



Grandpas United Reach Out to White Plains Elementary Schools



Newly formed Grandpas United is reaching out to White Plains Schools to build relationships with youth and to engage youth in fun activities and in their learning and development. Schools partnered thus far include Church Street School and Ridgeway Elementary School. The group intends to offer support to all White Plains elementary schools. For many of the children, having a connection with a grandpa or a grandpa figure is exciting and can boost their academic and social development. The program is a collaboration between the White Plains Youth Bureau, the North American Family Institute and the White Plains School District.

Greenburgh Receives Grant to Improve Water Infrastructure

By Pat Casey

Greenburgh has received a grant of almost \$5 million from the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation to upgrade its water booster infrastructure in Consolidated Water District 1 (CWD #1).

The grant is earmarked for a project to improve the aging Knollwood pumping station, which serves most of the Town of Greenburgh, and link it to the Rumbrook pumping station, which currently only directs most of its supply to the Village of Irvington.

When the Knollwood station is taken offline for repairs, the link between the two stations will allow the Rumbrook pumps to feed water to the rest of the Town of Greenburgh, and vice versa should the need arise.

CWD #1 serves over 10,300 customers,

adding chemicals for secondary disinfection and corrosion control, and boosting pressure for distribution.

The water supply for CWD #1 is drawn from the New York City Catskill and Delaware Aqueduct system.

A study, completed in 2014, recommended constructing a water supply transmission main from the Rumbrook station to the vicinity of the Knollwood station, where it would connect into the various transmission lines exiting the Knollwood station to distribute water to the CWD #1 in a manner similar to what is currently accomplished by the Knollwood station alone.

According to the environmental documents related to the study, if this transmission main were to serve

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Business Group: Airport Noise Complaints Come From Few Residents

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester's largest business organization presented statistics last week showing a colossal spike in noise complaints lodged against Westchester Airport dating back to last year but most of those were registered by relatively few households.

John Ravitz, the chief operating officer for the Business Council of Westchester (BCW), said in the one-year period from May 2017 to May 2018 complaints skyrocketed more than 6,600 percent. Ravitz questioned whether public discussion of the airport's future and it being a key issue in last year's county executive's race are the reasons behind the extreme jump.

"We as an organization, we as residents



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

John Ravitz, chief operating officer for the Business Council of Westchester, points out startling statistics about noise complaints at Westchester Airport.

of Westchester County, we want to understand what noise complaints there are, we want to be able to address them and hold people accountable," Ravitz said. "The airlines need to be held accountable if there are issues to be resolved with legitimate noise complaints."

To highlight the council's argument, Ravitz said the organization obtained statistics from the county's monthly Airport Monitor that

reported 51 noise complaints lodged from 21 households in May 2017 in communities in close proximity to the airport. In January 2017, there had been only 38 complaints.

However, during the course of the next 12 months the number of complaints each month exploded, jumping to 200 in July 2017, to 712 in September and more than 1,800 each in October and November 2017 and January 2018.

In May 2018, the last month official statistics have been released, there were 3,425 complaints but from only 87 households. Just four households in Armonk accounted for 2,033 of the complaints, followed by 36 households lodging 783 complaints in Pleasantville.

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Business Group: Airport Noise Complaints Come From Few Residents *continued from page 1*

Another four households in Purchase registered 336 complaints and 21 Chappaqua households submitted 210 complaints, easily the four communities with the highest number.

Meanwhile, there were more than 1,700 fewer flights – 14,602 to 12,867 – when comparing May 2017 to May 2018.

Ravitz said while credible noise complaints must be taken seriously, the statistics shed new light on the issue. He said those homeowners should allow monitors to be placed on their property.

“We want noise complaints to be addressed, we want legitimate noise complaints for the communities that we serve in to have the proper oversight and the proper enforcement, if necessary,” Ravitz said. “But it’s hard to legitimize real complaints when you see these types of numbers because it skews everything.”

“This is us having to say, let’s look at these numbers and let’s see where they’re coming from and what’s really going on in this community,” said Marsha Gordon, president and CEO of the BCW.

Last summer, the BCW formed

the Coalition for Westchester, which is comprised of some of its member businesses. The organization has supported having an outside company operate the airport and wants enhancement of the facility since it is such an important engine for the county’s economy.

Peter Schlactus, a spokesman for the Coalition to Prevent Westchester Airport Expansion and a member of the county’s Airport Advisory Board, said the numbers of residents who have complained are misleading because historically no changes have come from the objections so people stop reporting noise problems. There are others who aren’t aware of how to file a noise complaint and will suffer in silence while other residents repeatedly report out of frustration.

“There are people who have dedicated themselves to showing just how frequent, bothersome and painful the episodes have become,” Schlactus said.

Several outspoken area residents who have reported sharp increases in aircraft traffic in the past year or two, questioned the BCW’s motives. Chappaqua resident

Suzanne Chazin said it appears the noise problem is being dismissed by the organization as a “couple of cranks” complaining rather than a larger problem.

From about Memorial Day weekend through summer, it is now impossible to sit outside on Friday and Sunday afternoons and evenings, she said.

“I’ve lived in the same house for 20 years. It’s only been a problem, I’d say, for the last three, so it’s not like I just discovered something,” Chazin said. “This is a change.”

Mara Van Fleet, another Chappaqua resident, said it’s not just the frequency of flights, which have increased, it appears the aircraft are approaching lower and are larger. Van Fleet said she tracked 158 flights last Friday that flew over or near her house. Some of the planes were only two minutes apart.

“It’s just feels like a free-for-all in the sky,” she said.

Jonathan Wang, a Purchase resident and co-founder of Executive Director of Citizens for a Responsible County Airport as well as a member of the

county Airport Advisory Board, said the BCW has aviation interests, including private carriers Million Air and Skyqueen Enterprises that are part of the coalition. Wang said that non-commercial aviation accounts for more than 80 percent of the flight traffic.

Ravitz said he applauded County Executive George Latimer for following through on securing about \$4 million for the runway repaving project next year. He said the Airport Advisory Board went as far as to pass a resolution to halt all capital expenditures at the airport until the master plan supplement is complete.

A spokesperson for Latimer said the schedule has that project ready to go out to bid in February.

Ravitz said the BCW does not support airport expansion but airport enhancement because it is such a vital transportation hub.

“Let’s keep our eye on the prize and the eye on the prize is enhancing Westchester Airport,” he said. “It’s good for the business community, the neighboring community and the travel community.”

Greenburgh Receives Grant to Improve Water Infrastructure

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the demands of the CWD #1 alone, the main would be 24 to 30-inches in diameter. However, the documents state, discussions are currently underway with the Westchester Joint Water Works (WJAW) to potentially share some or all of the transmission main with the

Town. If this sharing is pursued, the transmission main could potentially be up to 42-inches diameter.

