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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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Special Olympics Homecoming Takes the Court at White Plains High School

By Albert Coqueran

On Wednesday, April 29, White Plains High School Special Olympics Basketball Team held their Third Annual Pioneer League Homecoming Basketball Game. This year, the Tigers were challenged by the Sleepy Hollow High School Special Olympics basketball team.

The Special Olympics Pioneer League is composed of teams from area schools that travel from school to school to compete in interscholastic sports, such as basketball and soccer.

Felix Veloz, a forward for the Horsemen Special Olympics team began the Homecoming game by reading the Special Olympics motto. "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt," read Cruz, as players and coaches read along with him.

Margaret Devaney a retired



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

Tigers forward Marc Toribio (#15 center) drives to the hoop and scores two points for the White Plains High School Special Olympics basketball team. However, the Sleepy Hollow Horsemen held on to win the Third Annual Special Olympics Homecoming game, 24-19.

Special Education Teacher at White Plains High School pursued getting the White Plains Special Olympics teams involved in the Pioneer League during the 1990's. Devaney was succeeded by White Plains High School Special Olympics Head Basketball Coach Kevin Brown, who assumed the leadership role in 2006-07.

Brown is also a Special Education Social Studies Teacher at WPHS. His Assistant Basketball Coach is Mike Beaton, who is also a Teachers Assistant in Special Education at WPHS. The Sleepy Hollow team is coached by Kim Kaczmarek and Bonnie Berry.

"We owe a lot to Special Olympics Supervisor of the Pioneer League Ellen Pikula. She makes the schedules for the league and without her we do not

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Astorino: County Wins Another Round in Fight With HUD

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County was granted an injunction last Friday by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit preventing the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from reallocating another \$10 million in federal funds.

The ruling follows a previous decision in the county's favor in February, when the court concluded that HUD did not have the discretionary power to withhold money because there are limitations on its authority.

HUD had threatened to take away \$10 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money from 2013

and 2014 based upon its conclusion that the county was noncompliant with portions of the 2009 affordable housing settlement. Westchester had previously forfeited about \$7 million for 2011 and \$5.2 million for 2012, most of which has been reallocated to other parts of the country.

"Both decisions are victories for Westchester and for the country against an aggressive and overreaching federal government," Astorino said as part of a statement following the decision.

Ned McCormack, Astorino's

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Forum on Common Core Highlights Need for Flexibility and Specific District Goals

By Pat Casey

The Scarsdale Forum sponsored a program "Common Core and High Performers" at Scarsdale High School last week. Guest speakers Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, NYS Regent Judith Johnson and Scarsdale Schools Superintendent Dr. Thomas Hagerman formed a panel, each speaker presenting a different perspective on Common Core Curriculum.

Present in the audience, but not presenting or answering any questions publicly, was NYS Board of Regents Chancellor Merryl Tisch.

Despite the differing approaches there

was one common agreement – everyone was concerned about teacher and principal evaluations based on student test scores.

As the event turned to audience Q&A, it became apparent that despite a general focus on teacher evaluations, parents were very concerned about their children – the students – and did not want them to suffer through whatever time period it would take to make things right with evaluations. Many asked for a moratorium immediately.

Hagerman joined the Scarsdale School District as Superintendent in 2014. He

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Lifting Up Westchester: Where Hope Takes Flight – One Person at a Time

By Pat Casey

In April a major independent nonprofit social services organization serving people in Westchester County announced a big identity change. White Plains-based Grace Church Community Center unveiled its new name, Lifting Up Westchester: Where Hope Takes Flight – One Person at a Time.

The new name says it all. Lifting Up Westchester touches the lives of 4,000 individuals each year, providing 140,000 meals to the hungry and 28,000 nights of shelter to the homeless. But that is not all, the organization is deeply involved in providing unique and comprehensive care to each person whose life it interacts with through programs and services intended to give that person the ability to engage in a healthy, independent, vital and sustainable lifestyle. That is where the hope comes in. Hope for each person served.

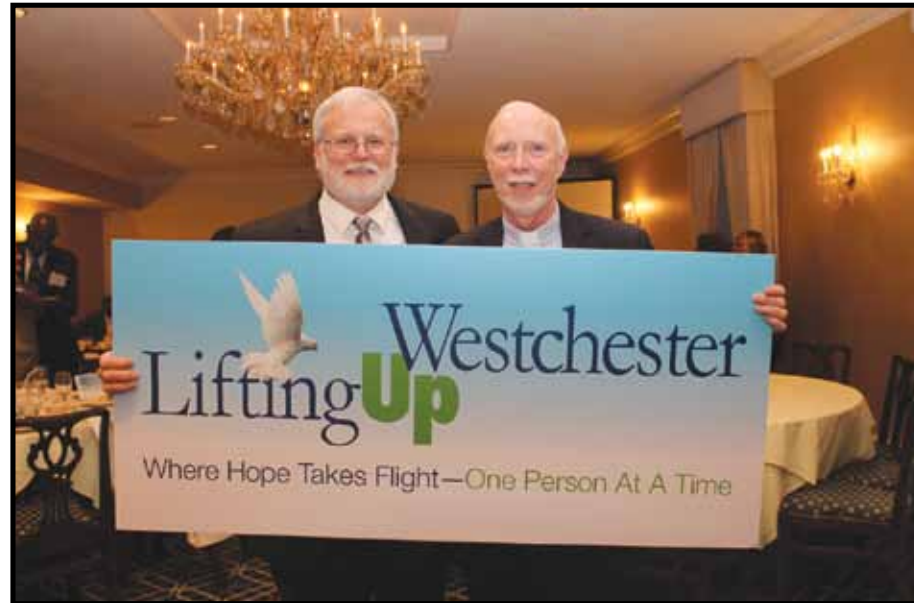
Paul Anderson-Winchell, Executive Director, Lifting Up Westchester, came to the organization in 2005, a time that marked the beginning of a global shift in economics and a change in society's recognition of the identity of those who are poor.

In Westchester today, one of the most affluent counties in the United States, the general public is just becoming aware of how many people are living at or below the poverty line. There are thousands, including children, who are homeless and one in every five families in Westchester needs food assistance, Anderson-Winchell said in a recent interview.

Already engaged in a 36-year history of working with the most vulnerable in our community, Lifting Up Westchester is securing the future for its programs and the people it serves.

"It does not get easier," Anderson-Winchell said, who refers to the people served by his organization's shelters and hunger programs as guests.

With a \$10 million annual budget and 250 dedicated employees, Lifting Up Westchester is larger than many people may realize. Its reach is expansive and



Lifting Up Westchester, the 36 year-old Westchester County social services organization, unveiled its new name and brand identity at the Oasis of Hope Gala at Leewood Golf Course. Pictured are Executive Director Paul Anderson-Winchell (left) with The Rev. Richard Kunz of Grace Church.

well beyond its home base in White Plains.

The organization started in the early 1970s when a group of concerned parishioners at Grace Episcopal Church began handing out sandwiches to hungry people on the streets of White Plains where the parish is located. Soon other needs became apparent and the group opened a small family shelter in their parish hall. Then came a day camp for homeless children and a home care program for aging parishioners.

