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Covering White Plains, Greenburgh and Harrison

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 8, Issue 381

## ArtsWestchester Presents Innovator Award to Regeneron Founder

BARRY MASON PHOTO



ArtsWestchester presented its top "Innovator Award" to George D. Yancopoulos, Regeneron's Founding Scientist, President and Chief Scientific Officer, at its annual gala on Nov. 17 at the Ritz-Carlton, Westchester in White Plains. The evening served as a celebration of innovation, especially highlighting the connection between the arts and sciences. Left to right: ArtsWestchester President Michael Minihan; 2018 gala honoree and President/Chief Scientific Officer at Regeneron, Dr. George Yancopoulos, holding his award, an original print by artist Wane One; ArtsWestchester CEO Janet Langsam; and President and CEO of Regeneron Len Schleifer.

## Westchester County BOL Passes "Ban the Box" Law

By Pat Casey

During its Monday meeting, the Westchester County Board of Legislators passed the Fair Chance to Work legislation by a vote of 11 to 5.

The measure, which was created to ensure that people with criminal records in their past have an opportunity to explain their circumstances when they're looking for work, eliminates questions about a job applicant's criminal record on initial job applications. However, according to proponents of the new law, it does allow for such questions to be asked during interviews. It also allows for background checks after initial application.

The measure, sometimes referred to as "eliminate the box," referring to a box that must be checked on a job application related to criminal convictions, will give

qualified people a foot in the door when they're applying for work, even if they may have been convicted for a minor offense, or are working to rehabilitate themselves after a criminal conviction.

Board Vice Chair Alfreda Williams (D-Greenburgh), one of the measures co-sponsors, said in a statement: "The point of this legislation is to give job seekers a chance to establish a dialogue with prospective employers, not to have any dialogue cut off before it can begin. I am proud that this will be the law in Westchester County. This will make a positive impact on people's lives, help people make a new start, encourage employment, give employers a wider pool of motivated, qualified workers, and increase the tax rolls simultaneously."

Legislator Christopher A. Johnson

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## Latimer Searches for Revenues Navigating First County Budget

By Martin Wilbur

Last week's downgrade of Westchester's financial ratings may not have come as a surprise to County Executive George Latimer but it doesn't make the challenge of balancing the 2019 budget and rebuilding the county's evaporating fund balance any easier.

On Nov. 27, it was announced that ratings agencies Standard & Poor's and Fitch had adjusted the county's long-established AAA rating to AA+ while Moody's downgraded the county to AA1.

Following seven years of zero tax increases under former county executive Rob Astorino and the results of a state comptroller's audit released in September showing Westchester was one of the most



County Executive George Latimer has his hands full after the Westchester's credit rating was downgraded last week and reserves are at about half the recommended levels.

fiscally stressed governments in the state, immediate action was needed. Earlier in the year the county rating was still AAA but the state assigned it a negative outlook.

In an interview with The Examiner last Friday, Latimer said his goal over the next three years is to restore the fund balance from its current projected \$70 million at the end of 2018 to the more than \$140 million that would return it to the desired 8 percent of the operating budget and restore the AAA rating by the end of his term.

"The basis for doing that is to show the ratings agencies that we have a commitment to steady revenue, that we move away from one-shots and bonding for certain uses and that we have a stable

fiscal management team," Latimer said.

Latimer has proposed a 2 percent tax increase that will raise account for \$11 million of the \$71 million budget gap. He said other potential revenues that could be realized during 2019 is if the state legalizes sales tax on Internet purchases, a move that could raise about \$6 million for Westchester; hope that the state legalizes sports betting and/or the use of recreational marijuana that would net an undetermined amount of money; mulling an increase in sales tax from the current 7.375 percent (of which 4 percent is state sales tax); and impose new fees for Airbnb and surcharges for Uber and Lyft.

More than \$8 million will be bonded

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## Westchester County BOL Passes "Ban the Box" Law

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(D-Yonkers), another co-sponsor, said, "This is not just an economic justice issue, this is a social justice issue, since a disproportionate number of people of color get caught in the criminal justice system. If any of us was judged by the worst mistake we ever made, none of us would have a job. Our legislation makes sure that job seekers will be considered for an interview not on the basis of those mistakes, but on the basis of their qualifications."