The water supply transmission main would run below grade from the Rumbrook pumping station, north through a heavily vegetated area in East

Rumbrook Park. From there, it would cross over-top of the Catskill Aqueduct, underneath the Sprain Brook Parkway via a trenchless piping installation method, through streets in residential neighborhoods in the subsurface north along Pomander Drive, southeast

along Canterbury Road, northeast along Hartsdale Road, east along Old Knollwood Road, and south along Stadium Road to the vicinity of the Knollwood pumping station, which is located at the intersection of Stadium Road and Knollwood Road (Route 100A).

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Examiner Attorney: Swastika Vandal Should Be Charged

The vandal who defaced a copy of The Northern Westchester Examiner with swastikas and the letters KKK should be criminally charged, the newspaper's lawyer contends in a letter he's preparing to send this week to the Peekskill Police Department, the District Attorney's Office and other relevant officials.

The man who committed the act admitted his guilt to Peekskill police but authorities concluded that while the act was wrong, it was not criminal.

But Todd Fishlin, an attorney representing Examiner Media, argues authorities should charge the perpetrator.

"Out of respect for all the families who fought and died against the Nazis in World War II, we owe it to those who sacrificed to prosecute all those who would seek to encourage the bigotry, hatred and murder the Nazis were responsible for causing," said Fishlin of the Manhattan and Westchester-based law firm of Fishlin & Fishlin. "If we fail to prosecute this narrow exception to the First Amendment because we are afraid we won't get a conviction, we dishonor our veterans. The DA should bring a charge, come what may at trial. This country desperately needs a reinforcement of the values of the Greatest Generation."

Last week, a SUNY Purchase student was charged with Aggravated Harassment in the First Degree, a class E felony, for hanging posters with Nazi symbols on



Defaced copy of The Northern Westchester Examiner from November.

campus. Fishlin believes the cases are similar from a legal perspective, arguing there are "only subtle differences."

The crime of Aggravated Harassment requires proof of intent to harass, annoy or threaten another person by using swastikas, nooses or burning crosses, Fishlin stated.

"Clearly the individual at Purchase making and hanging Nazi posters

intended someone to see them. The intent of the man drawing Nazi symbols on the Examiner is not as clear, which is why I believe a charge has not been brought," Fishlin explained. "Whether a charge is brought comes from a standard analysis performed by police and district attorneys and it's completely within their discretion. They want to win the cases they bring. However, I believe the police and the district attorneys should bring a charge here even if there is a less likely chance of proving intent."

Police identified the man who committed the newspaper defacing act at Chase bank on Nov. 14 with the help of surveillance cameras at the 1025 Brown St. branch. The reader who originally discovered the defaced copy at the bank alerted police and the newspaper, prompting the probe. That week's lead story, in the Nov. 13-Nov. 19 edition of The Northern Westchester Examiner, was about the election to Congress of Yorktown High School graduate

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who is of Puerto Rican descent. Although authorities maintained an arrest could not be made, in part, because a newspaper is not private property, police wanted to investigate regardless as part of an effort to deter future incidents. Police told Examiner Media last week that detectives located the perpetrator, who admitted to committing the act, but the department is not releasing his name.

"These kinds of acts can't be tolerated in our city," Detective Sgt. Jack Galusha remarked. "The snowball effect of a seemingly minor act of hate going unchecked could become a major issue. I'm glad to have sharp detectives that rarely forget a face or name."

Examiner Publisher Adam Stone said he is grateful to Peekskill police for what he characterized as excellent detective work in locating the perpetrator but believes a criminal charge would send a much stronger message.

"It's not just the committed neo-Nazis we have to worry about in this era of hate," Stone said. "It's also the people not previously inclined to hate who adopt the neo-Nazis' violent ideas and symbols in ways large and small. Allowing these poisonous ideas to fester presents a great danger to our communities."

Millie Jasper, executive director of the White Plains-based Holocaust & Human

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Kesten Hosts First Coalition Forum Focusing on Political Change

By James Miranda

It didn't take long for Robert Kesten to resume fighting for issues that he cares deeply about.

Kesten hosted the first community forum for Coalition New York in Sleepy Hollow on Dec. 10 that brought community activists together to start a conversation about how best to influence change.

Coalition New York, which formed out of Kesten's unsuccessful candidacy earlier this year for the Democratic nomination for the 40th state Senate

JAMES MIRANDA PHOTO



Robert Kesten speaks to about 50 audience members last Monday in Sleepy Hollow on how best to influence progressive changes at the local, state and national levels.

District, aims to give people "ownership" of the political process instead of through other organizations, he said. The meeting was scheduled to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in hopes of initiating community discussion on how to produce change on the local, state and national levels.

"The whole declaration's reason of coming about is because people have to be thought of before politics, before economics, before all the other things that we've seen get placed in front of people, which have led us to a world that is really not sympathetic to humanity and human dignity," Kesten said. "The hope is that local people will take it over in their own communities. The idea of it is to form coalitions, so that people can work together."

Bringing the community together in one room to search for ways to unify and take control of the political process was one of the goals of the event.

"I think people need to take a deep breath and pay attention to what's going on (in the world)," said Sr. Bette Ann Jaster, a member of the Dominican Sisters of Hope in Ossining. "It's such a unique idea to reach out to people who aren't in your neighborhood, culture or financial area. Everyone has something to offer."

Following a brief reading of the UDHR, Kesten asked the roughly 50 people who attended the forum to reflect on the 30 articles within the UDHR – which was founded by Eleanor Roosevelt in 1948 – and discuss ones they felt have been violated in their lives.

Much of the ensuing discussion during the two-hour meeting centered on why America is polarized. Unifying society is difficult if not impossible, according to Kesten, but part of forming Coalition New York was to start looking at why there hasn't been greater traction in making change.

"[This event] was a good starting point for getting a large group of progressive people to attempt to redirect how New York state is going to govern," said Baila Lemonik, a Mahopac resident. "I think we have to come together and get rid of all the hate in this country that's emanating from Washington and making people so polarized."

Kesten ended the event by asking the audience to consider three ways they would recommend to help bring people together.

The next Coalition New York meeting will discuss those topics and be held sometime after New Year's.

For more information, visit the Coalition New York Facebook page.

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Police Blotter

Student Charged With Hate Crime at SUNY Purchase

Gunnar Hassard was arraigned in Harrison Town Court for Aggravated Harassment in the First Degree, a class E felony, for hanging posters with Nazi symbolism in areas of the SUNY Purchase campus.

On the evening of Dec. 8, during the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah, the felony complaint alleges that 18-year-old Gunnar Hassard of Oneonta, NY, and a student at SUNY Purchase, hung multiple posters, which incorporated a swastika and symbols of Nazi Germany, on and near the Humanities Building.

The complaint states that the defendant posted multiple flyers on the campus "frequented and utilized by members of the Jewish community...causing alarm, fear and annoyance to the members of the campus community during the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah."

New York State University Police arrested Hassard and charged him with Aggravated Harassment, a hate crime which specifically states a person is guilty of this crime when one "Etches, paints, draws upon or otherwise places a swastika, commonly exhibited as the emblem of



Gunnar Hassard

Nazi Germany, on any building or other real property..."

