



Mayor, Common Council Sworn in During First Meeting of 2018

By Pat Casey

At the Jan. 2 meeting of the White Plains Common Council newly elected Councilman Justin Brasch and re-elected members of the Common Council John Kirkpatrick and John Martin were sworn in by White Plains City Judge Jo Ann Friia to commence their new terms.

Mayor Tom Roach was also sworn in to serve another term.

All winning candidates spoke about the difficult election season and offered a conciliatory note to their opponents during the election, including other members of the council who either ran in opposition or threw their support to losing opponents.

A unanimous nomination and vote elected John Martin as Council president for 2018, who was sworn in by Judge Friia for that duty during the meeting as well.

Present at the first Common Council meeting of the year were Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-Harrison), newly elected Westchester County Executive George Latimer (D-Rye) and Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains).

Councilman Dennis Krolian, who



Mayor Tom Roach is sworn in for a new term by Judge Jo Ann Friia, with wife Beth Roach and sons Henry (holding the Bible) and Lawson standing by.

had been outspoken against some of the policies and issues raised during 2017, said he wanted to wish congratulations to all the winning candidates. "I look forward to the new year and hope we can make some progress on several topics – one being tax relief for constituents based

on the new federal tax schemes," Krolian said. He acknowledged that many local government representatives were already working to support tax relief efforts.

Bringing up an issue that had been raised during the campaign, Krolian said he was looking forward to discussion on

a new Comprehensive Plan for White Plains with specific focus on downtown development.

"Elected officials should not just reflect public opinion but should also shape it by our words and our actions," Krolian said.

Mayor Roach recommended the appointment of Sergio Sensi as Commissioner of Finance for the City of White Plains, which was accepted by other members of the Council. Sensi will be sworn in at another time.

Other appointments included Dennis Power, as Chairman, and Sidia Cortes, Mary Perri, Stephen Walfish, Millie Castro, Kenneth Creary, William Brady, Marie Houston and Rosa Boone-Morgan as members of the Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee to terms, which will expire on Dec. 31, 2018.

Councilman Martin said the Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee advises on allocation of Community Development Block Grants from the federal government, funds that have been dwindling, and that he appreciates their work and the difficult task they have.

Latimer Sworn In As County Executive, Calls for Bipartisan Cooperation, Respect

By Anna Young

County Executive George Latimer was sworn into office Jan. 1, by Supreme Court Justice Gretchen Walsh in White Plains.

On Jan. 7 at Westchester Community College, Latimer was again sworn in by Gov. Andrew Cuomo. During his inauguration speech, Latimer described a plane flight over Westchester County with a view of trees stretched out before him. "Westchester is a beautiful piece of land," he said. He described how each community melded in with the next,

no matter what the cultural, financial or other distinction might be. "Together under that blanket of green trees we are all in this together," Latimer said.

Latimer called for bipartisanship and cooperation among colleagues within county government and across all levels of government, emphasizing that voices on both sides of the aisle must be heard and respected.

"When we make rudeness a right, we work at destroying this fragile

continued on page 4

Local State Representatives Call for Action Against New Federal Tax Laws

By Pat Casey

State Assemblywoman Amy Paulin (D-Scarsdale) says she is set to introduce a package of bills aimed at helping mitigate the harm that new federal tax laws could cause many New Yorkers.

According to Paulin, the provision to cap the amount of the state and local tax deduction at \$10,000 disproportionately affects residents in areas of the state with high property taxes, like Westchester—which has the highest property taxes in the country. These residents will now

face an increase in federal and possibly state income taxes on top of those steep property tax bills. According to ATTOM data solutions, 73 percent of Westchester homeowners pay more than \$10,000 in property taxes.

The first bill, which Paulin announced in mid-November, would allow New York residents to itemize their New York State tax return even if they do not itemize their federal returns. The categories of itemized deductions used at the federal

continued on page 2



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continued from page 1

level are also used for the New York State personal income tax.

The way the law is written now, New York State residents are prohibited from itemizing their state taxes if they do not itemize their federal taxes, Paulin told The Examiner. As well, the new tax laws will cause many NY residents to fall into the alternative minimum deduction category, Paulin said.

According to a July 2017 report from The Office of the State Comptroller, without legislation to change the State tax law, eliminating deductions at the federal level would eliminate them at the state level and potentially increase taxpayers' state income-tax burden.

Paulin's proposed legislation would ensure that taxpayers will still be able to itemize on their New York return, preventing them from facing a higher New York tax bill.

Paulin's second bill, would establish a two-pronged approach. The first portion of the legislation would establish a dollar-for dollar state income tax credit for charitable donations made to foundations that support state-funded institutions, such as the State University of New York.

The second portion of Paulin's legislation would allow a taxpayer to receive a credit on their property or school taxes for donations made to local foundations working alongside school districts and

municipalities. Some examples of these types of foundations that already exist are The Pelham Education Fund or the Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation.

Since charitable gifts remain deductible on federal taxes, taxpayers would be able to receive a federal deduction to help offset the loss of the state and local tax deduction.

"We must do everything we can to lessen the damage that the new federal tax law will cause for so many New Yorkers," Paulin said. "I have fielded dozens of calls from constituents about the new tax law and many people are considering moving, because the cost to stay here will be too high. We cannot allow that to happen. This legislation would enable taxpayers to make up for some of the losses they will experience under the disastrous federal tax law, while maintaining the revenue that the State and local school districts receive."

Paulin said that she is working with a group of lawyers and law professors from around the country that have come together to support legislators in "blue" states like New York and California that are particularly hurt by the new federal tax legislation.

The group is working to ensure that whatever changes are made to state taxation laws cannot be challenged by the Internal Revenue Service.

The professors represent Michigan Law School, NYU School of Law, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University, Maurer School of Law, Indiana University, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, University of Chicago Law School, Fordham University School of Law, UC Davis School of Law, and UC Hastings College of the Law.

Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains), himself a tax lawyer, said, "After working the last few weeks to enable as many Westchester taxpayers as possible to pay their property taxes early, my efforts are now focused on updating the state tax code. Since the Governor will in the first instance propose changes as part of the state budget, I have offered my services to his team. I am optimistic that New York State will respond on behalf of all New Yorkers to this awful federal tax bill."

Assemblyman Tom Abinanti (D-Greenburgh) has also called for New York to fight back. "New York must remain a progressive leader and fight back against the reactionary unconstitutional power grab which increases New Yorkers' federal taxes and limits the state's ability to meet the needs of the state's diverse population," Abinanti said in a press release.

Abinanti is asking the Governor to immediately create a blue ribbon taskforce of tax experts to report back on how to

restructure New York's tax system.

Abinanti wants the task force to consider such ideas as incorporating a "payroll tax" as a tax collecting mechanism into New York's income tax system. Under a payroll tax system, employers – not employees – pay state taxes on their total payroll and can deduct the state taxes on their federal tax returns without any limitations.

In addition, Abinanti is introducing legislation drafted and introduced by State Senator Simcha Felder to restructure New York law to keep in place the deductions and exemptions that were effective in 2017.

Abinanti is also calling for the State to bring a court challenge to the Federal "tax reform" law as unconstitutional because it interferes with the inherent power of the State to raise revenue through taxes on its citizens. "The Federal 'tax reform' law taxes monies, which belong to New York State," he said.



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Latimer Issues Executive Order to Ban Gun Shows at County Center

By Anna Young

New Westchester County Executive George Latimer issued an executive order last week banning gun shows from being held on county-owned property.

Despite a record-breaking turnout at last year's knife and firearm show at the County Center in White Plains, Latimer cited a national rise in gun violence, stating that he doesn't want gun culture glorified on county property.

"This venue, which was created decades ago, is a showplace for family entertainment and for family programs and services," Latimer said at the Jan. 2 press conference at the County Center. "This center has always been a place for those types of family values."

Following intense debate last January after former county executive Rob Astorino scheduled the Northeast Gun Show, the Board of Legislators, in a straight partisan vote, approved legislation that would have banned gun shows on county property by a 9-8 margin.

But days before the scheduled show, Astorino vetoed the legislation without any time for an override vote, stating that he was protecting First and Second Amendment rights.

A push was made by members of the Democratic Caucus to override Astorino's veto following the mass shooting in Las Vegas that killed 59 people and injured



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

County Executive George Latimer announces his executive order last week banning gun shows on county-owned property. Latimer is surrounded by members of the Board of Legislators and supporters of the action.

more than 500 last October. The action was denied.

From 1999 to 2010, the county discontinued gun shows. But Astorino lifted the ban after taking office. After the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy, a 2013 show was canceled, and a handshake agreement was made among county officials that the venue would no longer host the shows.

Latimer recognized that some may not agree with his decision, but said he feels

strongly that the County Center is the wrong venue to host the event. He also condemned the sale of Nazi and confederate memorabilia that was spotted at last year's show, stating that there's no purpose for it to have been there.