It was all about compassion and commitment, but more was needed and the nonprofit agency called Grace Church Community Center was created.

But it was not a church and not a community center, Anderson-Winchell explained. "It made sense 35 years ago, but we have outgrown the name," he added.

"About three years ago we decided it was time to stop being Westchester's best kept secret. We held focus groups with staff, key donors and community leaders," Anderson-Winchell said. "The focus groups confirmed what we thought,

that people did not know the scope of our work. Many people identified only with our soup kitchen or with Open Arms Men's Shelter."

Today programs include Open Arms Men's Shelter, which is undergoing a major renovation on Post Road in White Plains, Samaritan House Women's Shelter, and the soup kitchen, which has been renamed Grace's Kitchen that reach out to hungry and homeless men, women and families, along with programs for those suffering from substance abuse, mental illness and domestic violence.

We offer much more than just a meal, bed and a shower, Anderson-Winchell emphasized. "Our programs include substance abuse and mental health recovery help, employment and budgeting assistance, rent subsidies and ongoing case management support."

Working with government and other local agencies such as SHORE, Westhab, and YWCA, Lifting Up Westchester's housing program gets homeless individuals and families into permanent housing situations.

"Each individual requires a unique

plan, which is why our programs are comprehensive," Anderson-Winchell said.

The Brighter Futures Summer Camp for homeless children grew to include after school and tutoring programs and a college scholarship fund.

"Many of these children have grown up with us. Our goal is to help these children be the first in their families to go to college and the last to live in poverty," Anderson-Winchell said.

No one is ever turned away.

Having grown out of its home health care program for aging parishioners, Lifting Up Westchester operates a licensed Home Health Care agency for the elderly and disabled that makes up about one-third of its operations, according to Anderson-Winchell, and that agency provides funding support to many of the outreach programs, providing sustainability for the entire operation.

The Home Health Care agency also provides free training for healthcare aids and workers, who can then find jobs in health care at any facility. This year the organization also will be working with the White Plains Youth Bureau at the new Community Education Center under construction at the Winbrook housing complex.

Anderson-Winchell says he is proud to work with a very compassionate and supportive staff. "It is their commitment and concern for social justice that makes up the DNA of this organization," he said. "We have a new name, but the same commitment."

Lifting Up Westchester: Where Hope Takes Flight – One Person at a Time is based at 35 Orchard Street, White Plains; 914-949-3098. New website is under construction.

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Forum on Common Core Highlights Need for Flexibility and Specific District Goals

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spent much of his career in education in Chicago and Oregon.

Hagerman said he felt the Common Core lacked sophistication and an understanding of how students learn. "Without certain elements, there is no teaching. Students learn through experience," he said.

Hagerman disagreed with the Common Core's focus on non-fiction over fiction in reading comprehension, saying that literature helped students find a personal view.

The process for teacher and principal evaluations he said was artificial and required local flexibility. "One size does not fit all," Hagerman said.

Judith Johnson, who was appointed to the Board of Regents for a five-year term effective April 1, spent much of her life involved in public education. During President Clinton's administration she served as Acting Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education. For 10 years she was School Superintendent in Peekskill and later served as interim School Superintendent in Mount Vernon. In 2008 she received the NYS School Superintendent of the Year Award.

Johnson asked: "Who Stole the American Dream?" She explained that standards are supposed to make more effective teachers. She also said that students are being flooded with huge amounts of information without a moral context.

Johnson explained that the federal



Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, New York State Regent Judith Johnson (representing Westchester, Putnam, Rockland, Dutchess and Orange Counties), Dr. Thomas Hagerman, Superintendent Scarsdale Schools.

government does not have accountability, the states do and that the school districts should have flexibility on how Common Core is applied.

"We must have high performance teachers," Johnson emphasized. "It is shameful that this country has not embraced teaching as a profession." She also asked if we have one America or two Americas?

Johnson would like to see the Arts put back into the education discussion. "Arts act as the glue that bonds nations," she said. "We have to recognize that we have a problem and re-evaluate with specific goals and purpose."

Amy Paulin, serving the 88th NYS Assembly District has earned many awards and accolades for her work as a lawmaker focusing on the rights of women and minorities.

Paulin said that the relationship between student testing and teacher evaluations had to be re-evaluated and made more flexible for the districts. She explained how within the State budget, lawmakers had built in places for that flexibility and she urged the NYS Board of Regents to use that flexibility.

How State money is allocated is often the determining factor in public policy-making.

Paulin explained that Pleasantville School Superintendent Mary Fox-Alter (who was present at last week's event) and other local school superintendents had approached lawmakers to make them understand that the 2013 tests were not a valid measure of how a student would fare in college or in a career and that they needed to be redone.

As well, the Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) for teachers was poorly designed and needs to be completely rewritten by people who have been professionals, with built-in district flexibility, Paulin said. This was called for in 2013 but did not happen for 2104.

Paulin further said that changes were made in State legislation throughout the State budget evaluation process but were written out by Cuomo at the last minute because he did not want the teachers'

unions to "win."

During the Q&A parents, some of them teachers, expressed concern over the difference in district make-up and the effect that would have on a teacher's evaluation. Teachers working in the inner city schools versus those in rich suburbs like Scarsdale, for example. It was felt that tying teacher evaluations to student test scores would only discourage good teachers from working in the poorer neighborhoods, not encourage them.

There were questions about the private companies writing the tests and the lack of transparency about what goes on the tests.

Educators are not allowed to see the tests before they are given and therefore cannot teach to the tests. It was felt that some questions were completely inappropriate for certain grade levels, which caused parents concern that their children were being confused and made to feel inadequate when they did not do well on a standardized test.

That concern lead people from surrounding districts to say there would likely be more opting out on test taking if things did not change.

"Students do not get a do over," one parent said. "How many years will it take before we have meaningful change?"

With no specific answers it was agreed by the panel that goals had to be established and that those had to be done quickly and dealt with in a timely manner.

Astorino: County Wins Another Round in Fight With HUD

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communications director, said the county continues to be in compliance with the housing settlement, which requires 750 new affordable units to be in place by the end of next year. It has met its annual benchmarks, including last year when funding was in place for 454 new affordable units, just over the threshold of 450.

McCormack said more units are slated to be approved for funding this year with the county looking to reach its

requirement of another 150 units by the end of December.

County Legislator Peter Harckham (D-North Salem) said while the decision may appear to benefit the county as long as there is litigation pending the issue will continue to cost Westchester.

"I think really the county and HUD really need to stop litigating and they need to start negotiating," Harckham said.

The fight that resulted in CDGB funds being lost stemmed from disagreement of

the county's Analysis of Impediment (AI). HUD had rejected the county's AI and demanded that it file a document that was compliant because the agency concluded that the zoning in some of the 31 communities included in the settlement potential had exclusionary zoning.

Most Democrats on the Board of Legislators shared the view after the court's decision in February that the county will eventually have to resubmit an acceptable AI.

The case between the county and HUD is still being adjudicated in the Court of Appeals.

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Advocates Urge Election Law Changes to Encourage the Poor to Vote

By Janine Bowen

The United States Voting Rights Act may be 50 years old, but local officials and community activists are advocating change as concerns remain that many low-income and minority voters are inadequately represented.