Bail was set at \$5,000 cash or bond. His next court date is scheduled for Jan. 8, 2019.

Examiner Attorney: Swastika Vandal Should Be Charged

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Rights Education Center, said that while she commends the Peekskill Police Department for its investigation, she believes there should be consequences.

"We believe that many bias-related incidents are the result of ignorance rather than malice so our overall goal is to educate and sensitize the offender – changing and rechanneling the bigoted and prejudicial attitude that often results in hostile and offensive acts," Jasper said. "We endeavor to foster tolerance for others, and respect for diversity. To that end, we hope that the judicial system insists that the guilty party be mandated to learn more about the effect hateful words, symbols and actions have on our society. To deface The Northern Westchester Examiner newspaper with

hateful symbols – swastikas and KKK signs – without consequence shows the perpetrator that these actions are not only allowed, but encouraged."

The number of reported hate crime incidents in 2017 jumped 17 percent over 2016 totals, according to the most recent F.B.I. data released last month.

The Westchester District Attorney's Hate Crimes Unit confirmed last week that the office agrees with the conclusion of Peekskill police that no crime was committed.

"The District Attorney's Office stands by the determination made by the Peekskill Police Department that it is not a criminal act," the District Attorney's Public Information Officer Helen Jonsen said.

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Rockefeller Preserve Named to State Register of Historic Places

A multiyear effort by The Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve culminated in early December when the New York State Historic Review Board voted unanimously to designate the preserve and its 65-mile carriage road network for inclusion on the State Register of Historic Places.

The designation recognizes the unique beauty and character of the 16-foot-wide, crushed-stone pathways designed by John D. Rockefeller Sr. and his son, John D. Jr., over more than 40 years from 1910 into the 1950s. The winding carriage roads are the signature feature giving the preserve its distinctive and elegant look and feel and are integral to its overall appeal.

The network is one of only two such extensive systems in the nation. The other, in Acadia National Park in Maine

and also Rockefeller-designed, already has historic designation. The preserve's network includes well-engineered loops that traverse the property offering stunning vistas. Numerous stone bridges carry them across the Pocantico River and are noteworthy. More than 400,000 visitors from around the world walk the roads each year, joined by countless joggers and equestrians.

"The Rockefeller Pocantico Hills Historic District, which includes Rockefeller State Park Preserve and the magnificent network of carriage roads, is truly deserving of the nomination to the State and National Registers of Historic Places," said State Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey. "The nomination honors the conservation ethic and philanthropy that made the Rockefeller family among America's greatest benefactors of

public park land."

Ann Rockefeller Roberts, author of "Mr. Rockefeller's Roads," added "My grandfather, John D. Rockefeller Jr., introduced me to these roads at an early age -he taught us to ride, and we each came to love these roads and the out of doors through him. I have walked and ridden on horseback and in carriages along these roads with my own children and grandchildren. My grandfather's desire in creating these roads was that people from all walks of life would be able to receive nature's blessings."

George Gumina, founder of The Friends of Rockefeller State Park Preserve, said he was deeply appreciative that the state has recognized the preserve's historic value and the 100-year-old carriage roads by placing them on the Historic Register.

"They represent not only an important

part of the history of Westchester County but also of the Rockefeller Family," Gumina said. "The Friends group was inspired by the family's vision and we are pleased to see that vision fulfilled with this momentous action."

The preserve was one of 16 properties voted to the State Register. It is also in line for designation on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Friends of Rockefeller State Park Preserve received letters of support from several public officials including Rep. Nita Lowey and Westchester County Executive George Latimer along with organizations throughout Westchester County. This designation expands opportunities for federal and state tax credits and grants to support restoration, local tourism and economic development initiatives.

Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter Begins 2019 New Member Initiative

The Ruth Lyon Bush Chapter, (Rye-Port Chester) National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is beginning its new member initiative for Spring 2019.

Membership is open to any eligible woman, 18 years or older, who can prove lineal bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American Independence. DAR helps prospective members trace their history

with genealogists.

Donna Kent Franklin, the current Regent of Ruth Lyon Bush Chapter, said, "This is not your grandmother's DAR."

The group has changed since she joined under her mother's lineage in 1977. The group stresses community services for veterans and efforts in historic preservation and education for patriotism. In addition to ongoing efforts

to support veterans, the DAR supports scholarships, good citizen's awards for high school students, and promotes appreciation of historic properties and programs. The DAR regularly attends Naturalization Court to welcome new American citizens.

Recent service projects have included cooking dinner at My Sister's Place in White Plains, providing care packages to

a platoon in Afghanistan, Wreaths Across America, and "Bunny Baskets" for DAR schools in needy areas.

A full program of activities is planned for Spring 2019, including member socials, field trips, and program meetings. Events will be posted every month.

Anyone interested in joining should contact Joan Cresap at JMCESQNY@aol.com.

Westchester County Offers Residents Certificates to Reduce College Tuition Costs

Westchester residents can reduce their cost of tuition at community colleges outside of the County.

Certificates of Residence, which can be obtained from the Department of Finance, qualify students for residential rates at two-year SUNY and CUNY colleges. So far, 1,742 certificates have been issued in 2018. That number is expected to be closer to 2,000 as students

begin to submit applications for the Spring 2019 semester.

Commissioner of Finance Ann Marie Berg said the department has seen an increase in the number of applications over the last few years.

Berg said: "With online classes it's even more popular because people can easily take classes outside of the County."

Students have a 90-day window, 60

days before and 30 days after the start of the semester, to apply for a certificate and send it to their schools. Each certificate is valid for one year and one school. If students take classes at more than one school they must apply for multiple certificates.

"There is no cost involved to get the certificate," said Berg. "If you meet the resident requirement for Westchester

and New York State and are attending a community college outside of Westchester County you'll get the financial benefit."

Students, who have lived in Westchester for six months, and New York State for one year, qualify for the Program.

Applications can be found on the Department of Finance's website and must be submitted by mail.

NYS Senator Shelley Mayer Appointed to Chair Senate Education Committee

State Senator Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers) was appointed Chair of the State Senate Education Committee on Dec. 11. Senator Mayer was elected to the State Senate in April 2018 in a Special Election, and she was re-elected in November to serve a district, which runs from the City of Yonkers to the

Town of Bedford. The 37th State Senate District includes the Cities of Yonkers, White Plains, Rye and New Rochelle; the Towns of Bedford, Eastchester, Harrison, North Castle, Mamaroneck, and Rye; the Villages of Bronxville, Larchmont, Harrison, Mamaroneck, Port Chester, Rye Brook, and Tuckahoe; and

the unincorporated places of Katonah, Bedford Hills, and Armonk.

"I am honored to be appointed Chair of the NYS Senate Education Committee, and I thank State Senate Democratic Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins for placing her confidence in me," said Mayer. "Delivering for our public school children and our public schools has always been one of my top priorities. ... I look forward to working with my colleagues and the Governor's office

to ensure that all public schools have the policies and resources they need to provide a quality education regardless of their zip code."

