

The Twisted  
Branch Olive  
Oil and  
Vinegar Tap



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FREE

April 28- May 4, 2015

# The WHITE PLAINS Examiner

Covering White Plains, Greenburgh and Harrison

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 5, Issue 193

## TILI Shed a Fine Feather in White Plains' Sustainability Cap

By Pat Casey

The White Plains Take It or Leave It Shed opened for business Saturday at 9 a.m. with a full gathering of people waiting outside for the doors to open. By 10 a.m. most of the items that had been dropped off earlier that same morning were already on their way to new homes – having been identified as “genuine treasure.” One lucky young lady was able to furnish most of her new apartment with furniture that another resident had just replaced with new items.

The transaction took about five minutes according to volunteers working that morning.

The fast flow of items in and out of the TILI Shed is sustainability at its best and one of White Plains DPW's most heralded programs.

The idea was the brainstorm of EcoNeighbors member



White Plains TILI volunteers on opening morning (l to r) Dorothy Schere, Ann Ladd, Deb von Glahn, Renee Brown, Laura Kerenyi.

## FASNY Protest Intends Strong Message for White Plains Mayor and Council

By Pat Casey

Eight Neighborhood Associations representing the majority of residents and some institutions in the south end of White Plains demonstrated Saturday morning against the proposed French American School of New York's (FASNY) regional school complex on the site of the former Ridgeway Country Club.

The protest brought out over 200 people, carrying signs and placards that spelled out their specific concerns: “Traffic + Pollution = FASNY,” “Save Our Neighborhoods. “Say No to FASNY,” “Say No to the Shrinking Conservancy,” “Keep

the Property on Tax Rolls,” “Hathaway Lane Belongs to the People.”

The protestors walked back and forth in front of White Plains High School across the street from the proposed entrance to the FASNY campus. Cars passing in both directions honked approval throughout.

John Sheehan, president of the Gedney Farms Association says FASNY is the most controversial land use project confronting the City of White Plains in the last 25 years.

During the protest Sheehan told The White Plains Examiner that the purpose of Saturday's demonstration was to: “Urge

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Marie McCann-Barab who had seen something similar in Chappaqua. She brought the idea back to the White Plains community environmental group and they began a discussion with Councilwoman Milagros Lecuona and White Plains DPW Commissioner Bud Nicoletti.

Together they decided to build the shed at the Gedney Recycling Yard. The collaborative effort, now in its fourth year, has been a great success.

DPW manages and maintains the program and EcoNeighbors supplies volunteers.

This year on Saturday mornings Master Gardeners from Cornell University Cooperative Extension have joined the EcoNeighbors and man a table at the TILI shed

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## Armenian Genocide Service Calls for Acknowledgement by Turkish Government

By Pat Casey

Friday evening's ceremony at St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church, White Plains, in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and canonization of the martyrs who perished, was a particularly moving and emotional event. It was attended by the Westchester interfaith community as well as by politicians from local government all the way up to the Congressional level.

The service was punctuated with solemn prayer, haunting hymns and strong statements about the need for acknowledgement by the Turkish

government that the Armenian Genocide was organized by the Ottoman Turkish government to ethnically cleanse its territory of the indigenous Armenian population.

A theme of the event was that without acknowledgement there could not be true reconciliation. The descriptions of the atrocities committed then bringing to mind recent atrocities and murders committed in the same part of the world today and reported by news media globally.

Forget-Me-Not flowers hand made by children of the St. Gregory congregation

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# RPEA Learns About New TZ Bridge Design's More Interesting Features

The Retired Public Employees Association of Westchester and Putnam (RPEA) invited Brian Conybeare, Special Advisor for the New NY Bridge Project to speak at their luncheon meeting at Sam's of Gedney Way in White Plains last week.

As construction of the new Tappan Zee Bridge is underway, Conybeare told the group that the project is on time, on budget and about one third of the way through the process.

"Governor Cuomo put the project on the fast track," Conybeare explained. "He did this by employing the design-build concept that puts full responsibility on the winning bidder. At the same time, it allows the building of infrastructure to commence while some of the finer design aspects of the bridge can be done during the construction process, thereby saving time."

Most notably, some of the finer design elements will become public attractions including a pedestrian and bicycle path, complete with observation areas, museum-style exhibits and spectacular views. Landscaping and lighting to feature energy efficient LED technology are also evolving as the project progresses.

The pedestrian/bicycle path will run the entire length of one of the spans. Conybeare explained that designers are now configuring the number of parking spaces that will be needed on each side of



CHERYL GAJOWSKI PHOTO

Brain Conybeare (left) with Judy Bernstein, RPEA Steering Committee chair, and Dan Marcy.

the river to accommodate that element as well as where those parking lots should be located.

The overall design incorporates infrastructure for the inclusion of mass transit at a time about 15 years into the future Conybeare explained. When the bridge opens in 2018 it will include Bus Rapid Transit with a dedicated lane to keep commuters moving.

"It was the delay in providing land

access and highway construction to include trains on both sides of the Hudson that was holding things up," Conybeare said. "By focusing just on the bridge construction and not waiting for the train element, the process is much faster. And, the bridge needed to be replaced. It really could not wait," he added.

The new bridge will have two separate spans each dedicated for travel in one direction, north and south. The space

between the two spans would eventually hold the mass-transit component.

Currently, one span is being built to the north of the existing bridge. That will initially be open for travel in both directions as the old bridge is torn down and the second span is built in its place.

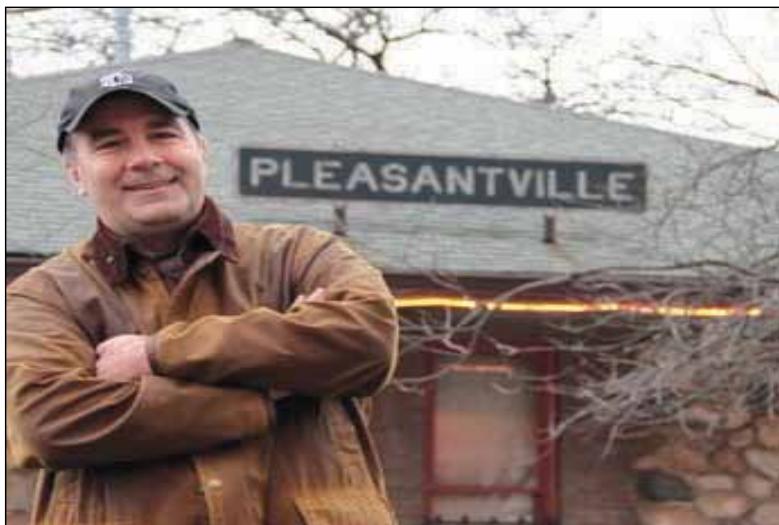
The bridge design itself is modern and open and intended to represent the openness of the Hudson River Valley. The design also incorporates anti-icing protection and security elements such as special platforms, security cameras and high-tech fencing and netting to keep people from jumping.

With loans from the federal government and \$1.3 billion from a cash settlement that will go to the new bridge, Conybeare said that tolls would not be increased for the foreseeable future.

There also will be no toll plazas to create traffic jams. Drivers can use E-Z Pass or their license plates will be photographed as they go through the gateway and an invoice will be sent to them.

An observation deck to view bridge construction as it continues is opening on the Tarrytown side. Visit [NewNYBridge.com](http://NewNYBridge.com) for more information.

RPEA is a New York-based organization with a focus on keeping public retirement employee benefits in place. Annual membership is \$30. Visit [www.rpea.org](http://www.rpea.org).



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## TILI Shed a Fine Feather in White Plains' Sustainability Cap

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to provide horticultural advice.

"This spring is like no other we have seen," said Master Gardener Nancy Giges. "We are about a month behind weather-wise where we normally would be and we don't know if plants will catch up. We will have to wait and see."

The Master Gardeners explained that many people were stopping by to find out when would be the best time to start a garden this year.

EcoNeighbors Yvonne Gumowitz and Carry Kyzivat said they had never seen the TILI Shed more organized.

"It has become a great resource, almost a community hang out," said Kyzivat, adding that eventually they would like to add some educational programming about sustainability.

"White Plains has a Sustainability Committee that is doing good work but you can't find out what's going on because



(L to r) Master Gardeners Blaine Levensen and Nancy Giges answer questions about planting and pest control.

there's nothing posted on the city's website. We'd love to see that changed," the EcoNeighbors members agreed. "White Plains should blow its horn more and tout its community's involvement in sustainability."

## FASNY Protest Intends Strong Message for White Plains Mayor and Council

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the Mayor and Common Council to listen to residents, not just Gedney residents, not just North Street residents, not just Wyndham Close residents, but the whole southern end of the city and the 3,000 other residents in the city who signed the petition opposing the project."

