



# The White Plains Examiner



Covering White Plains, Greenburgh and Harrison

June 30- July 6, 2015

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

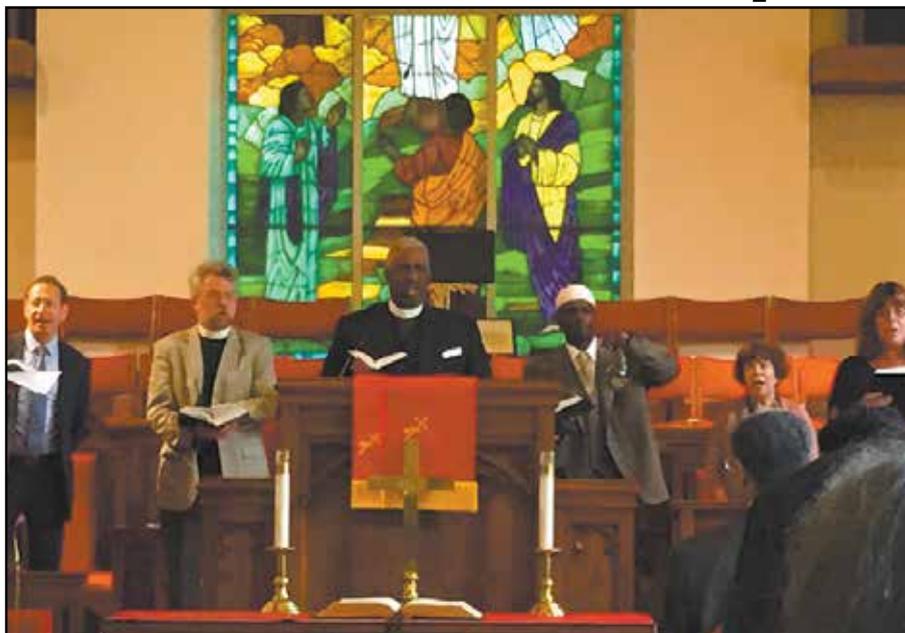
Volume 5, Issue 202

## Interfaith Service Affirms Racial Equality and Dignity

By Pat Casey

The Mount Hope AME Zion Church on Lake Street in White Plains was packed with hundreds of people Sunday afternoon as members of religious organizations around Westchester gathered together for an interfaith service to affirm racial equality and dignity and to remember the nine people shot and killed at Emanuel AME Church, Charleston, SC, last Wednesday.

The event was co-sponsored by a litany of organizations: American Jewish Committee (AJC) Westchester; The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Westchester Stake; Episcopal Diocese of New York; Hudson River Presbytery; Interreligious Council of New Rochelle; Westchester Martin Luther King Institute for Nonviolence; Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Mount Hope AME Zion Church; Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York; United



Clergy from Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Baha'i religions worship together with prayer, scripture readings and song at an interfaith service Sunday afternoon at Mount Hope AME Zion Church, White Plains.

Methodist Church New York Annual Conference; Upper Westchester Muslim Society; and Westchester Jewish Council.

Speaking with great emotion from the pulpit, representatives of the different religious groups chose readings from their own traditions for a mix of sentiment that not only expressed the unique differences of each tradition, but also the similarity of spiritual expression.

Stuart Ginsberg, president AJC Westchester, opened the gathering saying that: "We have come together in response to crisis. We have come together to pray. When people pray together they build bonds of love and eradicate prejudices."

The words of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel were adapted for the event: No religion is an island; we share the kinship of humanity, the capacity for compassion. Let us not be guided by ignorance or disdain. Let lives of holiness illumine all

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## Local Communities Look to Cash in on State's Hotel Tax Approval

By Martin Wilbur

The New York State Legislature approved a 3 percent hotel tax last week for eight Westchester municipalities that could add tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars to local government coffers.

Last Thursday night in the waning hours of this year's legislative session in Albany, the Senate made the surprising last-minute move to approve the requests for North Castle, Mount Pleasant's village of Sleepy Hollow, Harrison, Greenburgh (including its villages), Port Chester, Tuckahoe, Mamaroneck and Yonkers. Until now, only White Plains,

New Rochelle, the City of Rye and Rye Brook were permitted to charge the tax in Westchester.

The measure must be signed into law by Gov. Andrew Cuomo to take effect. Then the municipalities would each have to hold a public hearing and pass their own legislation to enact it in their jurisdictions.

"This is a major step forward," said Assemblyman Tom Abinanti (D-Greenburgh), part of the group of Westchester state legislators who teamed up to fight for the legislation. "It's a user

*continued on page 2*

## White Plains Council Airs FASNY Concerns During Special Session

By Pat Casey

The White Plains Common Council held a Special Meeting Monday afternoon to discuss and air publicly their concerns about the final documents regarding the partial closure of a public roadway – Hathaway Lane – as it relates to the French American School of New York (FASNY) Special Permit and Site Plan application to operate a regional school in the Gedney Farms neighborhood of White Plains at the site of the former Ridgeway Country Club.

After several years of discussion, debate and development changes, the resolutions are almost ready for a final vote. Council

members agreed it was time to move forward, either yay or nay, but that on this last occasion would put forward their final requests for clarifications.

Council president John Martin spoke first saying that his comments were of a technical nature only and that he wanted to get the legislation into a format that could be voted on. He expressed concern about placement of the emergency access road and said he remained unconvinced by the layout, which did not address his earlier suggestion to move the road further north.

Martin also asked why it would take

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### Local Communities Look to Cash in on State's Hotel Tax

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fee that would be paid by people coming in from the outside and it would raise revenue for our local communities.”

State Sen. George Latimer (D-Rye) said for years Westchester communities that had hotels had made requests to have the same opportunity to raise revenue afforded to the large cities and counties. The Republican-led Senate had repeatedly opposed the measure because it would raise taxes, he said.

However, this year, Latimer said sharp-eyed legislators, including Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains), noticed that bills for the hotel tax – usually referred to as an occupancy or bed tax – were coming up for votes in

several upstate counties and backed by Republican senators.

Democrats in the Assembly who typically support the measure regardless of location, decided they would not support those bills unless municipalities that had requested the same tax for years were also approved, he said.

The tax would go into effect for a three-year period for each municipality, Latimer added.

A couple of local officials who had regularly fought for the extra revenue were pleased that their town will be in a position to levy the tax.

Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner estimated that his town, which has nearly

2,000 hotel rooms, could gain between \$200,000 and \$500,000 a year, virtually all of which would come from nonresidents. The money would be used to reduce property taxes and comply with the tax cap, Feiner said.

In addition to the four municipalities in Westchester, 43 counties in the state were allowed to impose the tax, making it an issue of fairness, he said.

“Forty-six and-a-half percent of the counties that had previously been granted permission to have a hotel tax by the state have smaller populations than the Town of Greenburgh,” Feiner said. “We argued that New York State was not treating Greenburgh fairly.”

North Castle Supervisor Michael Schiliro said while the town has only one hotel, La Quinta Inn on Business Park Drive in Armonk, it could raise \$60,000 to \$80,000 a year, money that could be applied toward capital projects, which the state doesn't exempt from the tax cap.

He praised the area's state representatives for fighting for their towns and residents.

“It seemed impossible and has been for years,” said Schiliro, who indicated the town board would likely move quickly to set a public hearing on the issue. “They were doing the right thing in fighting for their constituencies.”

### Interfaith Service Affirms Racial Equality and Dignity

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our paths.

Commenting on the compassion and forgiveness shown by the congregation at Emanuel AME Church, speakers highlighted the fact that one of the key elements of that church's mission was the concept of “Hospitality to the Stranger” that formed the basis of the prayer group letting a stranger into its midst and then speaking out in forgiveness after such a horrible atrocity was committed.

“Hospitality means the creation of

free space for the stranger to enter,” one speaker said.

Portions of a letter from North Carolina State Senator Johnson to Pastor Tyler and Elders of Shorter AME were presented.

“On a night when old, devastating patterns of racial injustice return like childhood nightmares, it seemed the best thing to do was to get out of my bed and drive over here to make sure this note was the first thing you saw when you walked in the church tomorrow. This white man

is driving over to this AME church to tell you how deeply grateful I am that the leaders of your church have helped build this city, and how honored I am that the ancestors of this church have helped build this great country,” the Senator wrote.

Imam Abdul Azeez said his Muslim congregation was feeling the pain. “When you hurt, we hurt,” he said.

Pastor Gregory Smith of the host Mount Hope AME Zion Church spoke about the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the

Beloved Community as referred to by Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

“In the Beloved Community, conflict is resolved nonviolently. No conflict needs to erupt in violence,” he said. “We must break the cycle and make no distinction between the friend and the enemy.”

The event ended with a meal and scripture conversations among the group intended to break down the walls of difference for the establishment of common ground.