Senator Mayer has served as the Ranking Member on the Education Committee since her election to the State Senate in April 2018. During her term in the State Assembly, Mayer served on the Assembly Education Committee for four years and as Chair of the Subcommittee on Students with Special Needs.

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Obituaries

Gail P. Robinson

After a brief illness, Gail P. Robinson of White Plains passed away on Dec. 12.

She was born on Oct. 23, 1942 to Edna and Luther Adams.

Gail attended White Plains public schools through high school and earned a BS from Manhattanville College.



Gail Robinson

She married Reginald Robinson in 1969 and, from that union, bore a son, Shawne David.

Gail worked in the banking industry in various capacities until her retirement in 2003. After leaving the corporate environment, she found her life-long passion in elementary education and had a long-term assignment at Mamaroneck Avenue School in White Plains until the onset of her illness.

She was highly valued for her strength of character, ability to manage difficult situations, authenticity and commitment to excellence. Gail was known for being a devoted mother and grandmother, loving sister, loyal friend, fashion icon and baker extraordinaire.

Left to mourn her are a son Shawne, a daughter-in-law Michellana, three grandsons Myles, Ian, and Cole of Andover, MA, a step-daughter Shelby of New Rochelle, a sister Karen Gadson-Tapp, a "favorite" brother-in-law Kenneth Tapp of White Plains, a brother Brian Adams, a sister-in-law Sharon of Conyers, GA, and a host of relatives and friends.

She was predeceased by her husband and parents.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Mamaroneck Avenue School. All donations in the form of a check should be made payable to WPCSD. In the memo area, please state MAS-Gail Robinson. Donations can be dropped off at the school or mailed to MAS, 7 Nosband Avenue, White Plains, NY 10605.



John W. Bell

John W. Bell, a White Plains resident, died Dec. 11. He was 66.

John was born July 18, 1952 to the late William and Marion Bell.

He worked for over 35 years with the Local 21 Plumbers & Steamfitters.



John Bell

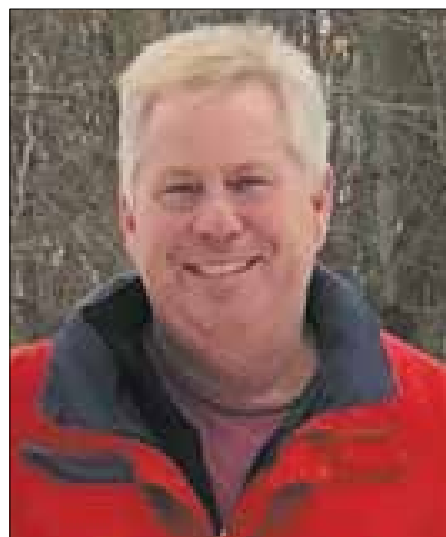
John was an avid NY Giant and NY Mets fan and had been a season ticket holder to the Giants for 30 years.

He is survived by his sister Nancy Bell of White Plains, his aunt Diane Smith of White Plains, several cousins and many friends.

Michael J. Clancy

Michael J. Clancy of White Plains died on Dec. 10.

He was born on April 1, 1962 in New York City to Jenny (nee) Brzezinski and Patrick Clancy. The youngest of four sons, Patrick Jr. (Maureen), James (Susan), Edward (Cathleen), Michael was raised in River Edge, New Jersey, attending St.



Michael Clancy

Peter's Academy, Bergen Catholic High School and graduating from Manhattan College in NYC.

Michael joined the NYPD on Jan. 3, 1983, where he met and married his wife, Dianne (nee) Bronski of 31 years. Together they welcomed two beautiful children, Susan and Daniel.

The Family are residents of White Plains.

Michael's Police career lasted 31 years, 21 of them with the NYPD Crime Scene Unit where Mike was a Sergeant, Supervisor Detective Squad. When the terrorist attacks of 9-11 happened, Michael and his teams spent countless days helping to recover and identify the victims of the attack. Michael retired in April of 2014 and looked forward to spending more time traveling with his family.

Michael was a voracious reader, often consuming two or three books at the same time. His love of music, especially The Grateful Dead, is well known. He enjoyed painting, fishing, long walks with "Whiskey" the family dog, but most of all spending time with his family and friends. Michael leaves behind his family, countless aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. He left us much too soon. We are heartbroken and know there is one more angel in Heaven.

Mary Margaret Guerriere

Mary Margaret Guerriere (nee Kapp) formerly of Belleair, FL and Mashpee, MA died Oct. 26, after a long illness.

She was 85.

A beautiful and gregarious woman, she left a positive impression on all those she met.

Born and raised in Rego Park, Queens, Mary attended The Mary Lewis Academy in Jamaica Estates. She and her family



Mary Margaret Guerriere

moved to Port Chester and she was graduated from St. Gabriel High School in New Rochelle. She became a Registered Nurse after studying at St. Vincent's Hospital in Greenwich Village. Later, while raising her family in White Plains, she earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Pace University.

Mary met John Guerriere while he was serving in the US Navy during the Korean Conflict and the sailor and nurse were married in 1954.

After living briefly in Queens and East Northport, LI, they moved to White Plains

in 1961 to raise their five children. Mary eventually returned to nursing, working in the Emergency Room at St. Agnes Hospital in White Plains, rising to Head Nurse. She then accepted a position with IBM where she would lead the Medical Department at the corporate offices in Armonk.

Upon their retirements in 1987, John and Mary moved to Belleair, FL, where she became a part-time visiting nurse and volunteered at St. Vincent de Paul. She was also an avid golfer.

In 1991, they purchased a summer home in Mashpee, MA, and Mary volunteered at the local St. Vincent de Paul, tended to her large vegetable garden and enjoyed golf and the beach.

Mary was always quick to smile and had a great sense of humor. She never failed to see the positive in others. With all of her accomplishments, her greatest joy derived from her children and grandchildren. As a mother, she was nurse, counselor, tutor and friend. To her family and friends, she was always understanding and generous with her time and love. She will be missed.

Mary was predeceased by her husband John. She is survived by her five children: John (Suellyn), Denise (Joseph), James, Terence (Corinna) and Marianne (Jeffrey), 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren and by her siblings John (Anita), Robert (Lois, predeceased), and Margaret (Gerald).

A memorial service will be planned for some time after the first of the year.

For those who wish to make a donation in her name, please consider Cure Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP.org).



Boomerang

The New American Cool, the Fifties, Fins, Fenders and Frets



By Richard Cirulli

In this installment of "Boomerang" we will continue on from previous columns with a few more unsung heroes who influenced the early popular culture of the Boomers.

The genesis of the Sixties ethos was heavily influenced by the Fifties, the era when adolescent Boomers began to transition into their rebellious teen years. For those of us, who are now classically matured, and can recall those days with some degree of clarity and nostalgia, the Fifties were a time when cars were designed by human stylists who branded their models with unique signature designs.

Unlike today's cars designed by computers and wind tunnels, in order to comply with federal standards and safety regulations, the automobiles of the Fifties made a statement when consumers craved for product designs that emulated the jet-age future. Although today's models are technical wonders, they all share the same generic body geometry, with their respective brands only identified by logos on the hood.

