

### *'ink stains, not grape stains, cover his hands*

I have discussed each of the above virtual components of 21st century winemaking these past few weeks. This week I thought it appropriate to provide an example of a nouveau riche winemaker.

I've selected an investment banker who began dabbling in wine as an avid

consumer and then developed a passion for owning a trophy winery. Inspired by his success – and becoming increasingly focused on sharing his passion for wine with the masses – he has amassed an impressive portfolio of wine brands, while continuing to successfully ply his professional career as an adviser.

Charles Banks amassed his fortune with a capital investment company in San Francisco. In 2006, at age 38, he and a partner acquired what is arguably the most highly regarded of all American wineries, Screaming Eagle (the 2010 vintage sells for nearly \$3,000 a bottle), catapulting him to the top of the trophy-winery stratosphere. After only three years he sold his enviable interest and moved on, smitten by the desire to bring wines to the masses.

For the next four years, he laid low, sniffing out his next investment opportunities. Through Terroir Selections, one of his investment groups, he launched a buying splurge last year, acquiring, among others, highly regarded Wine Gap, Qupé and Mayacamas wineries in California, Evening Land in Oregon, and additional wineries in select international wine regions.

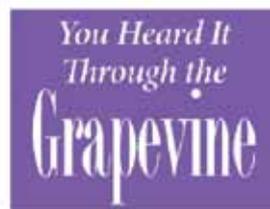
Through another venture, Cultivate Wines, he is now dabbling in purchasing and processing grape juice from vineyards in the United States, South Africa, New Zealand, Argentina, Italy and Chile.

A very impressive, well-balanced, long-term growth portfolio, to paraphrase financial-market terms.

His business plan appears simple. Utilizing his successful blueprint for the financial world, he identifies successful wineries and plies the owners with cash. Once snaring his target, he provides management expertise to increase the quality – and profitability – of the operation. It is ink stains, not grape stains, which cover his hands.

So how successful have his recent investments been? And what of the quality and price of his wines? Is Banks still a virtual winemaker or is he is a new breed, an investor with a combination of ink- and grape-stained hands? Next week I'll present a profile and tasting notes for several of his wines.

*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](mailto:nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com) or on Twitter @sharingwine.*



# Mother's Day Venues for Every Palate



By Morris Gut

Mother's Day falls out on Sunday, May 11th but we like to think in terms of Mother's Day Weekend. It takes some of the pressure off your planning not to mention the traffic. Here are a variety of dining suggestions for that special day and reserve early.

## **Mulino's of Westchester, 99 Court Street, White Plains 914-761-1818**

This restaurant has been lavishing itself on a discriminating upscale crowd since 1993 under the careful guidance of proprietor Louis Gigante. A lovely multi-level dining room lush with flowers and outdoor fountain which can be seen thru a giant window. Let seasoned general manager 'Gimmy' Cavagna and his staff take you through such pleasures as the extraordinary Cold Seafood Platter, loaded with fresh chilled lobster, colossal U5 shrimp, Alaskan King Crab Legs, sweet lump crabmeat, east and west coast oysters, littleneck clams, Jonah crab claws, all beautifully decorated and served over crushed ice with three dipping sauces; Black Linguine with Baby Lobster Tails; Garganelli alla Carbonara, tossed with pancetta, eggs and parmigiano reggiano; Nodino di Vitello Valdostana, stuffed double cut veal chop; Dover Sole pan sautéed and de-boned; and the smooth house made Italian cheesecake. Open Monday through Saturday and Mother's Day, 1 to 8 p.m. Municipal and valet parking. [www.mulinosny.com](http://www.mulinosny.com)

## **Sofrito, 175 Main Street, White Plains 914-428-4740**

Host-owner J R Morales and his team brought Sofrito up from Manhattan in 2011 and the place has become a must-stop on the Latin-themed dining and nightlife crawl. A special Prix Fixe Menu will be served at brunch and dinner during Mother's Day along with a la carte selections. Try such signature dishes as: Seafood Sancocho, Lobster & Corn Quesadilla, Grilled Rib Eye Taquitos, or Wild Mushroom & Spanish Manchego

Potato Cheese Croquette; Spaghetti with shrimp or chicken, Broiled Lobster Tail, Cornish Hen a la Plancha, Grilled Filet Mignon with red wine cumin sauce, or Crispy Malanga Crusted Filet of Basa Fish. Save room for a dessert sampler for two

or more. The house would be delighted to personalize your set up by advanced reservation. Check out the hot specialty cocktails at the bar and Latin Sushi, too. Open seven days a week for lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch. Dancing and live entertainment schedule. Municipal and valet parking. [www.sofritowhiteplains.com](http://www.sofritowhiteplains.com)