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Kurt Rhoads in The Two Gentlemen of Verona, 2014. Photo: William Marsh

# North Castle to County: Stop Shirking Miller House Responsibility

By Martin Wilbur

North Castle officials sternly told County Legislator Michael Smith last week that the town wants the historic Elijah Miller House in North White Plains to be rehabilitated and preserved at its current location.

The town board and residents bluntly relayed their wishes to Smith during a June 24 board discussion of the issue, urging the lawmaker to inform County Executive Rob Astorino to authorize funding for urgent restoration needed to save the 277-year-old house. The structure, located at 140 Virginia Rd., was George Washington's headquarters for the 1777 Battle of White Plains during the Revolutionary War and is a local, state and national landmark.

Although the site is county owned, the town had been asked by Astorino's office last year to provide a recommendation on how it wanted to proceed.

At last Wednesday's board meeting, Supervisor Michael Schiliro repeatedly expressed frustration that no action has been taken following what appeared to be a productive meeting last July between town representatives and various county officials. At that meeting, which occurred after the town board passed a resolution to rehabilitate the house based on recommendations from the town's Elijah Miller House Committee and Friends of Miller House, Schiliro said Westchester Parks Commissioner Kathleen O'Connor agreed with a prior study concluding that the house could be seriously damaged if it is moved.

However, he said the town received a letter from the county about three weeks ago stating that it had no interest in paying for restorative work if the Miller House wasn't relocated. The county offered no solution other than to try and find another site, he said.

Schiliro said that the condition of the house continues to deteriorate and its survival could be in jeopardy if there is no resolution to the issue.

"Quite frankly, I was disgusted at the



The Elijah Miller House/Washington's Headquarters in North White Plains, with a blue tarp covering its roof, continues to deteriorate as Westchester County and the Town of North Castle quarrel about how to save the landmark.

condition of the Miller House, with icicles hanging off of the side of it," Schiliro said when he visited last winter. "It looked like it was going to come down and I said to (Astorino's Chief of Staff) George (Oros), I'm trying to be patient but something's got to give."

Smith said Astorino does not want to authorize significant money to keep the house in an area that is not conducive to allowing visitors comfortable access to the property. It is located next to a cement factory.

Four years ago, the county approved \$1.2 million for restoration but those funds have expired, he said.

"The county is just simply not interested in rehabilitating on site," Smith said. "The issue that we have, the issue that we continue to have, is the cement factory. The reality is I don't hear anybody really talking about re-siting the cement factory and that's going to be an ongoing issue with whatever happens."

The legislator said the town and the county were on the verge of an agreement about two years ago to move the house to the town-owned Fountain

Park in North White Plains. However, former supervisor Howard Arden, who supported the Fountain Park proposal, was defeated and the new town board had another vision, he said.

Smith called on the town to sit down with county officials to work out an acceptable agreement.

"We need to have a substantive discussion and negotiate what is going to be," Smith said.

But Schiliro countered that there is nothing for the town to negotiate. The county owns the property and is responsible for preservation and maintenance.

"I just have a real hard time understanding how putting more tarps and covering more holes is preserving and maintaining the Miller House," Schiliro said. "I'm sorry. Preserving and maintaining the Miller House is taking the \$1.2 million or the \$1.5 million and preserving this thing the way it should be."

For about an hour, town residents, some of them emotional, lambasted the county for failing to live up to its obligations. Instead, it has permitted

the house to fall into greater disrepair. Westchester has owned the property since 1917.

Friends of Miller House President Ed Woodyard, who said he had an ancestor fight in the Battle of White Plains, said the county's position has been appalling.

"Right now the County of Westchester, with regard to the Miller House, is like ISIS blowing up Palmyra in Syria," Woodyard said. "Right now the County of Westchester is no different than the Taliban blowing up a religious symbol."

Co-town Historian Sharon Tomback said between the county's disappearing trust fund to maintain the house and attempts to move it to town land, it is apparent the county is attempting to dodge its commitment. Tomback and several other speakers referenced the state attorney general's Assurance of Discontinuance in 1994, which affirmed the county's ownership and responsibility to preserve the property.

"The facts simply show the county's pattern of deliberate neglect and deliberate efforts to erase county responsibility," Tomback said.

Lifelong North White Plains resident Nancy Batastelli called the county's actions leading to the current situation "unbelievable." A supporter of having the Miller House moved to Kensico Dam Plaza, which had been discussed about five years ago, Batastelli implored Smith to find the money for its preservation. The town was told that the plaza is no longer an option.

"I really hope that you will find it in your budget to chalk up whatever it is to have this fixed and perhaps to have it moved," she said.

Smith, who later in the week expressed outrage at Woodyard's comments comparing the county government to terrorists, said the community's response was loud and clear and will meet with Astorino and other county officials to discuss the options.

"I want to get something done to the property," Smith said.



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### White Plains Council Airs FASNY Concerns During Special Session

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four years for the access driveway to be built. "I can understand a longer time period for the site plan, but why so long on this?" he asked.

Martin further asked how the valuation of the section of Hathaway Lane that would be discontinued would be determined and again said he believed the road should be open to the public for a portion of every day - from 6p.m. to 6 a.m. for example. "I feel it is only a few degrees safer to close Hathaway than it would be to let it remain open," he concluded. "It does not feel compelling to close the road. I would have

liked to see alternatives built into the site plan," Martin added.

Councilman John Kirkpatrick commented that in his experience you usually know how a vote on a development will go. On this one you don't, he said.

Kirkpatrick said in this case the neighborhood was right because initially the project was too big. With all the changes made by the developer to accommodate neighborhood concerns, "perhaps we should call this a victory," he said. "We don't have a lot of choice. Change is going to happen. Our job is to make sure it is the right kind of change. We have to do what is right for all the people of the whole city."

"The applicant has fulfilled its obligations and the city has fulfilled its obligations," Kirkpatrick continued. "It is possible that the city could lose any resulting litigation if the resolutions are not passed, and the city could lose all the benefits it gained during the negotiating process."

Kirkpatrick said he felt both the resolution to discontinue part of Hathaway Lane and the FASNY site plan were complete and that he would vote yes on both resolutions.

Councilman Dennis Krolian said he would keep his own counsel and reserved his judgment until the vote.

Councilwoman Milagros Lecuona said she had many comments to make

because she does not feel the applicant has addressed all the questions put to it. "Nothing I have put on the table has been answered," she said.

Lecuona specifically called out traffic problems and new state requirements regarding sewage that had not been included in the plans. Regarding Hathaway Lane, Lecuona said: "The applicant must have a plan in place to pay for this project. It is a mystery to me that the applicant has agreed to buy a portion of a street when it doesn't even know the price. What is the price?"

"I would also like to know how costs of construction would impact the development over time and the impact that would have on the neighborhood," Lecuona added. She also noted concerns about the impact of traffic on the neighborhood while the North Street entrance is being built. "Many impacts on the neighborhood have not been addressed. I still would like to see the architectural renderings showing the design and placement of the buildings in relation to the existing neighborhood," she said.

Councilwoman Nadine Hunt-Robinson repeated her concerns about public health, safety and welfare. Referring to the Cornell University case where an educational use can be rebutted if it has a negative impact on a community, Hunt-Robinson said she was concerned that everyone has been

trying to fit a round peg into a square hole. "While one problem is fixed another is created," she said.

Hunt-Robinson said she did not feel that the negative environmental impacts had sufficiently been mitigated by changes made to the site plan and that she looked forward to the up or down vote.

Councilwoman Beth Smayda said she had made her comments throughout the process and had nothing further to add at this time.

Mayor Tom Roach expressed his concern about the two-phase process, especially as it relates to traffic volume and control on the site. "There is an overall traffic count of 530 (permitted), Roach said. If during Phase 1 the count reaches 500, then Phase 2 does not work."



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# NACME Senior VP Talks About Promoting STEM to Minority Students

By Pat Casey

Saundra Johnson Austin, Sr. Vice President Operations for the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering Inc. (NACME), based in White Plains, was the keynote speaker this graduation season at Columbia Secondary School coming up graduation ceremony where she told the Middle School students to be committed about pursuing their future education.

As an engineer and an educator, Austin knows that students chose their own pathways, and that encouragement by parents and educators early on is key in helping students find their own direction.

Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Austin said she got her notion about becoming an engineer from her father who worked in construction and that it was one of her high school teachers who suggested that the pathway she might want to choose was Civil Engineering. "I am a techie," Austin said.

After getting her degree in Civil Engineering from Penn State, Austin spent 10 years working for a California-based global engineering company before returning to the Penn State College of Engineering as the Director of Minority Engineering Program to help students matriculate. She later earned a Masters Degree in Business at Notre Dame and her horizons began to widen with respect to community development and the need to create a diverse workforce. She



Saundra Johnson Austin.

discovered that many families in poverty were reading at very low literacy levels. "It was quite an eye opener," Austin said.