In post World War II America, the

call to futuristic design was answered by Harley Earl, a designer working for General Motors. He introduced America to the rear tail fin when he placed them on the 1948 Cadillac. Earl set the corner stone for America's automotive architecture with his rising fins scraping the high skies of American prosperity. Earl complemented his fins with indulgent chrome everywhere, and left in its wake more glamour, weight and consumer hyperbole. Earl created America's love affair with the car by making them an extension of personality, by jettisoning their image as utility vehicles, and making it "cool" just to cruise around.

If you have an interest in automobile history, I would suggest reading "Fins," by William Knoedelseder.

During the 1950s America was free to cruise the new Interstate Highway System, compliments of President Eisenhower's Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956. It took 35 years to complete and eventually spanned 48,181 miles.

It was also during this time that "cool" as multipurpose slang (meaning not square) became prevalent. By 1960, cool

made it into Life Magazine.

Earl's sweeping (un-square) sheet metal designs were the material manifestation of the new American "cool" as America's youth cruised down highways in their sheet-metal mobile sculptures, with the radios cranked up blasting the new music of guitar-driven rock and roll.

While Earl was transforming the American auto industry by placing fins and chrome on his cars, Leo Fender was busy in his shop tinkering with chrome electric pick-ups on a slab of solid wood. Working on what may be considered to be one of the most transforming inventions in the history of popular music, the electric solid body guitar.

Fender's first commercially successful guitar was the Telecaster, identifiable by its unmistakable steely and twangy tones, dear to both country and rock guitarists searching for a lead tone that could punch through the densest of instrumental mixes and rhythm sections.

The Telecaster was designed as a working-class instrument, and has been compared with Henry Ford and his Model T, since it was affordable and easily repaired (Tolinski and DiPerna 2016).

Fender soon followed up his success

with the legendary Stratocaster with its three pick-ups that offered a broad range of new tonalities, warm timbre, and steely tone delivered from its curvy double-cutaway design. The Stratocaster's quality and versatility has placed it in the hands of the best guitarists in the music industry ranging from country, to rock, and jazz.

In closing, many fellow guitarists worth their salt would agree the Tele and the Strat are still their axe of choice.

Worth noting, the Cadillac is hardly distinguishable from its competition, designed by computers and built by robots. In contrast, the Tele and the Strat are still designed by human ingenuity and built with human hands; truly an anachronism, though still an American treasure and icon.

Thank you Leo Fender.

Dr. Richard Cirulli is a retired Professor of Business, consultant, writer, Playwright, author, Innocent Bystander, Author of "The Songs of Roland" and critic at large. He looks forward to your comments at profcirulli@optonline.net

Guest Column



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Finding Coziness on a Cold Winter's Day – and in Life



By Joanne Witmyer

Years ago, I offered a seemingly straightforward compliment to a work colleague from Denmark about her impressive wardrobe of hand-knitted woolen sweaters and scarves.

This led to an intriguing conversation in which she explained to me how creating, supporting and discussing warmth, togetherness and comfort are absolutely integral to the culture and history of Denmark. There is even a Danish word to capture this concept: hygge (pronounced hue-gah).

The idea of hygge is challenging to translate directly to English. It's a noun and is perhaps best described as a calm, comfortable time with people you love; a complete absence of frustrations or anything emotionally overwhelming, often enjoyed with good food and drinks, warm blankets and candlelight.

From what I learned, wearing warm woolen sweaters, scarves and socks during the cold-weather months is all part of the hygge experience. But it's so much deeper than that. It is rooted in a Norwegian word that means well-being. The well-being that comes from cultivating comfort and happiness from experiencing coziness and engaging all of the senses as much as we can.

Now, I am further researching to write this column for readers. So, I am all at once: having a bowl of soup (taste), listening to a vinyl jazz record (sound), lighting a candle (scent), enjoying a ceramic mug of tea (feel) and watching the rainfall outside (sight). These all lead to an overall feeling of well-being and comfort for me.

Okay, as for many of us, given the reality of daily life I don't expect to be in a position to have all or perhaps most of these elements in place going forward.

But, if we can each try our best to build just one piece of these into our day when we can, especially during moments of stress or unease, that goes a long way to helping us unwind, feel connection and experience a sense of well-being. Some of us may

be more drawn to different expressions of creating coziness. Hygge can also be expressed as a verb, when you are seeking an active way to cultivate the feeling of well-being I described.

I look forward to hearing from you about what has helped you. Happy holidays.

Joanne Witmyer is the founder of Indigo Health and Wellness based in Croton-on-Hudson. She teaches group classes, offers wellness consulting to companies and helps private clients achieve their health goals – particularly during times of change and transition. You can reach Joanne at 914-208-1022 or Joanne@IndigoHW.com.

Guest Column

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Outside Holiday Decorations – for the Child in All of Us

Among all the holidays of my life, the one I remember most vividly is Christmas when I was seven years old, living in a row home in Philadelphia. That was the year my parents suggested that I could have a holiday party and invite the neighborhood kids to see our gigantic tree, decorated to the nines with hundreds of balls and demonstrating our family's specialty skill with hanging lead tinsel so precisely on each branch that it created a cascading effect of a frozen waterfall.

I loved decorating the lower branches with this material until it was discontinued in 1972 at the suggestion of the Food and Drug Administration, claiming that the lead posed a threat to children.

My particular delight was that at our tree's base was an oval track where a Lionel train, originally my dad's from the 1930s, chugged along with a clatter that I can still hear in my head. My brother Bobby, six years older than I, to whom Dad's set was given, allowed me to lie to my friends and say the train set was mine rather than his, and that I could operate it myself as long as he was present to supervise.

My preeminence for holiday decoration and wonder was short-lived, however, when my arch nemesis who lived next door, Joey Delayo, announced that his dad was decorating his front porch with strings of colored lights and we were all invited to

come see it that evening. Christmas decoration outside, I wondered? I had never seen it.

Sure enough, later that evening, Joey's dad flipped the switch on what seemed to be endless strings of lights on the porch, illuminating the brick facades of the entire block. And Joey beamed as his mom handed out candy canes to all the children who came to see the only outdoor display on the block. God, I hated that kid.

When I asked my dad if we could also decorate outside for Christmas, he said it was a waste of time and money. "Why decorate for the neighbors?" I remember him saying.

Today, more and more homeowners want to decorate for the neighbors. Whenever I see a home with its lawn highly decked out for the holidays, I get the urge to pull up, knock on the door and meet the owners. I'm sure that they would be great people who love children and probably are still as wondrous



By Bill Primavera

as kids themselves.

In my old neighborhood, I remember the most talked about home at Halloween was owned by a fellow named Dominic who lived on a quiet street with his wife and three children. His lawn was a dark wonderland of scary figures, more than life-sized, in various guises and contraptions, from execution in an electric chair to scenarios with video amplification, music and smoke.