## **Trattoria 632, 632 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase 914-481-5811**

Chef Nazareno Danielle and his team serve up a seasonal Italian menu loaded with flavor. A special prix fixe brunch from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and a la carte dinner from 2 p.m. to closing will be served on Mother's Day. Check out such house specialties as: Roasted Beets with goat cheese mousse, Sicilian pistachios and micro greens; house made Chittara pasta with veal polpettine and shaved ricotta salata; Squid Ink Pasta with shrimp, bay scallops, chillies and arugula; classic Veal, Chicken or Shrimp Parmigiana; Wild Striped Bass Mediterraneo with capers, olives and cherry tomatoes; and Day Boat Scallops, pan-seared with baby arugula, risotto, sundried tomato and roasted pepper gremolata. Great pizzas too via expert 'pizzaiolo' Leo Hajdari. Kid's menu. Bar/lounge. Live entertainment Thursday and Saturday evenings. Party facilities. Open for brunch and dinner on Mother's Day. Major credit cards. Ample free parking. [www.trattoria632.com](http://www.trattoria632.com)

## **Trattoria Vivolo, 301 Halstead Ave., Harrison 914-835-6199**

Chef-owner and personable host Dean Vivolo serves his robust regional Italian cuisine out of a vintage diner just across from Harrison's Metro-North station. Sit at the counter, tuck into a booth, or take a table in the rear greenhouse and

enjoy the surprising contemporary and traditional flavors emanating from his kitchen: Fresh spring/summer salads; Crostino di Polenta, topped with wild mushrooms, gorgonzola and tomato sauce; Lasagna Bolognese al Forno; a good

Linguine al Vongole; Osso Buco, tender braised veal shank; occasional Roasted Porchetta; and warm fresh Zabaglione with fresh fruit for dessert. If the name Vivolo sounds familiar, Dean's dad Michael Vivolo is owner of the venerable

La Riserva in Larchmont. The restaurant takes on a special glitter evenings. Good wine list. Party facilities. Open seven days. Free parking. [www.trattoriavivolo.com](http://www.trattoriavivolo.com)

## **Lombardo's, 1203 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains 914-615-9090**

Partners Mario Lombardo and James Romanelli have been doing a bustling business since their opening last summer. Try such fresh made dishes as a stacked platter of Zucchini Fritti served with marinara or fra diavolo sauce; Zuppa di Cozze, fresh cultivated mussels steamed in your choice of white wine garlic and herb broth, or served in a fresh garlic and crushed plum tomato brodino; Fried Calamari; Italian Antipasto for two; Spuntino alla Lombardo, goat cheese and flame roasted peppers wrapped in prosciutto, drizzled with balsamic; classic Chicken Parmigiana, and such shareable pizzette as the Vegetarian with spinach, broccoli, flame roasted peppers and mushrooms topped with fresh mozzarella. Mother's Day specialties. Lombardo's is open seven days a week for lunch and dinner. Happy Hours. Banquets for up to 20 guests. Catering. Free parking. [www.lombardospizza.com](http://www.lombardospizza.com)

## **Dubrovnik, 721 Main Street, New Rochelle 914-637-3777**

For years Jerry Tomic, a native of Croatia, dreamed of bringing a true taste of home to Westchester. The flavorfully melded historic cuisines of Croatia served in a refined atmosphere. He premiered Dubrovnik last summer and it became a hit: Westchester's first restaurant devoted to Croatia, a multi-level 85-seat establishment with seasonal outdoor patio, state of the art temperature controlled wine cellar, al fresco rotisserie BBQ, lush seasonal herb garden and bar/lounge. Talented chefs man the kitchen and they will transport you to the beautiful Adriatic in flavorful style. Jerry Tomic and his wife 'Jackie' Kaszas also insists they will be using all the finest ingredients in the seasonal marketplace just as his mother did at their highly popular restaurant on the Island of Lopud, near Dubrovnik. Most everything is house made from the bread to desserts. Try the Warm Octopus Salad; Steamed Mussels; Bay Scallops on the Shell; Fresh Cod Filet



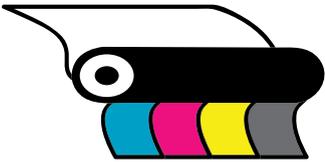
with grapes, olives, pearl onions; Mama Tereza's lobster, shrimp, scallops, fish, clams and mussels steamed in a seasonal broth over pasta; Grilled Rack of Lamb; or whole roasted fish prepared out on the BBQ. "Fresh food, simply prepared is the Croatian way", says Tomic. Open seven days for lunch and dinner. Reservations suggested. Private party facilities. Valet parking. [www.durbrovnikny.com](http://www.durbrovnikny.com)

## **Stone Fire Pizza, 76 Main Street, Irvington 914-591-5800**

If you are planning to be in the charming Hudson River Towns on Mother's Day, here is a food stop you must make. Consummate front-of-the-house host Danny Zandel had managed the highly regarded original La Fontanella in Pelham. Personable Master Pastry Chef Philippe Flory, a native of Nice in the south of France, has been a baker and pastry specialist for 40 years having operated the highly regarded St. Honore Patisserie in Astoria, Queens. Last May this talented duo partnered to premiere SFP Stone Fire Pizza.