A direct correlation exists between income level and voter turnout, said Julie Ebenstein of the American Civil Liberties Union. Last year 80 percent of people with an annual income of at least \$150,000, roughly twice as much as those who earn less, voted.

At an April 30 forum in Greenburgh run by Westchester for Change, a community organization working for progressive social and political change, Ebenstein said a variety of barriers has prevented low-income voters from participating as much as wealthier individuals. For example, New York does not allow early voting, meaning if someone can't make it to the polls on Election Day they are unable to vote. This largely impacts low-income voters because they are more likely to work for an hourly wage and, therefore, less likely to take time off to vote, Ebenstein said.

In addition, voter identification requirements largely affect low-income and minority citizens, she contended.



JANINE BOWEN PHOTO

Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains) was part of a group of speakers to support early voting and easier voter identification requirements in New York during a forum last week in Greenburgh on substandard voter turnout among the poor.

More than 300,000 citizens statewide don't have a required government-issued I.D., such as a driver's license or passport. That number is disproportionately comprised of African-Americans and Latinos, Ebenstein said.

"Economic inequality, I want to suggest to you, is the greatest threat to our democracy," said Assemblyman Tom Abinanti (D-Pleasantville), who attended the forum.

Kristina Andreatta, deputy organizer for Citizen Action of New York, explained that low-income voters failing to show up at the polls has a negative public policy impact on them, since many politicians then don't have an incentive to respond to their needs. Therefore, it creates a cycle in which politicians pass laws that benefit wealthier citizens, creating even more economic inequality and leading the poor to believe that politicians fail to work for them, she said.

A survey of nonvoters nationwide revealed that 41 percent felt that their vote didn't matter, according to Andreatta. Meanwhile, 59 percent responded that politicians make empty promises and don't accomplish anything.

Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains), who was recently named chairman of the Election Law Subcommittee on Election Day Operations and Voter Disenfranchisement, said it's critical for those who feel disenfranchised to speak out and vote. Many local officials welcome input from the public on problems and solutions, he said.

"Too many people are cynical when it comes to government and they don't know what I know, which is that

government, when it's used right, can really help people, empower them to better their lives, improve their families and get involved in their communities," Buchwald said. "So many people, they have real issues and they don't even think to turn to their state assemblyman or state senator."

Along with raising minimum wage, advocates and officials said changing voter I.D. laws and the introduction of early voting in the state would help to reduce inequities. New York has one of the lowest turnouts of minority and poor voters, Andreatta said.

"If at least you go to the polls and you vote, you have an opportunity to transform your lives by transforming the people who are making the laws that dictate what happens in your life," said state Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-Yonkers).

Stewart-Cousins is sponsoring a bill that would permit voting up to three weeks before the general election. Buchwald and fellow Assembly Democrats Sandy Galef and Amy Paulin are sponsoring a matching bill in the Assembly. While these measures have generally been supported in the Assembly, they often meet roadblocks in the Republican-controlled Senate, Stewart-Cousins said.

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Heartbroken Restaurant Owner Raising Funds for Devastated Homeland

By Rick Pezzullo

As horrific as the images of the destruction from the earthquake in Nepal appear from afar, the actual devastation and despair is much worse, according to Gyaljen Nuru Sherpa, owner of Jewel of Himalaya restaurant in Yorktown.

Sherpa was born and raised in Nepal, so he is very familiar with what his countrymen are going through. His youngest first cousin was among the more than 7,000 people killed by the 7.8-earthquake that rocked the country to its core on April 25. One of his chefs lost two close relatives and his house, while another co-worker who just came to the United States also lost his house.

“Our country has the happiest people in the world. Now everybody is crying,” Sherpa said. “This is much worse than September 11 here because the whole nation is knocked down and you can’t get help from your neighbor. We just hope this kind of disaster doesn’t happen again anywhere. Nobody deserves to go through something like this.”

‘This is much worse than September 11 here because the whole nation is knocked down and you can’t get help from your neighbor.’
-Gyaljen Nuru Sherpa



Gyaljen Nuru Sherpa collecting funds and goods outside Jewel of Himalaya restaurant in Yorktown.

RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

It is estimated that at least 15,000 people were injured and 300,000 homes were completely or partially destroyed. Sherpa said he was proud to learn that his 28-year-old cousin saved six other people before he died and relieved two nephews who live close to the most severely damaged area survived. His mother and sister still live in Nepal but not near the epicenter of the earthquake.

Sherpa explained 80% of residents in Nepal live in the mountain area where the earthquake struck. Since Nepal is landlocked, he said the only way to access it is through aircrafts. Monsoon season in Nepal is also approaching and Nepal only has one international runway for planes to come and go.

“Before we clean the city we have to find lives,” Sherpa said. “It is heartbreaking. Thankfully the earthquake didn’t happen

in the capital city. One million people would have died. I lost my father 30 years ago and I didn’t cry as much. We want people to pray for us. We need company. We need love. We feel like we are lost.”

Sherpa, who last visited Nepal in 2011, said he is aching to travel to his country to lend a hand but his brother-in-law informed him he would be helpless at this time since he is in Nepal and is unable to do much because of the lack of materials, manpower and electricity.

“We cannot fight Mother Nature. We have to accept it and move on,” Sherpa said. “It will take a long time to build back even if you have money. You can’t build a house for everyone. If I go back it will be very sad. I can’t concentrate. Why am I here? I feel like I want to fly to Nepal right away.”

A few days after the earthquake,

Sherpa set up a table outside his popular eatery to collect donations for Nepal. Besides generous monetary support, including \$400 from one man, Sherpa said he had received hundreds of emails and Facebook messages from customers expressing their sadness and offers to assist in any way possible.

“We are blessed here in Yorktown. The people here are some of the nicest anywhere,” he said. “There are so many good human beings willing to help. The Nepal community has a strong bond. They are so much connected. They rely on each other.”

Sherpa said he will likely be collecting donations for several weeks at Jewel of Himalaya, which is located in the Triangle Shopping Center. He also encouraged people to visit www.nepals4socialchange.com.

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Muse Paintbar, White Plains

By Pat Casey

It is interesting in this day of virtual reality that such a tactile activity as social painting has become a growing entertainment trend.

Muse Paintbar is set to open a studio at 84 Mamaroneck Avenue in White Plains on May 10. That's the location of the former Cheeburger Cheeburger.

Stan Finch, co-founder of Muse Paintbar has been in the business since 2012 when he and lead artist Vanessa Leigh discovered that people enjoyed painting in a social environment.

Finch's first studio was in New Hampshire and he has recently opened several others in New England. White Plains and Brooklyn are locations for his current projects.

Set up on the ground floor, the studio will be visible from Mamaroneck Avenue, complete with easels, assorted paint colors (acrylic is the paint of choice), brushes, canvasses and stools.

A painting class schedule will be posted and guests will be able to order from a menu of wine and beer selections and assorted tapas when they attend a session.

Each session features one painting that each student will reproduce with supplied paints and a stretched canvas. The standard canvas size is 16" x 20" and can be hung as is or framed and then hung. The finished product is gallery wrapped for students to take home.