Austin was Executive Director of the National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science, Inc. (GEM) and served as the Executive Vice President for the Community Partnership for Lifelong Learning (CPLL) in Benton Harbor, Michigan where she helped to bring grant money into the area. Before joining the NACME team, Austin served as the first President and CEO for St. Michael's High School in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Settled in North White Plains for five years, Austin walks to work every day. The NACME offices are located at One North Broadway.

Excited by the attention given to

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in Westchester County and White Plains, Austin sees much potential for scholarships and curriculum development in the partnerships growing between private and public institutions. This area is a hot bed of tech activity, she said.

Austin believes that students in Middle School need to be encouraged to begin thinking about their future careers.

"Career Days are important because students become aware of what is out there and then when it comes to looking at colleges, they can identify which institutions graduate students in the areas they want to pursue and what the available scholarships are," Austin

said. She is a firm believer that students need to find a direction, and then stay focused and committed.

The NACME mission is to "ensure American competitiveness in a flat world by leading and supporting the national effort to expand U.S. capability through increasing the number of successful African American, Indian and Latino young women and men in STEM education and careers," according to the organization's website. The ultimate goal is parity in the workforce.

NACME plans to release a paper on the relevance of Common Core Curriculum in July.

Concerned about standardized tests, Austin says that not all test questions have the same cultural relevance to all students. "Standards are great to have," she said, "but educators need to consider gender, ethnicity and different backgrounds. We need to give students who do not have the platform a voice."

As far as encouraging young females to take an interest in STEM, Austin says things are getting better but that it is very important for teachers and guidance counselors to encourage students.

For more information about NACME visit [www.nacme.org](http://www.nacme.org).

*"Students need to find a direction, and then stay focused and committed."*

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# 2015 Graduation



## Good Counsel Academy Closes Doors at 52 North Broadway



PHOTO SOURCE: COMPASSION SPEAKS

The Class of 2015 is the last to graduate from Good Counsel Academy High School, White Plains. The school and the campus will formally close its doors on July 1. The complete campus at 52 North Broadway is for sale. The last senior class graduated 100 young women on May 30, with a 100 percent College Acceptance Rate and 89 percent of the students in the class being offered scholarships and awards

totaling \$15,613,757. Good Counsel Academy Elementary in White Plains celebrated the graduation of the 8th grade class on June 19. The school, which enrolls students from Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth grade, will be relocating from the Good Counsel campus this July to open its doors in September at the former Holy Name of Jesus School in Valhalla.



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## Greenburgh School District Developing High Tech Job Training Program

Dr. Tahira Chase, Interim Superintendent, Greenburgh Central Schools and Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner, together with government officials, the Theodore Young Community Center, community volunteers and residents who have personal relations with leading high tech companies in the area are developing a plan that will provide

Greenburgh students with a pathway to high level technology positions once they graduate school. The group hopes to finalize a grant proposal concept in July.

High tech companies interested in helping out through their personnel or HR departments should e-mail [tchase@greenburghcsd.org](mailto:tchase@greenburghcsd.org) or [atpfeiner@greenburghny.com](mailto:atpfeiner@greenburghny.com).

## Woodlands Student Honored by Greenburgh Town Board

Samantha Simpson, a student at Woodlands High School was honored last week by the Greenburgh Town Board for her efforts to beautify the Woodlands High School grounds. Samantha is the leader of the Gardening Club at the High School. She wants to continue to help the town look nicer and is seeking donations and partnerships with local nurseries or garden stores. Over the summer she will maintain what has already been planted

and hopefully will reap a harvest of tomatoes, peppers, mint and thyme. In the fall Samantha will prepare for spring bulbs planting and will be in need of gardening supplies such as pitchforks, hose and sprinkler. Donations of soil and flowers are also welcomed.

The Woodlands Gardening Club will also be available to work on small gardens and parklets in the Town of Greenburgh.

## White Plains High School Jandon Scholars

Four White Plains High School Seniors are recipients of Westchester County Jandon Scholarships. Maria Angelica Garcia (Mercy College), Alisa Choubay (Fordham University) and

Reyna Chavarria (SUNY Cobleskill) will each receive \$12,000 to be awarded throughout the four-year terms of their college careers.



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# Police Blotter

## Greenburgh Police Department

**Assault.** While on routine patrol of 30 Manhattan Ave. officers observed two men involved in a physical dispute. One was physically restraining the other. When the two men were separated, one was observed putting a glass crack pipe in his waistband and pulling his shirt over it attempting to conceal the crack pipe. Police advised the defendant he was under arrest for criminal possession of a controlled substance. When he was asked to turn around and place his hands behind his back, the defendant refused to comply, pulled away from the officers and began flailing his arms. A Taser was used to get the defendant under control as he fought with police. Eventually he complied and told police he had a crack pipe in his underwear. The defendant was arrested and transported to police headquarters where he was booked and printed.

**Suspicious Incident.** On the afternoon of June 15 police responded to Sam's Club for a reported suspicious incident. On arrival, officers were told that three unknown males were observed on video surveillance putting approximately seven cases (six cans per pack) of Enfamil baby formula into two shopping carts and were not observed making a purchase. The three men were observed on video surveillance walking out of the store with their personal bags that appeared to be full. However, the video did not show the men putting the products into their bags, which had appeared empty on the video recorded as they entered the store. The greeter at the exit door attempted to stop one of the men but he did not stop and continued to walk out. Descriptions for each of the suspects were taken from the surveillance video. Nothing further could be obtained at this time.

**Petit Larceny.** On the evening of June 15 police responded to Best Buy for an attempted larceny that was called in by detectives who had observed Best Buy security attempting to stop a shoplifter by the front doors. The suspect, a male, ran off into the parking lot before the detectives were able to assist. The store security officer reported that a man had walked into the store and proceeded to the audio/visual speakers section and picked up a "Sonos" audio speaker. The offender then walked to the front doors with the speaker and no purchase receipt. When the security officer asked him for his purchase receipt the man became defensive and threatening. The offender then left the store through the front doors and the security officer followed him and wrestled the "Sonos" speaker from him. The offender then ran southbound in the parking lot towards Marshall's department store. The area was checked by police units with negative results. The security officer said he thought the offender was the same male from a previous larceny of

a \$800 speaker. Store security provided surveillance video of both incidents.

**Unlicensed Operation of Vehicle.** On June 16, police observed a pick-up truck traveling on Route 119 with no registration or inspection sticker affixed to the windshield. The vehicle also had no front license plate and only one NYS plate affixed to the rear. The vehicle was stopped and the driver said that his driver's license was suspended because of two tickets he had not paid. A DMV check revealed the license plate was expired on 4-17-13 and was last registered to a 2004 Nissan. The driver said he had bought the pick-up but did not get the title yet from the old owner. A DMV check of the driver's license revealed six active suspensions. The driver was arrested and transported to police headquarters. The vehicle was towed to police impound.

**Forged Instrument.** On June 16 members of the Special Crimes Unit observed a black four door BMW circling numerous times in the parking lot of the CVS on Central Avenue. The vehicle came to a stop in the middle row and remained idle. A black male wearing a white t-shirt was then observed exiting the CVS empty handed and looking over his shoulder numerous times as he walked east through the lot. He then got into the BMW on the passenger side and the car left the parking lot and proceeded north on Central Avenue to the Hartsdale Wine Shop. The male driver wearing a grey t-shirt exited the driver side and the male wearing the white t-shirt exited the passenger side. Both males entered the wine shop for a short duration and exited empty handed. Both males then entered the car and began traveling south on Central Avenue. When a traffic violation was observed as the car turned left onto Battle Avenue, a traffic stop was conducted and both parties were observed suddenly slouching in their seats and making several furtive movements towards the center console and passenger side door jam. Officers then observed the driver placing a credit card into the center console in an attempt to hide it. The driver was secured and upon closer inspection of the credit card, it was discovered to be forged. The credit card was also falsely embossed with the driver's name. The passenger was smoking marijuana and also had a forged credit card in his possession. Additional forged credit cards were also discovered in the vehicle. Both males were transported to police headquarters without incident. The vehicle was impounded. An inventory of property in the car yielded a Sony PlayStation PS4 inside a GameStop shopping bag. After further investigation it was determined that the PS4 was purchased fraudulently GameStop. Both parties were booked, processed, and each had complaints of feeling nauseous. They were transported to Westchester Medical

Center for care. Upon discharge they were held for arraignment.

**Petit Larceny.** On June 16 police responded to a call in reference to damage to a vehicle. The victim reported that she went into Buy Buy Baby for approximately 15 minutes and when she returned to her vehicle she noticed that her passenger window has been shattered and her Brown Louis Vuitton (rip-off) purse had been taken. The value was \$50. Police canvassed the area with negative results. There are no surveillance cameras.