"Westchester County government should not be in the business of advancing the sale of weapons and other items often sold at gun shows – plain and simple," Latimer said. "This is not a restriction on gun shows in the entire county, but rather just on public land."

Minority Leader John Testa (R-Peekskill), who voted against the ban last year, said Latimer's decision will result in the county having much less control over how gun shows are operated if they are held in private venues.

"I believe that taking a discriminatory approach by banning law abiding gun owners, sportsmen and businesses from holding a gun show at the County Center is wrong," Testa told The Examiner. "A better approach is to require operators to

follow the strict guidelines for gun shows that have been established by Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, the same guidelines which are observed for the gun shows that Gov. Cuomo allows in New York State-owned buildings."

Members of the Democratic Caucus were in attendance supporting Latimer, stating they would work to make his Executive Order an official law.

"This is a great first start to our new year," Majority Leader Catherine Borgia (D-Ossining) said. "It's not appropriate for the government to make money selling weapons to its citizenry."

"Gun culture does not belong in Westchester County and certainly not in our municipal buildings," Legislator Catherine Parker (D-Rye) asserted.

Legislator Maryjane Shimsky (D-Hastings-on-Hudson) said this would be the first of many cooperative efforts in creating the kind of government the people of Westchester want, expect and need to thrive and move forward constructively.

"We're going to listen as best as we can to the voices of the people, we won't always do things that everybody likes, but we will try to always engage so people understand that this is their government at the end of the day," Latimer said. "We've got a long way to go. This obviously is just one decision on a path of decisions."

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continued from page 1

democracy," Latimer said. "We cannot let it tear us apart."

In an earlier announcement, Latimer vowed he would pursue more transparency in governance. One of his first actions was a formal request to New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli to perform a full and open fiscal review of the county's policies and procedures.

"We want to make sure we know exactly where we are fiscally as we begin this new administrative year," Latimer said on Jan. 1 at the Michaelian Office Building. "We have a long road ahead of us and we need

to know exactly where we are and where we're going."

In September, former County Executive Rob Astorino came under fire after DiNapoli released a report stating that Westchester was a fiscally stressed county.

"Whatever decisions we have to make going forward, we make them openly, transparently, and we make them together as a group of people trying to deal with our issues," Latimer said.

Latimer added that privatization of the Westchester County Airport is a high priority economic issue he'll be delving

into during his administration.

Latimer signed an Executive Order that will remove the names and likeness of any elected official from any county owned facility, along with all directional, informational and promotional signs. He said the only exception would be the office building where that official is based.

"All of these facilities are owned by the people of Westchester. Their effort, their tax dollars, their faith have put these things into place," Latimer said. "It is not the possession of any one County Executive over any period of time."



Westchester County Executive George Latimer takes the Oath of Office before Supreme Court Justice Gretchen Walsh in White Plains, Jan. 1.

An Executive Order was also signed that will better involve municipalities in decisions that impact their community. Under the Good Neighbor policy, the county would be required to make a formal presentation at the designated city, town or village board meeting whenever they have a major action or change to make. The municipality would be given 60 days to gather information and allow for a public form before submitting their support, neutrality, or opposition to the county.

Latimer will also form a task force aimed at revisiting shared-services within the county, stating how government officials need to be more proactive in delivering services to all residents in the most cost-effective manner.

A social media campaign entitled, #MyWestchester will also be launched, encouraging residents to share images, videos, and anecdotes about what makes Westchester special. Latimer said this will maintain the county's positive profile.

"Westchester is home to so many wonderful people, businesses, parks, waterways and a whole host of other things that make it such an ideal destination for folks to live, work, visit and raise a family here," Latimer said. "This is a way to show our pride. Westchester is a special place and we are eager to show it off."

Latimer said he is enthusiastic about his upcoming term and intends on being very active and open within the community. Over the next two weeks, the Democrat will be announcing his two-week "Tour of Change" campaign, where he will be making announcements on issues throughout the county.

"The people of Westchester County are uniquely successful, uniquely talented in so many different fields," Latimer said. "And we need to bring that talent that resides outside these windows into the decision making process of government."

Pat Casey contributed reporting to this story.

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Tuckahoe

Crestwood

Rye Brook

White Plains

Scarsdale

Yonkers

Irvington

Hastings on Hudson

Dobbs Ferry

Ardsley

Port Chester

Rye

Harrison

Mamaroneck

Pelham

Bronxville

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Gov. Cuomo Promises a Tough Fiscal Fight in 2018 State of State Address

By Pat Casey

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo delivered his eighth State of the State Address at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany last week.

Emphasizing that New York has vindicated the promise of progressive government, Cuomo counted off a list of accomplishments including marriage equality, paid family leave, \$15 minimum wage, free college tuition, gun safety, the climate coalition, and MWBE (minority and women businesses).

He especially applauded the cultural diversity of New York.

"No other state has done what we have done - we are once again the nation's vanguard for social progress," Cuomo said.

Looking toward 2018 as possibly the toughest year New York has faced in modern history, Cuomo said, "We are facing a three front war." First, we have the old challenges of discrimination and sexism. Second, we face new challenges threatening our safety and quality of life: terrorism, climate change, environmental threats including to our drinking water, and the growing opioid epidemic. And lastly, we have federal and economic challenges never experienced before. They threaten the essence of our economy. Short term: a \$4 billion deficit and \$2 billion in cuts in federal aid. Even more challenging



- long term - our federal government has hurt our state's economic position: both nationally and internationally by taxing our state and local taxes, they made us less competitive and they are helping other states at our expense."

Cuomo called the current administration in Washington, DC, the most hostile ever in its actions against New York.

Cuomo proposed that no taxpayer funds should be used to pay for any public

official's sexual harassment or misconduct, and no state or local government enter into a secret nondisclosure agreement.

He proposed that the State of New York pension funds only be invested in companies that the Comptroller determines have adequate female and minority representation in management or on the board of directors, and that the legislature enact the contraceptive care act and pass Roe v. Wade.

Cuomo asked for no more

procrastination in protecting the state's drinking water and called for an end to any investment in fossil fuel related activities in the pension fund.

He asked for more funds toward anti-terrorism protections and improvement of the state's transportation system.

Likely one of the most pressing issues for New York is the growing property tax burden of residents, which Cuomo said is three times that of the state income tax. "And, property taxes have just been raised by the federal tax plan 20 to 25 percent," Cuomo said emphasizing that a priority is finding legal ways around the new tax plan to help New Yorkers.



Legal Notice

United States District Court Southern District of New York In re: In Re WARN Act Litigation: 17-CV-00376 SUMMARY NOTICE-

TO: All persons who were employed at Mrs. Green's Natural Market Stores located in Manhattan, Rye or Tarrytown, New York (the "Facilities") and were laid off as the result of the closure of the Stores on or about November 14, 2016 (the "Settlement Class"):

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. YOUR RIGHTS WILL BE AFFECTED BY A CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT PENDING IN THIS COURT. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and an Order of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, that the above-captioned litigation (the "Action") has been certified as a class action on behalf of the Settlement Class, except for certain persons who are excluded from the Settlement Class by definition as set forth in the full printed Notice of (1) Pendency of Class Action, Certification of Settlement Class, and

Proposed Settlement; (2) Settlement Hearing; and (3) Motion for an Award of Attorneys' Fees and Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses to Class Counsel (the "Notice").

YOU ARE ALSO NOTIFIED that the Plaintiffs in the Action, on behalf of themselves and the other members of the Settlement Class, have reached a proposed settlement of the Action (the "Settlement"). If the Settlement is approved by the Court, it will resolve all claims in the Action. A hearing will be held on April 23, 2018 at 3:30 P.M., before the Honorable Paul A. Crotty at the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, Courtroom, 14C, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007-1312 to determine (i) whether the proposed Settlement should be approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate; (ii) whether the Action should be dismissed with prejudice against Defendants, and the Releases specified and described in the Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement dated November 30, 2017 (and in the Notice) should be granted; (iii) whether the proposed Plan of Allocation should be approved as fair and reasonable; and (iv) whether Class Counsel's application for an award of attorneys' fees and reimbursement of Litigation Expenses should be approved.

CLASS COUNSEL WILL BE MAILING DETAIL INFORMATION ON

THE ACTION AND THE CLAIM FORM TO EMPLOYEES EMPLOYED OF RECORD AT ONE OF THE FACILITIES ON OR ABOUT NOVEMBER 14, 2016.

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THE NOTICE AND CLAIM FORM, YOU MAY OBTAIN COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS BY CONTACTING THE UNDERSIGNED ATTORNEYS.