Customers do not have to be artists or have any art experience to be able to come and enjoy themselves, Finch said. "Many people say they can't believe they painted what they did. The class teachers show customers how to paint what they see."

Finch has hired three local artists to help with the classes, which will include a selection of painting types including landscapes, classic, popular favorites like Van Gogh's Starry Night, and personal selections that customers can order in advance.

About 20 new paintings are presented each month and the local artists help to make selections that are appropriate for the area in which the studio is located.

In the autumn falling leaves might be featured or snowscapes during the winter. "The goal is to have fun," Finch said.

"Customers are often very surprised at the finished product. It's easy to do and they walk away with something good."

But, this is not like paint by numbers, customers learn how to paint on a blank canvas.

Each session runs from two to two and a half hours and the cost is from \$29 to \$45 depending on the night of the week the class is scheduled and the type of class.

The studio will be open seven days a week. The schedule will be posted on the Muse Paintbar website at www.musepaintbar.com. Two sessions are scheduled each day at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Special parties for adults and children can be reserved.

The food and drink menu will include 12 different types of wine (white, red, Prosecco and Sangria) and 12 types of beer. The food is simple, cheese and crackers and other finger foods that are easy to munch on while painting. The food menu is also changed up according to the season.

Finch offers two fundraisers each month at his different studios with 5 percent of the profits going to local charities. "Medical research, local Arts programs and schools are our big focus," Finch said.

To find out more, reserve a seat in a class, organize a party or to just check out the art visit www.musepaintbar.com or www.facebook.com/MuseWhitePlains.



Muse Paintbar will open May 10 at 84 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, location of the former Cheeburger Cheeburger.



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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS**

A Strong Voice In Your Child's Education - More Important Now Than Ever

School Board elections in White Plains will take place May 19. At the same time the school district budget will be voted on. This year there are candidates contesting seats that have remained the same for a few recent elections. Candidates running are: Rose Lovitch (incumbent), Cayne Letizia, Michael Bellantoni and James Hricay (incumbent).

This Thursday the White Plains League of Women Voters is presenting a forum where you will be able to meet these candidates. It will be held at the White Plains High School, Room B-1 at 7:30

p.m. If you cannot make that forum, the White Plains Counsel of Neighborhood Associations has invited them to its monthly meeting on May 12 at Education House, 5 Homeside Lane at 7:30 p.m.

Each forum will include a presentation on the proposed school budget.

For taxpayers, the school budget is about costs. For parents and teachers and taxpayers it is also about quality of education. With a crisis erupting over the implementation of Common Core testing and educator evaluations, it is more important now than ever to find

out how your school district is handling the controversy. How are your children being guided through this new approach to learning and testing and how involved should you be?

If you do not know what the goals of Common Core are or why the implementation of those goals is being contested, it's time to find out. Let your School Board candidates know what you are thinking and find out what they do and do not know and where they stand on the issues.

ParkWhitePlains Mobile Parking App Launched

A new mobile parking payment technology designed for White Plains by Passport, a mobile payment provider, was launched Monday, May 4. The new application has replaced the current mobile payment system, Pay-by-Phone.

The App builds on the City's efforts over the past several years to utilize technology to make parking easier and help parkers avoid getting tickets, according to a release announcing the new system. The number of parking tickets issued in the White Plains has been steadily decreasing

over the past five years. It is expected that this App will further contribute to that trend.

Parkers will be able to utilize the App for parking in most of the City's off-street meters. The service will expand to the on-street meters later this year. Parkers can easily download ParkWhitePlains through the App Store for iPhone and Google Play Store for Android. Parkers can also manage their parking through the ParkWhitePlains mobile web application, which is accessible on any

device with an Internet connection at ParkWhitePlains.com.

The ParkWhitePlains App is free and offers a visual countdown timer to help parkers keep track of the time left in their parking session.

ParkWhitePlains will also display public parking locations in the City to help parkers find the public garages and lots most convenient to where they want to go.

Another feature of ParkWhitePlains is a merchant validation option.

Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy – Author to Speak at WPPL May 6

In this presentation by New York Times bestselling author Karen Abbott, the true stories of four courageous women - a socialite, a farm girl, an abolitionist, and a widow - who risked everything to serve their county's cause during the Civil War (whether their country was the United States, or the Confederate States of America) will be told in the way that only a great novelist can. Based on Ms. Abbott's

latest book, Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy, nothing is ever quite what it seems as the true stories of these four women are woven together with other historical figures of the time to produce a tale filled not only with historical accuracy, but also spellbinding intrigue and adventure.

At the invitation of the Daniel Sickles Civil War Roundtable in White Plains, in cooperation with the White Plains

Historical Society, Ms. Abbott will be speaking about her book, her research, and these real life daring and, until now, relatively unsung heroine spies at the White Plains Public Library on Wednesday, May 6, at 7:30 pm. The event is free and open to the public. All are welcome. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and can be personally autographed by the author.

Obituaries

Thomas Modafferi

Thomas A Modafferi, a West Harrison resident, passed away on May 1. He was 49. Thomas was born on December 30, 1965 to R. Anthony and Mary E. (Lannon) Modafferi. Both have predeceased him. Thomas worked as an associate for the Diamond Dairy in Ossining for 23 years. He is survived by one brother Robert Modafferi of West Harrison. He was predeceased by two brothers, John and James Modafferi.

Rita Schettino

Rita Marion Schettino, a West Harrison resident, passed away on April 29. She was 87. She was born on July 25, 1927 in the Bronx to Ralph and Domenica (Loverro) De Gennaro. Rita married her beloved husband John Schettino on Oct 8, 1955 in the Bronx. He predeceased her in 2009. Rita was also predeceased

by her beloved daughter Elaine Nugent in 2000. Rita is survived by her son-in-law William Nugent of West Harrison. Rita was a member of the West Harrison Seniors.

Mickey Del Duca

Americo "Mickey" Del Duca, 91, of White Plains, passed away on April 25. He worked for Otis Elevator Company, was a property clerk for the White Plains Police Department and a school crossing guard at the Greenacres Elementary School in Scarsdale. He is survived by his daughter, Sandy Del Duca of White Plains, a sister Jane Holland of Sydney, Australia, and several nieces and nephews. His sisters, Carmella Marchesani, Lucy Duffy, Judith Dean, Marie Gentile, Margaret Weller and a brother John Del Duca, predeceased him.

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**.

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



Police Blotter

Greenburgh Police Department.

Fraud. On the morning of April 20 police were informed of a bank fraud when a local businessman reported he had received a call from his bank informing him that there were insufficient funds to cover several checks he had written. He became suspicious because to his knowledge there should have been approximately \$18,000 in the business account. He contacted the local branch of his bank and discovered an unknown person had stolen and altered checks from the time they were mailed to the time they were cashed at an unknown bank branch. The last legitimate check the victim had written was in the amount of \$581.56 and was picked up for mail delivery by his local mailman. On investigation it was discovered that several fraudulent checks were written in the amounts of \$1,970.81; \$2,990.03; \$3,000; \$1,986.30; \$1,894.30; \$2,000; and \$2,901.80. The checks were paid to the order of Jesus Wence-Ruiz and totaled \$16,743.24. All seven fraudulent checks were cashed at the same, unknown Chase bank. The victim does not know nor had ever heard of the party listed on the fraudulent checks. Bank copies of the checks showed that they might have been altered with a computer program. At the time of the police report, the victim had filed and signed an affidavit with the Chase fraud department to report the fraud. He also indicated they did not know what exact Chase branch the checks were cashed at.