**Identity Theft.** On June 17, a victim of identity theft told police she received a Target credit card in the mail that she had not applied for. She immediately contacted the Target company. They told her the account was opened in person in the Mt. Vernon store and \$536 was immediately charged to the account including gift cards. The victim has since cancelled the credit card and put a 90-day alert on the accounts through Equifax. The victim does not know who may have done this, but wishes to press charges if a suspect is identified.

**Petit Larceny.** Police responded to a call for service from store security at Sam's Club reporting a larceny in progress. Responding units were given a description of a male who had stolen from the store and left in a west bound direction toward the UPS facility. Responding units canvassed the area and eventually came upon a suspect who continued to evade officers running toward him. The suspect struggled with police against arrest, but was eventually cuffed. Two packages of Enfamil were discovered in a black bag.

**Suspicious Incident.** On the afternoon of June 18 police responded to Mount Calvary Cemetery for a suspicious package. The foreman told police that about 30 minutes prior, the family of one of the deceased had arrived to visit his grave and found a variety of unknown objects beside it. The items consist of a black piece of plastic tarp about 16 inches by 16 inches wrapped around a rotting piece of meat, a small black piece of cloth cut out in the shape of a doll, and a small wallet sized picture of an Hispanic female with a name written on the back of it three times. Detectives took photos of the scene and secured the photo for investigative purposes. No additional information at this time.

**Suspicious Incident.** During the early morning hours of June 20 police received a call about an erratic driver that had pulled into the parking lot at 375 Executive Blvd. While officers observed the unoccupied vehicle from a distance they were informed by the caller that she and a passenger were traveling northbound on the Sprain Brook Parkway

when they observed the vehicle swerving and failing to maintain lane. The vehicle then swerved across two lanes to the left exit lane for I-287 west bound almost striking her car. The caller then followed the vehicle as it continued onto I-287 and immediately exited onto Saw Mill River Road. The vehicle then continued up to Executive Blvd. and parked and a male exited the vehicle, took out a hand truck and went into the paper distributor. Officers waited in the area and observed the man come back to the vehicle and get into the drivers seat. He then appeared to fall asleep. Officers made contact with the man who said he had just dropped off papers at the distribution center and was taking a nap. He further reported that he does not deliver newspapers to residential neighborhoods, only to distribution centers and stores/restaurants. This was confirmed by managers at the distribution center. Officers observed damage to the passenger side of the vehicle. There were multiple scratches on the front bumper, right-side passenger mirror, right front passenger and rear passenger doors as well as dents by the front passenger-side wheel well. Additionally, the front passenger-side quarter panel did not appear flush with the vehicle. There was also a mark on the front right tire, which appeared to be from striking a curb. There were also multiple scratches on the back right hubcap, which may have been from striking a curb. Officers also found a small yellow-colored rock in the front right wheel-well, which one officer reported appeared to be the same as small yellow-colored rocks at the scene of a hit and run accident on South Road on 6/9/2015. The driver could not provide an answer for how the damage to the vehicle occurred or when it occurred. A DMV check of the driver reported a status of Valid but with two convictions and one accident. The prior conviction was for Leaving the Scene of a Property Damage Incident Without Reporting in the City of White Plains. Pictures of the damage to the vehicle were taken, and the driver's route schedule was obtained. He was released from the scene but advised to report to police headquarters for further discussion.



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## A Year for Championing the Rights of Women

By Amy Paulin

Based on the turmoil of high profile indictments and resulting swift changes in leadership, many observers of what happens in Albany might have concluded early on that this would be a lost session. Yet despite assumptions that this would just be another year of dysfunction and corruption, I am pleased and proud to report that this was one of the most productive legislative sessions for championing the rights of women.

Without fanfare, the Assembly has passed nine important bills, previously subsumed in the Women's Equality Agenda. These bills, to highlight a few,

will prohibit pay disparity based on gender, ban sexual harassment in the workplace, and require employers to provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant employees in the workplace. I am especially gratified that the Trafficking Victims Protection and Justice Act (TVPJA), a bill I authored, was among the nine passed. The TVPJA will strengthen our human trafficking laws by, among other things, holding buyers and traffickers more accountable, providing law enforcement with additional investigative tools to identify traffickers, increasing awareness among law enforcement to enable them to recognize

trafficking victims and refer them to services, and providing victims the ability to recover damages from their traffickers.

With the Senate having passed these bills, once they have been signed into law, we will be better able to ensure that women can pursue their goals and lead successful lives, free from discrimination, harassment, exploitation and abuse. Although we still have work to do to achieve women's equality in all respects, we have taken enormous strides forward this year toward that end.

Amy Paulin is New York State Assemblywoman representing the 88th District. She is also a Scarsdale resident.

## Obituaries

### Helbino Rush

Helbino Rush passed away June 28 surrounded by his family. He was 84. Helbino was born in Misiones Argentina on December 06, 1930. He married his loving wife Silvia in Argentine on March 29, 1958. He is survived by Silvia, one son Jose Rush of White Plains, four cherished grandchildren, Calla, Jessica, Kristina, and Charles Rusch. Also surviving is one great grandson Eric Steely.

### Mary J. Barile

Mary J. Barile passed away on June 27 at the age of 93. Mary was born on Feb. 13, 1922 in White Plains to Gaetano and Vera (Mercantanante) Arrigo. She is survived by three children, Jacqueline (Anthony) Pasqualini of Purchase, Patrick (Diane) Barile of Fort Worth Texas, and Marie (Peter) Matzek of Beacon. Also surviving are six loving Grandchildren, one dear sister Theresa Denike, and sister-in-law Florence Arrigo. She was predeceased by three brothers and sisters.

### Del Hillgartner

Del Hillgartner of Elmsford died June 24 after a long battle with cancer. He was born March 29, 1949, in Indianapolis, Indiana but spent his childhood in Tangier, Morocco. While a student at the American School of Tangier, he became friends with the novelist Paul Bowles. Later he studied with the documentary filmmaker Richard Leacock. Both men were great mentors and remained Del's friends for the rest of their lives. After graduating from MIT in 1971 (he was a member of MENSA), Del taught filmmaking and photography at Cooper Union. He also was a contributing editor and featured columnist for The Filmmaker's Newsletter for many years. He married Dinah Kidd in 1987 and they settled in Elmsford, where he remained for the rest of his life. He recently retired as Coordinator of IT at the Westchester Educational Opportunity Center. Del loved travel, history, world music, and especially cartoons and comic books, of which he had an extensive collection. A gifted musician and composer, a published photographer, he will be remembered as

a generous soul who loved sharing the things he loved with the ones he loved. He is survived by his wife Dinah, father William, brother Malcolm and his wife Jahanna, sister Deborah and her wife Liz, nephew Dash and niece Skye. He will be missed.

### Mark Gaston

Mark Gaston passed away peacefully and unexpectedly in his sleep on June 22 after spending a perfect Father's Day with his family. He was 64.

Gaston is survived by his wonderful wife of 38 years, Jeannie (nee Wands), and his daughters, Lauren and Kerri. He was a father, husband, brother, uncle and friend who knew everything, loved sarcasm and could always be counted on for a witty rebuttal followed by a huge, infectious laugh.

Born on Jan. 11, 1951, in Arlington, Va., Gaston was the second oldest of seven children who grew up in Pittsburgh and the Throgs Neck section of the Bronx. He is preceded in death by his parents, John and Marie, and his brother, Paul. He is also survived by his siblings, Roger, Cynthia, Valerie, Barry and Ken, and a ton of nieces and nephews.

Gaston played football for Cardinal Spellman High School (1969) and Iona College, where he made amazing friends that would serve as extended family for the rest of his life. He met his love, Jeannie, through one of those friends in 1972.

After Iona, Gaston went to work in the financial realm of the advertising industry, first at Benton & Bowles, followed by 22 years at Grey. In 1984 he and Jeannie moved to White Plains where they raised their daughters, entertained friends and family and kept the most beautifully manicured lawn in The Highlands.

He loved to golf, fish, boat, watch football, ski, hunt, play cards with his buddies and share his vast breadth of knowledge with anyone who'd listen.

A memorial Mass in his honor took place at Our Lady of Sorrows Church on June 27, followed by music, beers, laughs and general joyousness in the Arrigoni Chapel at Iona College.

In lieu of flowers, please crack a Coors

Light, listen to Red Solo Cup and make a donation to the Wounded Warriors Project in his honor.

### Carmela Vuto

Carmela "Millie" Vuto, of Hopewell Junction, passed away June 20. She was 88. Millie was born January 2, 1927 in the Bronx to Vincent and Carmela Pernicone Licari. She was a teacher's assistant for many years in the Greenburgh Central School District. On October 27, 1951 she married the late Vincent A. Vuto in the Bronx.

