



Astorino Blasts Feds on Affordable Housing Contempt Charge

By Martin Wilbur

County Executive Rob Astorino went on the offensive against the federal government last Friday by slamming its assertion that Westchester County failed to meet its 2014 obligations for the controversial 2009 affordable housing settlement.

Holding a press conference outside the gate of Bill and Hillary Clinton's residence on Old House Road in Chappaqua, Astorino charged that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Justice have continually questioned the county's commitment to the settlement despite having



Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino held a press conference outside the Clinton home in Chappaqua Friday. He charged that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Justice have continually questioned the county's commitment to the settlement despite having complied with all milestones that had been established nearly six years ago.

complied with all milestones that had been established nearly six years ago.

Astorino also lambasted the government for its continued allegations that Westchester is guilty of perpetuating housing discrimination.

"I'm here to strongly refute that charge and warn that the federal government's assault on Westchester is just the opening salvo, and it's coming to a neighborhood near you wherever you live in this country," Astorino said. "What's at stake is who controls the future of our

continued on page 2

WP Firefighter Pleads Guilty to Vehicular Homicide

By Pat Casey

Erik Refvik, the 35-year-old White Plains Firefighter involved in the early morning accident in downtown White Plains on November 3 that killed 37-year-old Reyda La Madrid and resulted in serious physical injuries to her husband Edgar Lopez, pled guilty Friday to Vehicular Homicide.

The entire 28 count indictment included several counts of driving while intoxicated by alcohol and drugs.

Standing before the judge at Westchester County Court, White Plains, Refvik acknowledged his guilt on all counts, with his lawyer expressing his

continued on page 2



Erik Refvik

WP Woman Charged With Promoting Prison Contraband

Westchester County Police on July 22nd charged a White Plains woman, Ebony Strange, with passing suspected synthetic marijuana during a July 19 visit with her inmate husband. The substance



Ebony Strange

is believed to be the cause of a curious illness that afflicted at least 13 prisoners at the Westchester County jail in Valhalla on several occasions this month.

Strange, 32, of

Martin Luther King Blvd., was formally charged following an investigation by Westchester County Police detectives and members of the Department of Correction Special Investigations Unit.

Strange was charged with Promoting Prison Contraband 2nd Degree, a misdemeanor. She was released pending a July 30 appearance in Mount Pleasant Town Court. The charge could be upgraded pending the results of laboratory tests.

"Westchester County has zero tolerance when it comes to illegal contraband being smuggled into our jail to be used by

continued on page 4

Future of Several Local A&P Supermarkets Uncertain

By Pat Casey

The future of A&P supermarkets in Westchester is uncertain after the corporate entity that owns 296 stores filed for bankruptcy protection in White Plains last week.

Officials from the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, Inc. announced it would close 25 stores in the near future due to "lack of interest and significant ongoing store-operating losses." Asset purchase agreements with approximately 120 stores were also executed.

"After careful consideration of all alternatives, we have concluded that a sale process implemented through

Chapter 11 is the best way for A&P to preserve as many jobs as possible, and maximize value for all stakeholders," said Paul Hertz, president and chief executive officer of A&P. "While the decision to close some stores is always difficult, these actions will enable the company to refocus its efforts to ensure the vast majority of A&P stores continue operating under new owners as a result of the court supervised process."

Locally, ACME Markets, which currently operates 107 stores across New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland, has submitted bids to acquire

continued on page 4



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Astorino Blasts Feds on Affordable Housing Contempt Charge

continued from page 1

towns, our villages and our cities across the nation – the people who actually live in them or unelected bureaucrats working out of cubicles in Washington, D.C.?”

At the close of his comments, the county executive rang the Clintons’ buzzer on their property’s security system in hopes of speaking to Hillary Clinton, the Democratic presidential hopeful, and asking her where she stood on the issue. Security detail took his phone number and said the former U.S. senator and secretary of state would call Astorino.

“Does she think she lives in a discriminatory town? I don’t,” he said. “Does she think the Obama administration is being unfair in attacking her own community? I do. But we need to know where Hillary Clinton stands on this issue and she needs to speak up today.”

Astorino’s comments came three days after Assistant U.S. Attorney David Kennedy filed documents in federal court in White Plains asking the court to impose various penalties against the county for being in contempt of the settlement. Kennedy asked that Westchester establish an escrow fund of more than \$1.65 million and pay fines of \$30,000 for January and \$60,000 a month for each additional month until the county is in compliance. It has until the end of the year to comply.

The government’s court action centers around the 28-unit Chappaqua Station



Astorino knocked on Mrs. Clinton’s door to see if she was home. He gave his phone number to an aide who said Mrs. Clinton would call him back.

affordable housing project proposed for Hunts Lane based on a report issued in May by federal monitor James Johnson.

Calling the county’s alleged violation “serious and unmistakable,” the court papers state that credit toward the county’s funding approval for the 28 units late last year should not have counted toward Westchester’s Dec. 31, 2014, benchmark because state Board of Review fire code variances as well as building permits had not been issued.

Under the housing settlement, Westchester needed to have funding approved for 450 units by the end of last year. The money that the

Board of Legislators overwhelmingly approved for the project gave the county 454 units.

The county is required to build 750 new units of affordable housing by the end of next year.

The 38-page filing also stated that the county failed to do its part to quell community opposition in New Castle against the project, which has contributed to its delay. The previous town board approved the project pending all other agency approvals.

In addition to the monetary fines, the government is asking the court to force Westchester County to post a letter on its own website stating support for Chappaqua Station, have that letter published in a future Sunday edition of The Journal News and keep tabs on New Castle with monthly letters to monitor the project’s progress.

New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein, who campaigned against Chappaqua Station in 2013, said Friday that developer Conifer Realty paid its building inspection fees and awaits a decision to receive its building permit. Because of the extensive approvals needed besides the town, the project has taken a long time, he said.

“We have done nothing to impede this project,” Greenstein said. “I don’t understand what else they want us to do.”

Astorino said the county had checked with Johnson last December regarding Chappaqua Station because it needed approvals from the state Board of Review

and easements from the MTA because of its close proximity to the Metro-North railroad. The county’s vote last year demonstrates its support for Chappaqua Station, but Astorino said it is not going to limit citizens’ First Amendment rights if they oppose the project.

Board of Legislators Chairman Michael Kaplowitz (D-Somers) said the process the county followed for the funding approval was no different than for the other affordable housing projects.

He said the federal government is off base for now making Chappaqua Station an issue nearly eight months after the vote, but he also criticized Astorino for unnecessarily antagonizing the federal government by failing to have an acceptable Analysis of Impediments approved and by not ensuring that the 31 mostly white municipalities named in the settlement passed a model ordinance.

“This has everything to do with the county executive and the County of Westchester and the federal government complying with both the spirit and the law of the 2009 settlement, and I’m urging and hoping that all parties once again sit down at the table to come up with some solutions in a negotiated fashion,” Kaplowitz said. “This endless litigation and fighting in the court of public opinion, and then it ultimately winds up in the court of law, does nothing but waste time, money, resources and sap our energy.”

Astorino vowed to fight the issue in court to protect the county.

“We’re doing what we’re supposed to be doing, but threats, litigation -- that’s not going to help the process,” Astorino said. “That’s going to stop the process and make it harder for us to build affordable housing.”

WP Firefighter Pleads Guilty to Vehicular Homicide

continued from page 1

client’s desire to make reparation for the death and damage he caused.

According to the Court report, the defendant had spent the previous 12 hours before the accident drinking at numerous bars on Mamaroneck Avenue in White Plains, where he was captured on video.

At about 4:30 a.m. on November 3rd, while operating his 2001 Chevrolet Tahoe at approximately 65 miles per hour and traveling in the wrong direction on S. Lexington Avenue, Refvik collided with the victims’ 2000 Honda Civic that was waiting at a traffic light. The force of the head-on collision pushed the Honda nearly half a football field down South Lexington Avenue, killing La Madrid, who was pronounced dead at the scene, and seriously injuring Lopez, who was driving.

The couple was on an early morning run delivering newspapers. Both victims lived in Port Chester with their

three children.

According to the District Attorney’s report, at the time of the collision, experts put the defendant’s blood alcohol content (BAC) at .21, more than 2-1/2 times the legal limit. In addition, Refvik had a cocktail of exacerbating substances in his system, which consisted of cocaine, clonazepam, and bath salts.

He was arrested at the Westchester Medical Center that same day by White Plains police and suspended without pay, according to White Plains Public Safety Commissioner David Chong. It is expected that next steps will be to terminate Refvik’s employment with the Fire Department permanently.