BOL Minority Leader John Testa

(R-Peekskill), a strong opponent of the legislation, released a statement after Monday's vote.

"The Democrat Legislators proposal to prohibit businesses in Westchester County from asking if a job applicant has been convicted of a serious crime is an outrageous overreach into private business and a continuation of their assault on the small business community. I disagreed with County Executive Latimer when he ordered that the county will not ask about job applicants'

criminal history but I accept that it is his prerogative as the executive branch of our government to set those policies for county employment. But to legislate that private businesses can no longer establish their own standards for what type of character and integrity they require in an employee- using past criminal activity as a guide- is a disturbing level of government interference in private business," Testa said.

According to the BOL, "Ban the Box" provisions, have been passed across the

country including in Kansas, Wisconsin, Connecticut and New York City, and companies like PepsiCo, Microsoft, Home Depot, Target, Starbucks, Walmart and CVS have eliminated these questions from job applications.

School districts, employers of police officers, and other employers who are barred by law from hiring applicants with specific criminal convictions, would not be subject to the new measure, which now goes to County Executive George Latimer for his signature.

## Latimer Searches for Revenues Navigating First County Budget

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to pay for anticipated tax certioraris. A temporary hiring freeze has also been proposed that will leave an increasing number of vacancies as some workers retire during 2019.

He said options are limited but using fund balance is off the table. Any additional revenues would be placed toward rebuilding the reserve fund.

"The opportunity to do things are mostly over time because we didn't get from AAA to AA1 in a year," Latimer said. "It took a number of years of a consistent policy, which is what the bond rating agencies were concerned about."

The potential for the most controversy is the proposed transfer of the County Center parking lot to Westchester's

Local Development Corporation (LDC), yielding the county a projected \$22 million, not including the loss of about \$2.5 million in annual parking revenues. Some legislators and critics have compared the proposed move as a one-shot revenue source similar to Astorino's aborted Westchester County Airport privatization plan, while others are concerned about the loss of parkland.

A series of approvals would need to be obtained for the transfer, but Latimer said that no action would be taken before July 1 to give the county time to see what the state legislature does regarding fresh revenue streams.

"If we can get additional revenue from any one of those sources, then we don't

need to do the deal," Latimer explained. "We can take that off the table. I'm very comfortable about saying that the deal itself has been compared to the airport deal and it's not like the airport deal."

First, there will be no change in use, Latimer said. The lot will continue to be where vehicles are parked. It will also remain in Westchester's domain. As a result, there is the potential it could be leased back to the county at some point, he said.

One critic, however, Board of Legislators Minority Leader John Testa (R-Peekskill), said that the airport deal and Playland were examples of smart public-private partnerships that would have provided the county with the necessary money to stave off a credit downgrade.

"For the past year I have urged the county executive and my Democrat colleagues on the Board of Legislators to avoid future credit downgrades by embracing smart, ongoing revenue sources like private partnerships at the County Airport, Playland and the North 60 biotech development. These are important projects that have apparently been scrapped in favor of one-shots like selling off a parking lot in parkland."

Another veteran legislator, Michael Kaplowitz (D-Somers), who was noncommittal on the parking lot transfer, said the credit downgrade came as a result of Astorino's unwillingness to agree to

even 1 percent tax increases, a roughly \$37 annual bump for the average household.

"But he refused to do it and now we're paying the piper," Kaplowitz said. "Our reserves are well below the percentages we should have. The AAA rating has gone away and the ratings agencies have finally woken up to what's happening."

Despite the financial storm clouds, Latimer said he is confident that the legislature and Gov. Andrew Cuomo will approve some new revenues starting in 2019. Latimer also said that while the days of no tax increases are gone, he pledged that future budgets will be tax cap compliant.

Cost certainties are also in place through 2021 with the recent settling of the CSEA contract in place.

As the Board of Legislators works on the budget this week with a tentative adoption set for next Monday, Dec. 10, Latimer said sound fiscal approaches, rather than a political ideology, will bring Westchester back to full fiscal health.

"We gave them a budget that is balanced, we gave them a budget that does not go into fund balance, we have them a budget that does not slash and burn the staff, we gave them a budget that give them a 2 percent property tax increase," he said.