If you are a member of the Settlement Class, your rights will be affected by the pending Action and the Settlement, and you may be entitled to share in the Settlement Fund. If you are a member of the Settlement Class, in order to be eligible to receive a payment under the proposed Settlement, you must submit a Claim Form postmarked no later than March 9, 2018. If you are a member of the Settlement Class and do not submit a proper Claim Form, you will not be eligible to share in the distribution of the net proceeds of the Settlement, but you will nevertheless be bound by any judgments or orders entered by the Court in the Action.

If you are a member of the Settlement Class and wish to exclude yourself from the Settlement Class, you must submit a request for exclusion such that it is received no later than March 9, 2018, in accordance with the instructions set forth in the Notice. If you properly

exclude yourself from the Settlement Class, you will not be bound by any judgments or orders entered by the Court in the Action and you will not be eligible to share in the proceeds of the Settlement.

Any objections to the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation, or Class Counsel's motion for attorneys' fees and reimbursement of Litigation Expenses, must be filed with the Court and delivered to Plaintiffs' Counsel and Defendants' Counsel such that they are received no later than March 9, 2018, in accordance with the instructions set forth in the Notice.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT, THE CLERK'S OFFICE, DEFENDANTS, OR DEFENDANTS' COUNSEL REGARDING THIS NOTICE. ALL QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS NOTICE, THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT, OR YOUR ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO CLASS COUNSEL. REQUESTS FOR THE NOTICE AND CLAIM FORM SHOULD BE MADE TO:

Bierman & Associates
17 Battery Place, Suite 204
New York, New York 10004
212-363-6960
mbierman@biermanandassociates.com

By Order of the Court

Attorney General Issues Consumer Alert Over Propane Delivery Price Gouging

Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman has issued a consumer alert, encouraging New Yorkers to contact his office if they experience excessive delivery delays or potential price gouging related to propane delivery. New Yorkers can contact the Attorney General's hotline at 518-776-2000.

"No New Yorkers should have to freeze in this weather, and my office is looking into cases of unacceptable delivery delays and potential price gouging," said Schneiderman. "Any New Yorker being overcharged or left in the cold without propane should contact my office immediately."

The Attorney General is also urging consumers to investigate the options they have for heating their homes during the cold winter months. Fuel oil and propane prices can vary significantly from supplier to supplier. Prices can also fluctuate dramatically throughout the heating season. Consumers considering entering into fuel oil and propane contracts for the season should make sure they understand all of the terms and conditions in the agreement, including any fees or charges for deliveries, minimum purchase requirements or other conditions.

Democratic Convention for State Senate Seat Set for Jan. 9, Spano Drops Out

As George Latimer took the oath of office to become Westchester County Executive, Jan. 1, the field of Democrats vying for the nomination to run for the 37th District state senate seat he left vacant lessened as Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said he has dropped out of the race.

According to nystateofpolitics.com, Spano said his job as mayor of Yonkers "is all consuming." He also indicated he had anticipated a March nominating convention when he made his bid to run for the senate seat in mid November. The Jan. 9 convention date left little time to reach out to district leaders, he said.

The convention will be held Tuesday at the Westchester County Center in White Plains.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has not set a date for the special election, but speculation indicates it may be held this spring.

Democratic district leaders will choose their candidate from four contenders: State Assemblywoman Shelley Mayer (Yonkers), Kat Brezler (White Plains), Mark Jaffe (West Harrison), and Chris Burdick (Bedford Town Supervisor).

Bathroom Fan Cause of Fire at Clinton Compound in Chappaqua

By Anna Young

The small fire that broke out at the Secret Service facility on the Clinton property Wednesday afternoon in Chappaqua was caused by a bathroom fan, New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein said.

"Apparently a bathroom fan shorted out - burned a hole in the bathroom ceiling," Greenstein explained. "Our incredible volunteers with Chappaqua Fire Department promptly responded. The Clintons were not home."

A Secret Service employee within the compound reported the fire to the Chappaqua Fire Department at 2:40 p.m. Wednesday and it was put out by 3:17 p.m.

The Clintons bought the five-bedroom home on Old House Road in 1999 as Bill Clinton was wrapping up his second term as president.



The Clinton compound is located on Old House Rd., Chappaqua.

The fire started in the ceiling of the facility used by the Secret Service, on the second floor. The facility is located behind the Clintons' home, not attached to the house.

"Fire extinguishers were utilized to suppress the fire and members of the Chappaqua Fire Department responded and inspected the area above the fire to ensure it had been completely extinguished," a statement from the Secret Service on Wednesday said.



Former Cop Gets 2.5 to 7.5 Years in State Prison for Drunk Driving Death

Harry Kyreakedes (DOB 12/1/89), a former New Rochelle police officer, has been sentenced to 2.5 to 7.5 years in state prison for the 2017 drunk driving crash that resulted in the death of Isaac Ward, a passenger in his car.

Kyreakedes pled guilty in October before Judge Barry Warhit, who handed down the sentence to one count of Vehicular Manslaughter in the First Degree, a class "C" Felony, and one count of Aggravated

Driving While Intoxicated Per Se, an unclassified Misdemeanor.

On Jan. 1, 2017, Kyreakedes, who was off-duty, was out drinking with friends, including the victim, at a bar in Dobbs Ferry. After a period of time, they drove to White Plains to frequent another bar.

On Jan. 2, 2017 just before 3 a.m., all four men left taking two vehicles. The victim got into the passenger seat of Kyreakedes' SUV. Kyreakedes initially drove southbound

on Mamaroneck Avenue and eventually headed back northbound at which point he crashed into a parking meter, a stop sign and into a tree in front of the CVS located at 325 Mamaroneck Avenue.

The White Plains Police and Fire Departments responded to the scene. The victim had sustained serious injuries and was unresponsive. He was given CPR at the scene and was then taken to White Plains Hospital where he was

pronounced dead.

Kyreakedes was pinned in the driver's compartment. He needed to be extricated from the vehicle and suffered extensive injuries to one of his legs. He was taken to Westchester Medical Center where samples of his blood were obtained via a court order and search warrant. Analysis of those samples showed that the blood alcohol content (BAC) at the time of the crash was more than .18 percent.

Greenburgh to Launch Food Scrap Recycling Program

The Town of Greenburgh, in partnership with the Greenburgh Nature Center, will launch a residential food scrap recycling program in beginning Jan. 17.

The Anthony F Veteran Park in Hartsdale will have a drop-off site open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to collect food scraps from the 135,000 residents of the Town of Greenburgh. All food scraps, including but not limited to

meat, bones, dairy, fish, fruit, vegetables, bread, pasta, cooked food, leftover food, etc. will be accepted. The collected food scraps will then be transferred to a commercial composting facility outside of Greenburgh to be recycled into nutrient-rich compost.

With the launch of the Town of Greenburgh program, the population of Westchester residents with access to a food scrap drop-off site will nearly

triple. Greenburgh will be following in the footsteps of Scarsdale, Larchmont-Mamaroneck, and Bedford, whose programs serve approximately 70,000 Westchester residents in total.

The Greenburgh Nature Center introduced a food scrap recycling pilot program in the summer of 2015 which taught Anthony F Veteran Pool visitors about the benefits of composting using on-site zero-waste sorting stations.

Food scrap collection "starter kits" can be purchased by residents at Anthony F Veteran Park or Greenburgh Nature Center with a \$20 check payable to the Town of Greenburgh. A starter kit includes a small countertop pail, a larger storage and transportation bin, and a roll of compostable liner bags.

The food scrap drop-off site at Anthony F Veteran Park is located at 11 Olympic Lane, Hartsdale.

Obituaries

Giraldo Valera

Giraldo D. Valera, a North White Plains resident, died Jan. 6 at the age of 83. He was born Aug. 4, 1934 in Cuba to the late Carlos and Carmelina Valera.

On Aug. 26, 1959 he married his wife Rolayda at San Nicolas De Bari in Cuba.

Giraldo was a longtime Banquet Waiter for the Crowne Plaza Hotel in White Plains.

Besides his wife Rolayda of North White Plains, he is survived by his children: Tania (William) Pointer of Mahopac and Giraldo (Luciana) Valera of Boca Raton, FL., his brother Manuel Valera and sister Odalys Hernandez, both of White Plains. Also surviving are his grandchildren: Olivia (Payden) Ludwick and Matthew Valera and his great grandchild, Clover Ludwick. He is predeceased by a brother Juan Valera and sister Verania Alvares.

Visitation is Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. at McMahon, Lyon & Hartnett Funeral Home, 491 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains.

Funeral service Wednesday, Jan. 10, 10:30 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church, 148 Hamilton Ave., White Plains. Interment at Kensico Cemetery, Valhalla.

Eileen McCormack

Eileen P. McCormack (nee Soye/Sawey) of White Plains, died on Jan. 3 at her home. She was 89 years old.

