



# The White Plains Examiner



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Covering White Plains, Greenburgh and Harrison

February 23-February 29, 2016

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 6, Issue 236

## White Plains Tigers Advance to AA Semifinals for First Time in Nine Years



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTO

On Feb. 9, the White Plains Boys Basketball Team celebrated their seniors: [l-r] Luis Cartagena, Jace Yaverbaum, Matt Scott, Tommy Avery, Nick Amodio, C.J. Layne, Braxton Gill, Tyleik Jackson and Lamar Noel. On Saturday, Feb. 20, these seniors helped the Tigers advance to the Section 1 AA Semifinals for the first time in nine years. **For more about the Tigers' win see page 14.**

## White Plains Needs Broader Downtown Plan

By Pat Casey

At the last meeting of the White Plains Planning Board, discussion turned to need for an overall plan for downtown White Plains as development continues to increase in the area.

The specific project of discussion was the Esplanade Hotel building refurbishment and the building owner's (White Plains Venture Partnership) petition to amend the Zoning Ordinance Schedule of Dimensional Regulations (Section 5.3) to add a new note eliminating the CB-1 district requirement of 500 square feet of lot area per dwelling unit when a project is proposed in an existing building.

The request would allow the owner to take an existing 90-unit building and renovate it to a total of 212 smaller rental

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## Abinanti Pushes for Measure Requiring DOT Study Rail Crossings

By Martin Wilbur

Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti (D-Greenburgh) is calling for passage of his bill that would require the state Department of Transportation (DOT) to conduct a study of grade-level railroad crossings across New York.

The measure would give the job of examining the crossings, many of which are on or adjacent to state roads, an independent agency to weigh in on whether changes may be warranted at each location, Abinanti said. "Drivers shouldn't be playing a game of chance whenever they approach a railroad crossing. A comprehensive evaluation of these often dangerous

crossings will go a long way in protecting the health and safety of New Yorkers."

The bill passed the Assembly last year by a 130-11 margin following the deadly Metro-North crash with an SUV in Valhalla but did not get out of committee in the Senate. If the legislation were to be approved, money would be set aside in the state budget to pay for the study, he said.

Abinanti is optimistic that the legislation would gain bipartisan traction in the Senate following last year's overwhelming support for the Assembly version from both sides of the aisle. He said in addition to state Sen. David Carlucci (D-Clarkstown) carrying

*continued on page 3*

## Two GOP Candidates Announce Bids for District Attorney Nomination

By Arthur Cusano

The race to replace Janet DiFiore as Westchester County's district attorney kicked off last week with two candidates announcing bids for the Republican endorsement.

Last Wednesday, former Nassau County prosecutor Mitch Benson, 56, of New Rochelle announced his intention to seek the GOP nomination. On Thursday, former Westchester County prosecutor Bruce Bendish also threw his hat into the ring at a press conference held in White Plains.

Bendish served as prosecutor under former Westchester district attorney Carl

Vergari for 14 years and has spent the past 19 years working in the law firm he helped establish, Goodrich & Bendish. The 69-year-old White Plains resident also served for 14 years in the Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Last week, he touted his courtroom and managerial experience.

"Westchester needs a modern, tough prosecutor who has the support of the police agencies throughout the county," Bendish said. "I've earned the respect of the judiciary, and I think I've earned the

*continued on page 2*



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### Two GOP Candidates Announce Bids for District Attorney Nomination

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respect of my fellow attorneys.”

Bendish said he wanted to tackle corruption in the state, and said he could do so in an unbiased manner. Party affiliation is irrelevant, he said.

“I’m not a career politician,” Bendish said. “I can look at all these cases from an independent point of view. I think we have a drug problem. I think we have a senior citizen problem and an identity theft problem.”

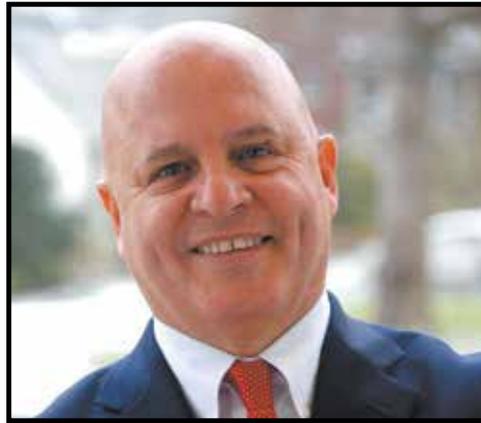
Bendish said he wanted to make community safety and school safety priorities.

“I will not tolerate drugs or guns in the schools,” he told those on hand for his announcement at the Crowne Plaza.

He also called for the creation of a court for veterans, who suffer from a high rate of mental health and substance abuse issues.

“They deserve a court that understands their problems and that is connected to Veterans Administration services,” Bendish said.

Bendish said he would look to implement technology to centralize all the courts in Westchester, something many neighboring counties already have done. He also plans to continue successful programs implemented by DiFiore, who once worked for his firm, such as the county’s Economic Crimes Bureau that was created to tackle white-collar crimes.



Republican and former Nassau County prosecutor Mitch Benson.

“I certainly wouldn’t criticize her because she worked for me in my law firm and I certainly wouldn’t criticize her ever because she is the chief justice of the state now,” Bendish said. “But in this particular situation, there can be no criticism. She’s doing a good job with economic crime and I hope to continue it.”

Benson launched a website and Facebook page announcing his campaign last week. He did not hold a press conference because he has not yet established a campaign headquarters. He said his 30 years as a career prosecutor – 20 years in Manhattan and the last 10 in Nassau County – make him an ideal



Republican and former Westchester County prosecutor Bruce Bendish.

candidate for the post.

“The county deserves a district attorney who has experience, independence and a proven record of accomplishment,” Benson said. “And I believe I bring all three of those things.”

Like Bendish, Benson said the growing heroin epidemic must be addressed. Drug diversion programs can help those addicted to drugs, but prosecutors must ensure the programs don’t become havens for those who have committed crimes.

“The challenge is striking the balance for who deserves treatment alternatives, or diversion, as mandated by law, and those people who should be rejected for

alternative programs and treated as the criminals that they are,” Benson said.

He said he also plans to tackle political corruption and to continue strengthening the county’s Public Integrity Bureau.

“Public corruption is something there should be no tolerance for,” Benson said. “What a district attorney has to do is demonstrate that office is open to information from members of the public and who work in government who have relevant information and want to be sure it will be taken seriously and that there won’t be retaliation.”

One Democrat, George Fufidio, has also announced he is running. Fufidio is a former Westchester prosecutor and currently works as a defense attorney in the county. He could not be reached for comment by press time.

DiFiore stepped down as Westchester District Attorney last month to become the chief judge for the Court of Appeals, the state’s highest court.

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**The following is the third in a series of columns from Matthew Fiorillo, of Ballard-Durand Funeral & Cremation Services. The columns deal with issues families must deal with prior to and after a loved one passes away.**

**Question:** *A loved one is dying of an illness. We do not have enough funds to pay for their funeral. I do have a life insurance policy for them. Can this be used to help cover the funeral costs and everything associated with it? Also, how long does it take to get a life insurance check?*

**Answer:**  
Paying for a funeral can be a burden for family members, so many people choose to use a life insurance policy to secure funeral payments. A beneficiary of a life insurance policy can fill out an assignment form at the funeral home, which will allow payment of the settlement to go directly to the funeral home. If there is more than one beneficiary, each must sign an assignment form. Again, any money left over is given back to the beneficiaries named once the funeral expenses are settled. Typically, the forms needed for a beneficiary assignment are available through the funeral home directly or you can ask your life insurance agent to provide you with the necessary documentation.

Additionally, it is a great practice to update the beneficiary information on life insurance policies right away if family situations change such as divorce, death or change of heart.

You are right, however, to be concerned about timing, as insurers can be slow in paying. And if there is any question about the cause of death that may require further investigation, such as a suicide or criminal involvement, then payouts can be held up for as long as two years. But even when no suspicious circumstances are involved, companies vary widely on how long it takes to pay benefits. Check the policy. Some contain express promises about when the life insurance benefits will be paid to the beneficiary. If not, contact the insurer and ask for that information directly.

Finally, some funeral homes require payment in full prior to services being rendered. That is why pre planning and prepayment with the funeral home of your choice is always best.

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# Celebrating the 100-Year History of the Woman's Club of White Plains

## Part 1 – Origins and Early Days, 1910's and 1920's

By Colleen Fay

Long before the Woman's Club of White Plains was incorporated, there was a group of women called the Fortnightly Literary Club, which was formed in 1904. There were originally 15 members with membership capped at 30 but, as its popularity grew, membership increased.



Thrift Shop, Main Street, White Plains, 1920s.

These women held meetings to discuss literature, drama, art, and current issues. In 1911 the group split into two organizations the New Century Club and the Woman's Club, which had a major focus on community and philanthropy.

This original group was quite influential in the community. One of its original members, Mrs. Harriett Griffin, was the first woman elected to public office in White Plains as a member of the school board (at a time when women were not even allowed to vote). The women also organized annual clean-up days. Unsightly signs were removed and vacant lots cleaned. Signs were posted on various lots – “Do Not Dump Here by Order of the Woman's Club.” The club was quite proud of their accomplishments and one time commandeered a local horse-drawn dump wagon, dressed up in “costumes” and wielding brooms rode down Main Street in a “spectacular parade.”

The two groups rejoined in 1916 calling themselves the Contemporary Club, consisting of 400 members. There were a number of sections in this newly combined club reflecting the varied interest of its members - Drama, Civic, Philanthropy, History, Travel, and Home Economics. At various times, the club met in the Farley building at 52 Orawaupum Street, the Grace Church Parish House and the Presbyterian Church. One of their earliest goals was to raise money for a new clubhouse. In 1917, the first Annual Dinner was held to raise money for the building fund.