The final public hearing on the 2019 budget is scheduled for this Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the County Building in White Plains.

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# Legalization of Recreational Marijuana Debated in Raucous Forum

By Anna Young

Spirited debate erupted at the Croton Free Library last week during a raucous public forum addressing the possibility that New York State lawmakers will legalize recreational marijuana next year.

With state officials weighing legalization, Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-Ossining) hosted a discussion last Thursday evening featuring a panel of experts on both sides of the issue. Galef said she organized the event to gather feedback from constituents before state lawmakers meet in January.

"There are a lot of states that are addressing this issue on recreational marijuana. Next year, I don't know what we're going to do," Galef said. "There have been both successes and setbacks in terms of marijuana. As we get to the heart of the issues, is it right for New York and what needs to happen in order to make it work?"

Medical marijuana is legal in New York for patients who are certified by health care practitioners as having serious diseases and conditions, including cancer, AIDS, severe chronic pain and other ailments. Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who signed the Compassionate Care Act in 2014 to legalize it for medical use, has said that the benefits of legalizing recreational marijuana outweigh the risks.

Recently, Cuomo concluded a series of listening sessions that offered advice



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef introduces a panel last week during a Nov. 29 discussion on the potential for legalization of recreational marijuana in Croton-on-Hudson.

on different legislative and regulatory approaches to legalization with a goal to draft a bill that lawmakers can consider in the upcoming 2019 session.

Throughout the two-hour forum, panelists with opposing views engaged in debate that riled the standing-room-only audience at times leading to applause, profanities and shouting. Speakers addressed health impacts, safety components, criminal justice reform, lessons learned from other states and how to avoid repeating previous mistakes.

Heather Trela, chief of staff and fellow at the Rockefeller Institute of Government, noted that while states such as Colorado and Massachusetts have seen an increase in marijuana sales benefitting state coffers, that bump in revenue isn't sustainable. She said as additional dispensaries open throughout the states that have approved recreational marijuana, it will no longer be considered a luxury.

"This will eventually level out," Trela said. "In Colorado, young people are smoking less marijuana even though

it's legal. It's not rebellious anymore, it's not such a big thing. This may level out supply-wise."

Kevin Sabet, president and CEO of Smart Approaches to Marijuana, agreed that the marijuana industry is out to make money. The profits for states are a "drop in the bucket" for their budgets and doesn't account for the costs, he said.

He also expressed concern that marijuana is being processed with higher levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which makes the substance more potent.


"I do think legalization is reckless because I see it as an equivalent to essentially arming another addictive, powerful industry," Sabet said. "I think we've learned our lessons with that and they haven't been good lessons."

Thomas Lee, past president of the Westchester Medical Society and Westchester Academy of Medicine, said medical professionals are concerned about legalization. States that have legalized marijuana have seen an uptick in emergency room visits and traffic fatalities, he said.

Sabet added that other states that have legalized marijuana failed to have the discussions that New York is currently having. He suggested state lawmakers move much slower on considering a law they could one day regret.

Cristina Buccola, founder of Cristina

*continued on page 4*



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# Youth Bureau Graduates Hired to Develop My Brother's Keeper

The White Plains My Brother's Keeper Program has hired two Youth Bureau graduates to implement the My Brother's Keeper Academy.

Samuel Alexis, a graduate of White Plains High School, holds an Associate Degree in Building Trades & Construction from Alfred State College and a Bachelor in Architectural Technology & Construction Management from the New York Institute of Technology.

Ralph Edouard has a Mechanical Engineering Degree from the New York Institute of Technology.

Both Samuel and Alexis credit the White Plains Youth Bureau and White Plains School District for opening doors for them as youth, providing jobs



readiness skills and opportunities to serve others and sharpen their leadership skills.

The My Brother's Keeper's Academy will work with 20 to 25 middle school youth providing academic assistance, college and career exposure, cultural enrichment and leadership skills development.

The program will operate Friday evenings, 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays 12 to 5 p.m.

Frank Williams, Jr., Executive Director of the White Plains Youth Bureau said, "There is no greater reward than having

young adults return to their community after completing college and give back to their community to improve the lives of others."