Born in Brooklyn on Aug. 6, 1928. Eileen was the daughter of Margaret (nee McGee) and Patrick Soye.

Eileen graduated from PS 207 elementary school and Midwood High School (class of 1946). After high school, Eileen worked as a secretary in New York City. Eileen married her high school sweetheart Tom McCormack on May 26, 1951 at Mary Queen of Heaven in Brooklyn. They settled in White Plains in 1956 and raised their family.

Eileen along with her husband Tom were founding members of the Church of St. Pius X in Scarsdale. Eileen was active in

the Marian Club at St. Pius X. Eileen and Tom enjoyed traveling and spending time with family. Eileen loved her family and friends. She loved talking on the phone and laughing with friends. Eileen had a fantastic sense of humor and quick wit. She was known for being kind and having a generous heart. Eileen was a wonderful wife, mom and Nanny/Nana.

Eileen was predeceased by Tom (March 2013) and her parents. She is survived by her sister Anna Casey of Ocala, FL and her children Michael (Mary) Maynard, MA, Melissa (John) Tewksbury, NJ, Thomas (Mariana) White Plains, David (Nora) Scituate, MA and grandchildren, Liam, Jack, Max (Jennifer), Lauren, James, Kate, Michael, Taylor and Halle and great grandchildren Romeo and Mia. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

In Eileen's memory please make a contribution to a charity of your choice.

Elvira Di Nota

Elvira Di Nota of White Plains died on Jan. 1 at her residence. She was 91.

Di Nota was born on Oct. 13, 1926, to the late Luigi and Marzia Savarese in Sorrento, Italy. She was a retired chef with Westchester Premier Theatre in Tarrytown and later at the San Roc Caterers in Hastings. She was a member of Antonio Meuci Lodge #213 in White Plains, where she enjoyed cooking at the lodge.

DiNota was predeceased by her devoted husband, Vincent Di Nota, in 1989, one son, Gennaro Di Nota, in 1966 and one sister in Italy. She is survived by her loving son, Luigi (Flavia) Di Nota, of Hawthorne; her two cherished grandchildren, Elvira and Vincent (Jennifer) Di Nota; her four great-grandchildren, Michael, Nicholas and Jeffrey Gonyo and Leo Di Nota; and one sister and four brothers in Italy.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Jan. 3. A funeral Mass was held at Holy Rosary Church in Hawthorne on Jan. 4.

Holocaust Survivor Speaks Out at Boys & Girls Club Civic Advocacy Event

By Anna Young

Holocaust survivor Peter Somogyi recalled the grueling memories of his imprisonment at the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp on Sunday night describing how Nazi physician Josef Mengele used him and his twin brother for experiments.

Nearly 100 people were in attendance at the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester in Mount Kisco to hear Somogyi's story of survival during the club's inaugural Civic Advocacy and Leadership Speaker Series.

When German troops invaded Hungary on March 19, 1944, Somogyi's life at 11 changed rapidly when he was forced to wear the yellow Jewish star, which led to him getting beaten up on the streets and harassed at school. Within months, his father was taken away and the rest of his family was herded into a ghetto and forced to live in one room for six weeks until they were loaded into cattle cars and deported to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp.

Somogyi said 70 to 80 people were forced into one train car where they stood for three days without water and with one bucket provided for bathroom use.

"It was the middle of July, very hot. We were thirsty, hungry. There were little kids, a couple of babies all cried," Somogyi, 84, described. "All of us, we didn't know what was happening."

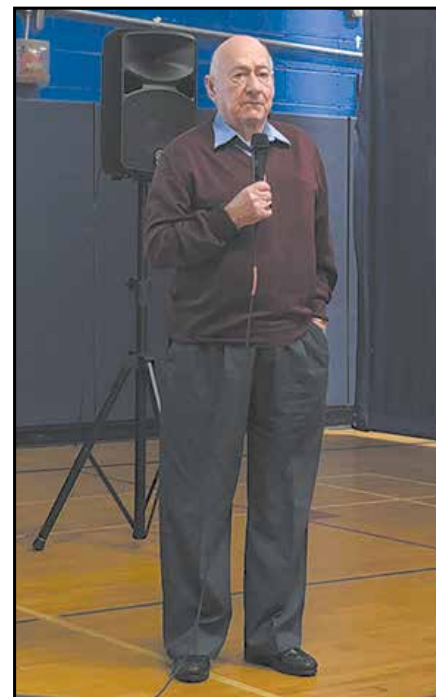
When Somogyi arrived at the camp with his mother, sister and his twin brother, they were separated into one section where Mengele called out for twins. His mother raised her hand, thinking she was helping her sons, and instructed them to say they were nine years old, rather than 11. Mengele told the twin brothers to step out of the line and they were taken away. His mother and sister perished in the gas chambers immediately after.

"They (the guards) grabbed us right away and I never had the chance to say goodbye," Somogyi said. "They didn't know within 10 minutes they would be dead. They took them into a room that was supposed to be a shower and they locked the doors."

Somogyi remembered the stench of death and burning hair upon his arrival at the death camp.

The brothers were transported to a barracks intended for twins and dwarfs where they were both stripped of their belongings and forever marked with an identification number. Somogyi said he lost his identity and his new name became A17454.

When all the twins and dwarfs met Mengele the next day, Somogyi said they all became his guinea pigs. Mengele, also known as the "Angel of Death," subjected many of his patients to painful injections, surgeries, and countless other grueling experiments. While the brothers didn't endure many experiments, Somogyi



Peter Somogyi

explained how Mengele's tests left hundreds dead, describing the sight of stacked bodies every morning outside the barracks.

"They just threw them away, so many dead people," Somogyi said. "We had seen so much death it was unbelievable."

Somogyi said he was sent to the gas chambers one night, stating Mengele nullified his extermination to continue his research. Despite nearing death, Somogyi said he never gave up hope that he would someday be free.

Soviet troops liberated Auschwitz in 1945 and Somogyi and his brother eventually made their way back to their hometown in Pecs, Hungary. Months later their father returned after his liberation from the Dachau concentration camp. Only four people on his mother's robust side of the family survived.

"Why did they have to die?" Somogyi asked himself. "Because they are Jewish and they prayed differently than other people."

Several years after his liberation, Somogyi escaped to Israel where he said he no longer had to live in fear of being Jewish. In 1956, he moved to England and eventually made his way to Canada and then the United States where he now resides with his wife in Pleasantville. His brother, Thomas, resides in Toronto, Canada.

While Somogyi never spoke of his experience for several decades he said he felt compelled to come forward to shut down those who claim the Holocaust never happened.

"The reason I am talking about it today is because there are people who say it never happened and in 10 to 15 years they'll be no more eyewitnesses," Somogyi said. "Well I'm still here to tell them it did happen and luckily I survived."



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Avoiding a Medicaid Lien or Estate Claim



By Salvatore M. Di Costanzo, Esq.

For many families, a good portion of their wealth exists through the equity in their home. The home may also be the most sentimental asset as it carries many memories and emotional ties. We often counsel clients

on different planning techniques to protect the home where Medicaid is contemplated to pay for nursing home or home care. This is a review of just how Medicaid may take your home if you don't implement some form of planning to protect your assets.

It is inevitable that we may all at some point fall victim to an illness and require care, including nursing home care or home care. Medicaid has become the insurance of the middle class, especially in nursing home and home care cases.

In order to be eligible for Medicaid, you cannot have more than \$15,150 in assets. When contemplating Medicaid eligibility, the home is generally treated as an exempt asset for purposes of determining whether you have less than \$15,150 in resources.

However, Medicaid keeps track of those benefits and may look for them to be repaid.

If you are a Medicaid recipient in a nursing home, a lien can be placed against your home if you are not reasonably expected to return home. A lien allows Medicaid to recoup what they paid on your behalf when the property is sold. Prior to placing the lien, Medicaid must provide notice to you that they intend to file a lien against your home. If proper notice was not provided, there may be an opportunity to remove the lien.

Notwithstanding the above, Medicaid cannot place a lien against your home if any of the following persons live there:

- i. your spouse;
- ii. a minor child, or a child of any age who is certified blind or disabled;
- iii. a sibling who has an equity interest in the home and who was residing in the home for at least one year preceding the date you entered the nursing home.

A lien also cannot be placed against your home if you set up a Medicaid Trust

and get through the five-year look-back period. This is why the Medicaid Trust has become such a popular planning technique.

If you are a Medicaid recipient while receiving Medicaid home care benefits, Medicaid cannot place a lien against your home, but they can file a claim against your probate estate upon your death if no planning has been done to avoid probate. For instance, when you die, your Will needs to be probated. Once the Will is probated, Medicaid will

send the Executor of your estate a letter demanding payment for benefits paid. The Executor of your estate cannot ignore this otherwise they may become personally liable for the amount.