Subsequent to his guilty plea, Refvik was remanded until sentencing. Sentencing will be on September 25, 2015.

Refvik faces an indeterminate sentence of a minimum of one to three to a maximum of eight and one third to 25 years in prison.

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Talks Continue to Avoid Closing of Greenburgh Pets Alive Westchester Shelter

By Pat Casey

Ongoing discussions between the Town of Greenburgh and the administration of Pets Alive Westchester to try to keep the no kill animal shelter open in Elmsford have continued into this week.

After a press release was circulated by the shelter stating its intention to restructure its organization by closing its Westchester facility, private residents from Greenburgh as well as other municipalities in Westchester and Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner became very vocal about whether or not Pets Alive had the right to sell the land that had been donated for use specifically as an animal shelter. Pets Alive paid \$10 for the land.

Feiner called an emergency meeting last week that was very emotional and very well-attended.

According to Feiner, the good news coming out of the meeting was that Greenburgh Councilman Francis Sheehan and Town Attorney Tim Lewis had discovered a deed restriction that would not allow Pets Alive to sell the property to a commercial developer.

The deed specifically states that: "the grantee, its successors and assigns shall use the said premises solely and exclusively for park, recreational, or general municipal purposes or as an animal shelter in perpetuity."



The Pets Alive Westchester no kill animal shelter is located on property that was donated to the not-for-profit organization.

Feiner, Sheehan and Lewis then met with Pets Alive representatives to discuss the possibility of the animal welfare group continuing operation of the no kill shelter or to allow another non profit animal rights group to manage the shelter operations.

"I do not believe that Pets Alive should be able to keep the land if they are not going to use the land for a shelter. Pets Alive should either give the land back to animal rights advocates who can take over the responsibilities of the shelter or if they sell the land 100 percent of the funds

raised should be used to find another location in Westchester County," Feiner said.

Feiner also explained that the building used by the shelter was built with private donations. "Hundreds of volunteers have worked long and hard to provide important services to animal lovers. Many terrific matches were made by the shelter volunteers, helping to find homes for pets," he said.

"Because the land was donated to the shelter, I strongly believe that Pet's Alive should not be allowed to sell the

land and make a profit at the expense of Westchester. Westchester residents, animal lovers, community leaders need to strategize and plan an aggressive effort to keep the shelter operating here in Westchester," Feiner continued.

In the original press release, Pets Alive management said in addition to the building problems, they were also taking into consideration the operating costs for the building, which exceeds 30,000 square feet. Much of that space goes unused but still needs to be heated, cooled and cared for.

"The Pets Alive organization believes we have a fiscal responsibility to our donors. Although the decision was difficult, we cannot continue to spend our donor's funds on a building that cannot be properly repaired and costs a phenomenal amount just to maintain. This restructuring will allow us to focus more on our mission to save the lives of the animals that need us," said Pets Alive Chief Financial Officer Jenessa Cutler said in the release.

The Board of Pets Alive is meeting this week and Feiner expects to have another meeting between the Town and the Shelter on Thursday to further explore possibilities that would maintain a no kill animal shelter in Westchester County.

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Environmental Concerns, Campus Signage, Preservation Before Planning Board

By Pat Casey

Despite the absence of the lawyer representing the Windward School at the continued public hearing on the Subdivision and Site Plan for 221-227 West St., members of the White Plains Planning Board agreed to allow discussion and permitted residents to talk about the project during the Board's regularly scheduled monthly meeting on July 21.

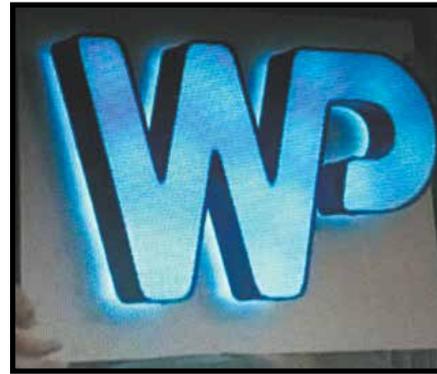
The owner of the property at 17 Collyer Place told Board members that upon showing up at a meeting between the Windward School (the applicant), the owner of 7 Collyer Place, and White Plains DPW and Building Departments on the site, he was told by the applicant's lawyer that he had to leave because he was trespassing and was not welcome.

Having held his ground, the owner of

17 Collyer Place did manage to speak with the parties involved about many issues involving his property, which abuts the development site, in particular a stone wall and fence and an easement concerning stormwater and waste management that crosses his property.

Board members expressed concern that a property owner with direct consequences related to the development site should be spoken to by the applicant's attorney in such a manner. Robert Stackpole said that in the history of the Planning Board he was not aware that a resident with an easement coming through his property had ever been shut down by an applicant.

Other residents asked the Board to review the sizes of the buildings on all three lots, especially Lot 1, which has a building of 5,000 sq. ft. The resident



White Plains Hospital signage features a pumped up version of the logo for better recognition and branding.

was concerned the large building size indicated that uses other than purely residential could be maintained at that location, such as offices or meeting space.

White Plains Hospital's New Signage. A referral from the Common Council relating to new signage for White Plains Hospital was approved by the Planning Board.

The presentation by designers indicated that the hospital was concerned to give visitors a clear indication that they had reached the hospital and cancer center campus, which at this point is not clearly defined.

Signage for viewing from the street upon entering White Plains as well as from the pedestrian level had been developed with a focus on brand recognition as well as giving adequate and clear direction.

The illuminated logos for night viewing include blue lighting. Other at-street-level

signage, including an entrance marker, appear on the stonework of the buildings.

The plan and designs were approved by the White Plains Design Review Board.

Once the new hospital lobby is opened in mid-September, it is expected that every few weeks after that a new floor of the modernized and renovated hospital will be opened.

Light Industrial Zoning District. One of the first things to cross his desk upon taking over as Planning Commissioner, Christopher Gomez said at the Planning Board meeting, was to review the proposed new Light Industrial Zoning District.

The district, specifically in the Westmoreland area, is intended to encourage building owners to enhance their existing buildings while at the same time revitalizing the area. To accomplish this, Gomez explained that an increase to the current floor area ratio and the inclusion of residential units was being promoted.

Parking requirements would remain the same in the new district, but parking would be allowed within the footprint of the existing building.

A vote on the new Zoning District is expected at the August 3 meeting of the Common Council.

Future of Several Local A&P Supermarkets Uncertain

continued from page 1

the A&P supermarkets at Cedar Street, Bronxville; South Ridge Street, Rye Brook; White Plains Road, Eastchester; and Knollwood Road, Greenburgh. The A&P located on Halsted Avenue in Harrison is slated to become a Key Foods.

The company is still looking for offers for A&Ps located at 805 Mamaroneck Ave., Mamaroneck; 668 Central Ave., Scarsdale; and 130 Midland Ave., Port Chester.

Other locations in southern and northern Westchester will also either be purchased by Acme Markets or other well-known food store chains.

Overall, ACME announced it had entered into agreements to acquire 76 A&P stores in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland under the A&P, Superfresh and Pathmark banners. The offers are subject to legal and bankruptcy court approval, including the potential for higher bids to be submitted and anti-trust approval.

A&P has asked the federal court for an order requiring other interested parties

to submit bids by September 11, 2015, with an expectation that court approval for the sale of the stores be received by October 15, 2015.

According to Bloomberg Business, the company has two loans totaling \$270 million. The loans, along with a \$300 million revolving line of credit, mature in September 2019. In addition to the senior loans, the company took on \$420 million in junior-ranking debt as part of its exit from bankruptcy in 2012, according to court documents.

A&P began in 1859 as the Great American Tea Co., a mail-order business for tea and spices. By 1929, it had 15,000 stores and sales of \$1 billion. The company helped pioneer the modern supermarket industry, offering more of a no-frills experience than traditional shops. But in recent years it struggled to compete with upstarts like Whole Foods Market Inc. and Trader Joe's. Evercore Partners Inc., the New York-based investment bank, has been leading the sale process, while FTI Consulting Inc. is working to improve the company's operations.

WP Woman Charged With Promoting Prison Contraband

continued from page 1

inmates and prisoners," County Executive Robert P. Astorino said in a press release. "I would like to thank the county police and the Department of Correction for their diligent investigation in getting to the bottom of these recent incidents."

The inmate illnesses began on July 12 when three prisoners became sick at separate times during the day. An additional six prisoners became ill on July 19 and four more on July 20. All were treated at local hospitals after exhibiting signs of drug use or drug overdose and were returned to the jail the same day.