Petit Larceny. On the afternoon of April 21 a couple came to police headquarters to report that they had discovered that their two NY gold license plates were stolen and replaced with a new matching pair of gold NY plates. The couple had discovered the new plates after having the car serviced at Nanuet Toyota on Rt. 59 in Rockland County. A DMV check showed that the new plates affixed to the vehicle came back stolen out of New York City and E-Justice was entered on 3/9/2015. Street crime plate reader shows both plates being utilized by a newer model gray Toyota Camry. Said vehicle had multiple hits at various locations within the town. E-Justice entries were made for the newly stolen plates and an additional entry for the recovery of the older stolen plates.

Harassment. On the afternoon of April 21, officer took a walk-in report from a woman who said she had been harassed by a man who had followed her around Kmart. The man was allegedly a white male, approx. 6-feet tall, with gray hair, wearing a navy blue short sleeve shirt, and black pants. He said he was a New York City Firefighter when he encountered her in the store parking lot and then followed her into the store. He followed the victim around the store and insisted that she help him pick out clothes and accompany him into the dressing room. The victim refused, but told him she

would stay outside the dressing room and tell him how the clothes looked when he came out. When the man came out of the dressing room he made a vulgar gesture. The victim felt alarmed and annoyed by the man but did not want to upset him so she stayed calm and continued to talk with him. Police followed up with Kmart and checked the surveillance video, with negative results. When the man went back into the dressing room the victim said she left the store. Report for documentation purposes only.

Credit Card Skimmer. On April 21 police responded to the Mobil Gas Station on Knollwood Road, where they were informed that a credit card skimming device was installed on one of the gas pumps. The pump technician told police that while attempting to repair pump #2, he observed the device attached to the card reader of pump #1. He said that the last time the pumps were serviced was about a month ago. The technician removed the device and gave it to the police. Only one of six pumps was doctored with the card reader device. Card reader wiring was submitted into evidence and security video footage was obtained.

Identity Theft. On April 21 a Greenburgh couple went to police headquarters to report that an unknown person had used their personal information to file a fraudulent tax return. The victims said their accountant attempted to E-file their joint tax return but the IRS returned a rejection notice stating that they had already filed a tax return. The IRS would not provide further information on the fraudulent tax return. It is unknown if a refund check was issued. The couple had contacted credit reporting agencies regarding the fraud.

Suspicious Incident. On April 22 police were stopped by a man who said he noticed a suspicious male party behind his vehicle walking back and forth in front of Snap Gym. The man further explained that he noticed the suspicious party had left a pebble on the trunk of his car. The man said there was no damage to his vehicle but he found the incident very strange. On following up with the suspicious male, police were told that he had walked by Snap Gym to take a look at the facility and that he did walk behind the car of the man making the report, but that he did not leave a pebble on the trunk. A NCIC check of the male produced no results.

Grand Larceny. On April 22 a debit card holder was called by Chase Bank advising her of suspicious charges on her card. The card holder advised Chase that she was in possession of the debit card and that she did not make the charges, which totaled in excess of \$2,000. The charges were made in various clothing stores in Clinton, Hartford and E. Haven,

Connecticut, and one in Jackson, N.J. The debit card account has since been closed. Police report on file.

Suspicious Incident. On April 23, police were informed by a White Plains resident that she had received multiple text messages from a 717 area code number asking if she was selling any used bras, underwear and shoes. The victim is currently selling items on Craig's List. The victim said she texted back "NO," but received another text insisting that if she does sell the requested items to contact them. The reporting officer called the number where a computer generated pager message answered. After police placed the call to the offending phone number, the victim said she received a text saying they would no longer contact her. Report for documentation purposes.

Recovered Shotgun. On the morning of April 24, Police were called to a residence on the report of a recovered shotgun. Upon arrival police spoke with the caller who said he works for a company called Five Brothers contracted by a bank to maintain houses and while photographing this particular residence he came across a shotgun in the garage of the home. He did not know which bank owned the home, but did have a work order for the home, which also did not name the owner of the home. A realtor was listed but calls were not answered. The shotgun was placed

into safekeeping. An E-Justice check on the weapon came back with negative results.

Grand Larceny. On the afternoon of April 24, police were flagged down regarding a larceny from a vehicle. The victim advised police that he had parked his delivery truck in the lot of 102 Knollwood Rd. while making a delivery at 91 Knollwood Rd. He returned to his vehicle approximately 20 minutes later and noticed six cases of soda and approx. \$2000 cash from a locked box were missing. The driver further reported he did not lock the cargo area of the truck, however, the box containing the cash was locked with a steel American lock. The driver further said that when he opened the cargo area he smelled a burning odor and saw the burnt impression of the lock that secured the cash box imprinted on the wooden floor board of the cargo box. Investigation pending. Area canvassed with negative findings. No video surveillance of the parking lot.



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Mother's Day for Different Palates



By Morris Gut

Mom deserves her special day. If you are planning to dine out on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, here are a few suggestions that cover a wide variety of tastes. Special Hint: Mother's Day is a big restaurant day, so be sure to reserve a table early; you can even take Mom out any time during the weekend to keep it more stress free. Enjoy.

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 through a giant window. Let seasoned general manager 'Jimmy' 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.

Alex's Bar & Grille, 577 North Broadway, N. White Plains; 914-358-1444. Proprietor Alex Ahmetaj, a veteran of the restaurant-hospitality field, updated the menu at his 120-seat restaurant and bar/lounge offering big cuts of aged steaks and chops along with generously served Northern Italian/

Continental fare. The staff brings years of experience and a European flair to White Plains. Customers enter the multi-section dining room through the inviting bar/lounge with its black industrial ceiling, banquets and soft lighting. The handsome dining room is split into cozy sections with white tablecloths, colorful deVelleneuve impressionist paintings and warming sconces. Mediterranean clay colored banquets and chairs compliment wooden walls and plush beige curtained windows. There is a seasonal outdoor deck facing North Broadway at the corner of Fisher Ave. Check out such specialties as: Pan Fried Calamari with hot cherry peppers, Linguini alla Vongole, a delicious fresh Branzino prepared tableside, classic Veal Parmigiana, grilled Filet Mignon, NY Sirloin Steak, or the Pork Chops. Save room for the house made Tiramisu or Cheesecake. Daily happy hours in the bar/lounge 4 to 7 p.m.; www.alexsbargrille.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 flavorful cuisine of Croatia served in a refined atmosphere. He premiered Dubrovnik 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 woodburning BBQ for meats and fish, 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, his wife 'Jackie' Kaszas, and partner Nada Bernic insist they will be using all the finest ingredients in the seasonal marketplace. 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. Special Mother's Day menu. Open 7 days for lunch and dinner. Reservations suggested. Private party facilities. Valet parking; www.durbrovnikny.com.