In a recent case, an individual required home care and did not retain an elder law attorney to work through the Medicaid home care process. Although the home was not considered an available asset, it became part of the Medicaid recipient's probate estate when she died since no planning was done to avoid probate. In this case, Medicaid filed a claim and the entire

proceeds of sale where paid to Medicaid at the closing table. Although she failed to plan in advance with a Medicaid Trust, this could have been avoided using a Revocable Trust to avoid probate.

Fortunately, if you take the time to consult with us, there are many options available to protect your home in advance of these unfortunate scenarios. We regularly use Medicaid Trusts, Revocable Trusts and other planning techniques to plan in advance.

Salvatore M. Di Costanzo is a partner with the firm of Maker, Fragale & Di Costanzo, LLP located in Rye, New York and Yorktown Heights, New York. Mr. Di Costanzo is an attorney and accountant whose main area of practice is elder law and special needs planning. He is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and a frequent author and lecturer on current elder law and special needs topics. Since 2013, Mr. Di Costanzo has been selected each year by the rating service, Super Lawyers as a New York Metro leading elder law attorney. He can be reached at (914) 925-1010 or via e-mail at smd@mfd-law.com. Visit his practice specific website at www.plantodayfortomorrow.com.

Community Response Top Notch During Extreme Weather Conditions

During the extreme cold weather Greenburgh experienced some water main breaks. According to Town Supervisor Paul Feiner, dedicated water crews have been working in the extreme cold. Some worked till midnight over the weekend when there was a break in a 16-transmission main. They came back early the following morning and worked on two more breaks. The extreme cold caused the ground move, Feiner explained, causing pipes to shift and break.

"Our employees are very professional, responsible, didn't look for excuses to avoid working in the extreme record cold weather and they took few breaks. They are model employees who make us

proud," Feiner said.

Power was restored to Highpoint around during the early morning hours over the weekend. "Our CERT volunteers set up a warming station at the Theodore Young Community Center. CERT team members who helped out were Lucian Chen, Peter Yam, Tom Morgan and Harold Rose, according to CERTs Andrew Sindell. We owe our volunteers our thanks. Most people stayed at Highpoint but many took advantage of the warming stations or warmed up in their cars. The Greenburgh Police and Fire Department personnel from Hartsdale and Fairview helped many residents down the stairs from their units."

"Thanks to all!" Feiner said.

Postal Delivery Delays are an Ongoing Problem

During the recent cold blast, Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner told The White Plains Examiner he had received a number of emails from residents who complained about poor mail service – no deliveries, delayed deliveries and other postal related problems.

Feiner forwarded each of the complaints to Richard Conte, regional administrator for the United States Postal Service.

Conte sent the following response on Friday: "Storm was major impact and still working through very cold conditions. I have carriers delivering until 8 p.m. I am addressing all concerns."

Feiner wants residents to know he is sorry for the inconveniences. "The problems that Greenburgh and

Westchester residents have been experiencing with the postal service is a national problem - a problem that I have been complaining about for at least five years.

Last year United States Senator Chuck Schumer, Congresswoman Nita Lowey and Congressman Eliot Engel highlighted their concerns about postal service operations and promised to give this their attention. I hope that our national leaders will focus more attention on helping the Postal Service improve their service. And hope that 2018 will be a year of results, not complaints," Feiner said.

He added that some people who were waiting for important deliveries have since advised that they received their mail.

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Email letters to

pcasey@theexaminernews.com.

The White Plains Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address



The Season to Guard Against Burst Water Pipes

Since I now live in a condo in a large building, I thought that I no longer had to worry about the prospect of water pipes freezing and bursting, but, unfortunately, the sprinkler pipes in the attic did freeze and burst during last week's frigid weather causing water damage in the unit next door to mine. And the units below that one suffered water damage as well.

Other than a fire or tornado, the most damaging event a house can suffer is flooding from a burst water pipe. Yet, most people have just a sketchy knowledge of how to avoid this potential disaster.

One of my most memorable mishaps with burst pipes involved a young couple, buyer clients, who had found the home of their dreams and wanted to close as quickly as possible because the lease on their rental was about to expire. But their dream was dashed, at least temporarily, by a discovery we made when we arrived at the house for the engineering inspection.

We were greeted by an ominous sound of water leaking and discovered in the family room that water was spraying through the seams of the plasterboard walls and half of the ceiling had collapsed. The engineer quickly shut off the water main, but it was too late to prevent the extensive damage to the walls, ceiling, built-in cabinetry and flooring.

As an estate sale, the house was empty, but the selling agent had been very careful

to monitor the heating system so that the pipes wouldn't freeze, so she couldn't understand what went wrong. The engineer looked around and found that, outside, the garden house had not been disconnected from the outside spigot. He explained that water in the hose had frozen and backed up into the pipe that traveled through the garage, which was unheated, to the family room on the other side of the garage wall, causing the pipes to burst. When the ice melted, the room was flooded.

When water freezes, it has the force of 2,200 pounds of pressure per square inch, according to Dave Goldberg, now retired from Goldberg Plumbing & Heating, but whose son is still serving Westchester and Putnam counties. "One of the most common causes of burst pipes is when people forget to detach their hoses for the winter. It should always be done by mid-October," he said.

"But there are many reasons pipes can



By Bill Primavera

burst," he continued. "It can be a mere draft through a tiny crack in a wall, and if it is cold enough outside, the wind chill factor can cause a pipe to freeze, and it can be anywhere in the house, even over the living room.

Goldberg cited the popular use of wood and gas-burning stoves as another cause of burst pipes. "They give you a false sense of warmth," he said. "It can be 70 degrees inside, but that heat may not get to the outside walls where the water pipes are located."

As a safeguard, Goldberg recommends that non-toxic anti-freeze be added to the heating system so that if the power goes off, the water won't freeze. "It's like putting anti-freeze in a car," he said, "and, it should be checked annually to see that it's still at an effective level."

For insulating pipes in the basement or crawl space, he suggests using a heating strip that turns on automatically like a thermostat, and then to wrap both the pipe and heating strip with insulation.

Another safeguard in frigid weather, he said, is to keep water running from both the hot and cold taps where the pipes are against an outside wall. I'm well aware of this technique because, when I lived in

an antique single-family home, my wife always cautioned me on frigid nights to keep the water dripping in the mudroom half-bath which was exposed on two sides by outside walls. "Remember to keep the water dripping," she always said, and I always responded back, "I know, I know, you already told me," but then, I would get myself into trouble by turning the faucet off anyway, just by force of habit.

With the weather currently colder than any wintry spell I can remember, keep in mind that using a little extra water by the drip method, especially for pipes on outside walls, is a safe investment to protect against burst pipes.

While Bill Primavera has enjoyed careers as a journalist and publicist, he is now a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate, specializing in upper Westchester and Putnam Counties. To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call (914) 522-2076.



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Burgers, Fresh Salads and Craft Brews at PRIME 16!



By Morris Gut

Dave Marotta and Thomas Shanley brought the Prime 16 Tap House concept to Pelham a few years ago and customers have been flocking in. The 60-seat restaurant espouses the virtues of 'gourmet' burgers and

local craft beers, which are listed daily.

The Prime 16 mission statement: "At Prime 16, taste comes first. We use only all-natural Angus beef raised by a family of farmers committed to sustainable and humane practices. That means: No added hormones, no antibiotics, cows are fed all-vegetarian feeds."

Specialties change regularly. Great small bites and plates include: meaty Chicken Wings with choice of such sauces as chipotle agave, bourbon stout BBQ, classic buffalo, or General Tso with

bacon, pickled red onion, grilled pineapple and romaine lettuce, with a side of chipotle mayo; and The Smoker, topped with smoked Gouda, smoked Applewood bacon, sautéed onion, sautéed crimini mushrooms, romaine and sliced tomato with a side of garlic aioli. There is a signature Chipotle Bison Burger and vegetarian Quinoa Crunch Burger. You can also 'Build Your Own Burger' with a variety of cheeses and toppings.

Alternative Sandwiches include: Vermont Chicken Wrap, marinated grilled chicken, Vermont aged white cheddar, smoked Applewood bacon, grilled apple, sautéed onion and maple bourbon Dijon mustard in a whole wheat wrap; Ahi Tuna Po' Boy, blackened ahi tuna topped with tobacco fried onions, celery & carrot coleslaw, butterhead lettuce, sliced tomato and sriracha sauce on a brioche roll; Prime BLT, smoked Applewood bacon, avocado, butterhead lettuce, tomato and rosemary Dijon mayo on a pretzel roll; and a Kale Falafel Pita. Desserts include: fresh Apple Crisp, Bread Pudding, and a Chocolate special.

Special Hint: There is a Craft Beer Happy Hour offered Monday through Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. featuring half-priced drafts, selected wines and half off 12-piece wings.