Recently they brought in veteran Spain-bred Chef Arlindo Fernandez to add to the pizzazz. SFP is an exciting addition to the Westchester dining scene and a creative bistro/trattoria to be reckoned with. Enter the rustic façade of the restaurant into the bustling 20-seat bar/counter area. At the far end, seating opposite the spectacular rotating wood burning pizza oven has become a hot ticket. The 70-seat dining room to the right is accented by high ceilings, a mural sized mirror and architectural art. Butcher block tables and chairs cover the room along with a long red banquette. It is casual and convivial and the able staff led by Danny Zandel, keep it that way. Be seated and let the surprises begin. More than just pizza. [www.sfpny.com](http://www.sfpny.com)

Morris Gut is a restaurant consultant and former restaurant trade magazine editor. He has been tracking and writing about the dining scene in greater Westchester for over 25 years. He may be reached at: 914-235-6591. E-mail: [gutreaactions@optonline.net](mailto:gutreaactions@optonline.net)



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# WHITE PLAINS AFTER DARK


**HAPPY HOUR**

- **Beechmont Tavern** – 3-7PM,  
Weekdays ½ appetizer specials, drink  
specials, WINGS!
- **Black Bear Saloon** – 4-7PM,  
Weekdays All drink ½ off, \$5 appetizers
- **Bob Hyland's Sports Page Pub** –  
4-7PM, Weekdays \$1 off all drinks
- **City Limits** – 9PM, Daily  
\$4 wines and draft beers, \$7 cocktails,  
25% off appetizers!
- **Brazen Fox** – 4-8PM, Weekdays  
\$4 drafts, \$5 martinis, \$5 cocktails, \$5  
wines, \$15 samplers
- **Elements** – 4-8PM, Daily  
\$3 and \$4 drafts, \$5 wine and well  
drinks, \$6 select martinis, \$8 mojitos
- **Executive Billiards** – Happy Hour,  
3-7PM, Mon-Thurs \$10 per hour per  
table, \$3 beers
- **Lazy Boy Saloon** – 4-7PM, Weekdays  
Beer and drink discounts
- **Porter House** – 12-8PM, Mon-Sat  
\$3 and \$4 drafts, \$5 martinis and  
cocktails, ½ off appetizers at the bar
- **Ron Black's Beer Hall** – 4-8PM,  
Weekdays \$4 and \$6 beers pints, \$5  
wines, appetizer specials
- **Sam's of Gedney Way** – 4 to 8PM  
Weekdays \$4 drafts, \$5 select wines, \$6

select cocktails, Half off appetizer  
menu at the bar.

**Wicked Wolf Tavern** – 4-7 PM,  
Weekdays ½ off all drinks, \$5  
appetizers

**Vintage** – 11AM-7PM  
Live bands, \$4 drink specials

**TUESDAY, May 6**

**Beechmont Tap Room & Grill**  
Country Night with \$3 signature  
whiskey cocktails

**The Brazen Fox**  
10-11PM Bonus Night

**Black Bear Saloon**  
Tijuana Tuesdays & Karaoke \$2  
Coronas and Tequila shots

**Elements Jazz Tuesdays** – Gilberto  
Colon Jr., Latin Jazz Salsa

**Lazy Lounge** Bar Trivia – 9PM

**Ron Black's Beer Hall** Battle of the  
Brains Trivia – 8PM \$100 for the  
winner!

**Wicked Wolf Tavern** Tijuana  
Tuesdays - \$2 Coronas, \$2 Tequila  
Shots, \$2 Tacos

**WEDNESDAY, May 7**

**Black Bear Saloon** Trivia starts at  
8:30PM; \$5 Bomb shots, \$4 Pinnacle  
Drinks, \$3 Domestic Drafts, \$2 SoCo  
Lime shots, \$1 tacos

**Bob Hyland's Sports Page Pub**

Trivia Night – 7:30PM sign up, 8PM  
start

**Brazen Fox** Ladies Night 5-11PM. A  
portion of all proceeds is donated to  
the Breast Cancer Foundation.

**Dunne's Pub** Music Seisun – 7:30-  
10:30PM Traditional Irish music with  
Brian Conway and friends!

**Executive Billiards** Ladies' Night  
\$10 Ladies play all night, \$4 tropical  
ball drinks

**Lazy Lounge** JAM SESSION 9PM-  
1AM Featuring: Curtis Winchester,  
Gil Parris & Special Guests!  
Great Beer, Wine and Food Specials all  
night!