On Monday night, Astorino ordered a complete search of the entire jail facility to locate any remaining illegal contraband. Teams of police and correction officers, supplemented by narcotics detection canines, swept all cells and common areas at the jail.

The investigation into the recent incidents included a review of visitor logs and security camera video from the jail's visiting area and cellblocks. Investigators also conducted interviews with inmates, visitors and staff.

Strange was taken into custody at her home on Wednesday evening

and was charged following interviews conducted by detectives from the General Investigations Unit. She is married to Deron Strange, 31, of Port Chester who was charged earlier this week with Promoting Prison Contraband 2nd Degree.

That charge was based on the remains of a burnt hand-rolled cigarette that was found following a search of his cell. Tests are under way to confirm the substance it contains.

An additional five prisoners were charged with Promoting Prison Contraband this week for also being in possession of small amounts of drugs or drug paraphernalia.

In a related development, Corrections officers seized 40 glassine envelopes on July 23rd containing a white powder believed to be heroin that a visitor attempted to pass to an inmate. That inmate and visitor will each be charged with Promoting Prison Contraband 1st Degree, a felony.

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First-time Candidate to Run for County Legislator; Smith Bows Out

By Martin Wilbur

Local and county Republicans introduced Thornwood resident Margaret Cunzio as their new candidate Monday afternoon for the District 3 Board of Legislators seat replacing Michael Smith of White Plains, who recently withdrew from the race.

Cunzio, 40, a professor at Iona College and Western State University of Connecticut, unwaveringly pledged that she will be County Executive Rob Astorino's ally in the fight against tax increases and the federal government that she contends is bent on remaking local zoning laws in Westchester.

She said the ongoing battles in the housing settlement were a key motivation for her to get involved.

"He has courageously fought an overreaching federal government in the implementation of the problematic and poorly worded 2009 affordable housing settlement," Cunzio said of the county executive during the announcement for her first run for public office while surrounded by supporters, including Astorino and Smith, outside Mount Pleasant Town Hall.

"We have worked too hard to have our property rights taken away and the value of our homes destroyed by federal bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., seeking to make Westchester a test case for their social experiment around the country."

Cunzio will face off against former North Castle Democratic co-chairman John Diaconis in November. Diaconis announced in early June that he would be contesting the seat in the district that covers Mount Pleasant, North Castle and Greenburgh.

Smith, who is completing his second two-year term, said that he has too many professional responsibilities to adequately serve his constituents effectively. He is now the president of Berkeley College, overseeing about 8,000 students and 1,500 employees in 10 locations.

He also concluded that 10 years in public service, including six years on the Valhalla Board of Education, was sufficient.

"We got in there, and there are aspects



Margaret Cunzio of Thornwood, surrounded by Republican supporters, announced her candidacy Monday afternoon for the District 3 seat on the County Board of Legislators.

where you want to do more, but I have to practice what I preach," Smith said. "I believe in the citizen legislator and I have 10 years in public service — six years on the school board and four years as a county legislator — and I think that's a good run, a good term and I think it's time to bring in some fresh blood."

Smith added that he also felt comfortable that the party found someone in Cunzio who shared Astorino's vision for the county to oppose a Democrat who would likely allow the federal government to impose new parameters in the housing settlement and party leaders to raise taxes.

Both candidates said they are unfamiliar with each other. Reached Monday afternoon, Diaconis said that he learned last week Smith was prepared to bow out once Cunzio's paperwork for the seat was submitted.

"I welcome Ms. Cunzio to the race and I look forward to debating the issues," he said.

Raised in Armonk and a graduate of Byram Hills High School, Cunzio said she will oppose tax increases as seniors and young adults are being driven out of Westchester.

"When I hear politicians say we can

only increase taxes 2 percent each year, I wonder if they're living in another reality," she said.

Diaconis dismissed talk that he favors tax increases and the federal government running roughshod over the county to change the affordable housing settlement. He said three years ago when the Town of Yorktown was being sued in a fair and affordable housing case, he defended the town in the matter. State Sen. Terrence Murphy, who endorsed Cunzio and attended her announcement on Monday, served on that town board and voted with his colleagues to hire him, Diaconis said.

Astorino said he looks forward to working with Cunzio and believes she has the fortitude to fight for what's important.

"She will not back down," Astorino said. "She will fight with us, for you the taxpayers and our property owners in Westchester, and particularly in central Westchester, to make sure that we control our communities and not some faceless bureaucrat in Washington, D.C."



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More Traffic On the Hutch Without Mitigation Means More Potential Accidents

Our thanks to Senator Chuck Schumer for coming all the way from Washington, DC, or from Brooklyn, on Tuesday, July 7, to draw attention to Westchester having some of the most dangerous parkways in New York State. And, for singling out the Hutchinson River Parkway at Mamaroneck Avenue as having one of the worst accident records. Mayor Roach was also at the news conference as Traffic Safety is one of his priorities.

We'll take all the help we can if it makes traffic safer. Our only concern is that at times our Washington politicians are good at identifying problems that we all know about, then recommending task forces, audits and committees that spend money our government doesn't have. In the end citizens rarely see any real solutions. So we'll help our friends in Washington out with a heads-up. The problem with the Hutchinson River Parkway and accident rates is there are just "too many cars with distracted drivers" on the Hutch particularly during the AM and PM commute times.

As background, the Hutch is a two-lane winding highway in each direction with few shoulder or emergency lanes. It was designed back in the 1920's, around

the same time as the old Ridgeway Golf Course, and like many of our neighborhood streets in the South end of White Plains, the Hutch was never designed for the larger and wider vehicles of today, nor for the volume of traffic that travels on the Hutch each day.

Our view from 40-plus years of living in Westchester County is that the number of cars on the Hutch appears to have doubled or tripled leading us to a simple formula: More cars + More Distracted Drivers = More Accidents. If Senator Schumer figures out a way to reduce the number of cars traveling on the Hutch in the AM or PM commutes, we'll most likely see the accident numbers go down.

We wonder if anyone has informed Senator Schumer that while he is trying to study the current Traffic situation, the City of White Plains has been reviewing a FASNY Project for the past four-plus years, which if approved would add another 2,000 Vehicle Trips each day to the current Hutch levels.

We all know that FASNY's 950 proposed student cap is only lasting a few short years, so it can't be considered real mitigation. And with FASNY's decision to create a North Street Entrance, their

increased volume of Traffic will create worse conditions for White Plains students, seniors and other citizens in the South end.

It's also hard to believe that FASNY's own Traffic advisors were trying to direct more FASNY Traffic onto North Street and Mamaroneck Avenue; Intersections of the Hutch that Senator Schumer is now complaining about.

Sadly for the residents of the South end there has been no permanent mitigation on FASNY's Traffic. If approved FASNY will bring out-of-town distracted parents or their Uber drivers rushing to school, more student drivers and FASNY Buses. Our FASNY Traffic formula for White Plains is: The more FASNY students and staff + the more FASNY cars and buses = the more White Plains accidents.

The bottom line is that after four-plus years of numerous FASNY plan changes, including the failed choice of the North Street Entrance and the Closure of Hathaway Lane, FASNY's Traffic situation is actually worse, has not been mitigated and will likely be a greater problem going forward.

-Marie and Ron Rhodes, White Plains

Obituaries

John Balco

John J. Balco died on July 22 at his home in Bolton, MA. Born in White Plains, he attended Saint Bernard's Elementary School, Archbishop Stepinac High School and received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Fordham University.

John continued his studies to earn five Master's degrees at George Washington University, Boston University, College of the Holy Cross, Fitchburg State College and Worcester State College where he studied Environmental Engineering, Geology, Oceanography, Celtic/Irish Studies and Art/Art History.

His distinguished career in environmental engineering included serving as Director of Soil Conservation under the Carter and Reagan administrations.

In his retirement John became a gifted artist, working with oils.

John had great respect and passion for Native American culture. He was an honorary member of the Ojibwa tribe in Wisconsin. His burial ceremony was performed by tribe members at his gravesite.

John is survived by his wife, Rona Kress Balco, his sister, Mary Ann Balco Berry of White Plains and numerous family members in Australia.

John Drohan

John William Drohan, 85, born on July 23, 1930 to Patrick and Mary Drohan passed away on July 23, 2015. He was a lifelong resident of White Plains and is survived by his loving wife Patricia of 52 years, his daughter Elaine Anne (Craig) Jordan and grandchildren Christina and Patrick Jordan. John was a veteran of the Korean Conflict. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion and the White Plains Volunteer Firemen (South Side). John was also an usher at St. Bernard's Church for 60 years. He retired from the White Plains Postal Service in 1990 after over 37 years of service. He was an avid weather forecaster and was a member of the Hudson Valley Weather Observers. He will be missed dearly by his family and friends. A Mass of Christian burial was held at St. Bernard's Church, White Plains, on Monday, July 27. Interment followed at Mt. Calvary Cemetery.