"FASNY is too large for the property the former Ridgeway Country Club

had. We fully expect our elected officials to represent us and to vote against this special permit," Sheehan said.

"No one has ever really discussed how this application doesn't meet the special permit standard as enunciated in the Zoning Ordinance," Sheehan added.

The public hearings ended in December, yet there has been no information forthcoming from the city's administration about when a decision might be made.

"We have heard nothing," Sheehan noted. "The Administration is still working on it."

Some residents picketing said that over the past two weeks they had seen traffic counters at numerous locations on neighborhood streets. They wondered why at



About 200 White Plains residents from neighborhoods in the south end of the city rallied in front of WPHS across from the proposed entrance to the FASNY K-12 campus.

The TILI Shed program saves White Plains many tons of garbage each year and as it becomes well known that number goes up.

At the end of the season if there are items left over, TILI has a relationship with Furniture Sharehouse to get items distributed to needy families.

For White Plains residents interested in taking advantage of the TILI Shed, a list of acceptable items is posted on the front door. These include functioning, clean and gently used appliances, cookware, kitchenware, dishes and glassware (in excellent condition), sports equipment, bicycles, toys, games, baby equipment,

children's picture books, ornaments, home repair tools, gardening tools.

Unacceptable items include large appliances, air conditioners, refrigerators, TVs, monitors, construction debris, upholstered furniture, large furniture, bedding, clothing, books for adults, printers, faxes, semi-functional electronics, chipped or cracked dishes, plastic mugs/containers/dishes, skis, ski boots, stuffed toys, cribs, suitcases, anything really dirty.

Drop-offs during the hours when the shed is not open are not allowed.

The TILI Shed hours between April and October are Saturdays, 9 a.m. to Noon (Master Gardeners table is manned only on Saturdays); Wednesdays 2 to 4 p.m. Located at the Gedney Recycling Yard, 87 Gedney Way, White Plains.

Visit [www.econeighbors.org](http://www.econeighbors.org) for more information.



Signs tell the story of why residents don't want the FASNY project to be approved by the White Plains Common Council.

this late stage information was still being gathered.

"The longer this goes on and we see how all the alternative options for the site plan have failed, it becomes increasingly clear to people in the community – people

who formerly supported the plan or were neutral – that FASNY on this site doesn't work at all," Sheehan concluded.

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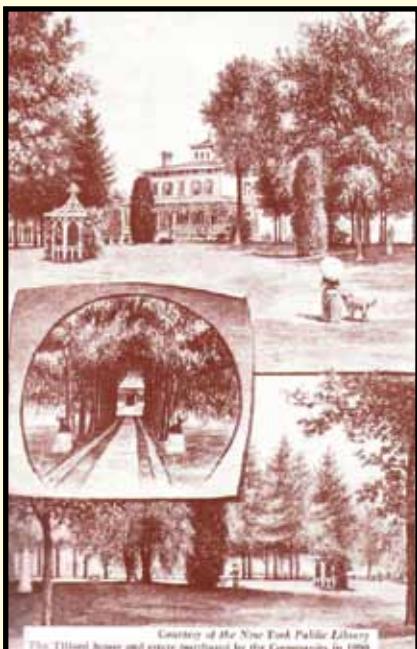
Our Latest Guests:

Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner  
NYT Best Selling author Allison Pataki

# The Beautiful and Historic Good Counsel Campus Marks 125th Anniversary

**By Mary Alice O'Brien, RDC**

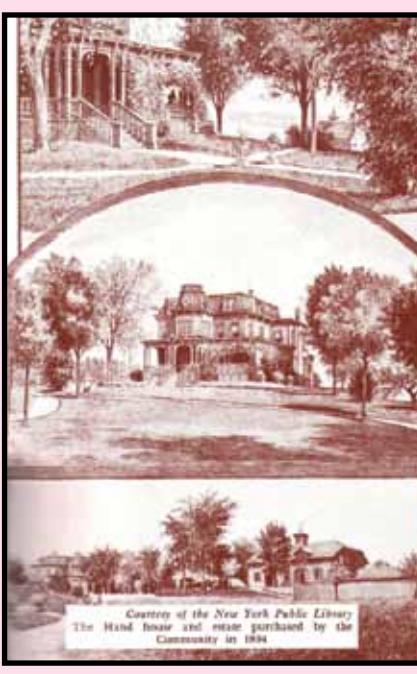
The beautiful green space Good Counsel campus at 52 North Broadway in White Plains celebrated its 125 Anniversary on April 26, the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel.



Courtesy of the New York Public Library  
The Tilford house and estate purchased by the Community in 1894

The Tilford Estate was purchased by the Sisters of the Divine Compassion in 1880. The house was later moved to the back of the property on North Broadway to make room for the construction of the Chapel of the Divine Compassion, which stands on the site today. Source of early sepia photos: "The Fruit of His Compassion, The Life of Mother Mary Veronica, Foundress of the Sisters of the Divine Compassion" by Sister Mary Teresa, RDC.

The history of the property and the growth of the congregation of the Sisters of the Divine Compassion is a compelling and uniquely Westchester story.



Courtesy of the New York Public Library  
The Hand house and estate purchased by the Community in 1894

The Hand House, which can be viewed from North Broadway, was purchased in 1894.

In the spring of 1880, the thoughts of the founders of the Sisters of the Divine Compassion, Mother Mary Veronica, RDC and Msgr. Thomas S. Preston turned to the question of a summer house where the Sisters and the children



MARY ALICE O'BRIEN PHOTOS

The Tilford House at its location at the back of the campus housed the Good Counsel Academy Elementary School for many years.

they cared for might enjoy a rest and a change of air from their New York City location. A place on 91st Street was considered but did not meet the expectation of Msgr. Preston. A Father Edwards and a Mr. O'Connor were asked to look for a place in Westchester, in the "real" country.

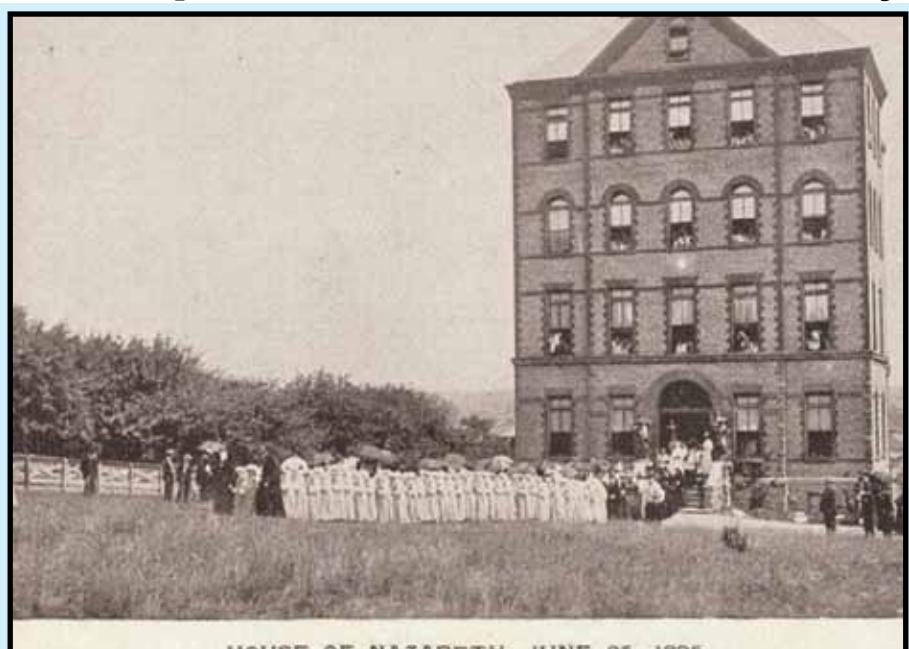
Msgr. Preston told Mother Veronica that they must look to acquire a place that would not only serve for the summer, but which would become the motherhouse and novitiate for the Sisters. The country would be far more ideal than the city. There would be opportunity for them to get out-of-doors and get exercise and fresh air. Such a place could also serve as setting for a school.

During April, Father Edwards and Mr. O'Connor investigated possibilities Westchester had to offer. After looking



The Hand House today sits next to the Chapel of the Divine Compassion. It houses the RDC Center for Counseling and Human Development.

at various properties that were nice, but not quite right, they eventually found a fine place on Broadway (in White Plains) that had been built by Eugene T. Preudhomme and was now owned by John M. Tilford. Upon seeing the house both Edwards and O'Connor agreed immediately that they were



HOUSE OF NAZARETH, JUNE 26, 1895.

The House of Nazareth, 1895, served as a boarding school for girls and young women. They were educated and taught skills to help them obtain jobs.