Ernesto's Ristorante, 130 W. Post Road, White Plains; 914-421-1414. Genial hosts Ernesto Capalbo and Charlie Gambino have refurbished Ernesto's Ristorante giving it a pleasant contemporized look. The spirited bar area offers happy hours Tuesday through Friday, 3 to 6 p.m. with reasonably priced beers, wines and \$5 martinis. It is a good spot for networking. Mother's Day will feature a 3-course dinner for \$40 along with the regular menu. Throughout the week there is a 3-course prix fixe luncheon for \$14.95 served Tuesday through Friday from noon to 3 p.m., and 3-course Early Bird dinners served 3 to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday priced at a reasonable \$19.95. There are private party facilities for up to 75 guests. Let the veteran floor staff see to your needs. In the process of renovating the dining rooms, Ernesto moved his popular pizza shop down to the corner and named it Pizza Cucina where you can still get all your favorites fresh-made. Kid's pizza parties are a specialty. Pizza Cucina is located at 102 Post Road, White Plains (914-752-4611). On and off premise catering. Free and municipal parking; www.ernestosristorante.com.

Rio Bravo Tacos & Tequila, 1879 Palmer Ave., Larchmont; 914-341-1546. The artsy red statue guarding the Palmer Avenue entrance to this new Mexican restaurant just hints at the many south-of-the-border pleasures waiting inside. It is a sprawling 200-seat environment strewn with colorful Mexican art and artifacts, multiple seating areas with a big bar/lounge for socializing. Brothers Edgar and Hector Brambila also operate a Rio Bravo in Fairfield and have another one in the works in Westport. The menu is loaded with flavorful surprises: Milanesa Chicken Tacos, hand battered fried chicken wrapped in a tortilla covered with melted cheese, roasted poblano crema, pico de gallo and mixed cabbage; Torero Steak Fajitas, a giant portion of wood grilled marinated skirt steak; Southwestern Caesar Salad, a spicy twist to the traditional Caesar with corn, tomatoes, cotija cheese and chicken Milanesa, tossed with chipotle-ranch dressing; and Square Knot Salmon,achiote and lemon seared salmon with roasted pineapple. Happy Hours Monday

through Friday from 3 to 6 p.m. featuring half price house drinks and appetizers. Large selection of Tequilas at the bar and you can also build your own Margarita; www.riobravotacosandtequila.com.

Coals Pizza, 131 Parkway Road, Bronxville; 914-337-1901 and 35 N. Main St., Port Chester; 914-305-3220. It was the first eatery to serve grilled pizza in the Bronx, and now owner/founder Bill Etzel has moved his delicious idea to Westchester with units in Port Chester and Bronxville. Appetizers include their popular Crispy Brussels Sprouts with walnuts, raisins and grana padano; soothing soup of the day; and Coals addicting spicy grilled Chicken Wings. The signature pizzas, served in a rustic setting, have already achieved cult status for their thin malleable crust, oblong shape and tasty toppings. Check out the Dean Martin, fontinella, fresh mozzarella, tomato, pepperoni and pecorino; Pure Bliss, fresh mozzarella, ricotta, tomato, basil pesto, pecorino; and the Smokey Joe, fontinella, smoked mozzarella, tomato, pecorino, sweet coppa, and red onion. There's a Vegan, too with hummus, red onion, spicy olive oil and arugula. The fresh hand-formed 8 oz. Coals Burgers are served with your choice of Asiago, Vermont cheddar, or Gorgonzola and crisp fries. You can wash it all down with one of the craft beers noted on their changing blackboard. Growlers are available, too. Open 7 days a week; www.coalspizza.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 on 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 7 days a week for lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch. Dancing and live entertainment schedule. Municipal and valet parking; www.sofritowhiteplains.com.

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





The Restaurant Examiner



Buffet Lunch is a Good Deal at Swagat Halal Indian Cuisine, Tarrytown

By Jerry Eimbinder

Much is new at Swagat Halal Indian Cuisine on Broadway in Tarrytown — the interior has an attractive new look, the lunch buffet has added three permanent special dishes on Friday through Sunday, and a new à la carte dinner menu is coming soon. The new dinner menu is the restaurant's first menu change in four years.



Chili chicken at Swagat Halal Indian Cuisine on Broadway in Tarrytown.

The lunch buffet is modestly priced at \$10.95 per person and coffee or tea is included in the cost.

The new buffet dishes, available every



Lunch buffet dishes at Swagat Halal Indian Cuisine in Tarrytown.

Friday through Sunday, are chili chicken (not spicy), Bengali fish curry (whitefish), and samosa (a vegetarian dish). The chili chicken has many ingredients — onion, red and green peppers, tomato ketchup, barbecue sauce, Indian spices and herbs plus more.

The interior walls have been redecorated and include vibrant floral murals throughout and scenes of San Francisco at the front of the restaurant.

Swagat was opened by Humayun Khan in October, 2010 with an extensive all-you-can eat lunch-time buffet having an

abundance of items and it varied the selection daily. It replaced Café Tandoor.

The dishes served at Swagat trace their origins to the Mughal Empire, which preceded the British Empire and lasted from the 16th to the 18th Century.

The two lunch buffet tables include chicken, fish, lamb, vegetables, salad, tasty breads (naan) baked in the tandoor oven, rice, condiments, and dessert. No guessing

is required at the buffet table since each dish is identified on a small sign.

The lunch buffet is available seven days a week from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday through Friday and from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Manager Mohammed Baten said the most popular items on the dinner menu are chicken tikka masala priced at \$14.95 (with tomato and fenugreek creamy sauce), chicken vindaloo (tangy goat sauce with potatoes) at \$13.95, lamb curry at \$15.95, lamb pasanda, shrimp tikka



Swagat Halal Indian Cuisine on Broadway in Tarrytown.

masala, shrimp curry, tandoori chicken, tandoori shrimp, chicken shashlik, and malai kabab (grilled chicken cubes marinated in sour cream, nuts and herbs).

Customers ordering from the à la carte dinner menu can specify the degree of spiciness they prefer (such as mild, medium or fiery). The dinner menu is available seven days a week.

"Swagat" stands for "welcome."

The restaurant seats 60 and has a room for private parties for up to ten people. Home delivery has a \$20 minimum and is available from 5 to 9:30 p.m. seven days a week.

Swagat Halal Indian Cuisine, 19 North Broadway, Tarrytown, NY, 914-332-5544.

Hudson Social Settles Into Metro North Train Station in Dobbs Ferry

By Jerry Eimbinder

Hudson Social in Dobbs Ferry is a happy place — its customers don't just eat and drink — they hang out with their pals,



Hudson Social Executive Chef Giuseppe Bologna (left) and Dominick Durante, owner/partner.

make new acquaintances, and have lots of fun. This could become habit forming.

A nine-month renovation program has done wonders. The former Metro-North train station has become an airy, bi-level spacious eatery with a great, bold look from an architectural perspective and it has a nice view of the Hudson River.

The food can best be described as New American or American Casual. Executive Chef Giuseppe Bologna's signature dish is a panini with fresh mozzarella, prosciutto, fig, goat cheese and wild flower

honey (\$11).