**Ron Black's Beer Hall** Beer-BQ 4-  
10PM; featuring special beer of the  
night.

**Wicked Wolf Tavern** Acoustic  
Wednesdays featuring Dan Barrios  
9PM

**Vintage** Team Trivia – 7:30PM with  
Quiz Master Dan Doherty

**THURSDAY, May 8**

**Black Bear Saloon**  
Relapse Thursdays; \$2 Bud Lights and  
\$2 Fireball shots all night long!

**Brazen Fox** Suds for Scrubs – 9PM  
Show your Medical ID for \$5 drafts!

**Dunne's Pub** Oktoberfest every third  
Thursday

**Ron Black's Beer Hall** DJ Bingo  
7:30PM

**FRIDAY, May 9**

**Beechmont Tap Room & Grill** Live  
Music

**The Brazen Fox** DJ party After 11 PM  
Porter House Live DJ – 11PM

**SATURDAY, May 10**

**Beechmont Tap Room & Grill**  
DJ Party The Brazen Fox DJ Party  
After 11 PM

**Lazy Lounge** Live DJ!

**Porter House** Live DJ – 11PM

**SUNDAY, May 11**

**Lazy Lounge** Live DJ!

**Wicked Wolf Tavern**  
Sunday Funday \$3 drinks every  
weekend.

**MONDAY, May 12**

**Wicked Wolf Tavern** Flip n Sip  
Mondays – flip a coin for a fee drink

**Black Bear Saloon** Monday One Day  
\$1 Menu; starts 8:30PM



*Know the perfect place to go for a night out this week? Submit event to [pcasey@theexaminernews.com](mailto:pcasey@theexaminernews.com)*

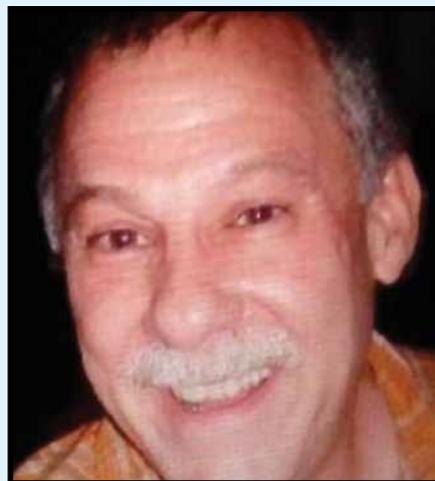
## Smiling Eyes Fundraiser for White Plains High School Alumnus

The White Plains High School Class of 1973 held a wine-tasting fundraiser April 25 for classmate Paul Fitzgerald.

Popular for his smiling eyes, Fitzgerald needs stem cell treatment for a type of bone cancer known as Myelodysplastic Syndrome. Fitzgerald was only recently diagnosed and treatment has been scheduled for May 9 at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Forced into a tough financial situation, the Fitzgerald family organized Paul's Smiling Eyes MDS fund.

The wine tasting at Gambelli's Wine & Spirits in White Plains organized by classmates generated \$380 after 10 percent of sales were donated to the



Paul Fitzgerald



PAULA PIEKOS PHOTO

From left to right, Chris Gambelli, Evelyn Petrone and Donna Menin at the April 25th wine tasting.

fund. When Paul did not show up for the class reunion last year, his friends wondered what had happened. They later discovered he was too sick to attend.

Anyone else wishing to contribute may visit [www.giveforward.com](http://www.giveforward.com) and type in Paul Fitzgerald where a donations page has been created. As this notice was printed, the family had raised \$28,868 of the \$65,000 goal.

Words of encouragement and support can also be sent to: 12719 Magna Carta Rd, Oak Hill, VA, 20171.

# EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

050614

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## ANTIQUES

**ANTIQUE LOVERS TAKE NOTE:** BRIMFIELD, MA starts May 13th. 5,000 Dealers of Antiques/ Collectibles. Visit www.brimfield.com for info on 20 individual show openings. May 13th- 18th!

## AUCTIONS

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, NY REAL PROPERTY TAX FORECLOSURE AUCTION:** May 13th @ 11AM, Horace Inman Senior Center, Amsterdam, NY. 800-292-7653. Free brochure: www.HAROFF.com

**AUCTIONS MARINA & RV PARK**

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# Happenings



*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 Pat Casey at [pcasey@theexaminernews.com](mailto:pcasey@theexaminernews.com).*

## Tuesday, May 6

**Tuesday at Dorry's.** Jonelle Ward will involve Dorry's attendees in her current Gerontology project. Research shows that Westchester County has had the highest property taxes in the nation. As a result, out-migration is a major issue in the older adult community, particularly for the 65 and over population and for younger family members who are potential caregivers. At Dorry's Jonelle looks forward to hearing insights and reactions to their research findings. Tuesdays@Dorry's is an informal gathering of people who share dinner while listening to and discussing issues of importance. No reservations are required. The public is welcome. Food ordering begins at 5:30 p.m. and the presentations are from 6 to 7 p.m. Dorry's Diner, 468 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains. Call 914-682-0005 for more information.

**Italian Language and Culture With Mara De Matteo.** Matteo was born and raised in Italy and is passionate about her native language. She combines lively conversation with grammatical instruction, creating interactive lessons on the richness of Italian culture, past and present, through real-life anecdotes, literature, personal memoirs, films and photography. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. Beginners: 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Advanced: 7:15 to 8 p.m. Free. Also May 13, 20 and 27. Info: 914-273-3887.