Good Counsel Academy High School today.  
Photographed at night.

of Good Counsel High School, an all-female, fully enrolled school. The school could not find a place to relocate after valiant efforts. The ministry of education to young girls and boys, the elementary school, has found a place to relocate in Valhalla. This choice has been made as a solution to the Sisters' financial problems and future challenges.

The source for historic information is "The Fruit of His Compassion, The Life of Mother Mary Veronica, Foundress of the Sisters of the Divine Compassion" by Sister Mary Teresa, RDC.



The Chapel of the Divine Compassion viewed from North Broadway. The tree canopy remains in place as it was originally planted for the Tilford Estate.

perfectly suited to the Sisters' needs. Arrangements were concluded on April 26, the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, and they named the property for her, Good Counsel.

Another piece of property, the Hand house was later purchased in 1893. The property at the time of purchase was 12.5 acres with three more acres added later.

After 125 years, the Leadership of the Sisters of the Divine Compassion has chosen to sell this property and to close The Academy of Our Lady



The rear entrance to the Chapel of the Divine Compassion at the crypt where the founders of the order are buried. The building to the left is the convent and Mapleton Conference Center.

# County Executive Again Pledges No Increase to Westchester Property Tax Levy

With a loud message that for the fifth year in a row, the Westchester County property tax levy will not increase in the next budget, County Executive Robert Astorino offered a positive outlook and added a few new initiatives of interest to residents and businesses during his State of the County address last week.

Astorino hailed a recent Second Circuit Court of Appeals decision which said actions by HUD to financially penalize the county were subject to judicial review, as a "major victory against an aggressive and overreaching federal government," and a win for local zoning and home rule. The county remains on schedule in fulfilling the terms of the 2009 federal housing settlement agreement with currently 223 units occupied and 454 units with financing in place, Astorino explained.

Pleased by the new \$25 million Playland agreement with New York-based Standard Amusements, Astorino said the proposed deal would secure the long-term future of Playland. Standard Amusements will invest \$23 million in capital improvements, introduce new rides and attractions and make an up-front \$2.25 million payment to the county and pay an annual fee of \$300,000, that escalates each year.

Also on the economic front, Astorino explained that the County's Industrial Development Agency (IDA) assisted on 16 economic development projects that



Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino delivers the 2015 State of the County Address.

generated more than \$400 million in private investment. In the not-for-profit sector, the County's Local Development Corporation (LDC) assisted on a number of projects that generated \$129 million.

To attract new business to the County a satellite economic development office will open in May in Manhattan at 125 Park Avenue, right across from the entrance to Grand Central Station. "We are going to promote Westchester County to New York City businesses," Astorino said. "Our message is simple. To those companies in New York City looking to leave New York State, you need to take a look at Westchester."

Another new program is the County's new fatherhood initiative designed to celebrate the critical role of the father, and

help those in at-risk situations navigate and overcome potential barriers they may have to becoming effectively involved dads. Former New York Knicks all-star Allan Houston's foundation will partner with the county in the initiative.

A new Safer Communities initiative with the development of a new mobile phone application called the Westchester Safety App. is expected to be available later this summer. The app will offer real-time traffic, weather and storm reports, and disaster

preparedness tips via smart phones. The app is being developed by Interlecta, a Westchester-based IT company, in conjunction with the county's Department of Public Safety. The download of the app will be free.

And coming in May, the county's "A Job's Waiting for You Training" program will get under way to match long-term unemployed workers with hard to fill jobs in health care such as MRI technicians through a training program that, upon successful completion, guarantees the trainee a job. The goal is to place 500 individuals in four years and ultimately expand the program beyond the health care field.

The County Board of Legislators chair

Michael Kaplowitz (D-District 4) in his response to the County Executive asked that Astorino re-open a dialogue with HUD to finally put the "2009 housing settlement behind us."

Kaplowitz also noted that Westchester County has a tremendous asset that is not being used. "On the campus of the Westchester Medical Center and New York Medical College are 60 acres of prime unused land that is owned by Westchester County. Legislators want to see this property developed in a smart and creative way that will not only provide an economic benefit for Westchester County but a real social benefit as well," Kaplowitz said.

Kaplowitz also expounded on the quality of drinking water in the county. "For many years the county's "water district one" has not been in technical compliance with some water quality standards established by the federal government. The Environmental Protection Agency began levying fines against the county but I'm happy to announce that the Board of Legislators, working with the County Attorney, successfully negotiated a resolution with the EPA to upgrade our water treatment facilities in water district one," he said.

Kaplowitz also offered the establishment of an office of sustainability with an Energy Director. This could come before the BOL as early as its Monday evening meeting.

## Armenian Genocide Service Calls for Acknowledgement by Turkish Government

*continued from page 1*

were given to attendees. The Forget-Me-Not flower is the official emblem of the Armenian Genocide centennial celebration.

According to Armenian-genocide.org on April 24, 1915, the leaders and intellectuals of the Armenian communities in Ottoman Turkey were rounded up and massacred. From 1915 to 1923 more than 1.5 million Armenians were killed; two out of three Armenians living in Ottoman Turkey perished. The rest were banished from their homeland.

The Armenian population had inhabited this land for over 3,000 years. And, according to V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene Pappas from Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church, who as the primary speaker gave the homily, the Armenian nation was the first Christian nation.

Rev. Pappas emphasized the importance of Armenians in the diaspora to remember the genocide and like their Jewish brethren who suffered through the Holocaust to intone "Never again. Never again."

"The Armenians were killed because they were Christian," Rev. Pappas said. The Armenian Genocide set the tone for other brutalities and genocides of the 20th century.

"But they did not win," Rev. Pappas



White Plains Mayor Tom Roach addresses attendees at St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church 100-Year Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide. Roach is accompanied by Councilwoman Milagros Lecuna (left) and Councilmembers Nadine Hunt-Robinson, Beth Smayda and Dennis Krolian (right).

explained, speaking directly to the children in the gathering. "They did not win because we are here. You are here. We are celebrating you, not the death of the martyrs."

Congresswoman Nita Lowey presented a proclamation acknowledging the Armenian Genocide and stating that: "She is a co-sponsor of legislation to acknowledge the atrocity in full, calling for the United States to work toward equitable, constructive, stable, and durable Armenian/Turkish relations based on

the Republic of Turkey's full acknowledgement of the facts and ongoing consequences of the Armenian Genocide and a fair, just and comprehensive international resolution of this crime against humanity."

Lowey emphasized that: "All good people must be vigilant to prevent hatred and dogma from destroying civilizations across the world."

White Plains Mayor Thomas Roach also had a proclamation that he read in full.

"The Armenian Genocide represents a government slaughtering people that it should be there to protect. Unfortunately that is something we have seen too much of," Roach said. He congratulated the Armenian people for keeping the memory alive for 100 years "so that we should never forget."

Roach's proclamation acknowledged the many Armenians who left their homeland and settled in the United States, some now residing in White Plains.

Members of the White Plains Common Council who were present at the ceremony included Milagros Lecuna,



V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene Pappas from Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church.

Beth Smayda, Nadine Hunt-Robinson, and Dennis Krolian, a member of the St. Gregory congregation who was visibly moved by the support he received from his colleagues.

In comments, Krolian explained that he had lost his grandparents during the genocide.

Earlier in the day, at an ecumenical service in Greenwich, CT, red carnations that were handed to all attendees were provided by Creative Flowers by Amodio's of White Plains.

# The Twisted Branch Olive Oil & Vinegar Tap Room, Valhalla

**By Pat Casey**

When what you love to do in your spare time becomes possible as your full-time occupation, that's Kismet, and you know the result will be the fruit of pure passion.

The Twisted Branch Olive Oil & Tap Room just opened at 24 Broadway in Valhalla, and already the new store is getting a reputation as a "must visit destination." Chefs from some of the more popular eateries in Westchester already have made the discovery and The Twisted Branch is on their regular shopping routes.

White Plains residents and brothers John Cherico and Richard Cozza and Richard's wife Erika have partnered to put the new business together.

The idea for a specialty shop had been discussed among the partners for several years, but when in November 2014 it looked like they had the opportunity

finish off a special entrée, appetizer, pasta or salad or make that cup of coffee or tea something you want to linger over.

"We stocked the shelves with things we like, products we had found and use," Richard explained.

From an Italian family where the kitchen is the center of the household, both John and Richard grew up with inquisitive palates. Richard became known for his olive oil finishes to pizza and pasta dishes. His wife Erika discovered early in their marriage that he had a special aptitude for taking anything she cooked to the next level and she was happy to let him do it.

The result is that Richard has

with a flavor infusing company based in California. Each product is created to exact specifications and bottled on site in Valhalla – where the products for sale carry the Twisted Branch name.