One year, I stopped and knocked on his door, but Domenic wasn't home. However, a young mother was walking past the house with her two children, ages 8 and 4. When I asked what they thought of their neighbor's display, the woman told me with great animation about all of its special effects.

I later reached out to Domenic by phone and asked whether he knocked himself out each year for the children or for himself.

"It's both," he said, explaining that it's "in

his blood." "My parents always decorated their lawn and instilled the fun of it in me. Now my dad comes to help me build new devices to add to my collection."

The scary fun of Halloween seems poised to overtake the serenity of Christmas in terms of money outlay. The National Retail Association reports that today we spend about \$8 billion on costumes and outside decorations for Halloween, more than double of what was spent in 2005.

What happened to the day when my biggest effort in entertaining my child for Halloween was to carve out a pumpkin and place a candle inside?

As for that Lionel train set, my very kind and generous brother Bobby, knowing how sentimental I was about it, presented it as a gift to me several years ago. Since then, sadly, my brother has died but I think of him at least once daily because the train set sits in a large box in the corner of my office, awaiting the opportunity to once again provide noisy entertainment around the base of my Christmas tree.

Bill Primavera, while a publicist and journalist, is also a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. (www.PrimaveraPR.com). To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

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Continuing on the Spanish Wine Trail With Your Wine Guy



By Nick Antonaccio

Yes, we're still touring – and enjoying Spain's geography, culture, cuisine and wines. This week on our virtual tour we're leaving the coastal regions and heading inland.

With every step we take into Spain's past, literally and figuratively, we find a bright and exotic present. From the blending of old and new architecture to the revitalization of the wine industry, Spain continues to rise in esteem throughout the world, a direct reflection of its ancestral roots of the 15th and 16th centuries and the Age of Exploration, when Spain dominated the Western Hemisphere.

'traveling to the heart of the Priorato and Montsant regions'

On our virtual tour we leave Barcelona and head toward the foothills of the Montsant and Priorato regions. Priorato is the smaller of the two regions; in fact, it is surrounded by the Montsant region, making it difficult at times for our virtual GPS to know in which region we are

traversing. We are traveling to the heart of Priorato on this trip, justifiably considered one of the top wine regions in all of Spain.

Soon we notice the landscape changing as steep terraces loom in the near distance. The vines planted here appear as long wavy rows, undulating up and over the hilltops, giving the impression of rows of camouflaged soldiers in strict military formations. (A great photo op.) These terraces enjoy abundant sun and a unique slate soil that infuse the grapes with great body and strength.

The dominant grape variety is Garnacha, followed by Cariñena, with an uncharacteristic smattering of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot used for balancing the intense fruits and rough edges of the Garnacha. The wines are deep purple in color and full-bodied, with flavors of plums and blackberries, not to mention alcohol levels ranging above 13 percent.

Why have these wines become so highly regarded? It's all about time and place. Today, the newest generation of Spaniards, the EU generation, has a sophisticated view of life and their place in the world. They have transformed their homeland. No longer is Spain a self-centered, quixotic nation of tumultuous politics, civil war and agrarian economics. Instead,

they have catapulted their homeland to the forefront of new age cuisine, art, architecture and wine making, all the while retaining their unique heritage, masterfully blending the best of the old and the new. If only they could solve their nation's ongoing economic woes.

This new-age sensibility on winemaking is most evident in the Priorato region. Long a sleepy wine region, the EU generation has transformed the Priorato into a highly regarded wine appellation. By looking outward, they have incorporated the best equipment, practices and techniques that are prevalent in global winemaking, including a revitalized respect for the land. The Priorato region now produces some of the most sought after wines in Spain. The young winemakers have embraced the land's unique soil and climate, while retaining the widespread plantings of old vines. From this base they are producing wines of intense flavors and balance.

Here are examples of Priorato wines available locally. At the high end are Clos Erasmus, Mas Doix and Clos Mogador, selling above \$60. (Notice the French-sounding names; the young winemakers received their education at the best French schools and wineries and these names

distinguish them from the old-world winemakers) These are blockbuster wines that won't reach their greatness for at least five years. For wines at the popular "under \$20" price point, try La Cartuja (\$19), Conreria d'Scala Dei (\$15) and Solanes (\$19).

The wines of the greater Montsant region are also noteworthy, having characteristics similar to Priorato wines. Try Clos Dels Codols (\$17), Cellar de Capcanes selections (from \$20) and one of my favorite blends, Can Blau (\$14).

As I write this column a time-worn phrase comes to mind: "Everything old is new again." In the Priorato region, the winemakers have embraced this maxim and the results are far better than the wines of "the good old days."

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 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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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF 306 PRESCOTT STREET, LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/26/2018. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 7 **Arbor St, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF WEBER ROSSELLI & CANNON LLP filed with SSNY on 8/8/2018. Office in Westchester, SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 7 **Skyline Drive - Suite 350, Hawthorne, NY 10532. Purpose: any lawful purpose.**

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY OF SURETY TITLE AGENCY COASTAL REGION, L.L.C. filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/6/18. Formed in NJ on 10/12/99. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail copy of process to 853 Mill Creek Rd., Manahawkin, NJ 08050. The office

address required to be maintained in NJ is **11 Eves Dr., Ste. 150, Marlton, NJ 08053. Cert. of formation filed with State Treas., 33 W. State St., Trenton, NJ 08608. Purpose: Any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SU-JEAN STUDIO LLC filed with Secretary of State NY on 11/14/2018. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **33 Windmill Rd., Armonk NY 10504. Purpose: Any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SECOND MOUSE CHEESE, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on 10/18/2018. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **SECOND MOUSE CHEESE, LLC, 351 Manville Road, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that a license number PENDING for beer, liquor and wine has been applied for by the undersigned* to sell beer, liquor and wine at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 222 East Main Street, Store #1, Mount Kisco, in the County of Westchester for on-premises consumption. **TPM Partners, Inc. d/b/a Fiesta Cancun on Main**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF KABATCHNICK ENTERPRISE HOLDINGS LLC Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/7/2018. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **18 Belmont St., White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ROMANOFF ELEMENTS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/25/2018. Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to **Carol Romanoff 55 Byram Ridge Road, Armonk NY 10504 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, serial number pending, has been applied for by the undersigned to permit patrons to bring wine, beer and cider for on premises consumption under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 141 E. Post Rd., White Plains ,NY 10601 - **Am-badi Kebab and Grill Corp. d/b/a Am-badi Kebab and Grill.**

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Happenings

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, Dec. 18

Book Signing. Scarsdale resident Jill Mangel Weisfeld has published, *Riley the Retriever Wants a New Job*, a new children's book based on the adventures of her own dog, Riley, a certified therapy dog, trained by the Good Dog Foundation, who visits schools, libraries and nursing homes in the Westchester area. The book tells the adventures of Riley who is trying to find a more meaningful job than being a retriever. Riley begins her quest researching working dog jobs on "Doogle" to see if she can find one that's a better fit for her. The colorful illustrations by Shirley Ng Benitez bring Riley's adorable personality to life. Weisfeld wrote the book with her mother, Deborah Mangel, also a children's book author, who passed away not long before the book's publication. Reading at Scarsdale Library 4 to 4:30 p.m. followed by 4:30-4:45 p.m. book signing.