Prime 16 is located at 156 Fifth Ave., Pelham. The restaurant kitchen is open for dinner 7 days a week, Monday through Friday, 4 to 10 p.m. weekends lunch and dinner: Saturdays, 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sundays, 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Menu price range: \$5.95 to \$16.95. Kid's Menu from \$5.95. Bar and cocktails. Daily Craft Beer list. Major credit

cards. TVs. Weekday Happy Hours. Casual dress. Handicapped accessible. Municipal parking; free evenings. Reservations suggested for larger groups. Phone: 914-576-0700, www.prime16.com.

Ernesto's New Home at Pizza Cucina, White Plains

Ernesto Capalbo and Charlie Gambino closed the original Ernesto's on W. Post Road late last year. Now, paper signs on Capalbo's bustling Pizza Cucina pizza shop down the street are announcing "The New Home of Ernesto's Restaurant." Apparently, they are in the process of combining both Ernesto's formal menu of regional Italian specialties with the Pizza Cucina concept albeit in a smaller space. Elements of both will be available. On recent visits, I have also noticed former Ernesto's staff members working the front and back of the house. Should be interesting. Keep you posted. Pizza Cucina, 102 West Post Road, White Plains. 914-752-4611, New website under construction, www.pizzacucinamenu.com.

Luka's Italian Cuisine Coming

Meanwhile, Luka's Italian Cuisine is coming to Ernesto's former space at 130 W. Post Road, White Plains (914-607-3535). Renovation is nearing completion at this writing. Luka is related to the same family behind Tre Angelina on Mamaroneck Ave., on the other side of town. We will keep you posted...

Breakfast at The Ritz-Carlton, White Plains

Family friends from D.C. were staying at the Ritz-Carlton in White Plains during the holidays, so we made plans to meet over mid-morning breakfast.

They serve it in The Lobby Lounge, just down from BLT Steak. It is an airy, bright, well-appointed room with well-spaced tables and modern fireplace. On weekends they offer a multi-course breakfast buffet with omelet station. A couple of us went for the a la carte breakfast/brunch menu. My friend ordered their classic Eggs Benedict with truffle, tomato, scallion, sautéed spinach, Canadian bacon and fresh made Hollandaise. She offered me a taste; I was always smitten with Hollandaise.

This Benedict did not disappoint. I went for what they called a Renaissance Square Breakfast Bowl, a wonderful mixture of scrambled eggs, pepper jack cheese, kale, chorizo, jalapeno corn salsa, avocado and red bliss potatoes. It was herbal and delicious! I spooned it out heartily. We enjoyed a platter of fresh breads, croissants and pastries on the side, and surrounded the meal with fresh coffee and chatter. The waitstaff was very accommodating, too, especially to the child at the table. The Lobby Lounge at the Ritz-Carlton, 3 Renaissance Square, White Plains, 914-467-5717, www.ritzcarlton.com/westchester.

New Management at the Olde Stone Mill, Tuckahoe

Florio Rugova, a veteran of the hospitality business, has assumed management of the landmark Olde Stone Mill Restaurant in Tuckahoe and he has been busy refining the menu. It will become known as Florio's Restaurant at the Olde Stone Mill.

Florio, as most patrons know him, previously managed La Fontanella in Pelham. Most recently, he was affiliated with Jordan Hall 10803, also in Pelham.

Olde Stone Mill has evolved into an Italian/American kitchen with Continental overtones. The handsome bar/lounge is wood and stone. A



Big Angus burger and fries at Prime 16, Pelham.

passageway leads to the lovely 85-seat main dining room with airy picture windows, piano, warming hearth and beautiful table settings. The airy atrium room with red-checked tablecloths has



Fireplace at the lobby lounge, Ritz Carlton, Westchester in White Plains.

sesame seeds, served with house-made bleu cheese dressing, celery and carrots; Roasted Artichoke Dip; Ahi Tuna Tacos; Marinated Beets; Fried Pickles; and Buffalo Cauliflower.

Fresh prepared salads include: Marinated Kale Caesar, BLT Bowl and California Cobb, with chopped romaine topped with chopped smoked Applewood bacon, bleu cheese crumble, hard-boiled egg and avocado. Choice of house made dressings include: basil-lemon vinaigrette, creamy garlic, avocado-ranch, bleu cheese, or oil and red vinegar. Add-ons available, too.

Delicious and juicy 8-oz. Angus burgers in the spotlight here include: All American, topped with Vermont aged white cheddar, butterhead lettuce and sliced tomato, topped with Elm City yellow mustard and smoked ketchup; Cowboy, topped with Wisconsin cheddar, smoked Canadian bacon, fried egg and romaine lettuce with a side of pico de gallo; Maui, topped with Pepper Jack cheese, smoked Applewood



Sign at Pizza Cucina, White Plains

become a popular gathering place, too.

Enjoy Sunday at Grandma's with choice of rigatoni, sausage, meatballs and Nonna's fresh Sunday sauce; Chicken Capricciosa, breaded chicken cutlets topped with arugula salad, served with a large Roman artichoke heart. Look for such new specialties as: Clams Casino, Pork Osso Bucco, and Vitello Oscar Portions are generous.

There are private party accommodations. The Olde Stone Mill, 2 Scarsdale Road, Tuckahoe. Open daily for lunch, dinner and weekend brunch. Free parking. Phone: 914-771-7661, www.theoldstonemill.com.

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

A Glimpse Into the Rarefied Air of High-end Wines Sold at Auctions



By Nick Antonaccio

We read with envy the numerous accounts of rare, high-end wines sold in the marketplace. Collectors enter into bidding frenzies to acquire wines from highly rated wineries and highly rated vintages. However, for most of us 99 percenters, after we read of these wines changing hands amongst a few rich collectors, we never hear of them again until the next sale.

Here's the rub: investors in high-end wines typically seek out trophy wines for bragging rights, not imbibing rights.

"a tally of the most expensive wines ever sold - to date."

Rarely are bottles of older vintages of highly regarded wines ever opened for the sheer pleasure and enjoyment such wines afford. Rather, they sit in an expensive temperature-controlled underground cellar, simply on display as trophies.

There is a consensus amongst those in the wine trade that the rarer the wine, the less likely it will ever be consumed. It will merely make the rounds of auction

houses, garnering escalating prices with each passage of ownership.

With this thought in mind, I've decided to present a tally, and brief narrative, of the 10 most expensive wines ever sold - to date.

Note: I've written in greater depth on a few of these wines. I annotated them as the "Focus of a Previous Column (FPC)." For copies of these columns, please email me.

10. 1947 Château Cheval Blanc. Talk about bragging rights. This imperial-size bottle Bordeaux, the equivalent of eight standard bottles, was purchased at a Christie's auction in 2010. This size bottle will surely impress friends and family. Price: \$304,375, equivalent to \$38,047 per bottle and \$7,609 per each of the 40-glass capacity. Just enough for a (large) dinner party.

9. 1951 Penfolds Grange Hermitage. A highly regarded, and rare, Australian wine. Who would think a Shiraz could command such high prices in every vintage? There are purported to be less than 20 bottles remaining. Price: \$38,420/bottle; \$7,684/glass.

8. 1945 Château Mouton Rothschild (FPC). One of the most highly regarded vintages from one of the most highly

regarded estates in Bordeaux, this wine was sold at auction last May from the cellar of world-famous collector Bill Koch. The astounding price was \$34,350 for each of the 10 bottles auctioned. But that's not the highest price ever paid. In 2007, an anonymous bidder paid significantly

more for a jeroboam bottle (equivalent to six standard bottles). Price: a whopping \$310,700 or \$51,792 per equivalent bottle. That's \$10,358 per glass, if you're ever in a position to enjoy it.

7. 1992 Screaming Eagle Cabernet Sauvignon. One of the most famous wines in the world, this Napa cult wine is a bit of an outlier, as this imperial size bottle is significantly younger than many of the other wines on my list. Sold in 2000 at the famous Napa Valley Wine Auction, a perennial showcase of one-percenters vying for bragging rights, the bidding frenzy amped up the winning bid to \$500,000, the most ever paid anywhere, anytime for a single bottle of wine. Price: \$62,500/equivalent standard bottle; \$12,500/glass. If you went shopping for a single standard bottle today, it would set you back \$8,500 to \$10,000, still in the one-percenter stratosphere.

6. 1811 Château d'Yquem (FPC). This is where we cross the threshold into high stakes bragging rights. The lofty standard

bottle prices of the previous four bottles are far surpassed by the remaining wines in my tally. Beginning with this dessert wine, the most expensive white wine ever sold, prices are now in the affordability range of only the top end of the top one-percenters.