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## Metro-North Alcohol Ban During SantaCon

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) advises customers that to maintain safe and orderly travel during this weekend's SantaCon event, alcohol will not be permitted on Metro-North and Long Island Rail Road trains and stations from noon on Saturday, Dec. 8, through noon on Sunday, Dec. 9. This ban on alcohol during SantaCon has been in effect for the past five years.

MTA police officers will be on duty at Penn Station, Grand Central Terminal and stations throughout the region, as well as on trains to enforce this restriction. The police will confiscate alcoholic beverages and issue summonses carrying fines or imprisonment. Violators may also be subject to removal from the train or station by police.

## Legalization of Recreational Marijuana Debated in Raucous Forum

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Buccola Counsel and former general counsel to High Times magazine, asserted that there is no medical reason for a prohibition on cannabis. Buccola also cited the waste of more than 800,000 arrests made during the past 40 years for low-level marijuana possession.

She advised parents that the most responsible thing they can do for their children is to stress that marijuana use is regulated and for adults only. Furthermore, cannabis retailers must require customers to present identification.

Buccola also said that minorities are unfairly targeted with low-level marijuana offenses.

"Prohibition didn't start because of a medical reason, it started because of racism and it doesn't work and it costs money," Buccola said. "The safest way forward is legalization, is regulation. This is safer for kids, this is safer for consumers, this is safer for public health because then we can start having real conversations."



# New Music School in White Plains is Ready to Rock n' Roll

By Pat Casey

Jeff Silverman, a Westchester resident, has opened a new School of Rock in White Plains at 242 Central Ave. The grand opening took place Saturday, Dec. 1.

The franchise is the latest in a series of schools that help aspiring musicians – no matter how old they are – master skills and unleash creativity through guitar, piano and singing lessons, drawing from all styles of rock and roll.

Students learn theory and techniques via songs from legendary artists such as Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin and Frank Zappa in a performance-based approach.

Silverman, a member of the Baby Boom generation, is a graduate of the School of Rock. He grew up in Philadelphia and has lived in Westchester County for 20 years, the last 10 years in Bedford.

“I played guitar as a teen, but dropped playing after college. I’ve always had a desire to play drums. Seven years ago I purchased a drum kit and started playing, primarily to relieve the stress of my corporate job. After several months I decided to take lessons so that I could improve. That’s when I discovered School of Rock in Bedford. I loved the adult program and spent three years at the school. It was a transforming experience for me. I advanced so much at School of Rock, that I eventually started my own band, “Exit 5”, and we’ve been together



Westchester resident and School of Rock graduate Jeff Silverman opened a School of Rock franchise at 242 Central Ave., White Plains on Dec. 1.

since, performing regularly in Northern Westchester,” Silverman said. “I found that playing music provided a release and joy. I have, and still do, love rock and roll music!”

Classic rock bands perform regularly at dozens of Westchester venues from Yonkers to Peekskill. Bars and restaurants offer weekly live music, and classic rock is also prevalent at larger venues such as The Capital Theater and Garcia’s in Port Chester, as well as The Tarrytown Music

Hall and The Paramount in Peekskill.

Silverman believes that live performance is the most effective way to teach an instrument. He gets students playing on stage as quickly as possible.

“School of Rock prides itself on its performance-based approach to learning music. School of Rock students are cast in a group/band, and all band-members have specific parts. From there they are given opportunities to perform together as a band, individually and otherwise

depending on what they are looking for as a musician,” Silverman explained.

By teaching this way, School of Rock provides opportunities to students with variety of aspirations in music.

“Whether you want to play alone in your room or on stage at an arena, students learn the principles of music through performing as a group. This teaches students the value of teamwork, creativity and performance, that can carry on to all aspects of their life,” Silverman said. “I’ve witnessed first-hand how this program can positively transform students into musicians, building confidence and improving self-esteem.”

School of Rock was founded as a single school in Philadelphia, PA in 1998. School of Rock now operates more than 220 schools in 10 global markets with a 30,000-student count.

For more information visit [www.SchoolofRock.com](http://www.SchoolofRock.com).

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Dorrry's Diner	468 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, 10605	10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/28, 12/5,	9:30 am
Seven Brothers	900 Saw Mill River Rd., Yonkers, 10701	10/18, 10/25, 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/29, 12/6	9:00 am
Raceway Diner	833 Yonkers Ave., Yonkers, 10704	10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30, 12/7,	9:30 am
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## Obituaries

### Lucia Ranallo

Lucia Ranallo, a North White Plains resident, died Nov. 30 at the age of 89.