Vanessa Williams Holiday Benefit Concert. The multiplatinum recording artist and actress and Chappaqua resident will headline a holiday benefit concert for San Miguel Academy of Newburgh. The tuition-free, faith-based middle school for at-risk boys in Newburgh, N.Y. in grades 5-8 has become a steppingstone to a better life for its students and their families. Frank Shiner and his All-Star Band will open. Chappaqua Performing Arts Center, 480 Bedford Rd., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. \$100 and up. Info and tickets: Visit www.chappaquapac.org.

Wednesday, Dec. 19

WinterFest. WinterFest, presented by the City of White Plains and Bensidoun USA, kicks off on Dec. 19 and runs through Sunday, Dec. 23. The Market will be located on Court Street between Martine Avenue and Main Street (the same location as the Farmer's Market) and will be open Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is free. Entertainment schedule, vendors and food.

Slam Dunk Tournament. Eighteen high school basketball teams from

Westchester and nearby counties will face off in the 20th Annual Slam Dunk Tournament, which traditionally features some of the most exciting varsity hoops of the year, Wednesday, Dec. 19 to Saturday, Dec. 22, at the Westchester County Center in White Plains. Games are scheduled for 4:30 p.m., 6:15 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19 to Friday, Dec. 21. The schedule for Saturday, Dec. 22, is 11:15 a.m., 1 p.m., 2:45 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:15 p.m. and 8 p.m. The snow date is Dec. 23. Admission is \$5 per day. Tickets can be purchased at the County Center box office. Parking is \$10. The County Center is located at 198 Central Avenue, White Plains. A complete bracket of games and other info is available at countycenter.biz, or call 914-995-4050.

Musical Munchkins. Join Eileen Oddo in the Trove for two separate sessions of her Musical Munchkins class. Ages 0-2 10:30 a.m.; ages 2 to 4 11:15 a.m. White Plains Library, 10 Martine Ave., White Plains.

Noonday Getaway Concert: Angelica – a visit from this wonderful chamber choir, directed by Marie Caruso, has become a seasonal tradition for the Downtown Music audience. This year's program will

feature medieval and renaissance Yuletide selections plus Joshua Himes's stunning contemporary setting of *There Is No Rose* as well as seasonal favorites. Joining Angelica is percussionist Rex Benincasa. This concert is made possible, in part, with the generous support of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. Admission is free, donations are welcome; 12:15 p.m. Grace Episcopal Church, 33 Church Street (Main Street at Mamaroneck Avenue), White Plains.

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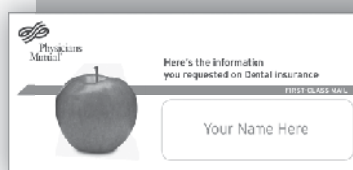
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Happenings

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Thursday, Dec. 20

Westchester's Winter Wonderland. A one-of-a-kind holiday event featuring the Santa Experience, unlimited skating, a circus, great rides, food trucks, gift vendors and more on weekends and select dates through December. Kensico Dam Plaza, 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla. 5 to 9 p.m. \$20. Continues Thursdays through Sundays through Dec. 23 and daily from Dec. 26 to 31. Thursdays, Sundays and Dec. 26, 27 and 31 from 5 to 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays from 5 to 10 p.m. Info: Visit www.Wwinterwonderland.com.

The Holiday Boutique at Philipsburg Manor. Holiday shoppers can browse local wares and support Historic Hudson Valley's educational programs while checking off their entire gift list. Stocked with Hudson Valley-inspired and holiday-themed merchandise, including artisan foods, books about the region, winter solstice-scented candles, handcrafted jewelry and regional artists' work, the shelves are full of unique items for everyone that can't be found elsewhere. Philipsburg Manor

Visitor Center, 381 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Open Thursdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. 5 p.m. and Sundays from 12 to 5 p.m. through Dec. 22. Info: Visit www.hudsonvalley.org.

"The Nutcracker." This production of the classic tale set to Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's score is presented by the great artists of The Royal Ballet. Bring the whole family to enjoy the magical adventures of Clara, who is given an enchanted nutcracker doll on Christmas Eve, defeats the Mouse King, visits the Kingdom of Sweets, meets the Sugar Plum Fairy and so much more. Choreographer Peter Wright's interpretation of "The Nutcracker" has been enchanting children and adults alike since its first performance by The Royal Ballet in 1984. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 6 p.m. Members: \$20. Non-members: \$30. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

"Axel Himelo's Christmas Fish Tale." The zany show is a seasonal slice of life in the fictitious small Gulf Coast hamlet of Ross Landing. The town and its eccentric folk provide local native Axel Himelo with a wealth of hilarious and often touching

stories. The one-man show is directed by Schoolhouse Theater Artistic Director Bram Lewis and stars celebrated writer/performer Vincent Park. Appropriate for people of any age with a funny bone. The Schoolhouse Theater & Arts Center, 3 Owens Rd., North Salem. \$38 Seniors: \$35. Also Dec. 21 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 22 and 23 at 3 and 8 p.m. Info and tickets: 914-277-8477 or visit www.schoolhousetheater.org.

Friday, Dec. 21

Winter Centerpieces. Create festive holiday arrangements with evergreens, ornaments and candles. Work with holly, white pines and cedar to bring a bit of nature to the table with festive color pops. Seasonal candies, berries and bows can be added to each to brighten up a table or entryway for your holiday gathering. Led by Charlotte Mouquin. For adults. Pelham Art Center, 155 Fifth Ave., Pelham. 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Members: \$41. Non-members: \$45. Info and registration: 914-738-2525 or visit www.pelhamartcenter.org.

Christmas Tree Sale. The North White Plains Fire Company No. 1 will again be selling Christmas trees this year as a fundraising event. Proceeds to benefit the fire company. All ages are welcome. North White Plains firehouse, 621 N. Broadway, North White Plains. 4 to 8 p.m. Parking free. Trees are priced according to size and type. 4 to 8 p.m. Also Dec. 22 and 23 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (unless sold out). Info: 914-949-3575 or e-mail ncsf1@optonline.net.