With the onset of World War I, the Contemporary Club refocused its efforts and became involved in the war effort. The Spring Luncheon was renamed the Patriotic Tea and raised \$110 for the Red Cross. Club members were involved in many war related activities: a meal canteen, the four-minute speakers, War Service Corps, a very active Red Cross section, adoption of French war orphans. Mrs. Belle Knight, the first president of the Club, headed up the War Stamp Committee that raised \$17,000. In today's dollars, that would be almost \$400,000. Mrs. Louisa Lockwood, another charter member of the Contemporary Club, was involved in the Canning Kitchen at Tod Market. Over 50,000 jars of vegetables, jams and jellies were produced and sent to



Approximate location of 52 Orawaupum St. today



Belle Knight, First President of the Contemporary Club.

various domestic as well as international hospitals. After the war, she wrote a book on White Plains during WWI. Finally, on May 30, 1919, the Club planted trees at the Armory in memory of those killed during the war.

Following the war, the Club continued its philanthropic and community efforts as well as its interest in current affairs. Presentations on a wide variety of political and social topics, some rather controversial, were sponsored at the club. The Thrift Shop was opened in 1921. Originally the shop sold clothing and furniture. The shop was one of the major supporters of philanthropy in the early days and to this day, it continues to help lower income families with clothing and other essentials.

Several new projects were started. In 1921 the Community Girls Works was founded and sponsored social programs for women and girls. They applied to the YMCA for use of its building and one day a week was granted. Classes in swimming,

“weight normalizing,” rhythmic dancing, clogging, apparatus work and bowling were held and various girls club also met there. The program was so popular that additional meeting space was rented at 124 Main Street. The group was rapidly outgrowing its facilities and in February 1929 an application was submitted for a local branch of the YWCA to be opened in White Plains. By April 1929, this became a reality.

Club Dial, the monthly magazine of the organization, was first published in 1928 and contained articles on current affairs as well as more mundane topics as decorating, parenting and cooking. Some of the original advertisers (which were quite numerous) were Hecht Hardware, Schwackhammer Coal, the Peddie School in NJ (with a list of Contemporary Club women who had sons there), Wallauer Paint and Lyon and Hartnett Funeral home. The cost was 15 cents and was circulated as far away as Alaska, Europe and Africa. Proceeds from the sale were used for philanthropic efforts.

The Club also resumed efforts to establish a new clubhouse. In 1922 a lot was acquired on Martine Avenue for \$8,000 and sold several years later for five times the original purchase price. White Plains, at this time, was undergoing rapid growth and real estate prices were skyrocketing. In 1927 club members voted to purchase a larger property on Hartsdale Avenue near the site of the new high school (now the middle school) and architectural plans were drawn up.

Again, the increasing value of real estate led the Club to sell this property for twice its original value.

As the decade drew to a close, the stock market crash of October 1929 led to the worst depression in US history.

Part 2 of this series will explain how the Woman's Club survived and then thrived.

### Abinanti Pushes for Measure Requiring DOT Study Rail Crossings

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a similar bill in the Senate, that measure is sponsored by Republican state Sen. Terrence Murphy (R-Yorktown). Abinanti and Murphy both represent Valhalla, where last year's accident at the Commerce Street grade crossing took place.

The assemblyman said the safety of grade-level crossings disproportionately affects suburban communities like ones in Westchester. There are rarely these types of crossings in urban environments and more sparsely populated rural areas don't have the level of vehicular traffic or the number of trains traveling through their communities.

Abinanti's Feb. 18 comments came two days after Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Administrator Sarah Feinberg sent a letter to state officials across the nation



Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti is lobbying for his bill that would have the state Department of Transportation examine all grade-level crossings in the state.

asking that they evaluate crossings in their jurisdictions and monitor and test railroad crossing signals and adjacent traffic signals to make sure they are functioning properly.

“The FRA administrator has made improving railroad crossing safety a top priority – now it's time for the state legislature to do the same,” Abinanti said. “We have to be proactive in determining where there are safety issues that need immediate attention.”

While the MTA announced last year that it was studying more than 430 crossings on its Metro-North and Long Island Railroad lines, Abinanti said in most cases the state DOT is better equipped to make determinations about safety and recommend actions. He said it would be unfair and inappropriate to have MTA come to any conclusions about

its crossings since it is dealing with lawsuits stemming from last year's accident.

Meanwhile, without alternatives such as prohibitively expensive bridges and overpasses to make sure motorists never come into contact with rail crossings, Abinanti hopes that by continuing to keep the issue in the public's consciousness, drivers will realize that all grade-level crossings are dangerous.

“We need to educate drivers about grade-level crossings until we can decide on something better than grade-level crossings,” Abinanti said.

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## White Plains Needs Broader Downtown Plan

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apartments.

The Planning Board basically agreed that for this one location, the zoning change did make sense, but they discussed the concern raised by a doubling of the density at the location.

Planning Board Chairman Michael Quinn said that the White Plains Common Council was eager to incentivize refurbishment of existing buildings, but he also pointed out that the city's downtown was undergoing fast development.

Board member Robert Stackpole agreed, saying that Planning needed to discuss requests from the point of view of the future. "We need to determine the impact on the infrastructure and the school system of the city," he said. "The city has to have a better handle on the broader impact of developing sites."

Stackpole went on to say that the private single-family home market was diminishing in White Plains and that residential growth was shifting to the downtown. "There are a lot of projects not built yet," Stackpole said. "What is the overall impact on traffic, for example? We have not even studied it yet."

All Board members agreed that existing traffic in the late afternoon in White Plains was already a problem and would

get worse as development increased.

Quinn noted that there was also a shortage of adequate open space for the new downtown residents. "If you want a livable downtown, you need parklets," he said – places where people can go to get a cup of coffee and sit outside, or walk their dog. "I don't see anywhere when I look at the area (near S. Broadway and Maple) where people can go when they leave their apartments."

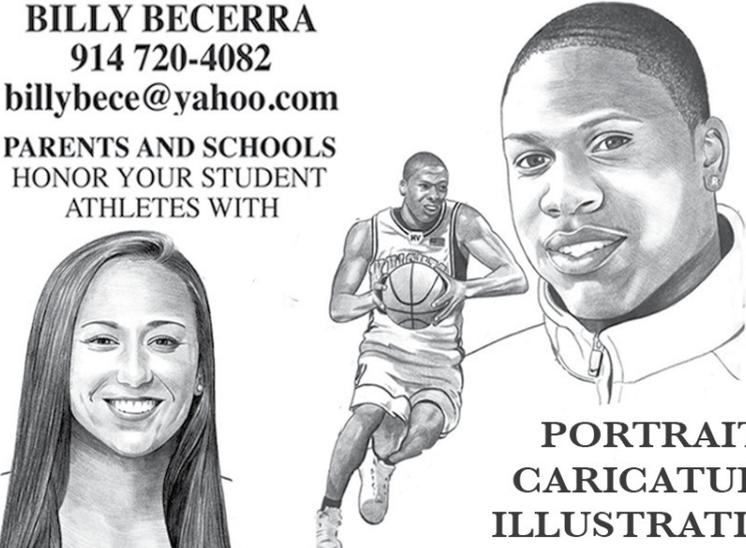
Noting that White Plains is taking a knee-jerk reaction by responding to each new development as it comes before the Boards for approvals, Stackpole again emphasized that Planning had to look at the impact of all the new buildings together.

Board member John Ioris cautioned that with blight in the area, the addition of new residents was important to the area's survival and that anything like a moratorium on new permits should not be considered. "More people on the streets is a good thing," Ioris said.

The Board also considered what would happen when more of the box stores such as Walmart, Sears or Macy's closed due to the growth of online shopping. They agreed that White Plains needs a view to the future dealing with the many changing market impacts.

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# ShopRite Supermarkets, Inc. Donates \$150,000 to Maria Fareri Children's Hospital



Team members from ShopRite Supermarkets, Inc. (SRS) present a check for \$150,000 to representatives from Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, a member of the Westchester Medical Center Health Network, and the children's hospital for the Hudson Valley and Fairfield County. ShopRite stores throughout Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester Counties collected donations at checkout and hosted in-store activities and events during the month of November to raise funds. Shopper advocates from four of ShopRite's five top-performing stores that participated in the fundraiser – ShopRite of Vails Gate, Middletown, New Rochelle, Croton and Montague – were on-hand to present the donation, which will help support the hospital's efforts to provide lifesaving and life-changing care to thousands of local children each year, including those in need of open heart surgery, brain surgery, cancer treatment, trauma and burn care, organ transplants and more. From left, Tom Urtz, vice president of operations, ShopRite Supermarkets, Inc.; Megan Castiglione, shopper advocate, ShopRite of Vails Gate; Vinnie Calabrese, shopper advocate, ShopRite of Middletown; Cathy Grisanti, shopper advocate, ShopRite of New Rochelle; Ryan Powers, shopper advocate, ShopRite of Croton; Meredith Buono, manager of marketing & community relations, Maria Fareri Children's Hospital; and Sharbari Bose Kamat, assistant manager of marketing & community relations, Maria Fareri Children's Hospital.

# Westchester Self Storage Owner Elected CEO of State Organization



Peter Ferraro Sr., president and owner at Westchester Self Storage, has been recently elected CEO of the New York State Self Storage Association representing more than 400 self-storage members and facilities throughout the state. Westchester Self Storage has several facilities throughout the county. With 25 years of experience, Ferraro has set the standard for gold key facilities providing top-notch service with convenience and peace of mind for thousands of clients. For more information about Ferraro's company, visit [www.westchesterselfstorage.com](http://www.westchesterselfstorage.com).