Frances Jones

Frances K. Jones, formerly of White Plains and Valhalla, died July 21 at the age of 101. She was born October 1, 1913 in White Plains to the late Frank and Karolina Kolefr.

Frances was married to Frank Jones for 71 years. He predeceased her in 2009.

Frances is survived by her children;

Geoffrey and his wife Judy Jones of St. Simon's Island, Ga. and Denis and his wife Joan Jones of Elmsford. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren and is predeceased by one brother and one sister.



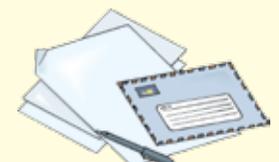
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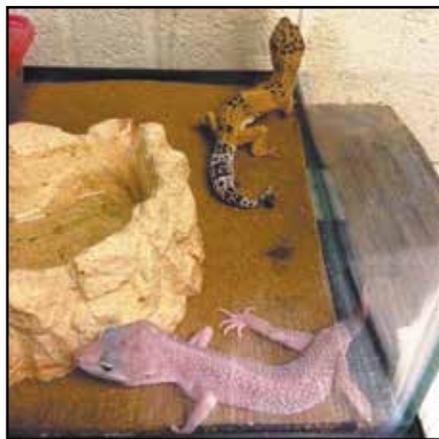


Police Blotter

SPCA Humane Law Enforcement Unit

Animal Cruelty. The Humane Law Enforcement (HLE) Unit of the SPCA of Westchester removed 35 reptiles including turtles, bearded dragons, chameleons, and leopard geckos from a residence in Port Chester after determining that the animals were not being cared for properly and that their owners were out of the country.

The Port Chester Police Department, responding to an anonymous complaint



Geckos removed from the porch at 144 Smith St.

concerning dogs at 144 Smith Street found 21 dogs (including five puppies and one kitten) inside and outside of the residence. Reptile cages, stacked three high, were found on the front porch with several dead animals in the highest cages, having been exposed to the sun and hot temperatures.

The SPCA's HLE Unit was called to assess the situation for possible cruelty. A veterinarian determined there was no cruelty involving the dogs, which were being cared for by a family member. They were, however, not groomed and were infested with fleas. A notice to comply was issued.

The HLE Unit and SPCA staff transported the 35 reptiles to the SPCA in Briarcliff Manor. Reptile specialist Chris Cooper and several staff members from Teatown Lake Reservation in Ossining assisted the SPCA in treating the reptiles, setting up appropriate habitats and feeding them.

HLE is attempting to contact the owners, who neighbors said were in Guatemala until August of the reptiles and the case is still under investigation at this time. Neighbors also reported that the dogs were a problem with constant barking.

Greenburgh Police Department

Grand Larceny. On July 13 two practitioners in a medical building at 77 Tarrytown Rd. went to police headquarters to report that they had both been involved in business deals with the same person. The first practitioner reported that in December 2012 he had set up corporations with the suspect through which they were going to buy property in Yonkers and the

Bronx. From December 2012 until April 2014 the practitioner wrote checks and gave cash to the suspect in the amount of approximately \$190,000 that was supposed to be put towards the businesses. The second practitioner reported that in April 2013 he joined into a business venture with the same suspect and in that time period gave him approximately \$126,513 that was supposed to go towards the businesses. Both victims had joined into the business ventures unaware that the other one was also involved. In late 2014 both victims had become aware that the other was involved in business with the suspect and began to become suspicious. They later learned that the suspect does not own the buildings, which he was supposedly purchasing with their money. Both victims report that they have recorded conversations with the suspect and numerous documents showing money transactions and corporations. Both victims reported that the majority of the transactions with the suspect were conducted in their offices located at 77 Tarrytown Rd.

Attempted Murder. On the afternoon of July 13 police officers responded to 10 Payne Rd. on a report of a burglary in progress with a gun involved. Upon arrival the officers observed a male down on the ground bleeding from the arm and abdomen, and the man's son running toward the police vehicle. The wounded victim reported that he had been shot twice and the son reported that a car occupied by the two men who shot his father had fled the scene on Knollwood Road. Officers immediately called for an ambulance and assisted with providing medical care until the ambulance arrived. The shooting victim was transported to Westchester Medical Center by ambulance. Yonkers Police conducted a traffic stop on the suspect vehicle on the Bronx River Parkway and its occupants were placed under arrest and transported to police headquarters. A crime scene was established and the victim's clothing was vouchered into evidence.

Suspicious Incident. At about 5 a.m. on July 13 police responded to a residence on Joan Avenue. The caller said that an unknown vehicle pulled in front of her driveway and parked for a few minutes before pulling away. She said this had been on going for approximately two months on Mondays, Tuesdays and sometimes Wednesdays between 4:30 and 5:30 a.m. The caller also said that sometimes the unknown vehicle would pull into the end of her driveway. The caller was unable to describe the vehicle. There is video surveillance but it was unable to capture a license plate or vehicle make and model. The caller was advised to contact police if the vehicle returns.

Property Damage. On the morning of July 14 police responded to a residence on

Oliver Avenue, where a man notified them that his wife called him and notified him that his vehicle windshield was shattered. The caller said that he last observed the vehicle in his driveway at about 7:45 that morning, and the vehicle was fine. A landscaping company was working in the yard of the residence and denied being responsible for the broken window. There are no suspects or witnesses at this time.

Suspicious Incident. Around 11 a.m. on July 14, police responded to a possible burglary in progress at a Scarsdale residence. Comsec advised that the victim was home alone sleeping in her bedroom. She reported that she awoke to a black male entering her bedroom, which is on the top level of the residence. The victim reported she only saw the back of the suspect as he shut the door behind him. The victim reportedly ran after the male who exited the premises through the rear kitchen door, hopping a fence south bound before the victim lost sight of him. The victim reported that as the suspect fled through the kitchen door he moved a large dog bowl out of the way. Officers did observe the dog bowl moved away from the door but observed it only was moved about six inches making it impossible for anyone to exit the door. Officers conducted an interior search of the residence which appeared to be in order and undisturbed. A perimeter search of the residence to ascertain a point of entry provided negative results. All doors and windows appeared intact. The victim advised police later that she did speak to the male suspect as he ran out of the bedroom, saying something like: "I was just using the bathroom." The suspect was described as a male black dark skinned, in his 40s wearing tan cargo pants, black dress shoes, unknown tee shirt and a white towel hanging out of his rear pants pocket. One officer advised that possibly matches the description of caddies at the Sunningdale Golf Course, which is about a half mile away from the residence. A canine unit was called in but no scent was picked up. One officer responded to the golf club to interview employees of the club and reported all employees were accounted for at the time of his interview. The surrounding houses were canvassed. The reporting officer said that the fact that the canine unit was unable to pick up a track and the dog bowl at the alleged point of exit was moved only a few inches caused him to think that the victim's story was not credible. The residence also has a 90-pound pit bull, which the victim said is very protective but which did not bark at the time of the incident.

Neighborly Dispute. On the morning of July 17 a resident of an apartment building on Benedict Avenue went to police headquarters to file a police report regarding a dispute she had with a neighbor. According to the woman,

she was on her terrace at her residence entertaining a friend at about 11 p.m. on July 14, when the neighbor who lives below her, began to shout obscenities at her from his terrace below. She reported that she has a history of disputes with this particular neighbor over her hanging plants dripping water onto his terrace below. According to the woman, she did not call police during the incident, but instead chose to go inside. She said that on July 17, she received a call from her landlord, who told her that the neighbor below had called the building management company and complained about her. The landlord reportedly went on to say that both he and the upstairs neighbor need to work together to prevent further complaints to the management company. After having this conversation with her landlord, the woman elected to respond to police headquarters to file a police report against the downstairs neighbor. The woman was advised to contact the police during any future incident so they could take the appropriate action in the event a violation is observed. No further action taken at this time.