## Wednesday, May 7

**White Plains Outdoor Farmers Market.** The Farmer's Market will open weekly, on Wednesdays, May 7th through November 26th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Farmer's Market is located on Court Street between Main Street and Martine Avenue. The Market welcomes returning and new vendors offering farm-fresh, locally grown fruits and veggies, fish, fresh meat and poultry, breads, baked goods, jams and jellies, pickles, homemade salami, smoked duck breast, pate and much more.

**Noonday Getaway Concert.** Pianist Alex Ruvinstein, heralded by the Moscow News as a player of "phenomenal technique and emotional depth," returns to Downtown Music with a program which includes music

of Bach and Beethoven, 12:10 p.m. Free Admission. Grace Episcopal Church at the intersection of Mamaroneck Avenue and Main Street in White Plains.

**Neu First Wednesdays:** "Robin Rhode: Animating the Everyday." Explore the innovative animations of this South African artist and 2014 Neuberger Prize recipient. Exhibition co-curators Helaine Posner and Louise Yelin will offer a walk-through. Includes art-making, music and refreshments. Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Free with museum admission. \$5. Seniors: \$3. Purchase College students, faculty and staff: Free. Info: 914-251-6100 or visit [www.neuberger.org](http://www.neuberger.org).

## Thursday, May 8

**Loucks Track & Field Games.** 47th annual Glenn D. Loucks Track & Field Games. Largest independent on-campus elite invitational in the U.S. More than 3,000 athletes from 239 teams, coming from all Eastern states from Virginia to Maine, plus Canada. Thursday, May 8, events begin at 5 p.m.; Friday, May 9, events begin at 3 p.m.; Saturday, May 10, events begin at 9 a.m.; Saturday Olympic-style "Opening Ceremonies" at 12 p.m. White Plains High School, 550 North St., White Plains. For more info: [www.theloucksgames.org](http://www.theloucksgames.org).

**Harrison League of Women Voters Luncheon.** 64th Annual Luncheon & Meeting will be held at 12 noon at the Harrison Public Library, 2 Bruce Avenue. Guest speaker, Supervisor/Mayor Ron Belmont will present the new Master Plan and review other areas of interest. All welcome to join this "Update on Harrison." Reservations Required/ Lunch: \$12. Call 914-939-7066.

**White Plains Historical Society Annual Dinner.** 25th Annual Meeting honoring Dorothy Schere as Citizen Extraordinaire with guest speaker Anthony J. Czarnecki who will speak about "When Mr. Churchill Came to White Plains." Reception 6 p.m.; dinner 6:30 p.m. at The Woman's Club of White Plains, 305 Ridgeway, White Plains. Tickets \$55, RSVP by May 2 914-328-1776 or e-mail [info@whiteplainshistory.org](mailto:info@whiteplainshistory.org).

**Manhattanville College Graduate Open House.** An overview of Manhattanville's graduate business programs, advanced certificates and what to expect when applying and enrolled. Prospective students will be given the opportunity to meet with program directors, admissions staff and

representatives from student services and current students. Followed by a Q&A. Reid Castle at Manhattanville College, 2900 Purchase St., Purchase. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free. RSVP required. RSVP: Visit [www.mville.edu/gps](http://www.mville.edu/gps). Info: 914-323-5150 or email [GPSadmissions@mville.edu](mailto:GPSadmissions@mville.edu).

**White Plains School Board of Education Candidates Forum.** 7:30 p.m., White Plains High School, Room B-1. Interim Superintendent Timothy Connors will make a brief presentation. Meet the School Board Candidates, ask them about their positions facing the District. Learn about the proposed School Budget. Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of White Plains, The White Plains PTA Council and the White Plains Council of Neighborhood Associations.

**"Life on Earth: The Sacred and Profane."** Axial Theatre's spring production, a compilation of 13 monologues and short plays mixing comedy, drama and something in-between brought to life by 18 actors and six directors offering glimpses into a timeless theme. St. John's Episcopal Church, 8 Sunnyside Ave., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. \$20. Seniors and students: \$15. Also May 9-10 and 15-17 at 8 p.m. and May 11 and 18 at 4 p.m. Info and tickets: 1-800-838-3006 or visit [www.lifeonearth.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.lifeonearth.brownpapertickets.com).

## Friday, May 9

**In the Company of Women Luncheon.** Rebecca "Becky" Halstead, retired Brigadier General, United States Army, and the first female graduate of West Point, United States Military Academy will be the keynote speaker at In the Company of Women, hosted by the YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester. YWCA 2014 honorees include: Ruth Mahoney, President KeyBank Hudson Valley/Metro NY District as Corporate Champion; Kevin Plunkett, Westchester Deputy County Executive the Community Champion; and E. Barbara Wiggins, retired Lt. Colonel, US Army as the YWCA spirit Award Champion. The benefit luncheon will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hilton Westchester. For more information contact the YWCA Development Director at 914-949-6227 x147 or via email: [events@ywcapcw.org](mailto:events@ywcapcw.org).