Millie is survived by her seven children; Felice and Terry Flanagan of Trumbull, CT, Stephanie and Rich Rapp of Weston, CT, Paul and Kathy Vuto of Monroe, CT, Christine Tumminelli of Hartsdale, Joseph and Linda Vuto of Brewster, Claudine and Ray Stackhouse of Hopewell Junction and Jeanine and Joe Alesi of Cranford, NJ. Also surviving are three sisters, Terry Padilla, Pat Benza and Gemma Marrone and 16 grandchildren, Evan, Dean and Sophia Rapp, Valerie, Michael and Joseph Vuto, Rose Tumminelli, Belinda and Brandon Vuto, Raymond, Stephen, Christopher and Camille Stackhouse, and Vincent, Anthony and Gemma Alesi. She was predeceased by her brother Joe Licari and sisters Vee Cofini, Rose Calabro.

Donations are welcomed to the Alzheimer's Association in memory of Carmela Vuto.

## 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.

# Boomerang

## Requiem for the Baby Boomers



By Richard Cirulli

I am writing this column as an innocent bystander and to a degree a victim (but a victim with hope), being proud of the accomplishments of my Baby Boom generation. For

those too young to know and to those too old to remember, I believe it is time to remind America of the trials and tribulations many Baby Boomers are facing today.

The 60's were a difficult and contradictory time for America. It was a time that ushered in the peace movement amidst the backdrop of the Viet Nam War, which resulted in the loss of 57,000 innocent American lives as well as untold deaths to innocent citizens of Viet Nam; bringing sorrow and loss upon their families – innocent bystanders and victims – of a new global economic order. The Baby Boom generation was the vanguard for civil rights, environmentalism, the peace movement, and women's rights to name a few. Just a simple conscious self-reflection of our stations in life will confirm the sacrifices and the benefits our nation reaped at their expense.

Quite regretfully the contributions of the Baby Boomers have been forgotten by following generations who have benefitted from their sacrifices; a society that fails to assist the Baby Boomers who are in need of a voice today. Sadly, there is no social movement or government intervention to address the plight of this aging generation.

To a degree, Baby Boomers are the new class of American residents facing discrimination.

Discrimination seems to be deeply rooted in the American ethos – part of a society that can be contradictory, arbitrary and capricious with its compassion and benevolence. Americans are quick to send government and military assistance, as well as personal charity to those suffering globally, as we should without reservation. However, when millions of aging Baby Boomers lost their jobs, healthcare and life's savings, and for some their soul, during the Great Recession, America sent little aid, if any.

As we Baby Boomers age and experience our health's decline, we are discovering discrimination at work for those fortunate enough to be working. For the long-term unemployed, we are advised that "we need

not apply."

The thing is, Baby Boomers have a tremendous amount of experience and knowledge and the soul that came from fighting many social ills. Combined with the fact that this generation evolved with technology – and really knows how things work – the Baby Boom generation cannot retire and like a "Boomerang" is being called back to the front lines of a nation in need of rediscovering its soul.

If you feel the call to the "Boomerang Generation" – where the former long hairs, now the gray hairs, are once again finding a prominent voice, make the move and take the action. We've experienced a bit of a kick in the pants, but rather than allowing the momentum that puts a generation out to pasture, pursue the momentum calling us back.

*Dr. Richard Cirulli is a college professor, business consultant, writer and an Innocent Bystander and critic at large. He can be reached at profcirulli@optonline.net.*

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# How I Added Pizzazz to My Home with Custom Lighting

When I was in college, I appeared in a play called "The Madwoman of Chaillot" by Jean Giraudoux with the actress Linda Lavin who would later go on to achieve fame as "Alice" on television. The most stunning thing about that production as I



BILL PRIMAVERA PHOTO

Jimmy, a project manager at P&K Electric in Yorktown, is as much an artist as an electrician when installing the dramatic lighting system at The Home Guru's home.

recall was the amazing effects achieved by its lighting director, on staff in the theater department, who was an incredible talent.

I remember that when the curtain rose for the second act, the stage was completely dark and slowly a small pin spotlight illuminated only the face of the madwoman in the center of the stage. Just that lighting effect alone brought applause from the audience. Every scene of the play was an arresting study in shadow and light where brightness drew the viewer's attention where it needed to be while

other areas of the stage receded. I was mesmerized as I observed how light created movement and mood by playing off stationery surfaces.

Many years later I was reminded of my interest in stage lighting when Barry Liebman, director of Yorktown Stage in Yorktown Heights, shared with me his feeling that a production really doesn't come to life until the lighting director does his job with a show, going so far to say that seeing a set dramatically lit for the first time has brought him to tears.

His saying that convinced me that someday I should have a home where its lighting would be as dramatic as a stage set, and that would require a custom designed lighting system. But, having always lived in antique homes, my lighting was primarily from traditional lamps. When I moved recently to a new condo at Trump Park Residences, however, my dream for dramatic lighting presented itself. I arranged with management to have electrical contractors work with me to install a system to light my great room, which I had designed basically as an art



By Bill Primavera

gallery for my collection of portraits and landscapes. The lighting system I planned was to highlight the paintings on three walls: portraits on the "living room" side, pastorals on the "dining room" side and a large abstract on the third wall in between.

At first I was planning to hire a lighting designer, but I was lucky to find an electrician with sensitivity to my ideas and needs, P&K Electric -- a father (Pete) and son (Ken) team in Yorktown Heights -- and working in tandem with an electric supply company, Mid-County Lighting & Electric in Mahopac, we all worked wonders together.

There were many technical challenges to overcome working on the top fifth floor condo with 10-ft. high ceilings, installing high hats in a soffit with insulation material. The casing for the high hat units I originally wanted turned out to be too large to be accommodated in the soffit, but I had the good fortune to be assigned a job manager named Jimmy who was as much an artist as he was an electrician. Jimmy guided me every step of the way in terms of which product to use -- we sourced a small LED light at Mid-County whose imprint on the ceiling

is only two inches square -- as well as the appropriate spacing and angles of light to employ. And, he cut such clean holes that nary a speck of spackle was needed for patching the plasterboard.

Now completed, the overhead pin spots illuminate my great room/gallery in a warm and inviting way. Rather than being surrounded by flat walls with two-dimensional shapes on them, the lighted paintings create great depth and richness to our space. While we have other traditional lighting sources in the room, it really requires no light other than that resting on the faces of the portraits and on the landscapes of the pastorals. The effect takes us to other acquaintances and distant places beyond the space we occupy. It's transporting.

For a great electrician, ask for Pete at P&K Electric in Yorktown at: 914-962-3581. For supplies, ask for Steve at Mid-County Lighting & Electric in Mahopac at: 845-621-7128.

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.

## A Guided Tour of the Evolving Restaurant Beverage List



By Nick Antonaccio

Remember the wine lists of the 20th century? It was as if an invisible hand crafted the lists of every Italian neighborhood restaurant, every French bistro and every steakhouse. This monotonous uniformity fit the moment in Americans' wine education. Offer them what they were comfortable with; don't undermine their selections with wines contrary to their preconceptions and fixed mindset.

I am pleased to report this is no longer the landscape for many restaurant lists. The focus of the lists has changed dramatically. More and more frequently, restaurant patrons are presented with a "beverage" list that is far ranging. I am seeing lists expanded to include wines from far-flung lands and wines with stratospheric prices, including escalating mark-ups. More revolutionary is the expansion into other alcoholic beverages. Today's beverage list may include cocktails, craft beers and global whiskeys.

It is increasingly difficult for many patrons to navigate these new lists; understanding the nuances of the choices presents an additional dilemma. In this new era, restaurants are employing a new

strategy. They are hiring knowledgeable sommeliers.

This new generation of "soms" is infusing new life into restaurants. They maintain the age-worthy standards of course, but then fan out to unfamiliar territories. By personally crafting and curating beverage lists, this new breed offers diners the opportunity to experiment and seek out their next favorite wine.

Baby Boomers, Gen Xers, Gen Yers and Millennials alike are increasingly wine savvy, resulting in more sophisticated wine and food palates. They are willing to spend more for the right wine to accompany a gourmet meal, and they are not hesitant to seek guidance. Why fumble through a list of unrecognizable - and unpronounceable - names when your friendly somm can be your personal guide through the maze of today's restaurant fare?

The expanded beverage list is creating quite a buzz for many restaurant-goers. No longer focused primarily on wines, these lists embrace pre-dinner cocktails, both traditional and those concocted by the new wave of mixologists. Combining exotic ingredients (herbs, bitters, spices), they can set-up one's palate for the dinner

course or be enjoyed as an after-dinner digestif. If you've brushed past this section of a beverage list, take a moment to pause and peruse the offerings.

In the past, beer selections were generally non-existent on lists. Today, with the proliferation of artisanal beers, somms are increasingly pairing them with food menus. My personal experiences have validated the compatibility of a number of dishes with finely crafted beers (my current favorite: St. Martin's Belgian Ale with a robust fowl dish).

Whiskeys are gaining a foothold on restaurants' beverage lists. Scotch offerings are increasing, while small batch American bourbons are growing in popularity for pre-dinner imbibing. In a surprising move towards throwback spirits, small-batch Tennessee whiskeys are gaining traction on lists (I recently enjoyed George Dickel Barrel Select - with one ice cube).