This French producer in the Sauterne region limits production to miniscule levels, even foregoing production in vintages not meeting its strict criteria. And prices reflect this. In 2011, an Indonesian restaurateur purchased this half bottle, one of only ten offered for sale that year. His plan was to display the bottle behind bulletproof glass in his wine bar, waiting for a special occasion to open and enjoy it. Price: \$117,000 or \$23,400 per glass.

Next week, the top five. Can it get crazier than wines six through ten? Yes, it can.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted numerous wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member of the Wine Media Guild of wine writers. 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.



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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC).

NAME: Flaggers Unlimited Plus, LLC Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/10/2017. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: **The LLC, 66 Leonardo Dr. North Haven, CT, principal business location of the LLC. Purpose: any lawful business activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF M. ELIA WELLNESS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/01/17. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **M. Elia Wellness, LLC, P.O. Box 609, 1350 East Main Street, Shrub Oak, NY 10588 Purpose: For any legal purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF M. ELIA WELLNESS, NP IN ADULT HEALTH, PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/27/17. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **M. Elia Wellness, NP in Adult Health, PLLC, P.O. Box 609, 1350 East Main Street, Shrub Oak, NY 10588 Purpose: Practice the profession of Nurse Practitioner in Adult Health.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF BLOOM HAIR SALON LP. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/29/2017. Office loc. Westchester. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **Maria Katsoros, 305 Florence Street, Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

Notice of formation of SIXTH BROUGH CLOTHING LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/10/2017. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **LEGALINC CORPORATE SERVICES INC. 1967 WEHRLE DRIVE, SUITE 1 #086, BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14221. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF WI-ESEN, LLC. Arts. of Org. files with SSNY on 10/6/2017. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **LegalZoom, 7014 13th Ave, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CZOU & CO., LLC. Arts of Org. filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/18/2017. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail copy to 9 Highview Dr, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ADVANCED PROFITS, LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of state of NY on 5/11/17. Office loc: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to PO BOX 112, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF @CE-SARCAPJR, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/15/17. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be

served. SSNY shall mail process to: United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose any lawful activity.

SUMMONS: Complaint for Divorce or Divorce from Bed and Board Kshitiz Agnihotri v. Adya Shukla In the Providence Family Court in and for the County of Providence. 1 Dorrance Plaza Providence, RI 02903 Civil Action File Number: P20176290 Nominal Hearing Date: 02/01/2018 at 9:00am **To the Above Named Defendant:** You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon the Plaintiff or the Plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address appears below, an answer to the complaint, which is herewith served upon you. Under Rhode Island Family Court Rules of Domestic Relations Procedure, your answer must be in writing and filed with the court within 20 days after service of this Summons, complaint, Language Assistance Notice, and all other required documents, exclusive of the date of service. A copy of your answer should also be forwarded to the Plaintiff's attorney. Failure to answer may result in a judgment by default against you for the relief requested in the complaint. Under the Family Court Rules of Domestic Relations Procedure, your answer must state as a counterclaim any related claim you may have against the Plaintiff. Failure to do so may prohibit you from making such claim in any other action. **Kshitiz Agnihotri, Don P. Moyer, Atty. for Plaintiff 51 Jefferson Blvd. Warwick, RI**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MAN ON FIRE PRODUCTIONS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on October 20th, 2017. Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **Joel Fendelman, 8 Fox Hill Road Pound Ridge, NY 10576. Purpose: Film Production.**

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The Examiner is happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event to pcasey@theexaminernews.com. For a full listing of the upcoming week's events, visit www.theexaminernews.com and click on Happenings.

Tuesday, Jan. 9

Tuesdays at Dorry's. This week an intergenerational conversation about anti-racist activism. Come hear the stories of two White Plains High School student activists and a first-year Pace student. These students of color and Roger Drew, a White ally, will tell us how their experiences shaped their action for social change. Wendy Dale, organizer of the SEED program at White Plains High School, will moderate. Discussion may lead to understanding how attendees and presenters might support one another's efforts. Tuesdays@Dorry's gathers conservation partners every Tuesday to share a meal and learn from presenters invited each week. Food ordering starts at 5:30 p.m. presentation 6 to 7 p.m. Dorry's Diner, 468 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, 914-682-0005.



WPCNA Meeting. The January meeting of the White Plains Council of Neighborhood Associations (WPCNA) will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Education House, 5 Homeside Lane, White Plains. The meeting will be a roundtable on the City's Comprehensive Plan, looking at potential topics and issues for discussion. The meeting is open to the public and will start promptly at 7:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served.

Wednesday, Jan. 10

Noonday Getaway Concert. Downtown Music at Grace welcomes Jun Hwi Cho, pianist, who became the First Prize Winner of The Seventh New York International Piano Competition in June 2014. He was awarded a recital at The Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C. Robert Battey reviewed Mr. Cho's recital in The Washington Post: "In Liszt's Dante Sonata, the pianist, whose technique is already well formed, showed a mature sense of drama and timing, projecting clarity in the thunderstorms and ranging freely through the music. This was a secure, fully professional performance – admirable from any musician, let alone from a teenager." Presented in partnership with the Stecher and Horowitz Foundation. The performance will be held at Grace

Episcopal Church, 33 Church Street (Main Street at Mamaroneck Avenue), White Plains. The concert begins at 12:10 p.m. and lasts for 30 minutes; admission is free. This concert is made possible with the generous support of Deutsch Family & Licor 43, the #1 premium liqueur from Spain.

Westchester on the Frontlines: Pipeline to Disaster. A new 42-inch diameter, high-pressure gas transmission pipeline was recently constructed and is now operational within 105 feet of critical emergency structures vital to Indian Point nuclear power plant. With the anticipated closure of Indian Point in 2021 and 45 years of radioactive nuclear waste stored indefinitely on site, what are the risks and vulnerabilities to local communities and more than 20 million people living in the impact radius of these multiple hazards? Ask experts Paul Blanch and Ellen Weininger. In partnership with the Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 7 to 9 p.m. Free. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Thursday, Jan. 11

Revolution Song: A Story of American Freedom. The Friends of

John Jay Homestead Scholars Lecture Series resumes with a presentation by Russell Shorto. He will tell the story of the American Revolution through six very different lives: British, African, Seneca, colonial, men and women, both prominent and obscure. A master in the field of "narrative history," Shorto is the author of six award-winning books, including "The Island at the Center of the World," and a contributing writer at The New York Times Magazine. A book signing will follow the lecture. John Jay Homestead State Historic Site ballroom, 400 Jay St. (Route 22), Katonah. Registration and light refreshments at 6:30 p.m. Program at 7 p.m. \$25. Members: \$20. Reservations recommended. Info and reservations: 914-232-8119, e-mail friends@johnjayhomestead.org or visit www.johnjayhomestead.org.

Friday, Jan. 12

Rock the Winter Blues Film Series: "Let's Play Two." This concert film chronicles Pearl Jam's legendary performances at Wrigley Field during the Chicago Cubs historic 2016 season. With Chicago being a hometown to Eddie Vedder, Pearl Jam has forged a relationship with the city, the Cubs and Wrigley Field that is unparalleled in the world of sports

continued on page 14

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Happenings

continued from page 13

and music. The film shuffles through Pearl Jam's ever-growing catalog of originals and covers spanning the band's 25-year career. Through the eyes of renowned director/photographer Danny Clinch and the voice of Pearl Jam, the film showcases the journey of this special relationship. Accompanied by musical acts appropriate to the themes of the films. The first part of a two-night film series featuring music-themed documentaries that concludes on Feb. 2. Irvington Town Hall Theater, 85 Main St., Irvington. 7:30 p.m. \$10. Info and tickets: Visit www.irvingtontheater.com.



Sunday, Jan. 14

MLK Service and Celebration. Bending the Arc Toward Justice. Temple Israel Center, 280 Old Mamaroneck Rd., White Plains; 7 p.m. Cosponsored by White Plains Religious Leaders and Ministers Fellowship Council of White Plains and vicinity.

"Destination Unknown." A screening of this new documentary blending unique and intimate testimony with immersive archive. This film unveils the human stories underlying the events of the Holocaust. These include one of the few escapees from the terror of Treblinka, and an exclusive interview with Mietek Pemper, who helped Oskar Schindler compile his list. The documentary traces the narrow paths to survival, whether in hiding,

fighting as partisans or through enduring the camps. Followed by a panel discussion with Holocaust survivor Dr. Jack Terry and Bonnie Glogover, an activist and daughter of Holocaust survivor Stanley Glogover. The Picture House, 175 Wolfs Lane, Pelham. 6:30 p.m. \$15. Seniors, students and members: \$12. Info and tickets: 914-738-3161 or visit www.thepicturehouse.org.

Monday, Jan. 15

MLK Freedom Library Book Fair. Free activities all day at City Center Barnes and Noble, White Plains. Portion of book sale proceeds go to support the MLK Freedom Library in White Plains.