**Deadline for Dance Tickets Purchase.** The White Plains Youth Bureau's Sixth Annual Mother-Son Dance will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on May 16th, 7 to 9 p.m. Tickets for this dressy affair are \$45 per couple plus \$20 for each additional child 17 and younger / \$25 for a child 18 and older. Tickets are on sale

now at the White Plains Youth Bureau, 11 Amherst Place, Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. Tickets must be purchased by May 9, 2014. Tickets will not be sold at the door. For more information about the dance, contact Adrienne Rivers at [arivers@whiteplainsny.gov](mailto:arivers@whiteplainsny.gov) or at 914-422-1378.

**Garden Photography.** Alison Wachstein, renowned photographer, will give a stimulating, informative lecture and presentation entitled, "GardenPhotography" to the Westchester Photographic Society and the guests. WPS welcomes all photographers, whether budding or professional, to become members. Mutual support for the enhancement of our craft is our specialty. 8 p.m. Westchester Photographic Society, Tech Bldg., WCC, No charge; Guests are welcome, 914-827-5353 [www.wpsphoto.org](http://www.wpsphoto.org).

**Evening Howl for Adults Only.** Enjoy visiting the wolves during their favorite hour--dusk. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolves in North America while enjoying a spread of wine and cheese. Then take a short sunset hike to ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa and Zephyr. For adults 21 years old and up. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 6:30 p.m. \$20. Also May 23 at 7 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**WCC Friday Night Film Series: "Lore."** A dark, mysterious tale of hungry, frightened children making their way through a perilous enchanted forest inhabited by demons. Westchester Community College's Gateway Center, Davis Auditorium, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla (Use Parking Lot 1). Doors open at 7:10 p.m. Refreshments at 7:30 p.m. Movie at 8 p.m. \$11. Seniors \$10. Info: Contact Bob Bruckenthal at 914-723-3186.

**Tango Quartero in Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at the Music Conservatory of Westchester, 216 Central Avenue, White Plains. A suggested donation of \$10 is appreciated for the Conservatory's Music Therapy Institute and Scholarships Fund. For reservations please call the office Manager Katie Goulart at 914-761-3900 ext. 103.

## Saturday, May 10

**Firemaking.** Learn the structure, purposes and the elements for building a successful campfire. 1 p.m. Fee \$5; pre-registration required at 914-967-8720. Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Playland Park, Rye.

*continued on page 18*

# Happenings

continued from page 17

**Grand Opening Celebration.** Will2Lose Lifestyle Weight Loss Club ribbon cutting ceremony with DJ, healthy foods and beverages, therapy dogs, games, raffles, specials and a variety of vendors. 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. 855 Franklin Ave., Thornwood; [www.will2lose.com](http://www.will2lose.com)

**Garden Conservancy's Open Days Program.** Explore three private gardens in Chappaqua, Hastings-on-Hudson and Mount Kisco for self-guided tours to benefit the Garden Conservancy. Highlights include a vertical garden, use of native plants, extensive azalea and rhododendron display, woodland walks and a natural brook with primula. Garden of Shobha Vanchiswar and Murali Mani, 76 Castle Rd., Chappaqua, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; New World Garden of Pru and Clark Montgomery, 31 Sheldon Place, Hastings-on-Hudson, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; or Rocky Hills, garden of William and Henriette Suhr, 95 Old Roaring Brook Rd., Mount Kisco, 2 to 6 p.m. \$5 per garden. Children (under 12): Free. Info: 1-888-842-2442 weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or visit [www.opendaysprogram.org](http://www.opendaysprogram.org).

**Wolves of North America.** Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why spring is a special time for packs in North America. Guests can visit Ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa and Zephyr as well as the critically endangered Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: \$13. Children (under 12): \$11. Also May 17, 24, 25 and 26. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**International Migratory Bird Day Celebration.** Join a naturalist to learn bird migration and get to know some of the local migrants. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members: \$5. Non-members: \$8. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**Opening Reception for "La Bella Vita."** An exhibit of outdoor photography by award-winning photographer Eve Papa will open with a reception. Gallery in The Park at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Routes 35 and 121 South, Cross River. 2 to 5 p.m. Free admission. Parking: \$5 for county park pass holders; \$10 for non-park pass holders. Exhibit runs through June 21. Info: 914-864-7317 or visit [www.westchestergov.com/parks](http://www.westchestergov.com/parks).

**Sound of My Music Presents:** Mile Sur Humara (Being in Harmony). Experience listening and watching one of India's most prominent fusion guitar players in an intimate setting. Featuring World Fusion Music, Evergreen, Contemporary Bollywood and English

hits. Whippoorwill Hall at North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd., East, Armonk. 4 to 6 p.m. Adults: \$15. Children (under 15): \$5. Info and tickets: Contact Sri Sivaramakrishnan/Anita Aiyer at 914-873-0857 or email [sris007@gmail.com](mailto:sris007@gmail.com) or Uma Somasamudram at 914-413-1301 or email [usomasamudram@yahoo.com](mailto:usomasamudram@yahoo.com).