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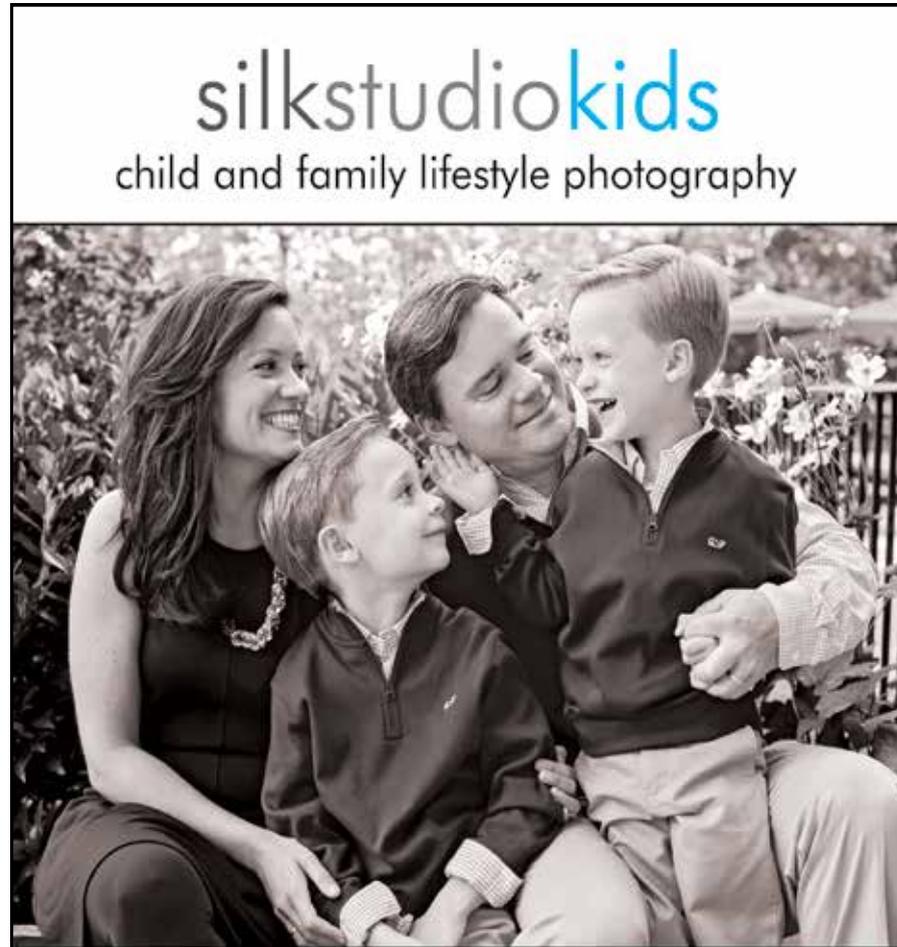
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## White Plains Environmental Group Asks for More Public Input on Transit Plan

As a White Plains environmental group concerned with sustainability in all White Plains development, EcoNeighbors was shocked that the supposed public feedback at the Feb. 11, 2016, White Plains Transit District "Public Engagement Meeting" was a sum total of literally 2 texted words per person. And the sum total of the "public learning" was a series of stand-up boards around the periphery of a room so packed that no one could see the boards, with only an occasional, haphazard one-on-one introduction of a Stakeholder Task Force member, depending on who an attendee happened to bump into in the crowd.

There was no signage as to who was responsible for the displays or any explanation about their significance. It was not clear how the auditorium texted responses would be used.

During the sit-down auditorium presentation, neither the Mayor nor the Planning Commissioner had the courtesy or professionalism to introduce anyone from Parsons Brinckerhoff, the consultancy group the City hired four

months ago at a cost of \$794,000 out of the \$1 million NYSEDA grant from the State of NY. Nor was Parsons Brinckerhoff given an opportunity to speak or answer questions from the audience. The Mayor mentioned the existence of a Task Force Advisory Committee, but – twice – he said he could not state their names!

Here is what true public engagement must be:

From the podium before the large sit-down audience in the auditorium, all Stakeholder Task Force appointees should have introduced themselves to everyone, and given their qualifications or reasons for having been appointed by the Mayor (e. g., the Stakeholder Task Force includes no one from BID -- despite the Mayor's stated goal of creating a walkable connection between the train station and Mamaroneck Avenue businesses!)

Representatives from Parsons Brinckerhoff, hired four months ago, should have been introduced to everyone in the auditorium, and their qualifications provided.

Parsons Brinckerhoff should have

given a visual and oral presentation about past projects they will use as concepts for the White Plains project, and of various options they're exploring for our Transit District. There should have been a presentation of exciting, great models of the various project components that White Plains residents might consider from cities around the US and the world.

There should have been an opportunity for citizens to ask questions and voice their concerns from a microphone so that the entire audience could hear and learn from each other.

If the city is truly serious about public engagement with this process, they must have more than 3 public meetings of the Feb. 11 type. And these citizen meetings must take place before the decisions have been made. The City cannot wait for its next public meeting until June, 9 months after Parsons Brinckerhoff was hired, and 4 months before the end of the \$1,000,000 NYSEDA-funded project!

White Plains can be tremendously proud of the level of knowledge, skill, and learning/research capacity of our citizens.

Residents separately sending in feedback via website forms (or texting single words in a public meeting) does not allow us to learn from each other and develop our ideas together. We should have meetings, which bring together residents and design professionals in focus groups, workshops, and presentations. The City must provide genuine opportunities for citizen-group input.

The Feb. 11 "Public Engagement" meeting seemed designed to keep residents atomized and confused about the Transit District redevelopment project, not to truly bring residents together to learn and provide citizen-group ideas. It enabled the city to take photos of the huge attendance to "prove" to NYSEDA that they had the required public engagement, when in fact they had no meaningful public feedback at all.

The City must truly use its outstanding citizens' skills and experiences, not just give lip service to public engagement.

–For EcoNeighbors: Deb Von Glahn, Ann Ladd, Al Gassman, Yvonne Gumowitz, Carry Kyzivat, Anne Bobroff-Hajal

## Resident Expresses Concerns About Downtown White Plains Transit District

After years and years of seeing my dear ones dashing between cars with impatient motorists, so we can pick them up at the station, I hope any plans for the station include safe, wide, lighted dedicated pedestrian walkways; well-thought-out

lanes for traffic; and appropriate signage for train travelers and motorists.

Signage for motorists should stress being patient and respecting pedestrian right-of-way.

Also, here's a chance to make pedestrian

access to Battle Hill safe and easy, in more than one location.

It's next to impossible to get directly and safely to the Battle Hill neighborhood from the station as a pedestrian. Try it. This neighborhood should be walkable

from the station. Walkways that get covered with snow and ice and are not cleaned are not appropriate.

–Renee Cohen, White Plains

## Obituaries

### Richard Hughes

Richard S. Hughes Jr. of White Plains, died Feb. 19. He was born Feb. 7, 1961. Devoted son of the late Rosemary and Richard Hughes. Loving brother to Andrew, Daniel, Denise (Jim), Kenneth (MaryEllen), Eugene (Michele) and Rosemarie (Mitch). Beloved Uncle to Joseph, Brandon, Thomas, Kellie, Alisabeth, Kevin, Ryan, Anna and Kyra. He will be missed by many. Richard worked for the NYC Water Department for over 30 years.



### Lisa Gisondi Chiappetta

Lisa Gisondi Chiappetta, a Hawthorne resident, died February 17 at the age of 54. She was born March 28, 1961 in White Plains to Frances and Peter Gisondi Sr.

Besides her parents, Lisa is survived by her husband, Daniele S. Chiappetta Sr., her son Daniele S. Chiappetta Jr., her brothers, Peter Gisondi Jr., John Gisondi and Anthony Gisondi and her sister, Grace Robertson Gisondi.

Lisa was a beloved wife and mother and was so full of love, life and generosity. She lived One Day at a Time. Her love of family and friends went above and beyond all

expectations. She always put others before herself, no matter the circumstances. She is now with God's family, may she forever rest in peace.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to White Plains Hospital Cancer Center.

### Nettie Smith

Nettie Benskin Smith passed away Feb. 17 in White Plains. She was 95. Nettie was born in Castries, St. Lucia in the British West Indies on May 13, 1920. She was the daughter of Ella Winter and George Cecil Benskin. She was brought to the United States by her parents within months of her birth, and became a United States citizen on March 15, 1956. Nettie was predeceased by her two beloved brothers, Canairr and McDonald.

She was educated in New York City and graduated from Hunter College, City University of New York in 1942, with a Bachelor's degree in Music. For several years, she worked in local New York City libraries as a clerk, and also attended Columbia University's School of Library Service.

In 1944, she met the love of her life, James R. Smith, a graduate of Virginia State College, also a music major and an excellent pianist. Nettie and James married on June 20, 1946.

In 1955, Nettie was appointed as College Office Assistant at Hunter College.

In 1964, Nettie and James moved

their family from their New York City apartment in the Bronx to White Plains, which offered the family the opportunity of home ownership and the home in which Nettie resided for 42 years. Six years after the death of her beloved husband in 2000, Nettie moved to the condominium complex, The Residences at Jefferson Place in White Plains, where she spent her final years.

Nettie was an adoring and attentive grandmother. She leaves behind her daughter Karen, daughter Lisa and husband Bruce Hodo, their two daughters Karen Michele and Amanda Nichole; her son James and his wife Dianne, their two daughters Deanna Lynn and Melissa Ann.

### 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.

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# Police Blotter

## Westchester County District Attorney

**Grand Larceny.** Michael Lippman (DOB 11/03/44) of Scarsdale, pled guilty to one count of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a class "C" Felony, one count of Criminal Tax Fraud in the Second Degree, a class "C" Felony, and one count of Scheme To Defraud in the First Degree, a class "E" Felony.

Between Jan. 1, 2010 and Sept. 15, 2015, the defendant, at the time a licensed attorney in the State of New York, engaged in a scheme in which he deliberately defrauded multiple clients of monies entrusted to him for various purposes including the transfer of real estate and estate planning. In one instance, the defendant is alleged to have stolen approximately \$431,300 from a client intended to complete the purchase of a property. In another instance the defendant is alleged to have stolen approximately \$159,431.95 from another client. That money was intended to pay off a mortgage to forestall a foreclosure action on that client's property. In all, it is alleged that the defendant, in his ongoing scheme, defrauded 13 clients out of approximately \$1,487,461.61. Lippman is also accused of non-payment of taxes to New York State in excess of \$50,000.