When traveling for his job in IT, Richard would often spend time in California and Seattle, WA. "Oil and vinegar tap rooms are quite popular on the West coast," he explained. "I was already hooked on the concept and was shipping product back home for my personal use. That's how I got involved in the network, which made it easy to set up the business so quickly. I had already done much of the work."

Infused and flavored olive oils such as Basil, Blood orange, Sage & Onion, Tuscan Herb, Garlic Mushroom, Sundried Tomato and White Truffle, among others are on the menu.

Dark Balsamic Vinegars include Black Mission Fig, Honey Ginger, Raspberry, Pumpkin Spice and traditional. The White Balsamic Vinegars include Cranberry, Bittersweet Chocolate with Orange, Coconut, Strawberry peach and Anjou Pear.

There are many other flavor selections on the lists as well as gourmet wine vinegars and special flavors created for each season.

If you have no idea what you might like, The Twisted Branch has 100 percent biodegradable and consumable tasting cups and spoons and bread cubes for sampling.

In fact, Richard says they will have Arthur Avenue bread delivered fresh each morning for customers to purchase.

On his Seattle trips, Richard also indulged in the gourmet coffee culture of the West Coast and the shop offers a signature small batch coffee. The Twisted

Branch prides itself in working only with small, family owned plantations.

Coffee is for sale in biodegradable cups to sip from on the spot or bags to take home.

Because Erika is a tea drinker master tea blends from Harney & Sons can be found on the shelves along with local honey from a bee farm in Connecticut – there's a Killer Bee Hot Sauce – gourmet and flavored salts – there's a Ghost Pepper salt – flavored cane sugars and hand blended spices.

Richard has been busy developing recipes which he will post on the store's website at [www.TheTwistedBranch.com](http://www.TheTwistedBranch.com) where you will also find a complete selection of items for sale in the store as well as online. There will also be a blog for



A selection of Dark and White Balsamic Vinegars offers a variety of taste sensations. When your bottle is empty, bring it back clean and get a refill at a 15 percent discount.

to finally make the jump – John was leaving the corporate world and Richard was moving on from his job in IT – they took the business plan to the fast track and opened the store in a little over four months.

The shop is full of delicious add-ons that

experimented for years with different olive oil and balsamic vinegar recipes. He also knows what oils he prefers and where they come from.

The shop features oils and vinegars imported from Italy, Spain, Chile and Tunisia. The Twisted Branch works



(L to r) Richard and Erika Cozza with John Cherico at The Twisted Branch Olive Oil & Vinegar Tap Room, Valhalla.

sharing taste experiences.

If you work or live in White Plains, The Twisted Branch will be a vendor at the White Plains Farmers Market every Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. beginning April 29.

The Twisted Branch is located at 24 Broadway, Valhalla, NY 10595; 914-437-8000. Store hours: Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday 12 to 6 p.m.

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**SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS**

## Assembly Members Push for Elimination of Nov. 15 Deadline for Teacher Evaluations

We fully support the step Chancellor Tisch has taken to provide districts with flexibility on the November 15 deadline. We recommend that the Regents go further and drop the November 15 deadline altogether and use September 1, 2016 as the deadline for school districts to fully implement new teacher and principal evaluation plans.

The law is clear that districts can submit plans for approval by November 15, 2015 or by September 1 of each subsequent year, i.e. September 2016. We know that it is unrealistic for school districts to be able to document and submit new teacher and principal evaluation procedures by September 1 of this year, have them approved by SED, and implement them by November 15 when the regulations setting out the guidelines for the process are not required to be in place before June 30. Moreover, districts need to negotiate with their unions the teacher

observation category of the evaluation system. It is impossible for districts to negotiate with the unions when teachers are away for the summer.

We urge the Regents to develop and adopt the regulations as scheduled by June 30 to ensure that districts have the most time possible to negotiate and submit evaluation plans to SED. If the Regents cannot meet the June 30 deadline, they must inform the Legislature as soon as possible so that the law can be amended.

The statutory language provides the Regents the ability to extend the deadline to September 1, 2016. We must take this opportunity to ensure that we give our districts the time needed to design fair, relevant and sustainable teacher and principal evaluation plans that respect professionalism and provide appropriate accountability and to ensure that critically needed state aid resources

are not withheld from our schools and our children. Our teachers and students deserve nothing less.

*Signed By: Thomas Abinanti (Assembly, 92nd District), Didi Barrett (Assembly, 106 District), David Buchwald (Assembly, 93rd District), Steven Englebright (Assembly, 4th District), Sandra Galef (Assembly, 95th District), Aileen Gunther (Assembly, 100th District), Ellen Jaffee (Assembly, 97th District), Kimberly Jean-Pierre (Assembly, 11th District), Todd Kaminsky (Assembly, 20th District), Charles Lavine (Assembly, 13th District), Steve Otis (Assembly, 91st District), Amy Paulin (Assembly, 88th District), J. Gary Pretlow (Assembly, 89th District), Michelle Schimel (Assembly, 16th District), Frank Skartados (Assembly, 104th District), James Skoufis (99th District), Michaelle Solages (22nd District), Fred Thiele (1st District), Kenneth Zebrowski (96th District)*

## More Development on the Corner from H\*st

In the Believe It or Not Department, under "Other Matters" at the White Plains Planning Board meeting on April 21, 2015, the owner of the BP Gas Station at the corner of Westchester Ave. and S. Kensico Ave. wishes to reconfigure the gas station. He has purchased or plans to purchase the vacant lot next to the gas station. The lot contains the empty Seaberg's frozen food store. He will reconfigure the site as a gas station plus convenience store with 12 parking spaces. There will be a 6-foot sign giving gas pricing. The convenience store may possibly have a fast food outlet like Dunkin' Donuts. He had wanted a

drive-through fast food outlet, but was persuaded not to pursue that.

This is one of the busiest, most confusing, and dangerous corners in the City, with dueling gas stations (a Mobil Gas Station and Mobil Mart across the street from the BP);

Cars attempting gas station entry cutting into lines of cars waiting to turn from S. Kensico onto Westchester Ave. and vice versa; a Container Store driveway entrance and exit; a bus stop and, across the street, a bus shelter for pedestrians; cars attempting a shortcut and traffic light avoidance by entering the other gas station on S. Kensico and

exiting on Westchester Avenue going north; many cars making legal U-turns on Westchester Ave. and (next to the BP Gas Station on S. Kensico) a Splash Car Wash.

It was noted that the owner wanted the entrance to the proposed site modification to be on Westchester Ave. The Building Dept. changed that to a proposed entry on S. Kensico, with exit onto Westchester Avenue.

No decision was made for this redevelopment project.

*-Renee Marks Cohen, White Plains*

## Letter to the White Plains Common Council on Ensuring Developer Compliance

I urge all of you to visit and observe what immense environmental damage has been and is being done to the property on 800 North Street. Only then will you apprehend what the city's approval of the German School's expansion plan has fraught. It should be a lesson to all of you to see how such an approval, viewed in the abstract and in the confines of meetings in city hall, can result in such environmental damage.

Very few of you were around in 1955/56 when the property on North Street, owned by the Ochs family, publishers of the New York Times, was sold to residential developers and to the White Plains Board of Education. The initial development of one family homes on what then became Maplemoor Lane, Homeside Lane, Willows Lane resulted in further street and home construction and one of those houses became our home in 1956.

However, in contrast to what has happened at 800 North St, those and subsequent developers made sure that the age-old, full grown, in some cases rare trees remained standing and placed

the structures in such a way that the trees were not destroyed. Even now, so many years later, you can see how many beautiful old trees were left standing right up against the houses on each property, including ours. We have a 150-year-old oak tree at the back of our house. There would be more trees standing if they had not been destroyed by Sandy and another major storm some years ago. Nature does its share of destruction. We do not need manmade demolition.

You should keep this in mind when development proposals come before you with promises that trees and other environmental features will be carefully preserved. These were promises made when I attended many meetings during the German School approval process but who is there these days to make sure that compliance is taking place? We don't even have a Planning Commissioner.

With all sorts of statements and promises being made by FASNY (French American School of New York) about preservation – these actions taking place on North Street should make you aware that you have an

obligation to be more than vigilant. Site visits during the approval process are meaningless if the resulting construction process is not compliant. You are the elected and appointed caretakers of the environment in White Plains and we have put our trust in you. It behoves you to make this visit in the next days.

*-Carry Kyzivat, White Plains*

## 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

## Greenburgh Police Department

**Grand Larceny.** On the afternoon of April 13 a report on a stolen wallet was made at police headquarters. The victim said that her wallet was stolen and she wished to document the incident. The victim said that she had driven to the Stop and Shop at 610 White Plains Road where she is employed. She reported that she parked the car in the store's lot at about 7 a.m. and left at 3 p.m. when her shift was over. At this time, the victim reported that she realized she did not have her wallet with her, and remembered leaving her wallet in the car's center console when she exited the vehicle. She was unable to remember if she locked the vehicle doors. The wallet and its contents were described for the report. All credit cards were cancelled. The report is for documentation purposes only.