Operating a Vehicle While Impaired by Drugs. On July 15, officers responded to a welfare check for a female sleeping in a vehicle on the corner of Parkview Place and Saw Mill River Road. Upon arrival on scene the officers observed a 2010 Volkswagen parked on the side of Parkview Place with a female asleep on the drivers side of the vehicle with the key in the ignition and engine running. The officers attempted several times to knock on the window to wake the female up and had difficulty doing so. Once awake the female was advised to turn the vehicle off and take the keys out of the ignition. The female was disoriented with glassy eyes and confused and slurred speech. There was a strong odor of marijuana emanating from the vehicle. The female was told to exit the vehicle where SFST tests were performed. It was determined that the female was unable to perform the one leg stand due to visible imbalance. While taking the tests the female admitted to taking two tabs of Xanax, which were given to her by a friend. The female was then placed under arrest and transported to police headquarters where she was booked and issued a ticket with a return court date. The vehicle was impounded. The female was released to her mother.



Boomerang

A Hippie Myth Debunked



By Richard Cirulli

Writing from a personal and nostalgic point of view, with a bit of sarcasm for your reading pleasure with regard to my telling of my “Woodstock” days,

I will debunk some myths of the Baby Boom ethos of the 1960s.

The macro Woodstock culture of legend we nostalgically embrace is a far cry from the micro world of the many wannabe hippies – author included – who grew up during the sixties.

The Hippie myth, when viewed historically, actually clashed with the everyday realities of growing up in suburbia during the Woodstock era. I was raised in a solid middle class family during the height of our nations’ economic boom as a child of the Greatest Generation. My family was complete with traditional old world traditions, strong patriotism, and a father who was a proud World War II veteran.

The sixties for many of us were primarily an emotional conflict and watershed between the old world of our parents and the new age of youth. This was a challenge for me, as it was for many of my contemporaries, caught between the rebellious spirit of youth and respect for one’s parents and traditions. I was reared in Westchester by a family who were old world, intelligent, educated, well read and active in civic affairs, which seemed to complicate the peer pressure to rebel.

For the most part, my hippie days were at best a fashion statement.

Change came quick in the mid-sixties as Americans surrendered without a fight to the English music invasion and Mod fashion statements, the genesis of our youthful rebellion. Soon we exchanged our cardigan sweaters, neatly pressed

trousers, and penny loafers, complete with butch wax to slick back our short hair, for the hip and cool faded bell bottoms, tank tops, moccasins, and long hair.

In my eyes it all seemed quite innocent and harmless, though it clashed with my father’s military view of discipline. For father it was an all out attack and war on his moral system. Despite my parents’ fear that I would become a social dropout, I did manage to head home after school, do my home work and break bread at the table with the family. Although a dress code that forbade the wearing of bandanas at the dinner table was a real bummer, it provided a lesson on the values of negotiation. Despite it all we still somewhat functioned as a family. Depending on one’s view of functional.

Of course there were many turf wars fought between my parents and I, as I switched the AM radio dial away from the music of Frank Sinatra in favor of the FM stations playing The Grateful Dead and Jimi Hendrix. I never did admit to my parents that I was a closet Frank Sinatra fan. That would be a sign of defeat, and the bandana did not come off for this negotiation. While rock music always sounds better when driving in your car – one must pick their battles wisely – at home Old Blue Eyes won out.

When the Woodstock concert was announced, my generation viewed it as our sacred obligation to plan a Hajj to the Mecca of Rockdom. I was expecting the final battle of Armageddon with my parents. To my surprise my father gave me his blessing along with a few dollars to ease my pilgrimage. This must be some kind of trap, I thought. I know reverse psychology when I see it, a head game played out by manipulating parents. “You just can’t trust anyone over 30!”

In true youthful rebellion I refused. I said to my father: “Are you kidding me?”

There are no facilities, no private rooms and air conditioning. You know how much I hate the heat. I am not going. I am going to wait till it comes out in the movies and watch it in an air conditioned theater.” Well, my parents were slick and reverse psychology worked. Besides, how would it look if I drove to Woodstock in a restored 1957 Chevy Belair with a corvette engine, complete with shoulder length hair and sandals? I would be more credible showing up in penny loafers and a cardigan.

To my parents’ surprise I did not run off to a communist commune, wear a Che Guevara tee shirt, join the SDS, or become a Hari Krishna. I did learn to play the guitar and spent many a night as a romantic troubadour trying to win the affections of sweet girls – well, long enough until their parents came home. It was the era of sex, drugs and Rock ‘n Roll.

Youth is but a short daydream that ends with the nightmare of reality. Within a few short years I completed my first undergraduate degree and awoke one morning on the express train heading to my corner office on Wall Street, complete with blue pinstripe suit and power tie. My

morning read became The Wall Street Journal.

Truly I thought as I reflected on my new life, those capitalist pigs and fascists don’t seem so bad after all. Maybe I should begin to trust people over 30. Hell, it’s only five years away. I hope I don’t die before I get old. Maybe Roger Daltry was wrong. Maybe it was just a myth. After all, I now had a mortgage to pay, a family to support, orthodontist bills, MBA student loans, BMW payments, and of course alimony. So much for free love.

Now in retirement as I drive my sports car with my unruly long gray hair blowing in the wind, I raise the convertible top, turn on the A.C. and slip in the Woodstock CD, with my Stratocaster ever in arms reach. What a strange trip this has been. Well so much for sex, drugs and Rock ‘n Roll. Drugs are now mandatory by prescription, and I am too deaf to hear the Rock ‘n Roll.

Guest Column

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What it Means When We Get Interested in Historic Homes

When I received the e-mail from Vicki Jimpson-Fludd, a real estate agent with Better Homes & Gardens Rand in Briarcliff Manor, to have my historic house listing in Ossining join a group of other historic houses in Westchester and



Interest in historic homes is on the rise again, according to The Home Guru, pictured here with Vicki Jimpson-Fludd, both antique home specialists.

Putnam counties for a joint open house tour, I thought it was an inspired idea.

“Hey, wait a minute, I wrote back, “I’m the realtor with the PR background! Why didn’t I think of that?”

I immediately offered to volunteer my company to help promote the event. Working together, Vicki and I scored a huge turnout for 18 different brokerage houses showing 40 historic houses on one day.

At my open house in Ossining, a 15-acre estate contiguous to Teatown Lake Reservation with a late 1700s home that

has been rebuilt over the past 30 years, I didn’t have a chance for a breather. There were as many as three visiting parties at a time from start to finish. I heard similar reports from realtors at the other open houses.

It was interesting that the common thread among normally competing brokerage firms was the antique home, at best a quirky category when it comes to marketing and selling a home. It is a narrow category in terms of those that populate the inventory and buyers who seek them.

If an historic home is considered to be one that is at least 100 years old – those that have survived storm, fire and general neglect – it would be difficult to surmise the percentage of inventory that exists overall. Just to get a sense of it, I happen to know that in my hometown of Yorktown there are about 13,000 residences, and of those, 206 homes were identified as those of “historical significance” in a survey done a few years ago.

At the same time, I once heard it said that only about 1 to 2 percent of the population is interested in living in antique homes, so that would seem to



By Bill Primavera

even things out.

But matching those people to the available homes can be difficult when you factor into the equation that only 5 percent of homes and people are players in the real estate market at any particular time. Considering those loose statistics, it’s a wonder that anyone ever finds their way into an antique home at all.

As an observer of real estate trends from personal experience for close to half a century and as a professional for nearly two decades, my opinion is that in recessionary times when the market is generally dead, so is the market for antique homes. It would, therefore, make sense that our being overrun at the antique home open house event augurs very well for the near future of antique homes in this improving market.

Further proof that the scenario for antique homes is improving involves my own house in Yorktown Heights, The Ebenezer White House, now utilized as an office building. (As an aside, many historic structures, because of their size and locations, are adapted for either

mixed or commercial use.) My home was on the market two years ago as the recession was bottoming out, and only after one year did I finally get an offer. But it petered out after a jerk of an inspector discouraged the buyer when he discovered a sill with rot, which I quickly set out to correct. But, nonetheless, the buyer panicked and fled.

However, surprise, surprise, just last week, at a time when the house is not on the market, my doorbell rang and a man with that familiar look of stars in his eyes asked, “Do you want to sell this house? I’ve always loved it. If so, I’d like to buy it.” Oh, my, what do I do now? Am I ready to let go?

If you’d like to discuss the possibility of your future as a proud antique home owner, call Vicki Jimpson-Fludd at 914-410-0151 or me at 914-522-2076. Jimpson-Fludd also has a great blog about antique homes at www.rivertownscountryhomes.com.

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). His real estate site is www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com, and his blog is www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

The Unintended Consequences of Living With Nature



By Nick Antonaccio

In past columns, I’ve extolled the virtues of winemakers intent on producing unadulterated wines made from grapes that are untouched by industrial science.

This trend to produce wines in a manner most is in line with nature’s influence, not man’s. Natural wines can be expected to be more representative of the qualities and characteristics of a particular grape. 0

I’ve also reported on the unintended consequences of industrial products and practices on grape growers who are committed to produce natural grapes and wine.