The investigation was carried out by investigators from the District Attorney's office along with the assistance of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance.

The defendant remains out on a bail of \$50,000 and will be sentenced on June 8, 2016. He faces a maximum sentence of 15 years in state prison.

## Greenburgh Police Department

**Assault.** During the afternoon of Feb. 14 officers responded to Greenburgh Commons for a report of possible child abduction. The complainants said that a little girl had been abducted in a beige minivan. The minivan pulled back in after police arrived and a fistfight ensued between the driver a male passenger and the complainants. The suspect was told that if he did not stop fighting he would be tased, but the fight continued. He was tased twice before he stopped his aggression and was handcuffed. All parties involved were either transported to police headquarters for investigation or to White Plains Hospital ER. The investigation determined that the suspect had showed up at his wife's friend's house party and started a physical fight because he believed one of the guests was having

an affair with his wife. He then took his daughter from the house party and brought her to his wife's mothers home. The daughter was safe at home with the grandmother.

**Criminal Mischief.** On Feb. 13 were called to a domestic dispute. Upon arrival they observed a male and female in the street engaged in a verbal argument. The female had blood on her hands and shirt, as well as an abrasion on her right cheek, and the front of her boot was ripped open in the toe area. The male had blood on his hands and jacket as well as dirt/dust on his hands. Both parties were separated by officers and interviewed. The male said he was on the phone with the female when they got into a verbal argument. He then decided to leave to go home and went to move his vehicle. The female attempted to box him in with her vehicle striking the rear passenger side quarter panel. They both exited their vehicles and the verbal argument continued. The female then began to kick the rear bumper and license plate area of the male's vehicle causing scratches, dents, and the license plate to be bent up. The altercation then became physical with the male pulling out the female's hair extensions and slapping her

in the face. The female then took a metal pipe approximately 16 inches long from her vehicle, but the male took it from her and threw it into a nearby parking lot. Both parties were placed under arrest and taken to police headquarters.



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# New York's Proposed Aid-in-Dying Bill: What You Should Know



By Anthony J. Enea, Esq.

Every year thousands of Americans grapple with excruciatingly painful terminal illnesses. For many of these individuals, the thought of their lives being unnecessarily prolonged is abhorrent. While the issue of euthanasia and/or physician assisted suicide has been front and center in the American psyche since the days of Dr. Kevorkian and Karen Ann Quinlan, the controversial nature of this issue is still as strong today as it was 40 to 50 years ago.

While euthanasia is illegal in most states and has been found morally unethical by many organized religions, there are now four states (Washington, Oregon, Vermont and Montana) where physician assisted dying (PAD) is permitted. Additionally, it is permitted in Bernalillo County, New Mexico. Aid-in-Dying legislation was also recently legalized in California and will take effect later this year.

The major distinction between euthanasia and PAD is who administers the lethal dose. With euthanasia, the physician or other third party administers the lethal dose, whereas with PAD, the lethal dose is self-administered by

the patient and the patient determines whether and when to administer it.

New York State Assemblywoman, Amy Paulin (D-Scarsdale), has sponsored the Aid-in-Dying bill in the Assembly, while Senator John Bonacic (R-Mt. Hope, Orange County), has sponsored the bill in the state Senate. The proposed legislation was first introduced in February 2015, and a new push for its enactment has occurred this February.

Under the proposed legislation, the Public Health Law of New York would be amended to include a new Article 28-F "Aid in Dying" provision. The proposed legislation would permit a terminally ill adult (age 21 years or older and expected to live six months or less because of terminal illness or condition) who has the capacity (ability) to understand and appreciate the nature and consequences of health care decisions (including risks and benefits), and who is able to reach and communicate an informed decision to a physician licensed to practice in New York State, to decide to end his or her life.

The proposed legislation allows the attending physician (one who has primary responsibility for the care and treatment of a patient's terminal illness)

to prescribe a lethal dose of medication to the terminally ill patient that he or she can self-administer. The medication has to be capable of ending life and can include any other ancillary medication(s) intended to minimize the discomfort to the patient.

The request for this medication must be made in writing, signed and dated by the patient and witnessed by at least two individuals who, in the presence of the patient, attest that to the best of their knowledge and belief, the patient has capacity, is acting voluntarily, and is not being coerced to sign the request.

One of the witnesses cannot be a relative of the patient (by blood or by marriage). Additionally, the witnesses can neither be individuals who would be entitled to inherit upon the death of the patient, the attending physician, nor the owner or operator of a health care facility where the patient is residing or receiving treatment.

One of the issues that will surely arise when a decision is made by a terminally ill patient to end his or her life is whether the patient has the requisite capacity to make the decision. The proposed legislation provides that if, in the opinion of the attending physician, the patient is suffering from a psychiatric or psychological disorder or depression causing impaired

judgment, the attending physician shall refer the patient for counseling.

The proposed legislation further provides that no medication to end a patient's life shall be prescribed, dispensed or ordered until the person performing the counseling determines that the patient is not suffering from a psychiatric or psychological disorder or depression causing impaired judgment, and that the patient has the requisite capacity.

Although the proposed legislation has bi-partisan support, it is not without controversy and opposition in the NYS Assembly and Senate. Only time will tell whether the legislation is enacted. However, irrespective of where one's opinion falls on this issue, it is safe to say that whenever any legislation is proposed that allows one to end his or her own life, it should be approached carefully and with a great deal of caution and deliberation.

Anthony J. Enea, Esq. is the managing member of Enea, Scanlan & Sirignano, LLP with offices in White Plains and Somers. Mr. Enea is a past chair of the New York State Bar Association's Elder Law Section. He was named Best Lawyers' 2016 Elder Law "Lawyer of the Year" in White Plains and Westchester County's Leading Elder Care Attorney at the Above the Bar Awards. Mr. Enea can be reached at 914-948-1500 or A.Enea@esslawfirm.com.

## Guest Column

**We have the party. Do you have the kids?**

**Eliminate The Dullness.**

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## White Plains Recreation & Parks Camp Fair this Saturday, Feb 27

It may be winter outside, but White Plains is already thinking about summer and is ready to offer you some serious summer fun. Come to the White Plains Recreation & Parks Camp Fair, Saturday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at White Plains High School Cafeteria (entrance on North Street). Free event, all invited, residents and non-residents.

Learn about the exciting camp programs the City has for your children.

Meet the Camp Directors and staff and hear about the Half & Full Day Camps with activities, entertainment, special events, trips, swimming and Early Drop Off and Extended Day services.

Information about Specialty Camps – Cheer-Hip Hop Camp, JF Football Camp, WP Youth Soccer Camp, TGA Golf Camp, Lacrosse Camp, Multi-Sports Camp, Basketball Camp, Aviation Explorers, IncrediFlix, and Fashion Design will be provided. Learn about available financial aid and save money with early payment plans.

The Fair will be fun for kids while Parents learn about programs. There will be balloons popcorn, crafts and a magician show at 11a.m. Camp registration is available on site with early bird savings. Enrollment is limited. For additional information, call 422-1424.

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## Home Staging By a Professional or on Your Own

Sometimes I think it's a good exercise for a realtor to look at the home search process more from the buyer's point of view. And from that perspective, choosing a home that is right for us can be more about art than science.

Sure, we may start the search with a list of preferences in hand. The house may need to have at least three bedrooms, a big yard or a finished basement. Or maybe it has to be in a certain school district, or close to the highway or in the same town as the rest of your family. But if these external requirements were all that mattered, you could just plug some variables into Zillow and buy the first home on the list.

More often, however, there is an overriding matter of importance in choosing a home. We are looking for reassurance that the house we buy can someday truly feel like home. So off we go, visiting one house after the other, in the quest to discover the one we can commit to.

Seen from the seller's perspective, a smart homeowner will do what he or she can to help prospective buyers imagine how it would feel to live in the house when they view it. The process of making a house look inviting to buyers is well known as home staging, and it can make a big difference in how fast a home sells.

Recently, The New York Times ran an

article about how home staging has evolved in some of the most pricey markets in the city. Buyers now want to see apartments that look as though they have sprung from the pages of a shelter magazine, but any staging tricks that are too familiar – such as a tray with a coffee cup on a bed – irritates them. For these seven-figure domiciles, paying a stager \$30,000 or more can be well worth the money.

Fortunately for the rest of us, professional home staging will cost much less, and there are also a few do-it-yourself tips available to the do-it-yourselfer.

The first error in home staging, according to the real estate pundits, occurs when the owners have too much of their style or their personal lives on display. To the greatest extent possible, a family should pare down their decorations, knick-knacks and photos when preparing their house for a viewing. I realize this is hard when you are still living in your home, especially with young children, but the effort made usually results in a faster sale.

No matter how interesting it can be to

see another's home, ultimately the buyer wants to feel as though he or she is visiting what could be their home, rather than trespassing in someone else's. The worst example of this – the realtor's nightmare – is when a member of the seller's family is still physically present in the home, perhaps watching TV or surfing the web. The prospective buyers often will tiptoe around quickly without giving the house the same attention they would have otherwise.

Although it could be hard to not take it personally, sellers also benefit from homogenizing their style of décor. No matter how tasteful, creative or expensive

your taste, the next owners of your house will have a better reaction if the interior design is streamlined and airy. You will need to make a personal decision whether or not to spend the money to paint over a punchy wall color that you love, or put your sports gear into storage, but at least you will be making that decision consciously.

Clutter in any guise must go. If it doesn't make you happy to look at it, the buyers will feel the same way.

The second common error is the opposite of the first: you don't want your home to

be completely devoid of personality. If a house is empty, buyers will have a more difficult time imagining living in it than if it is furnished. If the owners have already moved out and did not leave any furniture behind, a home stager may rent furniture to make the house seem more welcoming. The fact that furniture makes an otherwise empty room seem bigger is a bonus.