She was born Dec. 11, 1928 in Italy to the late Ruffino and Scolastica Ciatola.

On Nov. 19, 1949 she married Luciano Ranallo in Ateleta, Aquila Italy.

Besides her husband Luciano of North White Plains, she is survived by her children Maria (Angelo) Zurlo of White Plains, Nunzio (Angelina) Ranallo of Yonkers, Elisa (Joseph) Cipriano of White Plains, Ennio (Elisabeth) Ranallo of Valhalla, Nina (Sal) Coppola of North White Plains and Amelia Ranallo (Tony Burgio) of Valhalla.

Also surviving are her brothers Cesidio (Teresa) Ciotola of North White Plains and Elio Ciotola of Italy, a sister Linal Ranallo and sister-in-law Elizabeth Ciotola and 13 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

She is predeceased by her siblings Pasqua Buccigrossi and Gino Ciotola.

Lucia was devoted to her family and loved spending time with them. She also loved to cook and garden.



### Nicholas Curcio

Nicholas Curcio, of West Harrison, passed away Nov. 28. He was 78.

Nicholas was born June 4, 1940 in Italy to Felice and Antonietta Curcio. He worked as a custodian in the Harrison Central School District until his retirement.

Nicholas is survived by his brother Franco Curcio and sister-in-law Angela Curcio.

He is also survived by his niece Cristina (Alfredo) Dragone, his nephew Paolo Curcio, one great-niece, and one great-nephew.

### Gerald Schroeder

On Nov. 24, Gerald "Gerry" Schroeder, a White Plains resident, died from injuries sustained from an explosion while working at MetroNorth. He passed peacefully surrounded by loved ones, his wife of 30 years, Meg formerly of Ridgewood, NJ, and his three daughters, Lisa, Casey, and Madeline.

Gerald was born Sept. 18, 1951 in White Plains

He is also survived by his great aunts Ann and Mimi; his brothers Ed, John,

Dave and Danny; his sister Ruthann; and his grandchildren David and Nancy.

He was predeceased by his father, Edward Schroeder and his mother, Mary (Byrne) Schroeder who lived in White Plains, as well as his brothers Jimmy and Bobby Joe.

Gerry joined the White Plains Presbyterian Church in 1997, where he served on the Board of Deacons three times and delighted in teaching church school for many years.

A plumber for 47 years, Gerry enjoyed working with his hands and believed in doing everything the "right way." He worked at Martino Plumbing for 37 years, and at MetroNorth for the last eight years. In addition to these positions he was always happy to help friends, family and neighbors no matter the time of night.

He was a member of Local 21 and Local 31.

Gerry will always be remembered for his compassionate nature, inquisitive mind and hard work. He was a deep thinker, an avid reader, and a fan of robust conversation and verbal sparring. He was intrigued by history, mathematics, physics and astronomy.

He was a dedicated and loyal family man and a true friend. When he saw a

need, he responded without being asked or expecting anything in return. He was always there to help. All of these values he not only believed in, but embodied in a truly admirable manner. He will be profoundly missed.

Gerry was a lover of, and active participant in, the natural world. Over the span of his life he enjoyed hiking, skiing, kayaking, fishing and rock climbing. It was his unrealized dream to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that due to his love of the outdoors and unfulfilled plans to thru hike the Appalachian Trail donations can be made to one of the following nonprofits in his memory: The Appalachian Trail Conservancy, 799 Washington St., Harpers Ferry, WV 25425-0807; <https://donate.appalachiantrail.org> or The Nature Conservancy, Attn: Treasury, 4245 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22203.



## Police Blotter

### Former Police Officer Pleads Guilty in White Plains Hit and Run

Raymond Beckley (DOB 12/30/92), of Valhalla, pleaded guilty to Tampering with Physical Evidence stemming from a hit-and-run incident during which two pedestrians were seriously injured Nov. 13, 2016, in White Plains.

Westchester County Court Judge Larry Schwartz presided.