Numerous winemakers across the globe adhere to natural grape-growing techniques, eschewing the marvels – and shortcomings – of man-made chemical fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides and pesticides. Natural winemaking has grown significantly over the last decade, with popular support for the health of vineyards, global farmlands, the atmosphere and wine consumers.

Last year, I reported on the effect of governmental regulation on a French winery owner. Emmanuel Giboulot has been maintaining his vineyards organically for many years. He eschews

chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, instead preferring to utilize natural methods and products. Among other measures, he lays down organic fertilizers and promotes an environment in his vineyard for beneficial insects that in turn control harmful insects. It seems he is in harmony with Nature.

However, he was fined, and nearly jailed, by the local city government for defying an ordinance that required the use of Pyrethrin, a pesticide used to kill a leafhopper insect found to spread disease in grapevines.

Ironically, this ordinance flies in the face of a European Union initiative that encourages the use of organic farming to prevent contamination of agricultural products and the environment.

Much has been written of the agricultural industry’s business model based on increasing productivity and profits in direct polarization of organic practices. For example, The Monsanto Company produces many of the seeds (including GMO varieties), pesticides and herbicides used by farmers around the world. They sell the world’s top-selling herbicide, Roundup, and ironically, seeds genetically modified to resist the effects of

Roundup on plants. Today, over 80 percent of all corn and soy grown in the United States is from genetically engineered seeds.

The dangers of industrial herbicides and pesticides are well documented. Recently a French laboratory conducted tests on wines. They tested 92 bottles of wine and found small (non-lethal)

traces of pesticides in all 92 bottles, a number of which were organically produced. Another unrelated laboratory test of 300 bottles found pesticides in over 90 percent.

This startling result for organic wines may be attributable to a number of factors, including shifting winds that carry air-borne pesticides and herbicides from non-organic vineyards and other farmlands to organically sustained vineyards; and higher-than-normal rainfalls that carry atmospheric-trapped pesticides and herbicides across a wide swath of vineyards.

I’ve reported on several examples of the unintended consequences of society’s effort to control its own destiny rather than working within the context of the natural order. An example surfaced last week of a winemaker’s susceptibility to industrialized agriculture and its consequences.

An Oregon winemaker initiated a

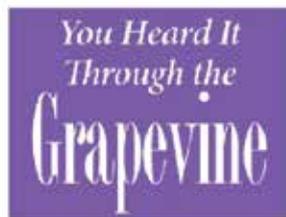
lawsuit against a neighboring farm. The suit alleges that the fumes of a herbicide used by the farm drifted to the highly susceptible grapevines, destroying the crop.

Willamette Valley Vineyard claimed that 12.7 tons of its Pinot Noir grapes were lost, the equivalent of 826 cases of wine. The winery stated the value of these wines to be over \$400,000.

To pinpoint the source of the herbicide, the winery enlisted the aid of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to conduct an investigation that, according to the lawsuit, ultimately concluded that an herbicide drift had occurred from the neighboring grass seed farm.

Does man coexist in harmony with nature or at war? What are the unintended consequences? It is as if man constantly tests the boundaries and capacities of nature, expecting the balance will be sustained with no material negative impact. We are modern man and we are in control of our destiny – or are we?

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick’s credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.



Encore Bistro Marks 1st Anniversary in Rye with Summer Specialties



By Morris Gut

Lyon-bred David Masliah, proprietor of bustling Encore Bistro Francais in Larchmont, opened a second Encore Bistro on Purchase Street in Rye just over a year ago and he is currently marking summer in tasty style. The new 90-seat restaurant is highlighted by white tiled walls and decorative ceramic tiled floors, burnt glass mirrors etched with house specialties, long red banquettes, well-appointed tables and bistro chairs, and colorful French novelty posters. Frosted picture windows look out onto Purchase St.

Special Hint: There is a sparkling marble-topped bar/lounge area that is separated from the main dining room where patrons can enjoy signature cocktails, light meals and weekday Happy Hours from 5 to 7 p.m. Plates du Jour

Encore are prepared from scratch by talented Executive Chef Erwen Perez and his kitchen staff. Let seasoned general manager Nicolas Marilhet and the neatly attired floor staff take you on a tour of the new menu. Classic bistro starters include: Soupe a l'Oignon, French onion soup; a colorful and delicious Tatin de Tomates, with baked tomato and feta cheese; Os A Moelle, oven roasted marrow bones with olive oil, parsley and garlic onion marmalade; Pate Maison, country-style pate served with French pickles; Escargots, baked with parsley, garlic and butter; Tartare de Thon, fresh tuna tartar with capers, shallots, anchovies, sesame oil and fresh herbs; and Moules Provencales au curry, steamed mussels in a white wine, caper, olive, tomato, onion and fresh herb broth, or in



amandine sauce. By the way, frites here are in this writers' opinion among the best in the county.

A carefully selected wine list covers the realm of French and international vintages. There is a daily selection of wines by the glass and a menu of specialty cocktails.

At lunch Encore offers such specialties as: Panini au Poulet Grille, with grilled chicken, roasted peppers, eggplant and mozzarella; Salade nicoise, mesclun, tomatoes, string beans, potatoes, olives, hard boiled egg and grilled

tuna; Quiche du jour; and classic Croque-monsieur, hot ham and cheese sandwich with French fries and salad. The Assiette de fromages, an assorted cheese plate is served with apple, walnut and mesclun salad. There is a 3-course prix fixe lunch offered Monday through Saturday for \$14.50 per person.

For dessert save room for such changing house made sweets as: Chocolate Fondant, Profiteroles, Creme Brulee, Lemon Tart, and Tart Tatin, the classic French apple tart.

David Masliah originally received his hospitality training at catering and management school in France. Locally he had worked for one of the highly regarded grand dames of French cuisine in Westchester, La Panetiere in Rye.



Salade Parisienne at Encore.

wine bottles along with a collection of corkscrews. The 'petit' bar is lined with wooden wine containers. Several years ago Masliah added a new room that is available for a la carte dining as well as private events for up to 30 guests.

Encore Bistro Francais is located at 67 Purchase Street, Rye and 22 Chatsworth Ave., Larchmont, N.Y., across from the Larchmont Post Office. The restaurant is open for lunch Monday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Price range at lunch: \$9 to \$18. Prix fixe 3-course lunch Mon-Fri: \$14.50. Dinner is served 7 nights: from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday; to 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 5 to 9 p.m. on Sundays. Main courses at dinner: \$19 to \$29. Sunday brunch served 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Courses from: \$7 to \$18. Children's menu: \$10.50. Rye bar/lounge happy hours: Mon-Fri, 5 to 7 p.m. Private room available with audio visual equipment. Major credit cards. Casual dress. Free street parking in front; municipal parking at rear of the restaurant. Reservations accepted; suggested for larger groups. Rye phone: 914-481-8833. Larchmont phone: 914-833-1661. Fax: 914-833-1716. www. encore-bistro.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



Encore Bistro, Rye.

include: Monday, Crepes night; Tuesday, Mussels night; and Wednesdays, Tartar night offering a choice of steak, tuna, salmon, or scallops tartar. There is a Kids Menu, too. A relaxing a la carte Sunday brunch offers such additional dishes as: Oeufs Benedict; Pain Perdu, brioche French toast with warm berries; and Quiche du Jour served with mesclun salad.

According to Masliah, all dishes at

a creamy curry and white wine sauce.

Follow with a choice of fresh salad: Salade de Crab Cake; Salade de chevre chaud, warm goat cheese toasts over mesclun salad, house dressing; or my favorite Salade Parisienne, frisee salad topped with smoked bacon, croutons, mushrooms and poached egg.

New 'Poissons et Viandes', fish and meat main courses, include such robust bistro fare as: classic Steak Frites, grilled strip loin of beef served with the sauce of your choice; Onglet Grille, grilled hanger steak with choice of blue cheese, green peppercorn, or red wine and roasted shallots; decadent Croustillant De Ris De Veau, sauteed sweetbreads served crispy with whole grain mustard sauce; Carre d'Agneau Persille, sauce a l'ail, roasted rack of lamb in a crust of fresh herbs, roasted garlic sauce; Saint Jacques au beurre blanc, sea scallops in parmesan crust, leek fondue, white wine, lemon and butter sauce; and Truite aux amandes, sautéed trout in an



Tender Rack of Lamb at Encore.

His vision had always been to bring the American dining public as well as the local French community a taste of 'casual home style France' by way of a charming reasonably priced bistro. That was 14 years ago.