Holiday Howl for Pups of All Ages. Get outside during the holidays and learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why this season is such a magical time for packs in North America. Guests will assemble "wolfy" gifts for ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and then enjoy watching the wolves tear them open. Guests can also behold the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 5:30 p.m. Adults: \$16. Children (under 12): \$13. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Saturday, Dec. 22

Holiday Howl. Get outside during the holidays and learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why this season is such a magical time for packs in North America. Guests will assemble "wolfy" gifts for ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and then enjoy watching the wolves tear them open. Guests can also behold the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Adults: \$14. Children (under 12): \$11. Also Dec. 23 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and Dec. 26 at 11 a.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Full Moon Wolf Walk. Celebrate the December full moon with more than 40 moon-loving wolves. While enjoying

nature's winter chatter by the outdoor fire pit, guests will enjoy seasonal treats and the symphony of howls. Guests will learn about the history of wolves in the United States, their importance in a healthy ecosystem and the efforts to save these magnificent creatures for future generations. Guests will also take a short moonlit walk to visit ambassador wolves Alawa, Zephyr and Nikai. Please bring flashlights. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 5:30 p.m. \$20. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Holiday Dance Party. A good, old hip-shaking dance party with The Rock & Soul Revue. Led by keyboardist Ray Castoldi since its founding in 2005, the band strives to promote community, fun and self-expression through music. Listen to a repertoire of Motown, Stax/Volt soul, New Orleans funk and other classics sure to make you want to get on down. Presented by Common Ground Coffeehouse. First Unitarian Society of Westchester, 25 Old Jackson Rd., Hastings-on-Hudson. 7:30 p.m. \$18 in advance. \$20 at the door. Info and tickets: Visit www.commongroundconcerts.com.

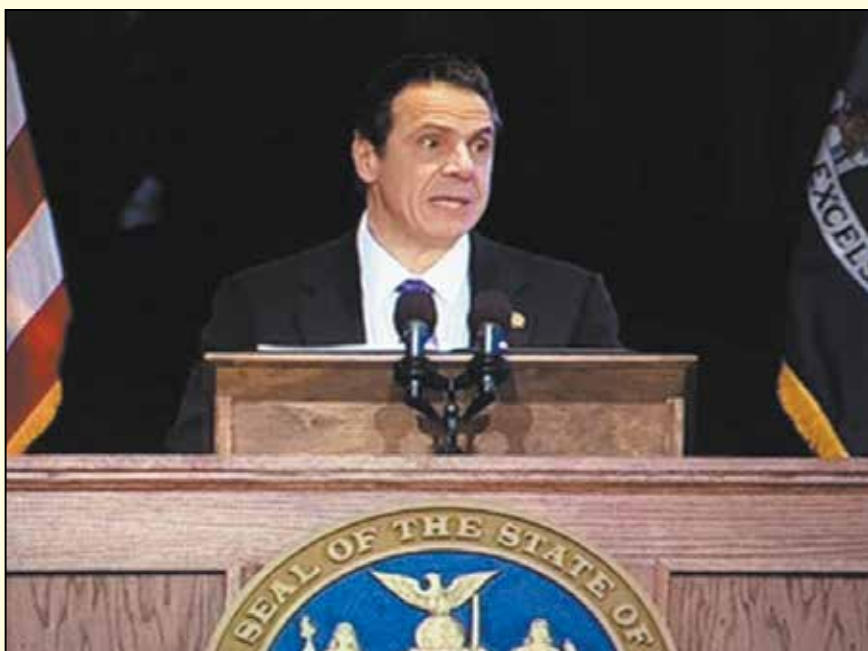
Monday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Sing and hear the story of God coming into our tumultuous world as a vulnerable, defenseless infant in order to bring hope, peace, joy and love forever. All welcome. First Baptist Church of White Plains, 456 North St., White Plains. 7 p.m. Info: 914-949-5207.

Wednesday, Dec. 26

Kwanzaa celebration. 2 p.m. at the Thomas H. Slater Center, 2 Fisher Court, White Plains. The program includes Traditional Drumming by Kofi and Sankofa Dance & Drum Ensemble, and performances by White Plains Youth Bureau drummers and dancers, White Plains Steppers, Praise Dance, Storytelling and books for children, and more. A free cultural Karamu feast will be provided by ShopRite following the program. Kwanzaa, an African-American festival meaningful for people of all faiths is celebrated by family and friends who gather to share food, light candles, and think about particular values that make meaningful community. This year we will celebrate all seven Kwanzaa principles. Free and open to the public.

Cuomo Aiming to Legalize Recreational Marijuana



Democratic New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced in a speech DEC. 17 that he will advocate for the legalization of recreational marijuana. "The fact is we have had two criminal justice systems: one for the wealthy and the well off, and one for everyone else," Cuomo commented at the speech in Manhattan, noting the injustice has "for too long targeted the African-American and minority communities." Democrats captured the state Senate in Nov., and the Assembly is already controlled by Democrats, likely setting the stage for the swift approval of legalization in early 2019. As Cuomo looks ahead to his third term, the speech detailed his goals for his first 100 days of the new year. Cuomo was previously against legalization but has changed his view on the issue. There has been wide speculation that Cuomo might run for president in 2020. Neighboring New Jersey is also moving towards legalizing recreational use of marijuana; in all, 10 states and Washington, D.C., have legalized recreational marijuana. New York State would see a new tax revenue surge of between \$248 million and \$677 million in the first year of legalization, according to a state Department of Health commission report released in July. How to use that revenue is up for debate, with some advocating for the money to be spent on New York City's subway system while others propose investing it in black and Latino communities where the criminalization of marijuana has hit hard.

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..... EXAMINER SPORTS

Tigers Girls Make a Splash in NY State Swimming and Diving Championships

By Albert Coqueran

The United States Winter National Swimming Championships was held from Nov. 28 through Dec. 1, in Greensboro, North Carolina. Olympic Gold medalists



Alexa Reyna is a swimming prodigy for the White Plains High School Girls Swimming and Diving Team. Reyna, a seventh grader, broke the 500-yard Freestyle record for the third time this season by clocking a 4:59.01 for eighth place at the NYSPHSAA Girls Swimming and Diving Championships, in November, at Ithaca College.

Katie Ledecky, Nathan Adrian and Simone Manuel participated in the national winter swimming meet.

Prior to this national event some student-athletes at White Plains High School with future aspirations of competing in such a national swimming competition were making a name for themselves at the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Girls Swimming and Diving Championships, at Ithaca College, in Ithaca, NY.

Tigers swimming prodigy seventh grader Alexa Reyna broke the 500-yard freestyle record with a 4:59.01, which was good enough for eighth place overall in the NY State Finals. Freshman swimmer Luisa Nierhoff placed 27th out of 56 swimmers with a 1:08.37 in the 100-yard breaststroke.

In the Girls 200-yard Medley Relay the Tigers four lady team of senior Kayla Shannon, sophomore Ava Iannetta and freshmen swimmers Salma Reyna



MATT BERKMAN PHOTOS

The White Plains High School Girls Swimming and Diving Team is led by (center) Head Coach Patricia Gilmartin. Tigers teammates who competed in the NYSPHSAA Girls Swimming and Diving Championships at Ithaca College included: [l-r] freshman Lizzie Tirado, freshman Luisa Nierhoff, seventh grader Alexa Reyna, sophomore Ava Iannetta, senior Kayla Shannon, junior Margaux Reyna and freshman Salma Reyna.

and Nierhoff set a new WPHS record with a 1:50.93 time and finished 22nd in the Bonus category in the NYS Championships.

Also in the Girls Diving Championship

freshman Lizzie Tirado excelled way beyond her seeding expectations while being seeded 53rd in the competition but finished 16th overall in the NYSPHSAA Diving Championships.

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