**Identity Theft.** On the evening of April 13, police responded to The Sheraton Hotel at 600 White Plains Rd. for a report of identity theft. The victim, also a guest at the hotel, reported that an unauthorized charge of \$4235.61 was made to his American Express Card. He said he was in town on a business trip and had checked into the Sheraton with his American Express Card at about 8:45 p.m. when he was helped at the front desk by a Sheraton Manager. He then went to his room. The hotel room phone rang at about 9 p.m. and he answered it. The victim reports that a male was on the line who said his name was "Philip" and he worked for the hotel and there had been a problem with the computer systems at the front desk and they needed to "re-validate his credit card information." The victim said he would come down to the front desk to rectify the issue, but the male on the phone insisted that they could complete everything over the phone. The victim then proceeded to give his American Express card number to "Philip" over the phone. The victim said he became wary of the situation, ended the call and went down to the front desk. The Sheraton staff at the front desk said they did not know anything about needing the victim's credit card information. The victim was informed

that there was no one named "Philip" employed by the hotel, nor was there any reason for them to ask for his credit card info after the initial check-in. The victim began to search his credit card statement online, which showed a \$4235.61 charge to a Lowes located in Georgia. The victim immediately called American Express to contest the charge and to cancel the card. Officers then spoke with staff at the front desk, who said that approximately five minutes after the victim had checked in, an outside call from a male party asked to be connected to his room. The hotel does not have caller ID and was unable to track that phone call. The report is for documentation purposes at this time.

**Suspicious Incident.** On the afternoon of April 14, officers were dispatched to 4 Warehouse Lane, Elmsford. The caller reported he had seen four males wearing dark hooded sweatshirts walk into a wooded area near the southwest corner of the Pepperidge Farms building loading dock area. Upon arrival police made contact with the caller, who said he had seen the four males parked in the southeast corner of the loading dock area in an older model Audi sedan, gray in color, with dark tinted windows and white rear taillights. He then observed the males walk from the vehicle and enter a wooded area that was in close proximity. One of the males was carrying what the caller believed was a picnic style blanket rolled up on his shoulder. The men stayed for about one hour and then left. Police checked the wooded area and observed a hammock strung across two trees and several empty Heineken beer bottles. The Hammock had a stripped pattern similar to a picnic style blanket. Report filed for documentation.

**Suspicious Incident.** On April 14 police were advised of a suspicious incident. The target of the incident said he placed an ad on Craigslist to sell a snow blower for \$100. On March 26, 2015 he received a text message from an individual named "Fred" who showed interest in the snow blower and remained in contact in order to purchase the item. During the next two

weeks, the target received over 20 text messages from "Fred" from two different phone numbers. On April 12, 2015 the target received two money orders totaling \$1,974 (\$987 each), which were sent to him by "Fred" as payment for the snow blower. The target became suspicious when he received the money orders, but knew something was wrong when "Fred" advised him to send the difference from his personal account. The money orders were dated prior to the initial contact about the snow blower purchase and were made out to someone other than "Fred." The text message phone numbers were traced to Meridian, MS and Jonesville, NY. A check of the address where the money orders were sent from found it to be fictitious. The target reported that he did not send "Fred" the snow blower nor did he send any cash, check or money orders for the balance, but was concerned that "Fred" had his address. The incident was documented in the event something else should occur.

**Possession of Stolen Property.** On the morning of April 14, police responded to a call of a larceny in progress at the CVS on N. Central Avenue. Comsec advised that two females were inside the CVS and had fled the store with assorted beauty products in an unknown direction of travel. An employee of the store said he observed the two females get into a BMW SUV and flee in an unknown direction. While police were canvassing the area, they observed a black BMW on N. Central Ave. at Alexander Avenue with the rear door partially opened. A traffic stop was conducted. On approaching the vehicle police asked the driver why she was stopped at the intersection with her rear door partially opened. The driver replied: "My cousin jumped out because she dropped her phone in the Best Buy parking lot, and she was looking for it." The interior of the vehicle had several bags with assorted beauty products. When asked about the products the driver became apprehensive and replied that they belonged to her cousin. Police were able to locate the other female, who had another bag full of CVS beauty

products stuffed under a vehicle in front of Best Buy. Both females were identified as the individuals who had stolen the merchandise from CVS, valuing \$228.87. Further investigation revealed the women were also in possession of \$503.33 in stolen merchandise from Sally Beauty Supply. The women were placed under arrest and transported to police headquarters for processing. Several beauty items from Bath & Body Works were also recovered.

**Grand Larceny.** On April 14 the Vice President Director of Retail Operations for Patriot National Bank walked into police headquarters to report a larceny from the Patriot Bank at 495 S. Central Ave. The bank representative said she had been to the Patriot Bank in Greenburgh to interview a teller who was suspected of assisting with a larceny from an elderly couple's account. The couple had made a report to the Norwalk Police Dept. after they received a bank statement indicating there had been four separate withdrawals from their savings account totaling \$26,351.25. The bank representative said the bank had reimbursed the account holders for the total amount of funds that were stolen from them, and that she now wished to press charges against the suspect she believes was behind the larcenies. She said that on (3/6/15) and (3/10/15) a black male made withdrawals and (3/17/15) and (3/30/15) a black female made withdrawals. All withdrawals were made at the suspect's branch, and the suspect was present for all four transactions, and on two of the occasions the suspect was the teller that completed the transactions. The bank representative said there was no way that the suspect followed proper procedure because if a party comes into a branch for a withdrawal they must show proper ID and the teller must confirm that ID with a picture they have on file. The actual account holders are a white male and female in their 80s, and the parties that made the withdrawals were a black male and female in their 30s. The bank representative further said that until these four transactions, the victims' account had been inactive since May 2014. The suspect has denied any involvement.

# Obituaries

## Lonny Heitman

Lonny Heitman, 71, died peacefully on April 26. He is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years Louise Heitman, one daughter Lindsey and son in law Pete Carollo, many loving and caring nieces and nephews, brother Vernon and Margie Heitman of Bedford Hills, sister Laudy and Stephen Klein of Malibu CA, brother in law Carl and Pat Magnotta of Clearwater FL, brother in law Dominick and Nancy Magnotta of Southport, CT, sister in law Mary Lou Sciarrino of Clearwater FL.

He is predeceased in death by brother and sister in law Karl and Joanne

Heitmann, brother in law Tony Sciarrino and brother in law and sister in law Joseph and Jackie Magnotta.

He graduated White Plains High School in 1961, served in the United States Army in the Vietnam War. His passion in life was photography, from taking pictures of the sunsets to family and friends, which he loved the most. He worked in the foreign car industry all his life.

Memorial service to be held at a later date.

## Marie Kearns

Marie Kearns, a lifelong resident of

White Plains, died on April 25 at the age of 88. She was born April 27, 1926 in White Plains to the late John and Esther Kearns.

Marie loved spending time with her family and especially enjoyed playing cards with them and her friends.

She is survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Marie is predeceased by her son Richard Blanchard (1993) and her six sisters and one brother.

## Maria Calabro

Maria Calabro, of White Plains passed away April 23 at the age of 97. Maria was born April 20, 1918 in Italy to the late

Francesca and Francesco Giuffre. On November 26, 1939 she married Rosario Calabro in Reggio Calabria, Italy. He predeceased her on January 19, 1999.

Maria worked as a seamstress for 40 years at Follia Bridal Boutique in White Plains until her retirement in 1999.

Maria is survived by her two children, Umberto Calabro of White Plains and Antoinette DeMeo of Purchase and her grandchildren Umberto B. Calabro, Marie Calabro Powers and Anthony E. DeMeo. Also surviving are her great grandchildren, Ryan Powers, Juliana R. Powers and Rex B. Calabro and her brother Fortunato Giuffre.

# Living With Other Noisemakers: Liking or Lumping It

Lately I've been made aware that I'm probably a noisy person. Not to myself so much, but maybe to others. More and more, if I'm watching TV in one room and my wife is in another, she'll say mine is too loud.

Just the other day, when I had driven into my property, which houses my PR business, and jumped out of the car without turning off the motor to unlock the place for my painters who are redecorating my offices, the realization really struck home. One of the painters who's worked for me for a long time looked at me askance and said, "Knowing the kind of man you are, I never would have thought you'd play loud music in your car!" I guess I was busted.

Yes, I like loud music, whether in my car or at home. Not rock or country, but Broadway show tunes that get my heart pumping. And it doesn't do the trick for me with earphones. The sound has to fill the room I'm in and reverberate off the walls to fully embrace me.