I remember when the original Encore Bistro in Larchmont first opened its doors in March of 2000. It was an instant hit. The cozy 45-seat eatery exuded charm reminiscent of the side-street bistros found by the dozens throughout the cities of France. The walls are donned in yellow paint highlighted by colorful French posters and strewn with artifacts. Lining one wall is a row of used French



Classic Steak Frites at Encore.



Bar/lounge at Encore, Rye.



The Restaurant Examiner



Westchester's Most Delicious Dishes

Osso Buco Among Best-Sellers at Buon Amici in White Plains

By Jerry Eimbinder

Chris Raimo, the owner of Buon Amici in White Plains, skipped a grade growing up and finished high school when he was only 16 years old. Following graduation, he went to work at Pas-Tina's Ristorante in Hartsdale, starting out as a kitchen helper, moving up to busboy and eventually to waiter. Seven years later, when illnesses befell both of his parents, he took time off to help out at home.

"I had saved a lot of money often working double shifts," Raimo said, "so when I was ready to return to work, I had enough to open a restaurant."

Shortly before his 25th birthday, Raimo and a partner opened Buon Amici ("Good Friends" in Italian) in the space on Central Avenue formerly occupied by Mamma



JERRY EIMBINDER PHOTOS
Chef Victor Falcon, left, and Chris Raimo, founder and owner, of Buon Amici in White Plains.

opened in February 2000," Raimo said. "The big difference is in the specials we have introduced."

Raimo said that special entrees began to take prominence after Victor Falcon came aboard as executive chef 10 years ago.

"Our most popular special is osso buco, served with homemade Pappardelle in a tasty vegetable red gravy," Raimo mentioned.

No wonder. Falling-off-the-bone tenderness is exemplified by this savory dish at Buon Amici. Congratulazioni, Chef Falcon.

Other popular entrees are black pepper encrusted sliced chicken over pasta (\$22.95); a 10-ounce filet mignon with port wine sauce (\$35.95); beef braciola; veal or chicken martini; chicken cordon

bleu; and double-cut veal chop.

Many appetizers are offered as specials and frequently include stuffed and breaded eggplant with fresh pomodoro sauce (\$13.95) and clams casino (\$13.95).

The most popular dish on the regular menu is chicken scarpariello (with the chicken on or off the bone). This dish includes sausage, fresh rosemary, garlic, white wine sauce and a choice of hot or sweet peppers (\$18.95).

Appetizers on the regular menu include cold antipasto (\$9.95) and crab cakes, scampi style (\$10.95). There are many

pasta choices on the regular menu that begin at \$14.95, chicken dishes starting at \$17.95 and veal and seafood dishes priced at \$19.95 and up.

On a given night, Raimo said, more specials than dishes on the regular menu come out of the kitchen.

Refreshing summer beverages include a coconut martini and a French martini.

Wines are predominately from Italy, California and Chile. Seven red wines and five white wines can be ordered by the glass. Sangria is also offered by the glass, half carafe or full carafe and a popular after dinner drink is a cappuccino martini.

Tables by the windows are separated from the main dining area by an architecturally impressive, multi-arch

wall. White tablecloths, red napkins and an abundance of space between tables help to make dining here pleasurable. The bar is separated from the dining area by a floor-to-ceiling wall populated with small photos of customers, guests and sports figures.

Undoubtedly, the restaurant's \$10.95 prix-fixe luncheon menu is one of the best bargains in Westchester. Main course portions are generous and a salad and coffee or tea are included in the lunch charge. Free lunch delivery service is available Monday through Friday.

There are two dining rooms, with the upstairs one also serving as a party room and is capable of accommodating up to 90 people. Catering packages for on- or off-site parties are available.

Reservations are definitely recommended since this is a very popular place.

Lunch is served Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The dinner hours are 3:30 to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 3:30 to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 4 to 10 p.m. on Sunday.

Two parking lots are available — one across the street (look for the Buon Amici sign at its entrance), the other in back. Valet parking is offered at dinner time Wednesday through Sunday and street parking (meter feeding not needed after 6 p.m.) is available as well.

Buon Amici is located at 238 Central Ave. in White Plains. For more information, call 914-997-1399 or visit www.buonamicirestaurant.com.



Buon Amici opened in White Plains 15 years ago.

Caramela. Raimo bought his partner's share of the restaurant in 2006.

"The menu has changed little since we

Chicken in the Pot at Ben's of Scarsdale

By Jerry Eimbinder

One of Westchester's most tempting in-house bargains is chicken in the pot at Ben's of Scarsdale. It is offered every Wednesday after 4 p.m. for \$14.99, plus tax.

This generous portion of tasty food for hearty eaters includes an oversized matzo ball, kreplach, noodles, peas and carrots accompanied by a huge serving of chicken protruding in a large potful of soup. Patrons nosh on freshly made cole slaw and pickles while waiting for their pots to arrive.

This is not the only good-eating deal offered on Wednesdays at Ben's. Also available for the same \$14.95 are corned beef with cabbage and boiled potato; meat loaf with mashed potatoes, rich brown gravy and corn; and a chef's choice that changes weekly.

On Wednesdays only customers who spend at least \$15 on an in-house dinner can show their checks to the takeout counter clerk and get a \$5 discount on



JERRY EIMBINDER PHOTO

Ben's of Scarsdale, which opened in January.

take-out orders totaling \$25 or more.

There is a Thursday dining deal after 4 p.m. as well — a turkey dinner with the trimmings for \$19.99, plus tax. This meal

includes soup, fresh roast turkey (choice of white or dark meat) with cranberry sauce and gravy, lumpy mashed potatoes, Ronnie's stuffing (named after Ben's founder and CEO Ronnie Dagoon), peas and carrots, and coffee or tea. Add a glass of wine for \$5.

Al Olle, the marketing coordinator for Ben's Restaurant Group, said that coupons are also appearing in various mailing campaigns, including buy-one-get-one-free offers for entrees. The coupons have conditions and an expiration date of Aug. 21.

For an extra dollar, traditional delicatessen lovers can order lean meat versions of hot pastrami or corned beef on rye (priced at \$12.99 for

the conventional versions). For customers having trouble deciding on whether to order corned beef or pastrami, both come as a combination on mini challah rolls for \$19.99.

A Hebrew National beef hot dog with a choice of French fries or a knish and a fountain soda has a combination price of \$8.99. The frankfurter can be topped with chili for an additional \$1.99.

The restaurant offers kosher food for dining, takeout and catering; it has two dining levels and a seating capacity of 220.

The dining room is open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. The restaurant opens for takeout every day at 9 a.m.

Ben's of Scarsdale is located at 718 Central Park Ave. in Scarsdale and has a parking lot. It is located across the street from the Greenburgh Fire Department firehouse. For more information, call 914-468-2367 or visit www.bensdeli.net.

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HOUSEKEEPER The Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement, Graymoor, Putnam County, Rt. 9, Garrison are in need of a Full-Time housekeeper for their aging Sisters in a home environment. **Email resume to hrdept@graymoor.org or fax 845-230-8489.**

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Notice of Formation of Joanne Smith Travel, LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 07/06/15. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to William J. Florence, Jr., Esq., One Park Place, Suite 300, Peekskill, New York 10566. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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Niagara County August 15, 2015 Reg. 8AM / Start. 10AM 75+ Properties Auction held at: Shawnee Fire Hall 3747 Lockport Rd, Sanborn, NY 14132	Otsego County August 26, 2015 Reg. 9AM / Start. 11AM 40+ Properties Auction held at: Holiday Inn 5206 State HWY 23 Oneonta, NY 13820
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For complete auction details visit:
www.AUCTIONSINTERNATIONAL.com
Online government surplus auctions closing nightly



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, July 28

Neighborhood Nights. Family Fun Concert, 7 p.m. presented at Druss Park, South Lexington, White Plains; Movie "Planes, Fire & Rescue" 8:15 p.m. presented at George Washington School.

Wednesday, July 29

White Plains Outdoor Market. Fresh food and produce from local farmers, plus specialty items; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Court Street between Martine Avenue and Main Street, White Plains

TILI Shed. Take It or Leave It recycling at Gedney Yard, 87 Gedney Way, White Plains; 2 to 4p.m.

Dancing Under the Stars. A special concert evening featuring a Classic Car Show sponsored by The Antique Auto Club of America Westchester Region and a tribute to Billy Joel by Captain Jack band will be held on Court Street beginning at 7 p.m.

Neighborhood Nights. Family Fun Concert 7 p.m. at Turnure Park, S. Lake Street, White Plains.