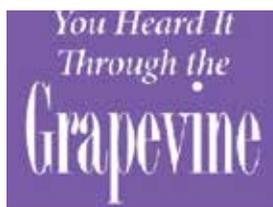
Along with expanded and upgraded lists come higher-priced wines. Curated lists may focus on European fine wines not available in wine shops, with prices in the three and four digit stratosphere. For those seeking a higher level of dining,

wine prices may not be a constricting factor. However, there are far more consumers who can't (won't) open their wallets for more than two or three (soon to be replaced) Alexander Hamiltons. This is becoming a dilemma for certain diners. Relief is not on the way.

Over the years, I've learned to budget my disposable income for restaurant dining towards higher priced wines without sacrificing my family's nutritional needs or wardrobe expansion. However, I do object to the high markups on many of the wines I see on today's wine lists. This egregious practice shows no signs of abating, although a handful of restaurant owners and sommeliers are defying their competitors with lesser markups.

The goal of every restaurant should be to find the perfect fit for your palate and your wallet. After all, a contented customer is a returning customer. And a satisfied customer is a good will ambassador for a successful restaurant.

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



# Platinum Entertainment DJs Will Electrify Your Special Event



By Morris Gut

As you know from previous columns, I am always on the lookout for exciting event venues. That is why I want to introduce you to Anthony Cerone. If you are planning a special occasion: a wedding, bar mitzvah, sweet 16, anniversary party or gala celebration of any kind and you want to raise the excitement level, you must meet with Anthony, the multi-talented founder of Platinum Entertainment of Harrison.

Put the entertainment in Platinum hands and Anthony will customize your event to the hilt. There are several pre-set plans to choose from providing: dynamic DJs, interactive MCs, complete

Anthony Cerone was drawn to this type of work early on taking drum lessons in second grade, then moving on to trumpet while experimenting with different instruments. At age 12 he began experimenting with his first "Fonzarelli" record player and Casio keyboard, making mixed tapes. He was obsessed with his double LP Grease album, Electric Light Orchestra record and Bee Gees album and was always drawn to records.

While his friends were out partying as teenagers, Anthony actually began DJing and worked at perfecting his craft with a pair of Technics 1200 turntables, a Numark mixer, and began doing Sweet 16s and graduation parties. He was also



Platinum Entertainment DJs is a multiple winner of the "Couple's Choice" Award, and has been featured on TLC's 'Four Weddings'. As Anthony Cerone says: "To be the best, you simply have to think like the best!"

Platinum Entertainment is based in Harrison. They may be reached toll free at: 914-921-6234, or e-mail: platinumdjny@

a must see this summer! By the way, the NYBG Greenmarket is underway every Wednesday. For further info: www.nybg.org, or call: 718-817-8777.

**Galloping Bar/Lounge at Rio Bravo.** Meanwhile, the popular 'galloping' bar/lounge at the new Rio Bravo Mexican Restaurant in Larchmont is a cool spot to network while sipping on your favorite cocktail. There are daily Happy Hours Monday through Friday from 3 to 6 p.m. featuring half-price appetizers and



Casa de Azul Taco Truck at NYBG.

personalized music planning, showcase stage lighted dance platforms, astounding lighting and special effects, color kinetics, wall washing, personalized monograms, and stunning elegance with every set-up.



Anthony Cerone of Platinum Entertainment.

playing drums in a high school rock band at the same time. While attending college he started working for a large scale DJ entertainment company. After a few years, his drive and passion were pushing him to venture out on his own.

His enthusiasm progressed and while Anthony was doing private events and clubs, he was also writing electronic dance music. While being approached by a few record labels, this music industry went through a major transition into grunge. There was a bottoming for a period of about 4 years where dance music was in decline and DJs were performing underground, not mainstream. Anthony went back to playing with a rock band for a while and put his DJ performances on the back burner.

Then boom! HOT 103.5 came to radio and dance music was reborn. In 1996, he picked up his turntables once again and created Platinum Entertainment with a partner and the rest is history. Once they made the leap, business exploded and things never looked better.

Today Platinum Entertainment is one of the longest running DJ companies in the area, and one of the most creative. They perform throughout the metro area.



Galloping bar/lounge at Rio Bravo.

gmail.com www.platinumdjny.com www.platinumentertainmentdjs.com

**Frida & Tacos at NYBG.** Coinciding with the lovely Frida Kahlo Mexican art exhibit: 'Art, Garden, Life' at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx, caterer Stephen Starr Events has set up a charming food kiosk and Tequila bar at the main entrance and a floating taco truck named after Kahlo's legendary home (where she lived with noted artist/muralist Diego Rivera) named: Casa de Azul in Mexico City. Both stations serve tasty Mexican specialties based on Kahlo's own recipes. The entire exhibit is

drinks. The house stocks a large selection of Tequilas and you can build your own Margarita from scratch. If you happen to spot the floating guacamole cart, order a delicious fresh made bowl to go with your drinks. Rio Bravo is located at 1879 Palmer Ave., Larchmont; 914-341-1546; www.riobravotacosandtequila.com

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



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# The Restaurant Examiner



## Judging is Under Way for the First Annual Julia Child Award

By Jerry Eimbinder

The winner of the first annual “Julia Child Award” will be revealed on August 13 by the Julia Child Foundation for Gastronomy and the Culinary Arts. The winning candidate will be honored in a program at Julia’s Kitchen in the Smithsonian Institute’s National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

A panel of judges was deliberating as this issue went to press.

The award winner will receive an engraved plaque — in addition a \$50,000 grant will be given to a food-related, non-profit organization selected by the recipient.

Eligibility for the award isn’t restricted to chefs and restaurateurs. Deserving candidates concerned with food were sought out by the judges but unsolicited nominations for other individuals working in the food industry were also accepted. No fees are charged to individuals being considered for the award.

In describing the new award, Tanya Steel, foundation award director, said,



Tanya Steel, award program director at the Julia Child Foundation for Gastronomy and the Culinary Arts.

“The Julia Child Award will be given annually to an individual who has made a profound and significant difference in the way America cooks, eats and drinks.”

Steel was the editor-in-chief and editorial director at Epicurious, Gourmet Live and gourmet.com. She was also an editor at Bon Appetite, Food & Wine, Mademoiselle and Diversion. She is the coauthor of the New York Times’ bestseller *The Epicurious Cookbook* and *Real Food for Healthy Kids*. Currently, she is the CEO of two organizations — Tanya Wenman Steel LLC, a consultancy,

and *Cooking Up Big Dreams*, which develops and produces culinary media properties.

The award jurors are chairman Jim Dodge, Darra Goldstein, Russ Parsons, Nancy Silverton and Jasper White.

Jim Dodge is the author of award-winning *American Baker* (published in October 1987) and *Baking with Jim Dodge* (released in October 1991). He is a contributing editor to the revised *Joy of Cooking*, a former contributing editor to *Food & Wine*, and a consulting culinary editor to *Cooks Illustrated*. He received a James Beard Foundation Cookbook Award in 1987. Dodge is the director of specialty culinary programs at Bon Appetite Management Company.

Julia Child’s path to fame

Julia Child (nee Julia Carolyn McWilliams) was born on August 15, 1912, in Pasadena, CA. She graduated from Smith College in Northampton, MA in 1934 and served during World War Two with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) — a predecessor to the CIA (the Central Intelligence Agency and not the Culinary Institute of America). She married Paul Child in 1946.

She studied at the Cordon Bleu in Paris and received a diploma in 1951. Her first attempt at cookbook writing, a seven-year collaborative effort, resulted in a rejection in 1958 by book publisher Houghton Mifflin; a second rejection followed after the manuscript was rewritten.

She co-authored the landmark culinary classic *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*, in 1961. More than 20 cookbooks would follow.

She gained fame giving cooking lessons on television beginning nationally in 1963 and went on to win an Emmy for *The French Chef* in 1966.

Her second cookbook *The French Chef Cookbook* came out in 1968; *Mastering the Art of French Cooking, Volume Two* was released in 1970 and *From Julia Child’s Kitchen* was published in 1975. Her emergence as a television sensation began in the late 1970s.

*The Way to Cook* was published in 1989 and *Julia Child’s Menu Cookbook* came out in 1991.

In 1993, Julia was the first woman inducted into the Culinary Institute of America’s Hall of Fame. She created the Julia Child Foundation for Gastronomy and the Culinary Arts in 1995.

Julia received the Presidential Metal of Freedom, America’s highest civilian honor, in 2003 from president George W. Bush.

The 2009 Sony Pictures movie *Julie and Julia*, written and directed by the late Nora



Julia Child.

Ephron, starred Meryl Streep as Julia and revealed Child’s genius to a younger generation.