One of the best sellers here, Bologna said, is the Cait — a 12-ounce beef and bacon cheeseburger with roasted garlic potato wedges (\$15).

The menu includes a Philly hanger steak sandwich (\$11), a grilled chicken sandwich (\$11) and numerous comfort food items. Expansion of the menu is on hold pending an electrical upgrade approval from the town.

Sandwiches are made with Filone bread cut from 4-foot loaves delivered daily. The taco du jour is served only on weekends; its contents change from week to week.

Beverages include Captain Lawrence Kolsch, Brooklyn Irish Stout, Blue Moon, gluten-free beer and wine from New York State's Finger Lake region.

The signature drinks cost \$12 each



Outside dining area at Hudson Social.



The cocktail lounge at Hudson Social viewed from the upper level dining room.

and help to define Hudson Social. They include Drunk Monk (Frangelico liqueur, Irish cream liqueur and Absolut vanilla vodka), Hudson Line (Beefeater gin, Bacardi 151 Rum, cherry brandy, orange juice and lime juice) and the Riverkeeper (Absolut Orient Apple vodka, Sour Apple Pucker, sour mix, Grenadine syrup and a caramel rim).

Multiple dining areas can seat at least 120. The lounge area has an eight-stool bar, regular tables and high-stool tables. The grill on the outside patio operates all day long; the patio has a satellite bar, tables, benches and wait staff service.

Brunch is served on Saturday and

Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and costs \$19 per person. It includes a mimosa with bottomless free refills. The kid's brunch costs \$12.

Live musical entertainment is offered on Thursday and Saturday evenings.

Hudson Social was opened on December 3, 2014 by Dominick Durante and James DiBella who were commodity traders on Wall Street for 15 years. Durante is a Pleasantville resident; DiBella, a Brooklyn native, previously opened Red Star in

Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

Lavazza coffee and Balthazar baked goods await patrons when Hudson Social opens at 5 a.m. on Monday through Friday and at 10 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Bologna said it closes when the last customer leaves.

Hudson Social is located at 11 Station Plaza, Dobbs Ferry, on the West Side (Hudson River Side) of the train tracks, adjacent to the New York City bound rails. A parking area has designated spaces for Hudson Social customers. If it's full, customers can request a parking pass for their cars. Phone number: 914-478-3634.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF BOND RESOLUTION SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville, Westchester County, New York (the "Village"), at a meeting held on April 27, 2015, adopted a bond resolution, which is subject to a permissive referendum, that authorizes the issuance of \$425,000 serial bonds of the Village to finance the purchase of machinery and apparatus to be used for constructing, reconstructing, repairing or maintaining Village improvements, including a dump truck and sweeper to be used by the Department of Public Works

(the "Project") the cost of each item of which is \$30,000 or more. The period of probable usefulness is fifteen (15) years and the bonds are payable from amounts to be annually levied on all the taxable real property in the Village. Pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder ("SEQRA"), the Village has determined that the project is a Type II Action requiring no further action under SEQRA.

Judith Weintraub

Village Clerk, Village of Pleasantville, Westchester County, New York

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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.

Tuesday, May 5

Symphony at Sam's. Enjoy an evening of food, drink, and music at Sam's, famous for their hospitality and generosity to local nonprofit organizations. Sam's will donate 10 percent of the evening's food and drink proceeds to New Westchester Symphony Orchestra; no admission fee; 5 to 10 p.m.; Sam's of Gedney Way, 50 Gedney Way, White Plains. Call Sam's directly to reserve a table; 914-949-0978; www.newsymphony.org.

Tuesdays at Dorry's. TPP – The Trans-Pacific Partnership. As President Obama seeks to "fast-track" this controversial trade agreement, Sheila Collins will tell us why so many see an urgency to fast-track the opposition. 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, May 6

Noontime Getaway Concert. Allen Yueh, 2008 First Prize Winner of the New York International Piano Competition, returns to Downtown Music with a program of virtuoso works. 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.

White Plains Farmers Market. The Farmer's Market will open weekly, on Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Farmer's Market is located on Court Street between Main Street and Martine Avenue in White Plains. 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, olive oil and vinegars, pickles, homemade salami, smoked duck breast, pate and much more.

"Cutting Edge Containers." The garden section of the Scarsdale Women's Club presents this program featuring well-known celerity gardener Kent Russell. He designs gardens and container plantings for clients throughout the East

Coast and travels regularly to share his garden experiences. There will be plants for sale and a tea following the program. Scarsdale Women's Club's clubhouse, 37 Drake Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-723-5021.

Thursday, May 7

White Plains Historical Society Dinner. Honoring Bob Hyland as Citizen Extraordinaire. Reception 6 p.m.; dinner 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker Mark Will-Weber will present Mint Juleps with Teddy Roosevelt: The Complete History of Presidential Drinking. The Woman's Club of White Plains C.V. Rich Mansion, 305 Ridgeway White Plains.

LWV School Board Forum. This year the White Plains School Board Election will be contested. The candidates are: Michael Bellantoni, James Hricay, Cayne Letizia and Rose Lovitch. The Superintendent of School will make a brief presentation about the proposed budget. You may ask questions in advance by emailing Beth Kava, the event coordinator, at bethkava@gmail.com Please include your name and White Plains address; 7:30 p.m. in Room B-1 at White Plains High School. This year the forum will be co-sponsored by the White Plains PTA Council, the White Plains-Greenburgh NAACP, and the White Plains Council of Neighborhood Associations.

Celebration of Champions Award Dinner. Westchester Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute for Nonviolence is celebrating three organizations for their extraordinary contributions to the Westchester community, at Community Unitarian Church, 468 Rosedale Avenue, White Plains. Anti Racist Alliance, a movement for racial equity that works to undo structural racism through training and organizing – award accepted by Sandy Bernabei, Founding Member; Mount Vernon United Tenants which fights for affordable housing by providing services, grassroots community organizing and advocacy – award accepted by Dennis Hanratty, Executive Director; and Westchester Coalition for Police Reform which consists of community organizations, religious institutions and individuals with a vision of safe communities, improved community-police relationships, and greater police accountability – award accepted by Kenneth Chamberlain, Jr., Spokesperson. The reception begins at 5:30 pm; dinner and awards at 6:30. The cost is \$75 per person. For further information, including invitation, reply card and paying for a ticket or an ad, go to www.mlkwestchester.org, or email info@

mlkwestchester.org or call 914-949-6555.

Friday, May 8

Wolf Tales for Kids: Mythology of a Predator. A program discussing the relationship between the wolves and humans of the past. Guests will be introduced to various wolf mythologies and have a chance to create their own and share if desired. Also visit ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Bring a camera. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 4 p.m. Adults: \$13. Children (under 12): \$11. Pre-registration required. Info and registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

WCC Film Series: "A Late Quartet." After a classical string quartet's 25 years of success, Peter, the cellist and oldest member, decides that he must retire when he learns he has Parkinson's disease. For the others, that announcement proves a catalyst for letting their hidden resentments come to the surface. 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 9

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.

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. Visit ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: \$13. Children (under 12): \$11. Pre-registration required. Also May 16, 24, 25 and 30. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

International Migratory Bird Day Celebration. Come join our naturalist to learn about birds of prey and get to know some of our local migrants. 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.