**Alien Invaders With Animal Embassy.** Join Chris Evers, director and founder of Animal Embassy, for an exciting look at the phenomenon of invasive species in this country and abroad. Learn about plants and animals that have been introduced to non-native habitats and have become invasive. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 5 p.m. Adults: \$15. Children (under 12): \$12. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**Mamaroneck Artists Guild's 10th Annual Small Works Show Opening Reception.** Featuring works no larger than 15 inches selected by Juror Bartholomew Bland, director of curatorial affairs at the Hudson River Museum. Mamaroneck Artists Guild, 126 Larchmont Ave., Larchmont. 5 to 7 p.m. Free. Exhibit runs through May 24. Gallery hours are 12 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Info: 914-834-1117 or visit [www.mamaroneckartistsguild.org](http://www.mamaroneckartistsguild.org).

**St. Lawrence String Quartet.** The group will perform works by Haydn, Bartok and Beethoven with new second violinist Mark Fewer. Sleepy Hollow High School, 210 N. Broadway (Route 9), Sleepy Hollow. 8 p.m. \$30. Students (18 and under): Free. Info and tickets: 914-861-5080 or visit [www.friendsmusicconcerts.org](http://www.friendsmusicconcerts.org).

**Taghkanic Chorale Concert.** Join the Taghkanic Chorale, led by acclaimed music director Steven Fox, professional soloists and string ensemble for a memorable evening of classical music. The "Ageless Beauty" concert features timeless selections by masters of the Romantic period, including Franz Schubert's Mass in G, Felix Mendelssohn's Jubilate Deo, Gaetano Donizetti's Ave Maria, Ludwig van Beethoven's Elegischer Gesang and Arvo Part's The Beatitudes. Concert times are Saturday, May 10 at 8 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of Mount Kisco, 605 Millwood Rd. (Rt. 133) and Sunday, May 18 at 4 p.m. at Trinity Church Ossining, 7 South Highland Ave (Rt. 9). Audience members are invited to join Chorale members, Mr. Fox and guest artists for a reception after the concert. Admission is \$25 for adults, \$22 for seniors and students, \$12 for children under 12. call 914-737-6707 or visit [www.taghkanicchorale.org](http://www.taghkanicchorale.org).

## Sunday May 11

**Mother's Day Wildflower Discovery.** A hike to admire and learn to identify the wildflowers at the sanctuary. 7:30 a.m. Marshlands Conservancy, Boston Post Road (Route 1), Rye; 914-835-4466.

**Turtle Monitoring Group.** Participants will learn techniques for marking turtles for identification, handling procedures, record keeping of general information such as weight, ages estimates and sex. Must be at least eight years old. Westmoreland Sanctuary, 260 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Mount Kisco. 10:30 a.m. Members: Free. Non-members: \$5. Also May 18 and June 1. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Email [lricker@westmorelandsanctuary.org](mailto:lricker@westmorelandsanctuary.org).

**Throw Mama to the Wolves.** Celebrate mom and Mother Nature at the Wolf Conservation Center. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why spring is a special time for packs in North America. Also visit ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, and Zephyr and the center's critically endangered Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: \$13. Children (under 12): \$11. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**Mother's Day Hike.** Take mom outdoors for a hike to discover what the mothers of the forest are doing today. Bring a camera. All ages welcome. Westmoreland Sanctuary, 260 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Mount Kisco. Noon. Members: Free. Non-members: \$5. Info: 914-666-8448 or visit [www.westmorelandsanctuary.org](http://www.westmorelandsanctuary.org).

**Teaching Trails: A Community Path for Environmental Education.** Join guided trail experience through the woodland forest. Discover who left that track, which tree makes the best animal home or which plant makes its own heat to help melt through the late winter ice. Program runs about 30 minutes. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 11:30 a.m. Free. Meets every Sunday. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**Animal Moms.** Visit and learn about some of our animal mom's. Make a mother's Day inspired craft. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members: \$5. Non-members: \$8. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**Opening Reception for "After the Cold, Colorless Winter-Cherry Blooms."** Local photographer Rebecca Singer captures last year's amazing spring blooms of the cherry tree. Refreshments served. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Exhibit runs through June 30. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.westmorelandsanctuary.org](http://www.westmorelandsanctuary.org).

[greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://greenburghnaturecenter.org).

## Monday, May 12

**White Plains Schools Public Hearings.** The White Plains Board of Education will hold two Public Hearings at the start of its Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Education House, 5 Homeside Lane. The first will be the Public Presentation and Hearing on the 2014-15 Proposed Budget, which will be brought to the voters for approval on May 20, 2014. The second, in accordance with requirements under Project SAVE Legislation, will be on the subjects of the District-wide School Safety Plan and Code of Conduct, including the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA). The Plan provides a framework for the District's safety initiative, focusing on prevention, preparedness and crisis response. There are no significant changes from the currently approved plan. Copies of the Budget, the Safety Plan and the Code of Conduct are available from the district's business office, 914-422-2064.