Family Film Frenzy. Featuring an outdoor movie. The park opens at 7 p.m. for after-hours swimming, picnicking, and relaxing. The movie begins at sundown. Bring your own picnic, or purchase food at the concession stand. For seating, bring blankets and chairs. Admission is \$5 per person (free for children under 5) and includes the movie only. A Westchester County Park Pass is not required for

admission. Admission wristbands will go on sale the day of the event and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. Annie (PG, 2014) on Wednesday, July 29 at Willson's Waves Pool in Mount Vernon. Please note that swimming is only permitted until dark, and all food and cooler guidelines for regular pool hours apply.

Thursday, July 30

Noonday Concert. Outdoor live musical performance at Renaissance Plaza, White Plains (Mamaroneck Avenue and Main Street) by Carolyn Harding - Tribute to Tina Turner. Sponsored by New York-Presbyterian Westchester Division.

Neighborhood Nights. Family Fun Concert 7 p.m. presented at Chatterton Park, Chatterton Pkwy, White Plains. Movie "Planes, Fire & Rescue" 8:15 p.m. at Gardella Park, Ferris Ave., White Plains.

Greenburgh Concerts. If you enjoy listening to jazz, you will love the new urban Jazz in the Park Concert series sponsored by the Theodore Young Community Center every Thursday through August 13. Admission is free, great food to purchase. The concerts are held outside -at Yosemite Park located behind the Theodore Young Community Center, 32 Manhattan Ave., Greenburgh. For info call 914-989-3600. Showtime: 7 p.m. July 30: Matthew Whitaker.

Saturday, Aug. 1

TILI Shed. Take It or Leave It recycling at Gedney Yard, 87 Gedney Way, White Plains; 9 a.m. to noon.

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. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Remedies and Edibles. Take a walk and explore with a naturalist a walk plants' various uses along the way. 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.

Tribute to the King. Garry Wesley, not only bears an uncanny physical resemblance to Elvis, but he has perfected those famous gyrating moves. His impeccable voice completes his multi-award winning tribute to the king of rock 'n' roll. Westchester Broadway Theatre, 1 Broadway Plaza, Elmsford. Dinner at 6:45 p.m. Dinner at 8:30 p.m. \$90 per person (plus tax). Info and tickets: 914-592-2222 or visit www.BroadwayTheatre.com.

Sunday, Aug. 2

Heritage of India Festival. Featuring the delicious foods of India, live music, folk dancing and cultural performances. There will also be a fashion show showcasing colorful native clothing. Visitors can also browse a merchandise bazaar where a variety of vendors will be selling Indian clothing, jewelry, CDs, DVDs and delicious Indian cuisine. Traditional Rangoli art and other craft exhibitions will be displayed as well. Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla. 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-864-PARK or visit www.parks.westchestergov.com.

The Long Migration. Learn about Birds of Prey and get to know some of the local migrants. 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.

Argentine Tango Dances. Great music and dancing on a 3,500-square-foot dance floor. Enjoy a pleasant time with friends. Refreshments served. Broadway 26 Dance, 26 Broadway, Hawthorne. 3 to 6 p.m. \$12. Also the third Saturday of each month from 8 p.m. to midnight. \$16. Info: 914-725-3023 or 914-484-5101 or e-mail sampelayo@optonline.net.

Monday, Aug. 3

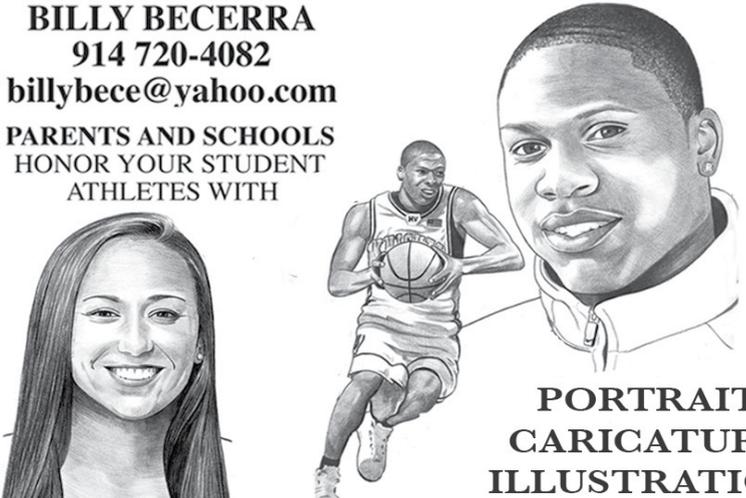
Knitting Group. Hats for our servicemen and women overseas and other ongoing projects for care centers and hospitals. Clinton Street Center, 1A Clinton St., Pleasantville. 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday. Info: 914-769-2021.

Wild Encounters Story Time. Nature discovery for youngsters. Enjoy a nature-themed story and discover the wonders of nature while exploring fields, forests or landscaped grounds. Dress for outdoor activity. Except in extreme weather conditions, a portion of each class is spent outdoors. For children three to five years old; with a parent or caregiver. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: \$9 per child. Non-member: \$12 per child. Every Monday. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

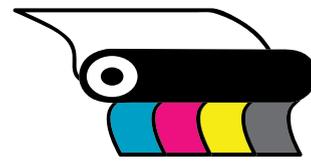
Look Good...Feel Better®. A workshop that teaches beauty techniques to women undergoing cancer treatment. Includes a hair consultation with a professional stylist and a makeup consultation with a cosmetologist. Attendees can take home a complementary wig and a make-up kit donated by cosmetic companies. Phelps Memorial Hospital Center, Room 545, 755 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3315 or 914-366-3421.



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..... **EXAMINER SPORTS**

White Plains Rec Softball Teams Vie for Top Playoff Seeds



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

Red Rockets shortstop Francisco Osorio (right #21) runs down a fly ball in leftfield and makes a backwards catch, in the Rockets win over Max Impact Training on Thursday, at Gillie Field. Osorio is also the Manager of the Red Rockets, his hitting and defense has helped the Rockets stay in contention this season.



Red Rockets pitcher Kylee Hall has her team in third place with a 7-4 record in the White Plains Recreation Softball Co-ed Upper Division after beating Max Impact Training, 9-2, on Thursday, July 23, at Gillie Field.



Mansion on Broadway's pitcher Mike Zambonardi has stared down batters and pitched MOB to the top of the Men's Thursday Night Softball League. Mansion is the first team in the Men's Thursday Night League to reach nine wins this season.



Mansion on Broadway's shortstop Nick Becerra, Jr. rounds third base and scores in the fifth inning, as MOB forced the Mercy Rule on Brazen Fox, beating the Mamaroneck Avenue pub, 22-10, in six innings, at Delfino Park, on Thursday. Mansion is in first place of the Men's Thursday Night Softball League with a 9-2 record.



Vintage third baseman Danielle Colello (right) holds Emmas Jenae Baker on third base. Baker eventually scored and Emmas came back to score four runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to beat Vintage, 7-6, on Thursday, at Gillie Field. Vintage is the new sponsor for the former Porter House team in the Women's Softball League.

EXAMINER SPORTS

Max Impact Training pitcher Christopher Toglia (right) beats the ball to second base but the Red Rockets beat Max Impact, 9-3, on Thursday, in the White Plains Rec Softball Co-ed Upper Division. Toglia is trying to help Max Impact rise in the standings as his team is presently in fifth place with a 4-5 record.



White Plains Juniors Baseball Team Heads to State Tournament



White Plains Juniors won NY Section 3 North Title in a 15-12 win over Stony Point last week. This is the first ever sectional win for White Plains. The team now heads to the State Tournament round in Long Island this week.



Former Porter House catcher Jessie Vega is back this season with her trademark crouching batting stance but her team is with a new sponsor Vintage. Most of last year's Porter House team returned to play for Vintage, which is presently 5-5, in third place in the White Plains Rec Women's Softball League.

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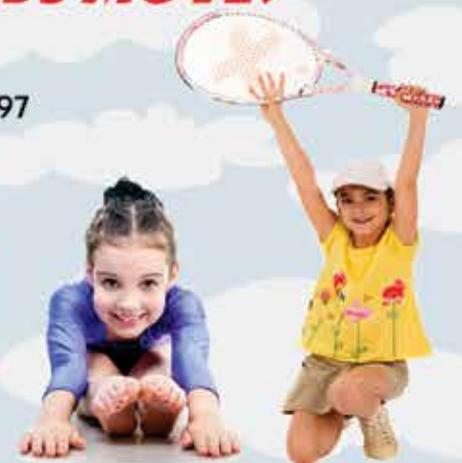
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