For more than 40 years I've lived on a property with no homes near me, but now that I'm also a condo owner with neighbors across and down the hall, I guess my reverberating days are over if I'm to be a considerate neighbor. Just last week, a gentleman across the hall asked if the piano playing he heard was coming from my unit. Oh, no, I thought! I'm only able to play the American Songbook, and

I am so rusty after a 30-year absence from the keyboard that I'm sure Cole Porter and Richard Rodgers are rolling over in their graves.

Sheepishly, I admitted I was tinkering on the keys and apologized that I'm not a more accomplished musician. Since that time, I haven't been playing late and have been using the soft pedal when I do.

Most of us who live in Westchester or Putnam have some kind of proximity to a neighbor who is subject to noise we make as we share property lines or walls of apartments or condominiums. That can create problems, sometimes big ones.

When I moved into my first apartment in Brooklyn Heights, it was new; cheap construction and the floor above me had no carpeting. Living there was a single mother who must have worn spiked heels every waking moment and had a child who could only have been possessed by a demon.

In the days before cell phones and when everyone had no fear of being listed, I looked up her number and called her so frequently to complain about the noise that



By Bill Primavera

I can still remember her name and exchange. Then, one day, her tough boyfriend came banging on my door, which I refused to open, calling me names, the least offensive of which was "a neurotic," threatening me serious bodily harm. That's when I decided to skip out on my lease and leave the building for a more solid pre-war building with better insulation from sound.

When my wife and I married and shared our first apartment in another new building, there was an older gentleman who lived in the apartment right off the lobby who loved to share his life with the building's other

residents. He must have been involved with entertainment in the 1950s, because he would leave his door open and sing songs of that period without accompaniment. Only in New York, right? His favorite was "A White Sport Coat and a Pink Carnation." Whenever my wife and I want to refer to the intrusion of one person's lifestyle, aka "noise," into another's, all we have to do is sing that song as code and it speaks volumes.

When we moved to the country, the vagaries of close proximity were lessened

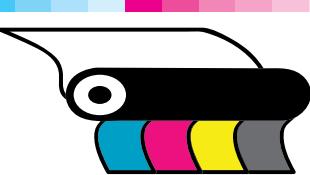
for sensitive ears and far different. We have lawn mowers, leaf blowers, and the biggest offender, about which most of us complain, barking dogs, especially if they bark too long unabated. Most towns have in their codes the acceptable length of time an owner can have a dog bark before a neighbor can ask that a warning be issued by the code enforcement officer.

For those of us who share condo or apartment walls, we have the same issues that those in the city have. The other night at a dinner given by a social club I belong to, I discussed this subject with a fellow member who told me that he shares walls on either side of his unit with other retired people.

"I know most things about their lifestyles," he said, "like when the nice woman on one side of me can't sleep and I hear her TV go on in the middle of the night. We just adjust."

Failing all else, there are always earplugs.

*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). 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.*



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# The Restaurant Examiner



## Dave & Buster's Opens New Sports Bar and Game Complex

By Jerry Eimbinder

A spacious Dave & Buster's food and entertainment center opened last week at Post Road Plaza, a shopping mall in Pelham Manor. The complex is located directly behind the mall's Fairway Market.

Occupying 39,500 square-feet, the new facility has two American fare dining rooms, an arcade-style game center, a sports bar and a three-table billiards room for use on a first-come, first-served basis. It can accommodate private events for up to 1,200.

Both dining rooms serve the same menus and have wait staff service, but one has hostess-seating service for 88 while the other requires patrons to seat themselves and has a capacity of 160.

The game center contains 170 skill-challenging games. Plastic card tickets purchased at the reception desk track the scoring of points electronically. Accumulated points can be redeemed at the Winners' Circle for Apple products, Xbox games, sports memorabilia, t-shirts,



Dave & Buster's strawberry watermelon margarita, one of a variety of drinks available.

stuffed animals, electric guitars and other merchandise.

Most of the games are high-tech but basketball players can earn points by shooting hoops. Games include Transformers Human Alliance, Mach Storm and Kung Fu Panda Dojo Mojo.

With the simultaneous opening by Dave & Buster's in Pelham Manor and another in Euless, Tex., the chain increases its establishments to 75.

The dishes at Dave & Buster's in Pelham Manor range from tasty comfort items to 12-ounce New York steaks, "Surf & Turf" (bacon-wrapped sirloin medallions with grilled shrimp) and shrimp and lobster Alfredo.

There is a wide variety of drinks,



JERRY EIMBINDER PHOTOS

Dave & Buster's steak, shrimp and lobster Alfredo.

including beer and other alcoholic beverages, milk shakes, lemonade, juices, soft drinks and Red Bull energy drinks. There are free refills for fountain sodas, coffee and tea.

Innovative burgers are a big draw at Dave & Buster's. The menu also includes sandwiches, pretzel dogs, barbecued ribs, grilled mango-citrus Cajun shrimp on skewers, pasta, barbecued chicken and mac and cheese with chicken and bacon. The Mountain O' Nachos is very popular as a snack or appetizer. A children's menu is also available.

The parent company is introducing two new burgers at this time. One is a half-pounder called the Maker's Mark BBQ Burger." Priced at \$12.79, it comes piled high with smoky Ancho pulled pork and caramelized onions topped with two slices of American cheese. Smothered with the house's own Maker's Mark tangy bourbon sauce, the burger is served with lettuce, tomato, onions and pickles on a toasted brioche bun.

Also newly introduced is a half-pound, buffalo wing burger. Its crispy chicken tenders are accompanied by bleu cheese, frizzled onion strings and celery (\$12.29).

Among the favorites on the Legendary Burger menu are the South Philly Steak Burger with thinly sliced steak (\$12.99), and Dave's Double Cheeseburger with double meat and double cheese on a toasted brioche bun and French fries (\$11.79). This is probably the best selling of all of Dave & Buster's burgers.

Salads are plentiful and include chopped Thai chicken (\$10.29), Caesar with chicken (\$9.99), sweet apple pecan with

Snow Cone, one of a variety of snow cones, and a strawberry watermelon margarita made with strawberry-flavored ice cubes.

The Original CoronaRita has seven ounces of Corona made with Sauza Blue 100 percent blue agave tequila, DeKuyper Triple Sec and a squeeze of lime. The Miami Ice Snow Cone combines coconut vodka, coconut rum and lemonade with strawberry Bacardi premium mixer.

For munchers, a package deal called The 5:15 is offered. Priced at \$19.99, it consists



The buffalo wing burger, part of Dave & Buster's list of specialty burgers.

of five Buffalo wings, five quesadilla wedges, five pretzel dogs, five crispy fried shrimp and a stack of potato chips.

General manager Danny Eurell is still hiring; the completed staff is expected to exceed 300. Hours of operation are 11 a.m. to midnight seven days a week.

*Dave & Buster's is located in the Post Road Plaza off of Boston Post Road (Route 1). The address is 881 Pelham Parkway in Pelham Manor, a short distance from Exit 7 off the Hutchison River Parkway. There is free parking. For more information, call 914-380-8500.*



The new Dave & Buster's opened in Pelham Manor last week.

# EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds • • • • • 042815

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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, April 28

**Tuesdays at Dorry's.** Kristan A. Connolly is an attorney with Gina DeCrescenzo, P.C., a litigation and advocacy firm dedicated to protecting the civil rights of children. The firm's practice focuses on the special education needs of children, and getting equal access and equality of instruction and opportunity for children with special needs. They represent parents and students in Committee on Special Education meetings, 504 meetings, impartial hearings, suspension hearings, manifestation determinations, appeals to the Commissioner of Education, and in state and federal Court. Please join us. No reservations are needed. Presentation is 6 to 7 p.m. Food ordering starts at 5:30 p.m. Dorry's Diner, 468 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains; 914-682-0005.

## Wednesday, April 29

**Noontime Getaway Concert.** Violinist Sashiko Uchida, a rising star on the concert scene and pianist Svetlana Gorokhovich will perform the Beethoven "Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 7 in C Minor" as well as a Fantasy on the Gounod opera "Faust." Free Admission; 12:10 p.m. Grace Episcopal Church at the intersection of Main and Church streets in White Plains.

**TILI Shed.** The White Plains Take It or Leave It Shed is open 2 to 4 p.m. Located at the Gedney Recycling Yard, 87 Gedney Way, White Plains.

**In Our Son's Name.** An intimate portrait of Phyllis and Orlando Rodriguez, whose son Greg died with thousands of others in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. The bereaved parents chose reconciliation and nonviolence over vengeance and begin a transformative journey that both confirms and challenges their convictions. The screen in is open to high school and adult communities and will be followed by a discussion of the film lead by White Plains resident Phyllis Rodriguez, whose journey of reconciliation and forgiveness is the subject of the film; 6:30p.m. at Congregation Kol Ami, 252 Soundview Ave., White Plains.