Child stood six-feet, two or three inches tall and possessed a voice of unusual and easily recognizable pitch; it was described as having a “warble” sound. She died on August 13, 2004, two days before her 92nd birthday.

Her biography, *“Dearie: The Remarkable Life of Julia Child,”* written by Bob Spitz, was released by Knopf Publishers in 2012. (Spitz is also the author of *“The Beatles.”*)

In announcing the publication of Child’s biography, Knopf Publishers, a Penguin Random House division, said, “Julia took on all the pretensions that embellished tony French cuisine and fricasseed them to a fare-thee-well, paving the way for everything that has happened since in American cooking, from TV dinners and Big Macs to sea urchin foam and the Food Channel.”

Author Spitz said, “In 1992, while I was on assignment for various magazines in Italy, I got the chance to meet and travel through Sicily with Julia ... larger than life and full of all the personal traits one associates with her: straight talk, passion, encouragement, wit, and insight. I knew immediately that I would write a biography about her and received her blessing. And after her lovely memoir, *‘My Life in France,’* I recognized that the rest of her life needed to be fully captured.”

The United States Postal Service issued a Julia Child “Forever” stamp in September 2014.

The Julia Child Award will be presented in a ceremony to be held at the Smithsonian on October 22, 2015.

Bon Appetit.

*The Julia Child Foundation for Gastronomy and the Culinary Arts is located at 1187 Coast Village Road, Santa Barbara, California 93108.*



Julia Child. Photo courtesy of Harvard University, Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America.



Jim Dodge, head judge for the Julia Child award competition.

## EXAMINER SPORTS

# Jennifer DeSena Says Goodbye, as Board Appoints Matthew Cameron

By Albert Coqueran

The White Plains High School Athletic Department has a newly appointed Athletic Director. Matthew Cameron, the former Director of Athletics at Poughkeepsie High School was appointed to the position by the White Plains Board of Education on Monday, June 22. Cameron succeeds Jennifer DeSena, who resigned the position for purpose of retirement effective July 1.

Cameron comes to White Plains High School after having two stints as the Athletic Director of Poughkeepsie High School. Cameron headed the Poughkeepsie Athletic Department for six years from 2007-2012, before departing to take a similar position, as Coordinator of Physical Education for the Wappingers Central School District. Cameron tenured for one year at Wappingers before returning to once again assume the position as Athletic Director at Poughkeepsie H.S.

DeSena, a Long Beach, Long Island resident, resigned her position as the Tigers Athletic Director after two years on the job to retire to private life. DeSena initially submitted her resignation to be able to spend more quality time with her ailing mother.

Unfortunately, DeSena's mother passed away on May 18 at the age of 90. DeSena still decided to retire mentioning that there were just too many things she wanted to do with her Godchildren.

"I have very mixed emotions about leaving and probably what I am most mixed about is that I very much loved working here," said DeSena. "The students are awesome and appreciative and they really want to succeed and the staff is fabulous," she said.

Although, DeSena only tenured two years at the combined position of Athletic Director and Coordinator of Physical Education, her two years heading White Plains Athletics were very impactful years.

In 2013-14, her first year on the job, the Tigers football team won the Section 1 AA Championship and the varsity baseball team won the League Title. Last year, the Girls Lacrosse team made it to the Semifinals and almost beat Lakeland-Panas High School, who dominated Girls Lacrosse for years. Also Girls Basketball saw resurgence under the guidance of second-year Head Coach Tara Flaherty.

"I do not take credit for what the coaches and student/athletes accomplished. I feel that it is another source of White Plains pride and my responsibility is to support them anyway I can and I think I did that," commented DeSena.

As Athletic Director, one of DeSena's main responsibilities was managing the



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTO

Former White Plains Athletic Director Jennifer DeSena stands in front of the Trophy Case at White Plains High School, before resigning on June 30. DeSena accomplished much during her two-year tenure at WPHS, while learning a lot about the pride and tradition of the White Plains Tigers.

Athletic Department Budget. She worked skillfully with the help of her staff and cooperation from the Board of Education to make significant improvements concerning athletics.

Just before departing her position, she was able to finalize two substantial upgrades to Tigers athletics. DeSena secured high density and lightweight state-of-the-art mats for the Tigers Wrestling team. The mats are safer and transport easily, which will allow the wrestling team to have their matches next season in the North (main) Gym. She also installed full-court baskets in the South Gym.

DeSena also had the equipment upgraded for health and safety reasons for the football and lacrosse teams and helped secure revenue for universal team uniforms for the Highlands Middle School. "I was very lucky because we had a School District and community that supported the school. I mean when you are getting budgets passed by 80 percent that tells a lot about the pride in the school," DeSena said.

But if anything will enrich the legacy of this short term Athletic Director at WPHS, it will be the donation by Planet Fitness New York City and Westchester County Clubs Owner, James Innocenti. The donation was initiated by a request from Highlands Middle School teacher Steve Fugarino, which led to Planet Fitness donating 60 cardio machines and 37 Pin Selector machines to White Plains

Public Schools.

"That Planet Fitness contribution will be able to be used by the community for years and years to come and the students love it," said DeSena. "This enabled us to keep our students current in fitness and physical education. Through this contribution we are able to have 40 students, a full-class, working-out simultaneously on equipment."

However, DeSena's legacy at White Plains High School will not go unblemished, as although it was not her fault, it was under her watch that two Turkey Bowls were canceled, which outraged much of the City of White Plains. "It was tough that a school community that loves the school so much was disappointed. You never want to disappoint people on your watch,"

commented DeSena.

She admits that she was shocked concerning the extreme reaction from the community concerning the cancellation of the Turkey Bowls, even after being associated with other schools' Turkey Bowls in the past. "Here, I had no idea that the game was as important to the community as it was," said DeSena. "But nobody really approached me as blaming me but they were very disappointed and I understood."

The position of Athletic Director and Coordinator of Physical Education has been separated into two positions. Cameron will succeed DeSena as Athletic Director and Denise Tomici, the former Teacher of Support for Athletics and Physical Education was promoted to Coordinator of Physical Education on July 1.

Tomici has worked in the White Plains School District for 15 years and held the position of Teacher of Support for three years. "Jen never stopped working. She did a lot in two years for both Physical Education and Athletics," acknowledged Tomici.

"I think what I will most remember is the feeling of pride in the school and community and how that all comes together with the staff, the students and the Board of Education," commented DeSena. "This is the heart and soul of the city and not every school district is like that. This is the City of White Plains and once you get that, you really get it," concluded DeSena.

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## LEGAL NOTICE

### NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, July 13, 2015, 8:00pm, prevailing time, 80 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville, NY to hear comments as it pertains to a Local Law to establish a "Community Choice Aggregation" (Energy) Program as follows:

**Section 1.** The Code is hereby amended by adding a new Chapter, entitled "COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION" (ENERGY) PROGRAM as follows:

### ARTICLE I

§1. Legislative Findings; Intent and Purpose; Authority.

**A.** It is the purpose of this Local Law to seek to reduce the cost of natural gas and electricity to its residents.

**B.** The purpose of this CCA Program, as described to the Village of Pleasantville by Sustainable Westchester, is to allow participating local governments including the Village of Pleasantville to procure energy supply service for their residential and Small Commercial customers, who will have the opportunity to opt out of the procurement, while maintaining transmission and distribution service from the existing Distribution Utility. This Chapter establishes a program that will allow the Village of Pleasantville, or its designated agent for that purpose, to put out for bid the total amount of natural gas and/or electricity being purchased by local residential and Small Commercial customers. Bundled Customers will have the opportunity to have more negotiating strength and consequential potential to lower their overall energy costs, and to improve customer choice and value, by providing an additional alternative source for electricity and natural gas; thereby, fulfilling the purposes of this Chapter and fulfilling an important public purpose.

**C.** The Village of Pleasantville is hereby authorized to participate in a COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (ENERGY) PROGRAM pursuant to Section 10(1)(ii)(a)(12) of the New York Municipal Home Rule Law; and State of New York Public Service Commission Case No. 14-M-0564, Petition of Sustainable Westchester for Expedited Approval for the Implementation of a Pilot Community Choice Aggregation Program within the County of Westchester, Order Granting Petition in Part (issued February 26, 2015) as may be amended, including subsequent orders of the Public Service Commission issued in connection with or related to Case No. 14-M-0564 (collectively, the "Order"). Order shall also mean orders of the Public Service Commission related to State of New York Public Service Commission Case No. 14-M-0224, Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Enable Community Choice Aggregation Programs (issued December 15, 2104) to the extent that orders related to Case No. 14-M-0224 enable actions by the Village

of Pleasantville not otherwise permitted pursuant to orders related to Case 14-M-0564; provided, however, that in the event of any conflict between orders from Case No. 14-M-0564 and orders from Case No 14-M-0224, orders from Case No 14-M-0564 shall govern the CCA Program.

**D.** This Chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (ENERGY) PROGRAM Law" of the Village of Pleasantville.