Family Second Saturdays: Plastic is Art! Can you imagine a world without plastic? Consider how artists used

plastics in the mid-20th century, when it was a brand new material. We'll look at the work of Robert Rauschenberg and experiment with plastic art works of our own. Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 1 to 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-251-6113.

Hudson Chorale, American Voices Part II. Hudson Chorale will conclude its 5th season on at the Irvington Middle/High School Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. with the second of a three-part series – American Voices – featuring American composers who found their inspiration in American writers, with accompaniment by a full orchestra. The composers range from Randall Thompson, considered by many to be the best of the 20th century, to still-living artists who are capturing positive critical attention: Cecil Effinger, Michael Conley and Paul Basler. As an extra bonus, audience members are invited to a pre-concert talk starting at 6:45 p.m. by Michael Conley regarding his composition based on the poetry of Emily Dickinson, and by book author, actress, and expert/lecturer on Dickinson, Barbara Dana. The Irvington Middle/High School Auditorium is located at 40 North Broadway, Irvington. Handicap parking is available. Following the concert, the audience is invited to an informal reception to greet the conductor, the chorus, and members of the brass ensemble, a long-standing Hudson Chorale tradition. Ticket Prices: Advance Sales \$25; Door \$30; Premium Reserved (purchased in advance only) \$40; Students \$10 (Advanced Sales and Door only). Premium Reserved Seats can be purchased by calling (914) 462-3212; Advance Sales can be purchased by phone or via the chorus website: www.hudsonchorale.org.

Sunday, May 10

Mother's Day Concert. 7 p.m. the Irish-American Band, Pride of New York, will celebrate Mother's Day with a rollicking concert at First Baptist Church of White Plains. The band is comprised of some of the best known players on the US side of the Atlantic—Brian Conway (fiddle), Billy McComiskey (button accordion), Joanie Madden (flute, whistle) and Brendan Dolan (keyboards). Tickets: \$20 advance, \$25 at the door. Cash or check (payable to Brian Conway). For further information or to purchase tickets in advance, contact Jaime Arteaga at First Baptist Church of White Plains: 914.949.5207.



EXAMINER SPORTS

Tigers Softball - Good Week with Four Wins Secured in Five Days

By Albert Coqueran

Even Ted O'Donnell, the unwavering Head Coach of White Plains High School Softball, would admit that he was not sure how his youthful team would react this year while competing in Section 1 League 2 competition.

With many games postponed and rescheduled due to weather conditions, the Tigers had to play six games within six days last week (April 27-May 2), which was the ultimate test for the young squad and their sophomore pitcher Emily Tumminia.

Nonetheless, after being one-hit and shutout 10-0, on Monday, April 27, by according to the NYSSWA, the number fifth ranked team in New York State, North Rockland High School. The Tigers went on to win three straight games while playing three days consecutively from May 28-30, and won four out of five games in five days during that strenuous week.

The Lady Tigers young team seems to be coming together at the mid-point of the season, which is just at the right time. On, Tuesday, May 28, the Tigers beat Scarsdale High School, 11-4, the next day on May 29; they frustrated the Mt. Vernon Knights, 18-1, in a fifth-inning Mercy Rule



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

The Tigers Softball Team has rallied around its young sophomore pitcher Emily Tumminia (center) to win four games in five days and four out of six games during the week of April 27 to May 2. The Tigers productive week boosted their record to 6-5 overall and an impressive 5-1 in league competition.

against Mamaroneck. Then hard hitting first baseman Juliet Lodes smacked a RBI-double, to put the Tigers in the lead 2-0.

While Tumminia kept Mamaroneck scoreless through five innings; White Plains junior catcher Kayla Bonnet hit a two-run single to make the score 4-0 in the bottom of the fifth inning.

After Mamaroneck summoned its offense and scored two runs in the top of the sixth inning, Carrier flashed leather by running down two consecutive hard hit fly balls to centerfield for defensive web-gems, while Mamaroneck had a woman on base and was threatening to score again.

"I feel proud of myself but also it is a team effort. If it was not for my team, I probably would not have the confidence to catch those balls," said Carrier. "I feel our team is starting to come together now, we are feeling a lot more confident and if we keep it up we can make a lot of noise," commented the senior centerfielder.

What was most impressive about the battle between these two neighboring Tigers teams was the growth and resiliency displayed by White Plains young pitcher Tumminia.

Mamaroneck scored another run in the seventh inning to close the gap, 5-3, and

had bases loaded with one out. But Tigers sophomore pitcher Tumminia did not flinch. She buckled down and continued to throw hard, even after pitching six complete games in six days. Tumminia got Mamaroneck to foul-out to Lodes at first base and then ended the game with a five-unassisted fielding play by Dana Jensen at third base.

"It feels pretty good now. I know that I did not have much confidence initially but I knew that I could build it, especially with my teammates getting my back. I knew they were with me no matter what," said Tumminia.

After, playing, on May Day, Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2, the Tigers split two away games, while losing to Tappan Zee High School, 6-2 and then shutting-out

Horace Greely, 9-0, respectively. When the Tigers concluded their six games in six days, White Plains had a 6-5 overall record and an impressive 5-1, mark in Section 1 AA League 2-B.

"It is really the players that I have, there is no magic to it," commented O'Donnell. "I get players that understand what being a member of a team is about and what working in the off-season is all about."

White Plains City Councilwoman Beth Smayda attended the thrilling Tigers vs. Tigers game, on Thursday, May 30. "I am always amazed how O'D, can mold a team into shape by the end of the season, but they have had some successes already," said Smayda, who is an ardent Tigers Softball fan.

Smayda's daughter Kate played for Coach O'Donnell, or "O'D" as he is affectionately nicknamed, from 2006-2009. Kate Smayda presently is a Math Teacher at Ronald McNair High School, in Atlanta, Georgia and coaches Softball and Boys Soccer.

"These sports programs at the high school are so important to the student/athletes and meant so much to my daughter," said Smayda. "I love coming back to watch the softball games. I miss not having a softball player but it is great my daughter is coaching and passing on some of the things she learned playing here at the high school," Smayda added.

Kate Smayda graduated from Swarthmore College, in Pennsylvania in 2013. She is the Garnet's Softball All-Time Single Season Hits Leader and Second All-Time in Career Hits.



Centerfielder senior Sarah Carrier is the anchor of the Lady Tigers Softball Team. Carrier's hitting and defense has been essential in keeping the Tigers in pace in league play.

contest, before returning the very next day to edge Mamaroneck High School, 5-3, in probably their toughest game of the week.

White Plains centerfielder Sarah Carrier hit a sacrifice fly for an RBI to score the first run of the game in the third inning



City of White Plains Councilwoman Beth Smayda (second left) visited with the staff of the White Plains High School Softball Team, [l-r] Assistant Coach Skip Stevens, Head Coach Ted O'Donnell and Scorekeeper Joan Cruz, as she took time out of her busy schedule to cheer on the Tigers against Mamaroneck H.S. Smayda's daughter Kate, played for O'Donnell and the Tigers from 2006-2009.



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