Beckley is a former police officer. He had resigned his position as a New Rochelle Police Officer earlier on the day of the crash, and then, just hours after the crash, Nov. 14, 2016, Beckley began work as a Police Officer in the Town of New Castle. Beckley resigned from the



Raymond Beckley

New Castle Police Department in January 2017.

Around 10:30 p.m., Nov. 13, 2016, Beckley's Ford F350 Super Duty pickup truck struck a man and a woman who were walking along Hale Avenue in White Plains. Immediately after the collision, Beckley's truck sped away leaving the two victims in the street bleeding and suffering from serious physical injuries, including trauma to the head and broken bones. When police arrived minutes later, both victims were rushed to local hospitals.

After an extensive investigation,

Beckley was arrested July 5, 2018, and charged with Tampering with Physical Evidence for concealing his Ford F350 Super Duty pickup truck, driving it out of New York State in late November 2016, while knowing police were actively investigating the hit-and-run and were attempting to locate his truck.

The investigation was a collaborative effort between the White Plains Police Department and the Westchester County District Attorney's Investigations Division Public Integrity Bureau.

Beckley is scheduled to be sentenced Feb. 27, 2019.



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## Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry, Midnight Run and Toys for Tots Bins in Greenburgh

Three separate organizations have placed bins at the lobby of Greenburgh Town Hall, located at 177 Hillside Ave. This is the holiday season when many people want to help the less fortunate. Donating food, clothing and toys at Greenburgh Town Hall are convenient ways for you and your family to help bring smiles to the less fortunate. Thank you for making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Midnight Run is having a winter clothing drive from Dec. 1 to 16. Midnight Run is collecting jackets, coats, blankets, scarves, hats, and gloves of sizes adult small and larger. Midnight Run goes on weekly runs to provide warm clothing and food to its homeless friends in New York City. For runs in December, they are seeking extensive supplies so all their friends can be warm during this holiday season. Even a single clothing item can go

a long way in helping a friend stay warm not only this season, but in the coming years as well.

Toys for Tots of The Marine Corps Reserve is back at Town Hall seeking toys and gifts for needy children.

Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry bin accepts food for the hungry year round and is also located at Town hall. The Dobbs Ferry Food pantry does a fantastic job providing food for the hungry. If you want to drop off

food at Pantry instead of Town Hall, it is located at South Presbyterian Church at 343 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry. You can contact the pantry at [dobbsferrypantry@gmail.com](mailto:dobbsferrypantry@gmail.com), 914-357-4876, 914-693-0473.

The Food Pantry is open from 10 am to 12 p.m. every Wednesday, and 5:30 to 7 p.m. on the last Wednesday of the month in addition to the morning time. Donations can be arranged to be dropped off at any time during the week.

## Senator Shelley Mayer's Annual Holiday Open House

On Thursday, Dec. 13, from 4 to 6 p.m., I'll be hosting my free Annual Holiday Open House.

This year's celebration will take place at the Port Chester Senior Center behind the Port Chester Municipal Building at 222 Grace Church Street, Port Chester.

Neighborhood events, block parties, and open holiday parties are a great way to build community and foster togetherness.

I encourage old friends, new friends, and those I have yet to meet to join me for a celebration of the holidays. We will have hors d'oeuvres and drinks with your neighbors, local municipal officials and community leaders, as well as me, your State Senator for the 37th District.

At this year's event, I am collecting donations for Feeding Westchester. We suggest donations of diapers,

toiletries, and nonperishable food items. For a list of additional items Feeding Westchester suggests, visit their website at [FeedingWestchester.org](http://FeedingWestchester.org). If you would like to drop-off your donation before the Holiday Open House, you may do so at my District Office at 222 Grace Church Street, Suite 300, Port Chester, NY 10573, M-F, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or on Saturday between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

RSVP is required for the Holiday Open House so that we can plan appropriately for food and drinks. You may RSVP online at [bit.ly/MayerHolidayOpenHouse](http://bit.ly/MayerHolidayOpenHouse), call the office at 914-934-5250, or email me at [smayer@nysenate.gov](mailto:smayer@nysenate.gov).

Looking forward to catching-up with old friends and making new ones!

—Shelley B. Mayer,  
State Senator, 37th District

## Holiday Season Great Time to Adopt a Dog

Now that the holiday season is upon us, many people think a puppy would make a good gift. What most forget is that puppies require a lot of time, energy, money, and many pet store puppies come from sick and neglected puppy mills.