**Student Tech Expo.** White Plains Highlands Middle School Media Technology Expo 6 to 8 p.m. Students and teachers will facilitate mini demo and hands-on workshops. Highlands Middle School is located at 128 Grandview Ave., White Plains.

## Thursday, April 30

**"Strategies for Deer Management in Westchester's Suburban Communities."** This symposium will include an overview of the history of deer populations in New York State; discussions on defining and measuring success of deer management efforts and those efforts in Region 3-S, which includes Westchester; and regional approaches to deer management. Westchester County Center, 198 Central Park Ave., White Plains. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free. Parking is \$7 in the lots. Advance registration required. Info and registration: Contact Jason Klein at 914-864-7322.

**Great Books Forum Series.** "Half of a Yellow Sun" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie will be discussed. Led by Prof. Christine Bobkoff. Westchester Community College's Gateway Center, Room 131, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 6 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Professor James Werner at 914-606-6840 or e-mail [james.werner@sunywcc.edu](mailto:james.werner@sunywcc.edu).

**"Voting Rights and Income Inequality: Seeing the Connections."** Westchester for Change, an all-volunteer, grassroots organization, will host this educational forum exploring how making voting easier in New York State may lead to economic changes. Speakers will be Julie Ebenstein, staff attorney with the ACLU's Voting Rights Project, and Kristina Andreotta, deputy organizing director, Citizen Action of New York & Public Policy and Education Fund of New York. Greenburgh Town Hall, 177 Hillside Ave., Greenburgh; 7:30 p.m. Free.

**Autism Author Event.** Robin K. Schneider, author of Silent Running: Our Family's Journey to the Finish Line with Autism; 7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 230 Main St., White Plains.

## Friday, May 1

**Free Book Fair.** The White Plains PTA Council is hosting its 3rd Annual Free Book Celebration. Over the course of two days, May 1 and 2, the PTA will give away an estimated 10,000 books to students in the White Plains School District; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Eastview Middle School, 350 Main Street, White Plains. Free Summer

Reading Books. Free Test Prep Books. Free Spanish Language Books. Free Refreshments. Free Entertainment. Free Giveaways to the first 250 White Plains City School District students.

## Evening Howl for Pups of All Ages.

Enjoy visiting the wolves during their favorite hour – dusk. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why spring is a magical time for packs in North America. Guests will take a short sunset hike to howl with Ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and behold the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican wolves. Weather appropriate treats served. Please bring flashlights. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 6:30 p.m. Adults: \$16. Children (under 12): \$13. Also May 9 and 16 at 6:30 p.m. and May 30 at 7 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and registration: [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**WCC Film Series:** "Bethlehem." A story of the complex relationship between an Israeli Secret Service officer and his teenage Palestinian informant. Shuttling back and forth between conflicting points of view, the film is a raw portrayal of characters torn apart by competing loyalties and impossible moral dilemmas. Westchester Community College's Gateway Center, Davis Auditorium, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. Doors open at 7:10 p.m. Refreshments at 7:30 p.m. Screening at 7:50 p.m. \$11. Seniors (60 and up): \$10. Info: Contact Bob Bruckenthal at 914-723-3186.

## Saturday, May 2

**Family Fun Day Tag Sale.** Presented by the Junior League of Central Westchester at Wayside Cottage, 1039 Post Road, Scarsdale. Discover treasures, games, toys, clothing, baby items, other bargains, and baked goods. Early Bird fee of \$5 from 8 to 9 a.m., and then 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. is free admission. For more information call 914-723-6130; or visit [www.jlcentralwestchester.org](http://www.jlcentralwestchester.org).

**TILI Shed.** The White Plains Take It or Leave It Shed is open 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Gedney Recycling Yard, 87 Gedney Way, White Plains.

**Saving a Species.** Learn what it takes to help save a species from the brink of extinction. Guests will get an inside look at the process of matching potential breeders, what criteria must be met to recommend wolves for release into the wild, the husbandry challenge of caring for animals are rarely seen and how it feels

to help Mexican gray wolves resume their rightful place in the wild. Guests will visit the ambassador wolves and the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: \$13. Children (under 12): \$11. Also May 30 at 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**Nature Spies.** Discover the different signs that animals leave behind. Learn the basics of animal tracking and explore tracks, pelts, bones and teeth. Along the way, try to figure out which animals have visited our trails. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 p.m. Members: \$5 per person. Non-members: \$8 per person. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**North American Wildlife With Animal Embassy.** Animal Embassy Director and founder Chris Evers will introduce families to a diversity of animal ambassadors indigenous to North America. Meet an alligator snapping turtle, a soft-shelled Turtle, an Arizona Mountain King Snake, a rabbit and a Sonoran Desert Toad. Explore their habitats and learn how animals from other parts of the world have come to call North America home. Guests will visit the ambassador wolves and the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 4 p.m. Adults: \$15. Children (under 12): \$12. Info: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**Full Moon Wolf Walk.** Learn about the history of wolves in the United States, the importance of wolves in a healthy ecosystem and the efforts to save these magnificent creatures for future generations. Guests then take will take a short moonlit walk to visit ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr. Please bring flashlights. Adults only. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 8 p.m. \$25. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.nywolf.org](http://www.nywolf.org).

**Unveiled/Yasmina's Necklace.** Two plays presented on the same evening sponsored by the American Muslim Women's Association; 6 to 9 p.m.; \$25 in advance, \$50 at the door; refreshments will be served; Yonkers Public Library, 1500 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers; 914-337-1500.



• • • • • EXAMINER SPORTS • • • • •

# Crusaders Cage Tigers, 2-1, in 12th Annual Joe McAvoy City Rivalry Challenge

**By Albert Coqueran**

It was like Déjà vu in the fifth inning of the 12th Annual Joe McAvoy City Rivalry Challenge, which pitted White Plains High School against Stepinac High School, on Saturday, April 25, at White Plains High School.

Back on April 1, in the Tigers Home Opener, in the bottom of the seventh inning with Mahopac High School leading 4-3, Tigers catcher Andy Garcia, while representing the tying run, tried to take two bases on a sacrifice bunt and was thrown out at third base. The Tigers were defeated, 4-3.

Then 21 days later, in the Joe McAvoy City Challenge, Tigers Steven Rand hit a leadoff single with the score tied 1-1 in the fifth inning and later stole second base to put White Plains in position to tie the game with one out.

But Rand, as Tigers Head Coach Marcel



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

White Plains Head Coach Marcel Galligani (second left) shakes hands with Stepinac Head Coach Pat Duffy to signal the start of the 12th Annual Joe McAvoy City Rivalry Baseball Challenge at WPHS, on Saturday, April 25.

the rundown.

What is more devastating for the Tigers was that their starting pitcher Daniel Lotito hit a single to right-field, after Ricardo Mendez grounded out, which could have scored Rand and tied the game.

White Plains lost to Stepinac, 2-1, in this year's Joe McAvoy City Rivalry Challenge, in a game that was indicative of their 2015 season.

The Tigers, believe it or not, are 0-8, to start the 2015 varsity high school baseball season. Mistakes, errors and lack of offense have determined their record this year, as the same faltering influenced the outcome of the Joe McAvoy City Challenge.

The Tigers were in position to win a traditional game for prides sake, as City of White Plains bragging rights were on the line, but they blundered to another loss.

Galligani was quite aware that even at 0-8, a win against city rival Stepinac could have put some bounce back in the step of his players going into the second half of the season. "I know for a fact winning this game could have motivated my team. But did they know it. I am not quite sure they did. The effort is there and there is talent. It is growing pains and we are going to get better," Galligani said.

Nonetheless, even while using every trick up his sleeve, Galligani could not overcome three costly errors, poor base running and six men left on base that the Tigers amassed in this game.

Galligani used three successive bunt attempts in the third inning to score the Tigers only run in the game. Leadoff hitter Rand began the inning with a bunt and

hit well in the game, while going 2-for-2 with a walk, he pitched good enough to win but sustained the loss. Stepinac scored both their runs on untimely errors by the Tigers.

The Tigers junior threw a complete game with only four hits, no earned runs, eight strikeouts, no walks and two hit batsmen. "Daniel pitched great. He pitched without question the best baseball game we pitched this year. That was a performance that deserved a win," said Galligani.

In contrast to the Tigers' season, across the city on Mamaroneck Avenue, Stepinac is in the midst of an 8-2, winning season. Before, they sustained a 5-1 loss to Mt. St. Michael, on April 23; the Crusaders had won six straight games.

The Crusaders pitching is steady, as proven by the three pitchers who took the mound in the McAvoy Challenge. Starting

pitcher Daniel Meaney threw four innings, relinquishing four hits, one run, one walk and six strikeouts.