If you've pared down your belongings to the bone in response to my first suggestion, you may want to put a few accessories back into the mix. While the streamlined style is preferred, visitors don't want to feel as though they are visiting a hotel chain.

If my local readers would like some professional help navigating this delicate balance, there are two professional stagers who are very active in this area: Susan Atwell of AtWell Staged Home ([www.atwellstagedhome.com](http://www.atwellstagedhome.com) or 914-525-0454) and Denise Hoffmann of Cameo Home Staging ([www.cameohomestaging.com](http://www.cameohomestaging.com) or 914-497-0924).

*Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. ([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 to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.*



By Bill Primavera

## Parallels Between Wine and the Oscar Best Picture Nominees



By Nick Antonaccio

The 88th Academy Awards airs this Sunday evening. From the bear in "Revenant" to the bulls in "The Big Short," from the dark secrets unveiled in "Spotlight" to the dark side of the Cold War, even the dark side of Mars, this year's nominations have elements that make for parallels with both the practical and ethereal aspects of wine themes.

Here are my parallels for five of the eight nominees:

"Revenant." Leonardo DiCaprio seemingly returns from the dead (hence the movie's title) after several near-death experiences, especially one with a computer-generated, but highly realistic, bear. Revenge is the underlying theme, but not from the hand you might expect.

Which wine has risen from the ashes time and again? Zinfandel. Symbolic as the grape of choice of early settlers in the West, it became lost in the wilderness for a time. Today's offerings grab your attention and continually surprise you. From afar, they may seem rustic, but when engaged, the excitement begins and they hold you in their grip.

"The Big Short." Subprime mortgages, credit default swaps, synthetic CDOs, AA tranches. Who knew – or understood –

any of these terms in early 2007? We all do now. This film vividly and unflinchingly reminds us of one of the worst housing bubbles in history and the frauds perpetrated by greed. As Steve Carell's hedge fund character (a big winner) complains: "For 15,000 years, fraud and short-sighted thinking have never, ever worked. Not once. When the hell did we forget all that?"

Wine fraud has also been rampant. Counterfeiters have packaged subprime wine bearing false labels to many gullible, avaricious investors. The most recent fraud, involving high-end French wines, has landed the perpetrator, Rudy Kurniawan, a long-term jail sentence (a major difference from the housing scam).

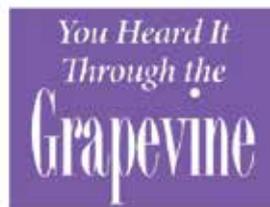
"Spotlight." The Boston Globe's investigative unit, dubbed the Spotlight Team, includes characters portrayed by two of my favorite actors of the past decade, Michael Keaton and Mark Ruffalo. The Globe is emblematic of what research, dogged fact checking and the relentless pursuit of the truth can contribute to society. Based on the uncovering of the Catholic Church's pedophile scandal, the film depicts the resurgence of diligent news reporting after years of declining craftsmanship.

A comparison to this brand of reporting

that comes to mind is Chianti wine. It has a glorious past of high quality and diligent craftsmanship. But in the 1960s, standards fell and the wines suffered from lackadaisical attention and inattentiveness in the vineyards. Chianti returned to favor over the last decade through diligent and painstaking attention to the details of winemaking by dedicated winemakers.

"The Martian." Astronaut Mark Watney (Matt Damon) is abandoned and presumed dead on a manned mission to Mars. He must use his ingenuity. Suspenseful, dramatic and, at times, quite humorous, with a 1970s disco soundtrack tying these elements neatly together, man's ingenuity is on full display. The Martian takes organic farming to its natural evolution on a distant planet: clean air, uncontaminated soil and, most cunning, natural fertilizer. Except the organic approach isn't applied to produce a Red Planet wine, but rather, a vegetable to sustain life at a rudimentary level.

The wine pairing? The Burgundy region of France has been producing wines of the land for centuries. Coping with difficult conditions, both natural and social, the winemakers of the region have persisted, displaying their mettle and fortitude time and again.



"Bridge of Spies." Another highly acclaimed Steven Spielberg thriller. Ho hum. Another Tom Hanks stellar performance. Ho hum. This formulaic film has all the elements of a first class, well-balanced epic, but it's more like a Bridge of Sighs. A true story of the capture and release of American and Russian spies in the 1950s, this film is appealing, but its competition is more compelling.

So too with American red blends. Consumers are lured into sweet, pleasant wines. Enticing? Yes. Compared to other, palate-tingling wines? Sigh.

Which movie will win the coveted Oscar? Sit back on Sunday night with your favorite wine in hand and enjoy the festivities.

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



## La Riserva Reopens After Major Renovation



By Morris Gut

Chef/Proprietor Michael Vivolo and his wife Margaret of venerable La Riserva in Larchmont have completed a major renovation of the premises and it is stunning. 'La famiglia' Vivolo have been serving 'the Italian classics' here for over 38 years and the refreshing atmosphere and friendly ambiance keep it a treat.

Taking more of a hand in the operation are Dean and Odelya Vivolo, Michael's son and daughter in law. Dean has been chef/proprietor of bustling Trattoria Vivolo on Halstead Ave. in Harrison for the past 14 years serving contemporary Italian cuisine out of a vintage diner. While Odelya was part of the design team at La Riserva.

The dining rooms at La Riserva have been beautifully refurbished: resplendent with new white tiled bar, plush new dark wood floors, seating, chairs and tabletops. The ceiling is now a lush red with new



The dining room at La Riserva.

lighting fixtures, and the dramatic new photo gallery scattered in three dining areas includes vintage black and white blow-ups depicting scenes from Vivolo's hometown of Accadia-Foggia in the Apulia region of southeast Italy during the early 20th Century. They are lovely, a must see. The staff now dons smart contemporary grey uniforms.

There is a brand new menu, too. Be seated in the lovely refurbished dining room and let the staff suggest such starting specialties as: fresh Spedino alla Romana, oozing with melted cheese; Cremini Balsamico, cremini mushrooms, spinach, pine nuts, balsamic, fontina cheese; Kale Salad, with cranberries, green apples, walnuts, grapefruit, gorgonzola cheese; Burrata with long stem artichokes, oven dried tomatoes,

olives; and Antipasti Freddo, dried sausage, spec, bresaola, parmigiana Reggiano and pecorino sardo.

Signature pastas now include: Paglia e Fieno Cacio e Pepe, house made 'straw & hay' with cracked pepper, parmigiana and pecorino cheese; Gnocchi Dolomiti, with brandy cream sauce, sausage, radicchio; House made Lasagna, meat sauce, mozzarella cheese, béchamel sauce; Linguini alle Vongole, New Zealand cockles with shell, marinara, garlic & oil; Orrechietti di Accadia, pancetta, oven dried tomatoes, arugula, bread crumbs, garlic & oil; and Rigatoni di Canosa, spicy sausage, cherry peppers, ricotta & pecorino cheese. New this season is a luscious Wild Boar Ragu.

Main courses are now divided into two sections. 'Secondi Piatti Con Osso', on the bone, now includes: Agnello, broiled loin lamb chops, rosemary, extra virgin & garlic; Orata, sea bream baked stuffed with lemon, garlic,

specialties augment the regular menu.

The new lunch menu includes Panini and main course fresh Salads: Panini Ticino, with grilled chicken, arugula, tomato, pesto, fresh mozzarella; and salads come with your choice of grilled chicken, shrimp, salmon, or grilled sliced strip steak.

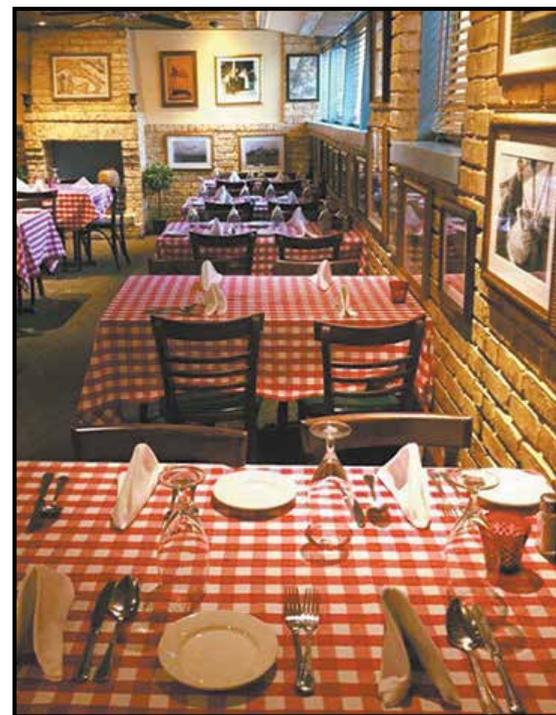
Sunday Brunch is served noon to 3 p.m. and includes complimentary Mimosa, Bloody Mary or soda, choice of main course, house dessert and coffee or tea. Cost is: \$25 per person. Special Hint: There is a daily 3-course luncheon menu served for \$12.95.

Customers old and new are always greeted with genuine warmth when entering La Riserva.

*La Riserva Trattoria is located at 2382 Boston Post Road, Larchmont. The restaurant is open for lunch Monday through Friday, noon to 3 p.m. Main courses at lunch: \$8.95 to \$15. Dinner is served 7 nights, from 5 to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday; to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 3. to 10 p.m. Sunday. Main courses at dinner: \$17 to \$31. Lunch and brunch are served Sundays from noon to 3 p.m. Catering facilities for up to 60 guests; party packages for 10 or more. Take-out. Major credit cards. Free parking. Proper casual dress. Handicapped access. Reservations accepted. Phone: 914-834-5584. Fax: 914-833-0652. www.lariservarestaurant.com*

### Ernesto's Nightlife Event

Charlie Gambino of Ernesto's Ristorante, 130 W. Post Road, White Plains (914-421-1414) will hold an evening of dinner and nightlife on Saturday, Feb. 27 starting at 8 p.m. Ernesto's regular menu of regional Italian specialties will be served along with a spirited bar for networking. The Reunion Band will perform hits from the 50s, 60s and 70s. Walk down memory lane or get up and kick your heels, it should be a fun winter break. Reservations suggested. www.ernestoristorante.com



The dining room at Artie's.