Nearly 8 million companion animals enter U.S. shelters each year, half of which are sadly killed. This is a staggering

number of innocent lives lost, with millions more spending many years, if not their entire lives in a small cage hoping to be adopted.

Instead of buying an expensive and high maintenance puppy as a gift, visit your local animal shelter in order to find one. These loving dogs have already been spayed/neutered, are up-to-date on

vaccinations, and microchipped.

We are fortunate in Westchester and Putnam Counties to have terrific animal shelters. One of which is the Putnam Humane Society in Carmel. The most intelligent, friendly, and loving dogs I have ever met were adopted. Shelter pets want nothing more than to be in a loving home, where they will be a terrific new

family member.

So instead of buying a puppy this holiday season, please share your love and home with a dog who desperately needs it. Visit your local shelter, volunteer to walk a dog, and always choose to adopt.

—Steve Reid  
Somers Professional Dog Trainer

## Exciting Time for Single-payer Healthcare Advocates

By Madeline Zevon

In New York State, a Blue Wave. Democrats won 40 of the 63 NY Senate seats. The win is momentous: Since WWII, due to gerrymandering and side deals with renegade Democrats, Republicans have controlled the NY Senate for 65 of 68 years. The new senate leader will be Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the first woman to head a chamber in NY history.

This is good news for the New York Health Act, legislation that will bring universal, comprehensive, affordable healthcare to every New Yorker. The bill has repeatedly and overwhelmingly

passed the state assembly, with 31 senate co-signers last spring. Many newly elected senators campaigned on NY Health, which, like traditional Medicare, is single-payer, and will save us billions — and stimulate our economy, creating 180,000 new jobs.

This good news has triggered rabid opposition from health insurance and pharmaceutical companies, and the propagandists they pay. Beware widely disseminated "alternative facts." Taxes, for example. Yes, sliding-scale taxes will fund NY Health, but 95% of us will pay less than we do now. Medical bankruptcy will

be history. NY Health eliminates co-pays, deductibles, premiums and restrictive networks. It's more comprehensive than any private insurance: covering all essential care, including dental, vision, hearing, prescriptions, and long-term homecare.

The conservative solution to the high cost of healthcare in this country, NY Health will control skyrocketing costs, just as traditional Medicare does (as even conservative think tanks acknowledge). It will dramatically reduce waste, which consumes 30% of every healthcare dollar we spend — not just because single-payer systems like Medicare have overhead of 2% while for-profit insurance charges up to 20%, but because multi-payer systems force exorbitant costs onto providers, costs that are uncontrollably opaque.

The United States pays twice as much for

healthcare as other developed nations, but has poorer outcomes, despite our world-class providers. If every other peer nation can provide universal care — with better quality and cheaper — why can't we?

New York can lead the rest of the country, just as it first provided clean tap water with the Croton Reservoir, and second in providing a city watch. Canada's single-payer system began in one province, despite spine-chilling fear mongering. Saskatchewan's success melted fears: the rest of Canada adopted single-payer within a decade.

NY Health is poised for passage, but the opposition is powerful, spending big to maintain prodigious profits. They have deep pockets, but not votes. The League of Women Voters of Westchester Healthcare Committee, with members from many local Leagues, is intensifying our grassroots efforts — visiting our legislators, including our new senate leader, writing articles, holding forums, and doing everything we can to educate the public.

Will you join us? Learn more at [www.nyhcampaign.org](http://www.nyhcampaign.org).

Madeline Zevon is Health Care Chair of the League of Women Voters of Westchester and Co-Chair of the New York State League of Women Voters.

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# A Winter Without Pain: Healthy Ways to Manage Snow Shoveling



By Chelsea Brooks

Bundle up with your heavy coat, hat, gloves and a hot cup of tea because winter is coming!

Winter is a time for family, friends and holiday cheer but can sometimes bring about a host of seasonal problems.

One winter problem that can't be ignored in New York is the weather. It graciously gifts us with frigid cold temperatures, icy driving conditions and mounds of snow. These conditions cause us to rely on little things such as salting the front steps to prevent falls or leaving yourself an extra 10 minutes in the morning to defrost the car.