Mammola relieved Meaney in the fifth inning to hold the Tigers down with two hits, no runs and a pick-off. The Crusaders ace pitcher Steven Boscia, who is 3-0 with two saves on the season, came in to close the game with a one-two-three inning with one strikeout.

"It was a well pitched game on both sides, 2-1, one run ballgame, typically Stepinac versus White Plains rivalry game and we are happy to get the win," said Crusaders Head Coach Pat Duffy, who won his 197th career-game with the win over the Tigers in the Joe McAvoy Challenge.

Joe McAvoy is forever present at his namesake tournament. He stood behind the backstop for the entire game in support of the Tigers. McAvoy was the Tigers Head Baseball Coach for 18 years (1975-85). He also coached junior varsity soccer for 14

years and varsity soccer for four years.

McAvoy is also a heralded educator at WPHS, having taught at the high school for 37 years. He recently returned to WPHS, as a substitute teacher. "I will always be grateful to be remembered in this way. I cannot thank Marcel Galligani and the White Plains High School administration for continuing this tournament in my name," said McAvoy.



Tigers centerfielder Steven Rand slides into home to score the only run for White Plains High School, as the Tigers lost, 2-1, to Stepinac High School.

Galligani emphasized, "tried to invent something" and took too big a lead from second base. Crusaders relief pitcher Austin Mammola stepped off the rubber and caught Rand in a rundown. Rand was tagged out with the help of Crusaders Tyler Gambardella, who hustled in from centerfield to cover second base during



Stepinac starting pitcher Daniel Meaney missed the entire season last year due to an arm surgery. But he looked in good form while pitching four innings, giving up a mere three hits with one walk and one run, as the winning pitcher in the Joe McAvoy City Rivalry Challenge.

then Mendez was hit by a pitch attempting to bunt. Rand scored on a bunt by the next batter Lotito, while Stepinac left home plate unguarded trying to field Lotito's bunt.

Tigers starting pitcher Lotito not only



White Plains High School Athletic Trainer Mike Mirabella (left) takes a moment to greet tournament namesake Joe McAvoy (right), at the 12th Annual Joe McAvoy City Baseball Challenge.



Tigers starting pitcher Daniel Lotito (left) warms-up under the watchful eye of Assistant Coach Nick Cutumpas (right) before taking the mound. Lotito was the losing pitcher but he pitched good enough to win, as the Tigers lost, 2-1.

**EXAMINER SPORTS****The 82nd Annual Haggerty Awards Held at the Westchester Marriott**

**By Albert Coqueran**

The National Invitation Tournament and Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association held their 82nd Annual Haggerty Awards Dinner at the Westchester Marriot, in Tarrytown, on Wednesday, April 22.

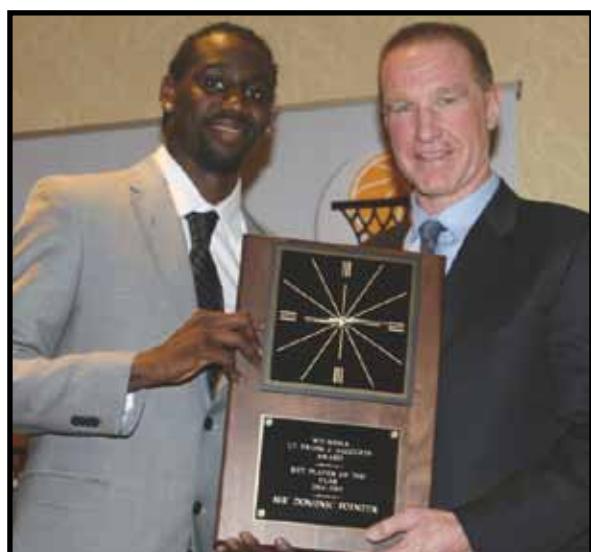
The Haggerty Awards are named after Lt. Frank Haggerty who was an outstanding high school and college athlete and the first graduate from Chaminade High School and St. John's University to die in military service in World War II.



The Seton Hall University Women's Basketball Team was well represented at the NIT/Metropolitan Basketball Writers 82nd Annual Haggerty Awards at the Westchester Marriott, on Wednesday, April 22. Ka-Deidre Simmons (third left) was named the Division One Women's Player of the Year and Pirates Women's Head Coach Anthony Bozzella was selected as the Coach of the Year.

The Haggerty Awards are the oldest college basketball awards of their kind and honor Division I, II and III college athletes throughout the New York City/Metropolitan area each year.

The Haggerty Award, which is presented to the All Metropolitan College Basketball Writers Men's College Athlete of the Year was awarded to Sir'Dominic Pointer of St. John's University.



The 2015 Haggerty Award Winner is Sir'Dominic Pointer of St. John's University. Pointer (left) was presented the award by new St. John's Head Basketball Coach Chris Mullin.

Pointer was also named the Big East Co-Defensive Player of the Year. The 6'-6" Red Storm swingman averaged 13.7 points, 7.7 rebounds and two steals, while blocking 2.5 shots this year.

The All Met Division One Women's Player of the Year was Ka-Deidre Simmons from Seton Hall University. Simmons averaged 17 points, 5.7 assists this season. Simmons set the Pirates school-record for assists in a season while totaling 194 assists. Simmons is Seton Hall's All Time Leader in assists (562) and is their second All-Time Leading Scorer with 1,717 points.

Seton Hall was well represented at the All Met Writers Awards this year, as Pirates Women's Head Coach Anthony Bozzella was voted the Maggie Dixon Division One Women's Coach of the Year. Bozzella was also named the Big East Coach of the Year this season, after leading the Pirates to their first NCAA Tournament bid since 1995.

The All Met Writers Division One Peter A. Carlesimo Men's Co-Coach of the Year honors were shared by St. Francis University

Head Coach Glenn Braica and New Jersey Institute of Technology Head Coach Jim Engles.

Former Dobbs Ferry High School basketball star Eric Paschall shared the All Met Co-Rookie of the Year honors with Seton Hall's Angel Delgado. Paschall was also selected as the Atlantic 10 Conference Rookie of the Year this season. Paschall, who played for Head Coach Tom Pecora at Fordham University, has transferred to Villanova University, upon the firing of Pecora at the end of last season.

"I really did not expect to win the awards, so it was hard work the entire year which makes me really enjoy the awards," said Paschall. "I was surprised to hear Coach Pecora was not coming back, all I can say is, I was surprised."

"Ms. College Basketball" Linda Bruno, was presented a NIT/All Met Writers Distinguished Service Award for her longtime commitment to NCAA college basketball. Jon Halpert, who served as



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

Dobbs Ferry resident Eric Paschall (left) was voted the All Metropolitan Basketball Writers Co-Rookie of the Year. Paschall played for former Fordham University Head Coach Tom Pecora (right) last season and was also voted the Atlantic 10 Conference Rookie of the Year. Paschall transferred to Villanova University upon the firing of Pecora at the end of last season.

Yeshiva University Men's Head Basketball Coach for 42 years, also earned a NIT/All Met Writers Distinguished Service Award. Chris Gonzales, the Director of Sports Information at Lehman College was awarded the 2015 Mike Cohen, "Good

Guy" Award.

White Plains native Chuck Stogel is the President of the Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association and he was the Master of Ceremonies for the 82nd NIT/All Met Writers Haggerty Awards Dinner.

## ***Pat Massaroni Hired as Stepinac's 12th Varsity Head Basketball Coach***



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTO

Stepinac High School Athletic Director Mike O'Donnell has promoted Pat Massaroni from Varsity B Coach to the Crusaders Head Coach of Varsity Basketball, after the recent resignation of former Head Coach Steve Herman. Herman held the reigns of Stepinac Varsity Head Basketball Coach for two years, after the resignation of longtime Head Coach Tim Philp. Herman compiled a 20-32 record in his two years at the helm. Before his hiring as the new Stepinac Varsity Head Basketball Coach, Massaroni served three years (2012-2015), as the Crusaders Varsity B Basketball Head Coach. Massaroni was the first Varsity B Basketball Head Coach in the program's history, as Stepinac only established the program three years ago. Massaroni is an alumnus of Stepinac having graduated in 2006. He attained his undergraduate degree from Marist College in Sports Communications in 2010, while working with the Red Foxes Men's basketball staff. He also served on the James Madison University Basketball staff, while attaining his Master of Science degree in Sports Management in 2012. Massaroni, who could often be seen on the Stepinac campus handling and contributing to the

success of many Athletic Department functions, also worked for the Brooklyn Nets, New York Mets and Westchester Knicks in multiple capacities in recent years. "Patrick will do whatever it takes to make our basketball program successful. He brings knowledge and a great work ethic to the sidelines of our great basketball program. His love for Stepinac and his passion for the game will be contagious to our basketball program," stated Stepinac Athletic Director O'Donnell.

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