### Artie's to Appear on "Billions" Feb. 28

Spiros Chagares, proprietor of Artie's Steak & Seafood on City Island, 394 City Island Ave., Bronx (718-885-9885) hosted a shoot for the new Showtime series "Billions" late last year. Now we hear that the episode in which Artie's appears will air on Sunday evening, Feb. 28 with star Damian Lewis. They are wrapping some special events around it throughout the weekend. Reservations suggested. www.artiescityisland.com

Morris Gut is a restaurant marketing consultant and former restaurant trade magazine editor. He has been tracking and writing about the food & dining scene in greater Westchester for 30 years. He may be reached at: 914-235-6591. E-mail: gutreactions@optonline.net.



Owner Spiros Chagares and general manager Laura Vandenberg flank 'Billions' star Damian Lewis at Artie's, City Island.



## The Restaurant Examiner



### Ruth's Chris Steak House in Tarrytown to Host a Bevy of New Events

By Jerry Eimbinder

Ruth's Chris Steak House in Tarrytown will hold a five-course "Taste of Spain" wine-paired, prix-fixe dinner on Thursday, Feb. 25 at 9 p.m. Priced at \$95 per person, this dinner is one of the events in a bevy of new activities at the restaurant located in the Westchester Marriott.

Also coming soon are a mystery solving dinner on March 3, and two prix-fixe dinners on March 30-31 to feature famous Verve Clicquot French bubbly along with a menu not yet finalized. Also new are customized catering services and menu enhancements for Happy Hour beverages and food.

Wines to be served at the "Taste of Spain" dinner will be products of the vineyards of Torres, a famous family winery business founded in 1870 and now managed by fourth-generation family members. Torres wines have achieved worldwide recognition and have won awards from many publications including Wine Enthusiast, which named it



Ruth's Chris Steak House in Tarrytown to host "Taste of Spain" wine-paired prix-fixe dinner, Thursday, Feb. 25.

European Winery of the Year 10 years ago.

For the second year in a row, Torres was named the World's Most Admired Wine Brand in a 2015 poll of sommeliers, educators and journalists conducted by Drinks International. Kendall-Jackson came in 21st in the 2015 competition.

#### Taste of Spain menu

**First course.** Kumato tomato and herbed goat cheese salad. With arugula and white balsamic vinaigrette.

**Second course.** Lobster paella. With black mussels, chorizo and peas.

**Third course.** Sherry BBQ glazed pork tenderloin.

**Entrée.** Filet mignon topped with Piquillo pepper butter. Lyonnaise fingerling potatoes and green beans with almonds.

**Dessert.** Tres Leches cake with orange whipped cream and chocolate Turrón.

#### Taste of Spain wine pairings

**First course.** Paso Das Bruxas Albarino.

**Second course.** Celeste Tempranillo.

**Third course.** Salmon Red Blend.

**Entrée.** Mas La Plana cabernet sauvignon.

**Dessert.** Torres 20 brandy, Torres Orange Liqueur cocktail.

The cost is \$95 per person plus tax and gratuity. A credit card number is requested by the restaurant when accepting a

reservation and a penalty is incurred if the reservation is not cancelled 24 hours in advance.

Ruth's Chris also has a Mystery Dinner planned for March 3, but it is sold out. At this dinner, guests will attempt to identify who in the cast is the criminal.

The new catering service will provide trays of food such as lobster mac and cheese, sliced filet mignon and side dishes.

During Happy Hour, patrons can choose from a variety of food items at \$9 each including burger with fries, tenderloin-skewer salad, crab BLT with zucchini fries, steak sandwich with fries, seared Ahi tuna, and spicy lobster.

Happy Hour beverages available at \$9 each include Cosmo, pomegranate martini, Manhattan, Royal Street gin and tonic, and selected wine and beer.

Happy Hour takes place at the bar on Sunday through Friday from 4 to 7 p.m.

Ruth's Chris Steak House is located in the Westchester Marriott at 670 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, 914-631-3311.

### Via Vanti! in Mount Kisco to Conduct "Discover Burgundy," a Wine Tasting Seminar

By Jerry Eimbinder

Via Vanti!, an eclectic Italian restaurant in the train station house at Mount Kisco, will host a wine-tasting seminar "Discover Burgundy" on Thursday, March 10 at 7 p.m.

Three red and three white wines from Maison Louis Jabot in Burgundy, France, will be tasted at this \$40 event and described by Christian Dalbavie, a Certified Specialist of Wine (CSW). Accompanying the wine will be house-made mozzarella from the restaurant's new "Mozz Bar," cured meats and bread.

Dalbavie is an executive at the Kobrand Corporation, a wine industry distribution



Via Vanti!, Mt. Kisco, to hold wine tasting seminar March 10.

organization based in Purchase.

"Burgundy is not only the original home of chardonnay and pinot noir, but the terroir that best expresses their character: elegance, aromatic, complexity and highly pleasurable," said Alex Rubeo, Managing Partner at Via Vanti!

The white wines to be tasted are Steel Chardonnay, 2014; Chassagne-Montrachet,

2013; and Saint Aubin Murger des Dents de Chein 1er Cru, 2012.

The red wines are Couvent des Jacobins, 2013; Gevrey-Chambertin, 2013; and Beaune Bressande 1er Cru, 2012.

Attendees are eligible to purchase the wine being tasted at a discount from a representative of Pound Ridge Wine & Liquor in Pound Ridge.

The cost to attend this event is \$40 per person plus tax and gratuity.

The restaurant is also planning to hold a "Tuscany Spring Tasting" program in April, 2016.

Via Vanti! is located at 2 Kirby Plaza, Mount Kisco, 914-666-6400.

### Dining Deal: Red Hat on the River's \$29 Prix-Fixe Dinner

By Jerry Eimbinder

No need to wait for Hudson Valley Restaurant Week to begin on March 7. A prix-fixe dinner menu at Red Hat on the River in Irvington, now through March 3, is a great deal, too.

For a starter, try the house-made rillettes. A delicious duck and pork confit, it comes sliced, accompanied by pickled red onions, cornichon, baguette toast and flavorful green peppercorn mustard. Onion soup and a tasty salad are also winners as starters.

The entrée selections include two of my favorites at this restaurant: Scottish salmon and French-cut chicken breast. Both will also be on the \$29

Red Hat Hudson Valley Restaurant Week dinner menu.

Two awesome desserts choices follow:



Rillettes, a duck and pork confit, at Red Hat on the River in Irvington.

profiterole (vanilla ice cream with Valrhona chocolate sauce, brandied cherries and candied almonds) or key lime pie, which has a graham cookie crust and is topped with whipped cream.

For lunch, patrons can choose one of the entrées and starter or dessert for \$21.

The complete list of entrées included are:

**Moules frites.** Prince Edward Island mussels steamed with garlic, white wine and shallots and served with frites.

**Grilled Scottish salmon.** Sautéed spinach, French green lentils and pommery mustard-herb-shallot vinaigrette.

**Pan-seared French-cut chicken breast.** Chicken jus vinaigrette, warm salad with brussels sprouts, wild rice, red quinoa, sweet potato, pine nuts and

apricot-almond-cherry chutney.

**Hanger steak frites.** Brussels and root vegetable roast and fries. Choice of red wine reduction, bernaise sauce or chimichurri vinaigrette.

**Red quinoa burger.** Quinoa, spinach, Shiitake mushrooms and parmigiana reggiano burger. Garnished with bibb lettuce, chipotle aioli, pickled red onion and avocado on toasted ciabatta or brioche roll. Choice of greens, salad or frites.

**Red Hat Burger.** Irish cheddar or blue cheese and local pickles. Toasted ciabatta or brioche roll. Choice of greens, salad or frites.

Red Hat on the River is located at 1 Bridge Street in Irvington. For more information, call 914-591-5888 or visit [www.redhatontheriver.com](http://www.redhatontheriver.com).

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022316

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## LEGALS

**Notice of Formation of Jenny Dobell Gardenscaping, LLC Art. Of Org.** filed with SSNY on 12/17/15. Offc. Loc: Westchester Cty. SSNY desig. as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, **10 Central Ave. Rye, NY, 10580.** Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**Notice of Formation of Sabina Global Communities, LLC. Sabinagc.com** filed with Department of State of New York on 8/28/15. Office location: Westchester County. United States Corporation Agents, Inc. Suite 202; 7014 13th Avenue Brooklyn NY 11228 designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **United States Corporation Agents, Inc. Suite 202; 7014 13th Avenue Brooklyn NY 11228.** Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

**LEGAL NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SO MULCH MORE, LLC.** Art. Of Org., filed with SSNY on 1/07/16. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **28 Fox Lane, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549.** Purpose: any lawful activity.

**Notice of Formation of CGC Solutions LLC** filed with the Department of State on 09/30/2015. Putnam County, SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process

against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, **74 Hillside Park, Brewster, NY 10509.** General Purpose.

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# Happenings

We're happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event and include the words "Happenings Calendar Submission" in your email subject line. Entries should be sent to Pat Casey at [pcasey@theexaminernews.com](mailto:pcasey@theexaminernews.com).

## Tuesday, Feb. 23

**Tuesdays at Dorry's.** Tuesdays @ Dorry's gathers "conversation partners" weekly for informal table talk. There is no charge. Just come and order your food from Sylvia and enjoy the discussion and the company. Food ordering begins at 5:30 p.m. Presentation and discussion 6 to 7 p.m. Dorry's Diner, 468 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains; 914-682-0005.