## Tuesday, May 13

**Caramoor Volunteer Fair.** Come and find out what you can offer your community while you explore a rich dose of culture and artistic offerings. Includes training to become docents to lead tours for visitors and education programs; archivists and architectural archivists; to volunteer for the Rosen House Gift Shop; ushers; greeters; garden volunteers and administrative assistants. Caramoor, 149 Girdle Ridge Rd., Katonah. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-232-1252 or visit [www.caramoor.org/volunteerfair](http://www.caramoor.org/volunteerfair).

## Wednesday, May 14

**Cheeseburger With a Side of Climate Change: The Global Impacts of What We Choose to Eat.** Large-scale meat and dairy production has a tremendous impact on the local and global environment, from intensive resource usage to climate change. The current corporate animal agricultural production model also raises animal welfare, public health and environmental justice concerns. This program will discuss these issues and provide recommendations for environmentally-friendly food choices. Presented in partnership with the Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd, Scarsdale. Refreshments at 7 p.m. Program at 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**Full Moon Movie Night Under the Stars.** A wild night out for adults 21 years old and up with wine, wolves, a wild film and under the full moon. Discover the world of one of Yellowstone's most famous wolves in "The Rise of Black Wolf," a one-hour film by Emmy Award-winning wildlife cinematographer Bob Landis. Beach chairs or blankets recommended. Visit [nywolf.org](http://nywolf.org) for more info.



# .....WHITE PLAINS EXAMINER SPORTS.....

## Day Comes Up a Winner, as Harrison Rolls Past Fox Lane, 5-2

By Skip Pearlman

Taylor Day picked up the win on the mound last Friday, as the Harrison High softball team picked up a 5-2 victory over Fox Lane in a game played at Harrison High School.

Day (4-1) struck out nine and walked just one while allowing five hits, as the

cleanup hitter, is leading us in almost every offensive category, and we hit them up and down the lineup.”

Dominique Loguidice and Julie Robertson each drove in two runs for Harrison, Sydney Woolf went 2-for-2 and had an RBI, and Jenna Vaccaro was 2-for-3 with a double.



SKIP PEARLMAN PHOTO

Dominique Loguidice drove in two runs in a Huskies win over Fox Lane Friday.

Huskies upped the season mark to 6-5 overall and 6-1 in league action.

“Taylor has been very good for us,” Huskies coach Dean Marino said. “In every game she’s pitched she’s been very good. She has a curve drop, and she puts it right where she wants it, and has very good control. Christina DiCarlo, our

The prior Tuesday, the Huskies dropped a 6-3 decision to Pelham, with Day taking the loss. Five of Pelham’s runs were unearned, with Day giving up just four hits, with six strikeouts.

“Taylor only allowed four hits and pitched a beautiful game,” Marino said. “She only gave up one hit after the third.”

Pelham jumped out with a two-run homer in the first, then tacked on four in the fourth to pull away.

Jordan Riddle went 3-for-3 with an RBI, and DiCarlo was 2-for-3 with a double and one RBI.

“Jordan had a nice game for us leading off,” Marino said, “and DiCarlo also had a good game.”

Harrison was scheduled to visit Rye Neck Tuesday at 4:30 p.m., and the Huskies travel to Rye Wednesday, and visit Valhalla Thursday, with both games starting at 4:30 p.m.

## Huskies Grind Out 3-2 Win Over Port Chester in Eight Innings

By Skip Pearlman

Andrew Zink ripped a double to the right-center field gap that scored Jack Witte from first with the game-winning run, as the Harrison High baseball team edged Port Chester, 3-2, in eight innings

he pitched strong... not giving up any walks was huge. And we made the plays. Hopefully we can keep the momentum going forward.”

Harrison was scheduled to play at Port Chester Tuesday at 4:30 p.m., the Huskies



SKIP PEARLMAN PHOTO

Harrison’s Andrew Zink had the game-winning RBI in an eight-inning win over Port Chester Friday.

Saturday night at Silver Lake.

Matt Baker picked up the win on the mound for the Huskies, who picked up their third win of the season, against eight losses. The Rams fell to 1-14.

Baker went all eight innings, giving up two earned runs on seven hits, with seven strikeouts and no walks. Drummond took the loss for Port Chester.

“Baker pitched a great game for us,” Huskies Manager Marco DiRuocco said. “He mixed his pitches well, exactly what we expect from him. And Zink hit the ball well, and had a big RBI.”

Matt Baker went 3-for-4 for Harrison and drove in a run, Witte went 2-for-3, Zink finished the game 2-for-4, and Joe Lagani had an RBI and went 2-for-3.

“We played well, and had no errors, which is key for us,” DiRuocco said. “We had our No. 1 on the mound, and

are at Byram Hills Thursday at 4:30 p.m., and the team hosts Byram Hills Saturday at 11 a.m.

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