§2. Definitions.

For purposes of this Chapter, and unless otherwise expressly stated or unless the context otherwise requires, the terms in this Chapter shall have the meanings employed in the State of New York Public Service Commission's Uniform Business Practices or, if not so defined there, as indicated below:

**Bundled Customers** – Residential and Small Commercial customers of electricity or natural gas ("fuels") who are purchasing the fuels from the Distribution Utility. **Small Commercial - Non-residential customers** as permitted by the Order. **Community Choice Aggregation Program or CCA Program**– A municipal energy procurement program, which replaces the incumbent utility as the default Supplier for all Bundled Customers within the Village of Pleasantville.

**Distribution Utility** – Owner or controller of the means of distribution of the natural gas or electricity that is regulated by the Public Service Commission.

**Public Service Commission** – New York State Public Service Commission.

**Suppliers** – Energy service companies (ESCOs) that procure electric power and natural gas for Bundled Customers in connection with this Chapter or, alternatively, generators of electricity and natural gas or other entities who procure and resell electricity or natural gas.

**Sustainable Westchester** – A not-for-profit organization comprised of member municipalities in Westchester County, New York.

§3. Establishment of a COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (ENERGY) Program.

**A.** A COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (ENERGY) PROGRAM is hereby established by the Village of Pleasantville, whereby the Village of Pleasantville shall cooperate with Sustainable Westchester by participating in the CCA Program to the full extent permitted by the Order, as set forth more fully herein. The Village of Pleasantville's role under the CCA Program involves the aggregating of the electric and/or natural gas supply for its residents and the entering into a contract for the procurement of electricity and natural gas for its residents, which the residents may accept or opt out of, with one or more Suppliers for supply and services. Under the CCA Program, the operation and ownership of the utility service shall remain with the Distribution Utility.

**B.** The Village of Pleasantville's procurement of energy supply through a CCA Program constitutes neither the purchase of a public utility system, nor the furnishing of utility service. The Village of Pleasantville will not take over any part of the electric or gas transmission or distribution system and will not furnish any type of utility service, but will instead negotiate with Suppliers through Sustainable Westchester on behalf of participating residential and Small Commercial customers.

**C.** In order to implement the CCA Program, the Village of Pleasantville may adopt one or more resolutions that outline the process of and conditions for participation in the CCA Program, including but not limited to signing a contract for a compliant bid with one or more Suppliers, all as consistent with the Local Law and the Order.

**D.** The Public Service Commission supervises retail markets and participants in these markets through legislative and regulatory authority and the Uniform Business Practices, which includes rules relating to the eligibility of participating ESCOs, the operation by which ESCOs provide energy services, and the terms on which customers may be enrolled with ESCOs.

§4. Procedures for Eligibility; Customer Data Sharing.

**A.** As permitted by the Order, the Village of Pleasantville may request from the Distribution Utilities aggregated customer information by fuel type and service classification on a rolling basis.

**B.** Sustainable Westchester, on behalf of the Village of Pleasantville, shall issue one or more requests for proposals to Suppliers to provide energy to participants and may then award a contract in accordance with the CCA Program.

**C.** Sustainable Westchester or the Village of Pleasantville if the Village of Pleasantville so chooses, will then request individual customer data from the Distribution Utility in accordance with the CCA Program.

**D.** Sustainable Westchester or the Village of Pleasantville if the Village of Pleasantville so chooses, and the selected Supplier will then notify Bundled Customers of the contract terms and their opportunity to opt out of the CCA Program.

**E.** In accordance with and for purposes of the Order, the existing Distribution Utility, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. and/or New York State Electric & Gas Corporation] will provide to Sustainable Westchester aggregate and customer-specific data (including usage data, capacity tag obligations, account numbers, and service addresses) of all Bundled Customers in the Village of Pleasantville not currently enrolled with an ESCO.

**F.** Sustainable Westchester and the Village of Pleasantville will protect customer information as required by law, subject to

*continued on next page*



# 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, June 30

**Tuesdays at Dorry's.** New York State Senator representing our area, George Latimer, carries on his tradition of closing our Dorry's season with his report on what's up in Albany. What legislation has passed, what hasn't, and what he thinks about it all. George visits us whenever he can at Dorry's. He'll give us time to ask questions and register our concerns. 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, July 1

**Independence Day Celebration.** 6 to 10 p.m. (rain date Thursday, July 2) at White Plains High School on North Street. Residents are encouraged to come early, bring blankets and chairs. FDR

Drive will rock attendees with Michael Jackson hits and a Pre-Firework Patriotic Salute. Other entertainment includes Animal Embassy, the Miz Liz variety show, Lillu Acrobat, the Gizmo Guys as well as Center Ring Productions Circus Show in the Kids' Corner. Inflatable Party Adventures will offer inflatable rides for \$2 each. Barbeque, pizza, fried dough, ice cream, burgers and more offered by vendors. International Fireworks show will begin immediately after the flag is officially welcomed and presented. An announcement will be posted on the City's website, [www.cityofwhiteplains.com](http://www.cityofwhiteplains.com), by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 1 as to whether the event will go on as scheduled or moved to the rain date.

## Thursday, July 2

**Noonday Concert.** Outdoor live musical performance at Renaissance Plaza, White Plains (Mamaroneck Avenue and Main Street) by Beauty & Grease - Golden Era Rock. Sponsored by New York-Presbyterian Westchester Division.

## Friday, July 3

**Music Fest & Fireworks.** At Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla; pre-concert entertainment begins at 6 p.m. and

the Gerard Carelli Orchestra takes the stage at 8 p.m.; fireworks will follow at approximately 9:15 p.m. Admission and parking are free. Carpooling is suggested. Concert-goers should bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating as well as a picnic supper.

**Fireworks on the Pier.** Holiday fireworks display choreographed to patriotic music; 9:30 p.m.; Playland Park, Rye.

## Saturday, July 4

**Fireworks on the Pier.** Holiday fireworks display choreographed to patriotic music; 9:30 p.m.; Playland Park, Rye.

## Sunday, July 5

**Teaching Trails: A Community Path for Environmental Education.** Join guided trail experience through the woodland forest. Discover who left that track, which tree makes the best animal home or which plant makes its own heat to help melt through the late winter ice. Program runs about 30 minutes. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Saturday and Sunday (except

July 4) Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**Float Like a Butterfly.** Join a naturalist on a short walk to the beautifully restored Native Plant Meadow. Learn about the life cycle of a butterfly and the epic migration Monarch butterflies embark upon every year. Also, make your own colorful butterfly to take home. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members: \$5 per person. Non-members: \$8 per person. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**Story Walk.** "Splat Says Thank You!" is the featured story at White Plains' Bryant-Mamaroneck Park running through Sunday, July 5. "Splat Says Thank You!" by Rob Scotton, is a story about friendship. Splat the Cat's trusty mouse friend, Seymour, needs cheering up, and Splat wants to help. He's been working on something special for Seymour: Not just a thank-you card but a thank-you book! His book lists all the sweet and often hilarious reasons Splat is thankful for their friendship. The Bryant-Mamaroneck Park is located on the corner of Bryant and Mamaroneck Avenues, with a half-mile looped walking trail. The park entrance is on the Mamaroneck Avenue side.

## EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

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continued from previous page

the Order and the limitations of the New York State Freedom of Information Law. \$5. Choice of Energy Supplier; Opt-Out Notice and Procedure.

A. The Village of Pleasantville in conjunction with the selected ESCO will notify its residential and Small Commercial customers, by letter notice, of the Village of Pleasantville's decision to establish the CCA Program, of the contract terms with an ESCO, and of the opportunity to opt out of the CCA Program.

B. The letter notice will be sent to each customer at the address provided by the Distribution Utility and explain the CCA Program and the material provisions of

the ESCO contract, identify the methods by which the customer can opt out of the CCA Program, and provide information on how the customer can access additional information about the CCA Program.

C. The initial opt-out period shall be twenty (20) days.

D. CCA Program Bundled Customers, upon enrollment, will receive a welcome letter that will explain the customers' options for canceling the enrollment if they believe they were enrolled incorrectly or otherwise decide to withdraw from the CCA Program in favor of another Supplier. The welcome letter also will explain that residential customers are entitled to

the added protection of the mandated Three (3) Day rescission period as detailed in Section 5(B)(3) of the Uniform Business Practices. It will also explain that residential customers may opt out of the CCA program at any time by selecting the distribution utility or another ESCO as their energy supplier and providing the process for doing so.

\$6. Verification and Reporting.

A. Sustainable Westchester shall be responsible for filing an annual report with the Public Service Commission, which identifies the number of customers enrolled in the CCA Program by municipality and customer class, the number of customers who returned to utility service or service with another Supplier during the reporting period, and the average cost of commodity supply by month for the reporting period.

Section 2. This local law shall take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State

Judith Weintraub

Village Clerk, Village of Pleasantville

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