"Jim: The James Foley Story." On Thanksgiving Day 2012, American photojournalist James Foley was kidnapped in Syria and went missing for two years before the infamous video of his public execution sent shockwaves throughout the world. Executive producer Peter Kunhardt and director Brian Oakes, Foley's close childhood friend, tell the story of Foley's life through intimate interviews, including fellow hostages who reveal never-before-heard details of his captivity. Followed by a Q&A with Oakes. Part of the Global Watch: Crisis, Culture & Human Rights series. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

## Wednesday, Feb. 24

**Noonday Getaway Concert.** Downtown Music is excited to welcome Mackenzie Melemed for his DTM debut performance. Melemed was a Prize Winner of the Sixth New York International Piano Competition in June, 2012, a biennial event presented under the auspices of The Stecher Foundation. He was the First Prize winner of the 18th International Hamamatsu Piano Academy Competition in Japan and awarded top prizes in the 2012 Gina Bachauer International Young Artists Piano Competition. The artist will perform a selection of personal favorites. This concert is made possible with the generous support of the Brian Wallach Agency, White Plains, New York – Personal and Commercial Insurance since 1949. Take a break from your busy day and join us for this delightful free 30-minute performance at historic Grace Episcopal Church, 33 Church St., White Plains; 12:10 p.m.

**"From Darkroom to Daylight"** Film Screening and Book Signing. Join photographer, author and filmmaker Harvey Wang for a screening of his new documentary film. In this project, Wang explores the shift in photographic technology from analog film to digital practices. Through interviews with more than 40 important photographers, inventors and prominent figures in the photography world, he explores how this monumental shift in practice has impacted their work. Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 6 to 8 p.m. \$10. Purchase College students, staff and faculty and museum Art Circle

members: Free. Info: 914-251-6100 or visit [www.neuberger.org](http://www.neuberger.org).

## Thursday, Feb. 25

**Free Toddler Concert.** JTonezMusic will launch a children's CD, JBunny & Grizzly Gold's "Day Dreaming" at the White Plains City Center Barnes & Noble at 11 a.m. Hour-long free performance of the music on their new CD plus other familiar children's songs.

**Food Justice Celebration.** This event will offer an opportunity to learn about food justice and equity, as well as ways that we can get involved to improve food and health disparities in our area. Folks will have the chance to talk to farmers and food justice activists about their work; 6 p.m. at Thomas H. Slater Center, 2 Fisher Court, White Plains.

## Friday, Feb. 26

**"Keep Your Loved Ones Safe: The Value of Technology."** Sponsored by the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services, Alzheimer's Association, Livable Communities and the Westchester Public Private Partnership. White Plains Library's Conference Room B, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Registration requested. Info and registration: 914-813-6300 or e-mail [mama@westchestergov.com](mailto:mama@westchestergov.com).

**"12 Angry Men."** 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Feb. 25-26 at the Archbishop Stepinac's Major Bowes Auditorium, 950 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains. Tickets at \$10 each; to reserve, contact Linda Whelan at 914-946-4800, Ext. 200.

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Tickets can also be purchased at the door each night of the performance.

## Saturday, Feb. 27

**Music Conservatory Open House.** Music Conservatory of Westchester will hold two open houses for its Summer Music & Arts program on Saturday, Feb. 27 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Tuesday March 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. The program features a variety of offerings from songwriting to theater to arts & crafts. This year, the program will add several new components including hip hop, jazz and conditioning through movement. At the respective open house events, parents and their children can meet with staff, discuss their interests, and sign up at an "early bird" rate. This fun program consists of four two-week sessions (parents can choose all or some) with half, full, and

*continues on page 15*

## White Plains Resident Julie Trelstad to Teach Self Publishing At Sarah Lawrence College

By Jerry Eimbinder

Two new writing courses at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville will be taught by Julie Trelstad, a resident of White Plains and a member of the White Plains Public Library Board of Trustees; the registration fee for each course is \$400.

The five-session course called "Successful Self-Publishing" will be offered by the Writing Institute at Sarah Lawrence College on Tuesdays from March 1 to March 29 from 7 to 9 p.m.

A second five-session course will follow, called "Crafting a Personal Online Marketing Plan" on Tuesdays from April 5 to May 3 from 7 to 9 p.m.

In the first course, Trelstad will cover factors that authors should consider in determining whether or not to self-publish. Attendees will also learn how to find and hire a freelance publishing team and the steps to take to turn a completed manuscript into a high-quality e-book, a paperback, or an audiobook. Effective



White Plains Resident Julie Trelstad to Teach Self Publishing At Sarah Lawrence College

pricing strategies will also be covered along with promotional strategies for the self-published author.

The second course will address author branding and the use of creativity in formulating a unique message. The elements of an effective, affordable

personal marketing plan will be explored including strategies for author websites, e-mail marketing lists, and social media.

Trelstad will serve as one of the moderators at the third annual "Publish and Promote Your Book Conference," to take place at the Bronxville campus on Saturday, June 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost to attend is \$425, which includes a buffet lunch.

A \$50 early-bird-discount is offered for conference applications received before April 1, 2016. Registrants also have the option to pitch their work to agents and editors during the program at a cost of \$60 per 15-minute pitch session. Guidance in preparing and presenting a pitch will be offered to authors on June 24 — the day before the conference. The fee is \$75.

Julie Trelstad is the Director of Digital Rights at Writers House, a Manhattan literary agency that provides authors with self-publishing, online marketing and other publishing-related services. Before

joining Writers House, Trelstad was an acquisitions editor at various publishing houses including The Taunton Press, Reader's Digest, and John Wiley and Sons, where she specialized in architecture and home design books. Before moving to Harrison, she resided in New Rochelle.

She is also the founder and publisher of Plain White Press of White Plains, a boutique non-fiction publishing company, which she sold to Fox Chapel Publishing in 2011. She earned a BA degree at Columbia University and received an MA from the Parsons School of Design in New York City.

Trelstad has lived in the Westminster Ridge neighborhood of White Plains with her husband Graham since 1999 when her twin daughters started Kindergarten. The girls graduated from White Plains High School in 2012.

For more information, call 914-395-2205 or send an email to [sorefice@sarahlawrence.edu](mailto:sorefice@sarahlawrence.edu).

EXAMINER SPORTS

# Tigers Boys Advance to AA Semifinals for First Time in Nine Years

By Albert Coqueran

The White Plains Boys Varsity Basketball Team has a lot to be proud of this season, while advancing to the Section 1 AA Semifinals for the first time since 2007. The Tigers are going back to the Westchester County Center, after beating two favorites on the road to advance to the Section 1 AA Semifinals, for the first time in nine years.

“It feels good to get back! We have had some tough match-ups in the second

Spencer Mayfield.

White Plains is ranked the number 11 seed in the AA Playoff Bracket. Regardless, they stepped-up their game to conquer sixth seeded North Rockland High School, 70-61 and the highly touted number three seeded Spring Valley High School, 85-78, while beating both opponents on their home-courts across the Tappan Zee Bridge.

On Wednesday, Feb. 17, the Tigers held-off a fourth quarter comeback by North Rockland to beat the Raiders, 70-61, in the First Round. The Tigers were leading by as much as 23 points to start the fourth quarter, 51-28. But the Raiders put forth a gallant effort, while scoring 19 straight points to close the gap to within three points with just minutes left in the game.

“We regained our composure and I am proud of my team because this is the type of game that we would have thrown away last year. But this year we found the toughness and grittiness to finish the game and get the win,” commented Mayfield.

Luis Cartagena paced the Tigers with 28 points and guard C.J. Layne added 17 points to hold off the charging Raiders. Nonetheless, it was the overall defensive contributions of senior forward Spencer Lodes that put the Tigers over the top.

“We got great defense out of Spencer. He was helping everybody, very energetic, active on the boards and going after rebounds out of his zone. This was probably his best overall game,” complimented Mayfield. Lodes also eight points in the game.

With the win over North Rockland, the local Tigers advanced to the Quarterfinals to play the highly favored number three seeded Spring Valley Tigers, in Spring Valley, on Saturday. Once again, it was Layne and Cartagena who carried the scoring for White Plains, with 34 points and 28 points respectively to beat Spring Valley, 85-75.

Remarkably with White Plains leading, 38-30 at halftime; Layne and Cartagena carried the first half, while combining for 34 points of the Tigers total 38 points in the first half. But the Tigers scoring leaders got help from guard Lamar Noel, who scored 13 second half points.



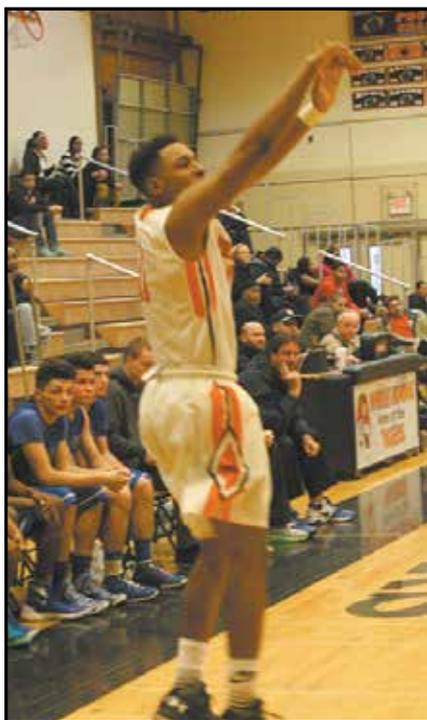
ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

White Plains Head Coach Spencer Mayfield (center) rallied his Tigers in the latter part of the season to achieve an 11th seed in the Section 1 AA Playoffs. Then they beat favorites six-seeded North Rockland in the First Round and three seeded Spring Valley in the Quarterfinals to advance to the AA Semifinals for the first time since 2007.



At 2:26 of the third quarter in the White Plains win over Salesian High School on Tuesday, Feb.9, Tigers senior Luis Cartagena (right) scored his 1000th point of his high-school basketball career. Cartagena was presented the game-ball and celebrated with his father Luis Cartagena, Sr.

round (in past years) trying to get back and it feels real good for the team to get this experience,” said Tigers Head Coach



Tigers CJ Layne can shoot the jumper with the best of them in Section 1. The Tigers three-point ace scored 17 points vs. North Rockland and 34 points vs. Spring Valley to help White Plains advance to the Section 1 AA Semifinals, on Friday, at the Westchester County Center.