Feeding Fun. Join the center's naturalists for a hands-on program and learn about the

care that goes into feeding indoor animals as well as the birds of prey and barnyard. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: Free. Non-members: \$8. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

"A Raisin in the Sun." In honor of Martin Luther King Day, view a screening of this timeless classic featuring star-making performances from Sidney Poitier, Ruby Dee and Louis Gossett Jr. The story of one black family's desperate pursuit of the American dream. Part of the REMIX: The Black Experience in Film, Media and Art series. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 5:30 p.m. Members: \$8. Non-members: \$13. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Martin Luther King Freedom Library Book Fair and Fundraiser

On Martin Luther King Day, Monday, Jan. 15, free concerts, book readings and for children: face painting, arts & crafts and story time at the City Center, White Plains Barnes & Noble. At 1 p.m. there is a presentation by the author of *Until There Is Justice*, about civil rights activist and educator Anna Arnold Hedgeman, the first African American woman to serve on the cabinet of a New York mayor (Robert Wagner). Her career spanned more than six decades as an advocate for civil rights. In 1963 she was the only woman among the key event organizers of the March on Washington.

The schedule of free events, presented by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Library:

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Face painting, arts & crafts and reading to children.

11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Barbara Solomon: Princess Kamala and the Attack of King Timeaus.

12 to 1 p.m. Vocal Concert by Irene Renee - Independent Recording Artist & Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Westchester Alumnae Chapter.

1 to 2 p.m. Prof. Jennifer Scanlon will present her book about a lifelong Civil Rights activist: *Until There Is Justice: The Life of Anna Arnold Hedgeman*.

2 to 3 p.m. Concert of African Drums: Ptah Djembe Drummers.

3 to 4 p.m. Authors, 8-12 years old, talk about their book, *Journey of Heroes*, and their mentor and former student at Lois Bronz Children's Center, Jaz Johnson, talks about her books, such as *Estate of Hearts*, *Journey of Heroes*, *Saphora*.

The events are part of a fundraiser: for everyone who makes a purchase at the White Plains City Center Barnes & Noble on Jan. 15 and mentions the MLK Freedom Library, or makes a purchase at any other Barnes & Noble on Jan. 15 and gives the Library's Bookfair ID, 12277810,

Barnes & Noble will make a donation to the Library. The Library also gets a donation if you visit bn.com/bookfairs online from Jan. 15 to Jan. 20 by entering Bookfair ID 12277810 at checkout. This fundraiser will raise money to buy books and films for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Library, free and open to the public.

The library has unusual and important books and films for adults and children on subjects such as nonviolence and anti-racism, Dr. King and other great peacemakers, African-American history and more.

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EXAMINER SPORTS

"Crusaders Classic" at the County Center a Rousing Success and Huge Statement!

By Albert Coqueran

On Friday, Jan. 5, not even the snow and frigid temperatures stopped fans from filling the Westchester County Center to capacity for the "Crusaders Classic." It was announced on the afternoon of the two-game event that extra seats and standing room would be added to accommodate the multitude of fans expected at the Westchester arena, in White Plains.

Fans did not disappoint and neither did the competition, as 3,219 local high school basketball fans packed into the County Center, to watch Byram Hills High School beat Ardsley High School, 51-34 and Stepinac win a double-overtime thriller over rival Iona Prep, 82-78.

With four Westchester County high school basketball teams competing; the excitement created around the "Crusaders Classic" displayed exactly why the Westchester County Center should remain the home of NYSPHSAA Section 1 High School Basketball Playoffs.

No matter the lawsuits or the legalities, one should take a look at what Stepinac Head Coach Pat Massaroni and Stepinac Athletics put together on a cold winter



PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEPINAC ATHLETICS

Stepinac Head Coach Pat Massaroni (center) instructs his team led by guard R.J. Davis (right) during the Stepinac versus Iona Prep game at the County Center on Friday. Massaroni opted this year to move the rivalry basketball game to the Westchester County Center and may have started a tradition called "The Crusaders Classic."

night at the County Center concerning high school basketball.

The rousing success of the "Crusaders Classic" should be enough to arouse the fairness and sense of tradition in decision makers to keep the Section 1 Basketball Playoffs at the Westchester County Center, where it has resided since 1933.

Massaroni, while trying to create an exciting event, accommodate as many fans as possible and win an essential basketball game, also made a huge statement in support of the high school basketball playoffs remaining at the County Center.

Newly elected Westchester County Executive George Latimer was scheduled to be recognized at the "Crusaders Classic" but he could not attend. However, the County Executive sent out a tweet regarding the event, while noting his support for the high school basketball playoffs remaining at the County Center. "Great HS Basketball @ County Center 2018 Crusaders Classic. This is where the sport belongs," tweeted Latimer.

The "Crusaders Classic" was no less than "great high school basketball." In fact, the Stepinac versus Iona Prep game will forever be known as one of the greatest high school basketball games ever played in Westchester County.

There were 19 lead changes

with 17 ties in the double-overtime thriller and neither the Gaels nor the Crusaders led by more than four points the entire game.

Stepinac seemed to have the game won in regulation time when sophomore star guard R.J. Davis made an acrobatic shot to take the lead 67-64. But Gaels senior guard Romar Reid snuck into the right corner of the County Center court and made a three-pointer to tie.

In the first OT, the young Davis again showed that he does not fold under pressure, when he floated in two-points to put the Crusaders ahead, 72-69. But with a mere three seconds left in the first OT,

Crusaders forward Xavier Wilson was called for an offensive foul, which turned the ball over to Iona. This time the Gaels came from the left corner, as senior forward Souleymane Koureissi, sank a three-pointer to send the game into a second overtime.

The Gaels had the lead in the final minute of the second overtime but the Crusaders were resilient on offense and defense. Crusaders guard Alan Griffin made a three point shot and his younger brother Adrian Griffin, Jr. issued one of his four blocks in the game in the final seconds. Stepinac held on to win a thriller, 82-78, over rival Iona Prep, in the "Crusaders Classic."

"I am very happy for our players, program and the Stepinac community. Anytime you play your rival it is intense but tonight was a special night for the league and Westchester basketball," stated Massaroni.

Davis and Alan Griffin both scored a game-high 26 points. Davis added five rebounds and six assists, while Griffin also grabbed six rebounds. Griffin's younger brother, the freshman, Adrian, Jr. contributed 15 points and six rebounds with his four blocks. Wilson scored 10 points, snatched eight rebounds and had three blocks.

For the Gaels, University of Richmond bound Koureissi

led the way with a double-double of 25 points and 10 rebounds. Josh Alexander also notched a double-double with 16 points and 10 rebounds. Reid had 13 points and senior Bryce Wills had 14 points, six rebounds and four blocks.

Last year Stepinac High School accommodated 710 fans in their gym with people literally overflowing out of the doors for the game against Iona Prep. This year through the ingenuity of Massaroni and Stepinac Athletics, they created the "Crusaders Classic" which gave 3,219 fans the opportunity to witness a double-overtime thriller at the Westchester County Center.

"The Crusader Classic" was special. A lot of people to thank that made the event happen and a lot work was put into it and the game itself was awesome. A high level basketball game with high level players making plays after plays," acknowledged Massaroni.

After the resounding success of the "Crusaders Classic" reports are circling that Iona Prep is considering meeting with Westchester County Center officials to have their hosted game against Stepinac moved to the Westchester arena, in White Plains.

The Iona versus Stepinac rematch is scheduled for Feb. 2, in New Rochelle. The date would have to be changed, as the County Center is booked on Feb. 2. However, there is scheduling room on both teams' schedules to be able to accommodate the game during the first week of February at the County Center. Only problem is, what would they call it "The Gaels Classic"?



Crusaders sophomore guard R. J. Davis slashes to the basket for two of his 26 points, as Stepinac beat rival Iona Prep, 82-78, in a double-overtime thriller in the inaugural "Crusaders Classic" at the Westchester County Center on Friday.



Crusaders forward Xavier "X-Man" Wilson floats his 6'-7" body frame to the hoop for a one-handed score during the "Crusaders Classic." Wilson had 10 points, eight rebounds and three blocks, as Stepinac outlasted Iona Prep, 82-78, in double OT, at the Westchester County Center on Friday.

• • • • • **WHITE PLAINS EXAMINER SPORTS** • • • • •

Sophomore R. J. Davis is a Young Leader on the Crusaders Varsity Basketball Team



Albert Coqueran Photo

Stepinac High School guard, R.J. Davis, even as a sophomore, is a leader on the Crusaders varsity basketball team. Davis, a Greenburgh resident, scored 26 points, grabbed five rebounds and dished six assists, in the Crusaders, 82-78, double-overtime win over rival Iona Prep, in the "Crusaders Classic" at the Westchester County Center, on Friday.