Nevertheless, it was Cartagena’s free throw shooting that propelled the Tigers to the win over Spring Valley. Cartagena made 17-of-18 free throws in the game. The Tigers guard converted on 12-of-12 free throws in second half, while making four-of-four foul shots in final minutes of the game to hold off the Spring Valley.

“Luis was very poised today. He came with a focus that we have not seen all year. He was totally focused for 32 minutes and did not get distracted. He kept his composure, I was very proud of him,” said Mayfield.

The Tigers will play the number two seeded Fox Lane High School that

trounced number seven seeded New Rochelle, 78-45, in the Quarterfinals. “Fox Lane is a good ballclub, we have do our homework, as they are going to be a big challenge,” projected Mayfield.

White Plains and Fox Lane will match-up in the Section 1 AA Semifinals, on Friday, Feb. 26, at 5 p.m. at the Westchester County Center. The winner will play either the number one seeded Mt Vernon High School or the number four seeded Saunders High School in the Section 1 AA Championship, which will be held at the County Center, on Sunday, Feb. 28, at 12 p.m.



Before sparking the Tigers to wins against North Rockland H.S. in the First Round and Spring Valley H.S. in the Quarterfinals, CJ Layne (# 11) celebrated Senior Day, with his family, at WPHS, on Tuesday, Feb. 9.

## EXAMINER SPORTS

# Stepinac Beats Mount in First Round of CHSAA Playoffs

By Albert Coqueran

The Stepinac High School basketball team celebrated Valentine's Day and Senior Day, by beating St. Peter's High School, 66-57, on Feb. 14. The win against the Eagles helped the Crusaders attain a number four seed in the Catholic High School Athletic Association (CHSAA) AA Archdiocesan Tournament.

Stepinac made the most of their number four seed by beating the number five seeded Mount St. Michael Academy, 91-62, on Sunday, at St. Raymond's High School, in the Bronx.

The Crusaders attacked the



On Valentines Day, Feb. 14, Stepinac distinguished three seniors on Senior Day. Celebrating with their families at center court were Sam Innominato (left), Mario Nery (center) and Kobe Miranda.

Mountaineers with a barrage of offensive weapons, as six players scored in double-digits. Crusaders forward Aundre Hyatt led the attack with a double-double of 29 points and 10 rebounds. Hyatt's frontcourt comrade Jordan Tucker, also scored a double-double with 14 points and 11 rebounds, while also adding eight assists and small forward Kobe

Miranda contributed 11 points and snagged eight rebounds.

The Stepinac basketball ensemble of Jordan Means, Payton Hudson and Eduard Minaya followed suit, while also scoring in double-digits. Means had 12 points and four assists; Hudson scored 11 points and dished eight assists, while Minaya dropped 11 points against the Mountaineers.

With the win in the First Round of the Archdiocesan Tournament, the Crusaders advance to play the number one seeded Cardinal Hayes High School, in the AA Semifinals, at Mount St. Michael Academy, on Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 7:45 p.m.

# Tigers Girls Flaherty Coach of the Year-D'Arcy and Rooney All-League

By Albert Coqueran

The White Plains High School Girls Basketball Team lost to Our Lady of Lourdes High School, 66-54, in the First Round of the Section 1 AA Playoffs, on Wednesday, Feb. 17, at White Plains High School.

The number seven seeded White Plains, could not contain the shooting of Katie Clarke and Madison Siegrist, who scored 24 points and 23 points respectively, for the eighth seeded Warriors. OLL advanced to the AA Quarterfinals but were trounced by Ossining High School, 90-27.

Tigers senior Kathleen Rooney scored a team-high 13 points and snagged eight rebounds. Kaleigh D'Arcy, the Tigers only other senior on their roster, scored nine points and controlled the boards with 12 rebounds, while sophomore Madison Povemba added 11 points.

Consequentially, the Lady Tigers were



White Plains High School Head Coach Tara Flaherty (center) was voted 2015-16 Coach of the Year in Section 1 Conference 2-B, while seniors Kaleigh D'Arcy (left) and Kathleen Rooney were selected to the All-League Team.

only granted four foul shots and made one, in their home gym, while the Warriors shot 16-of-21 from the free throw line in the Harry Jefferson Gym. "It was not for a lack of trying, I must say; we had girls driving to the basket but were just not getting the call," commented Tigers Head Coach Tara Flaherty.

The Lady Tigers end their 2015-16 campaign with a 13-8 record, after finishing 10-9, last season. Both Rooney and D'Arcy will graduate will Section 1 All-League Honors, while White Plains Head Coach Flaherty is awarded Coach of the Year in Section 1 Conference 2-B.

"I always thank the players. You cannot do anything without the players. Honestly, this is one of my favorite groups of individuals, they came and played hard every day," acknowledged Flaherty.

The future also looks very bright for

Flaherty and the White Plains Girls varsity basketball team. The Lady Tigers had three sophomores make big contributions this season including, Vanessa Chica, who had eight points and eight rebounds in the Tigers loss to OLL, Tatayana Mitchell and Povemba.

They also have freshman Rae-Anne Richards coming into her own and eighth grader Julia Reggio, who will be a freshman next season. Reggio, who had six points and four rebounds against OLL, already plays like a seasoned veteran.

Nonetheless, the biggest advantage the Lady Tigers have going for them heading into next season is that Head Coach Felix Nicodemus led his junior varsity squad to an 18-2 record this year. There will be some very capable players moving up to varsity from this winning Lady Tigers junior varsity team next season.

## Happenings

continues from page 13

extended day options available. For more details, visit [www.summeratmcw.org](http://www.summeratmcw.org) or call (914) 761-3900.

### Sunday, Feb. 28

**Wild Nature Trivia.** Bring your friends and work together as your nature knowledge is put to the test. Concludes with animal interactions. Recommended for children five years old and up. 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).

**Maryknoll Speakers Series:** "Laudato Si' - A Prophetic Challenge for the 21st Century." Irish Columban Father Sean McDonagh will discuss Pope Francis' groundbreaking and widely anticipated "Laudato Si', On Care for Our Common Home" and its implications for humanity and the earth in the years to come. Maryknoll Mission Center, 55 Ryder Rd.,

Ossining. 2:30 p.m. Free. Reservations requested. Info and reservations: 914-941-7636 ext. 2445 or e-mail [MaryknollSpeakersSeries@maryknoll.org](mailto:MaryknollSpeakersSeries@maryknoll.org).

### Monday, Feb. 29

**MWBE Business Event.** Westchester-based minority and women-owned businesses (MWBE) will have a unique opportunity to learn how to do business with Westchester County and construction company C.W. Brown/LeChase at the 2016 Leap Toward Success With Us event. The free program will be held from 8 to 11 a.m. at Mercy College, 555 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, in the Main Hall Building/Lecture Hall. There will be networking sessions from 8-8:30 a.m. and 10:30-11 a.m. To register for the program, contact Ross Weiner at [rweiner@westchestergov.com](mailto:rweiner@westchestergov.com) or (914) 995-2945.

### Ongoing Events:

**Free Tax Preparation.** The AARP free taxpayer assistance program has moved to the new White Plains Education and Training Center at 303 Quarropas St., White Plains, across from the Federal

Courthouse. AARP tax counselors will be there to prepare 2015 tax returns. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. Call 1-888-227-7669 or 211 for other AARP TaxAide locations. Please bring last year's tax return and all 2015 tax-related documents and Social Security notices. We assist all taxpayers not just seniors. We will be there until April 18th.

### Parent Behavior Management Training.

Feb. 23 to May 31; 9:15 to 10:45 a.m. at WJCS Hartsdale, 141 North Central Avenue, Hartsdale, NY 10530. WJCS is offering a 12-session, evidence-based Parent Behavior Management Training Group for parents of children on the autistic spectrum or with a developmental disability. Parent Management Training has been shown to be effective in decreasing oppositional, aggressive and antisocial behavior. It trains parents to manage their child's behavioral problems in the home and at school. Call 914-949-6761 x408 for more information.

**"insomnia."** A group exhibition featuring 12 artists. Artists who are

insomniacs have famously used this time creatively to originate new ideas and deepen their existing pursuits. This exhibit highlights work produced during a period of time between sleep and wakefulness, at the sweet spot of creativity. Also includes a hands-on workshop for all ages. Pelham Art Center, 155 Fifth Ave., Pelham. Free. Exhibit continues through March 26. Info: 914-738-2525 or visit [www.pelhamartcenter.org](http://www.pelhamartcenter.org).

### LEGACY: Sculptures by Ivan Biro and Derek Uhlman Opening Reception.

In conjunction with the Craft-Tastic exhibition, this ongoing exhibit in the courtyard features a group of four sculptures that highlights the mentor relationship between Ivan Biro and Derek Uhlman. Sometimes a student departs radically from the training or visual language of the master. This exhibit reveals the dynamic between their works. Pelham Art Center 155 Fifth Ave., Pelham. Free. Exhibit continues through March 30. Info: 914-738-2525 or visit [www.pelhamartcenter.org](http://www.pelhamartcenter.org).

# DAN ROONEY'S

SPORTS PUB

MEET NY RANGERS ALUMNUS  
**STEVE VICKERS**



AT EMPIRE CITY CASINO'S OFFICIAL  
**NEW YORK RANGERS VIEWING PARTY**  
RANGERS VS DALLAS

**FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup> • 3PM-7PM**

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Blackjack, Three Card Poker, Baccarat, Craps and Roulette are video lottery games operated by the New York Lottery. Must be 18 years of age or older to play New York Lottery games or wager on horses. Please play responsibly. Must be 21 years of age or older to purchase or consume alcohol. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, help is available. Call the 24-hour toll-free help line at 1-877-5HopeNY.