But one thing we can all agree on is that getting rid of the mounds of snow can be a big pain – literally. Snow shoveling in particular can be a dangerous undertaking. Due to the strenuous nature of shoveling as a physical activity, it can often lead to injury, hospitalization or even death.

Snow shoveling involves forceful and exertive movements of major muscle groups that challenge the cardiovascular and musculoskeletal systems. Research has shown that just two minutes of snow shoveling by sedentary males can increase heart rates enough to exceed recommendations for aerobic activity.

Combine that with freezing cold temperatures, which cause blood vessels to shrink in diameter, thereby increasing the workload of the heart, shoveling can become quite a vigorous shock to the system.

Possible cardiovascular incidents from shoveling a lengthy driveway can be serious and potentially life threatening. Therefore, it would be wise to seek medical attention if you start to experience any feelings of fatigue, dizziness, lightheadedness, chest pain, palpitations or pain throughout the upper extremities.

Cardiovascular incidents may be the most serious and adverse response to shoveling, but acute musculoskeletal injuries account for more than half of shoveling-related injuries. Do you ever wake up with soreness the next morning after a snowstorm? It's probably in your lower back, which would be due to the rotational stress on the spine after repetitive bending and lifting with your shovel. Not to mention this repetitive bending and lifting is often performed incorrectly.

There are a few simple things that you can do to prevent some of the cardiovascular and musculoskeletal risks that occur from shoveling. Here are some recommendations.

## Guest Column

**Proper Warm Up and Cool Down.** Warm up with five to 10 minutes of light activity prior to going outside to prepare your muscles for exercise. This can include exercises such as arm circles, jumping jacks, push-ups, air squats or stair climbing. It is also important to continue to move after you are finished shoveling. A sudden stop in activity will cause heart rate and blood pressure to drop rapidly. A proper cool down ensures that the systems of the body reduce gradually.

**Take Frequent Breaks.** Who said that the driveway has to be perfectly clean in under 30 minutes? Try shoveling your driveway frequently so that you are managing less amounts of snow at a time and reducing the stress placed on your body. Don't forget to hydrate during your break periods.

**Watch Your Form.** A tendency is for people to lift with their back. That will lead to lots of low back pain. Bend the knees a little and keep your hips back just as if you were going to sit in a chair. Keep your back nice and flat and activate your core by drawing your belly button toward your spine. Now you are in a better position to lift. If you feel your form breaking, take a break yourself.

**Check Your Shovel.** Technology is always changing and so are snow shovels. Find an ergonomic shovel with

an adjustable shaft that can be fitted to your height. This will limit the need for excessive bending of the trunk and, therefore, minimize risk of injury.

Consider these helpful recommendations before heading out the door this winter. There is plenty to enjoy outside, including winter sports. Following these simple but useful tips can ensure a safe and fun-filled season without unnecessary aches and pains.

*Dr. Chelsea Brooks is a physical therapist at ProClinix Sports Physical Therapy & Chiropractic. Brooks treats patients at the ProClinix's Pleasantville location within Athletes Warehouse. For more information or if you have questions about this article, contact her at 914-202-0700 or at cbrooks@proclinux.com.*

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## Memories of Decorating Trees, Real and Artificial

Can you guess what percentage of us decorate real Christmas trees as opposed to artificial trees? At one time in the distant past, I would have guessed it would be about half.

Every holiday season, I always enjoy helping my wife decorate our home but I turn from the happy Elf into the Grinch when things don't work out well. That can happen when the crowning star won't sit straight atop the tree or we happen to choose a real tree one year and the thing won't stand up straight.

Sometimes when I get frustrated over the big and the small stuff as I decorate our home for the holidays, I think that

*'I often smile as I spy young families picking out real trees and wreaths'*

maybe I've reached a stage of life when it's time to celebrate holidays in a more moderated way and decorate the house accordingly. My wife hasn't reached that stage yet, but maybe I have.

Things were different when we first married many years ago in late September. By Thanksgiving we had launched into our first joint home crafts project, making our own ornaments for a tree of the artificial, but rather convincing, variety. Did you know that the first artificial Christmas trees were made by a toilet brush company and actually looked like big, green toilet brushes?

As hopelessly romantic newlyweds, we dedicated ourselves to creating highly sophisticated, decorative ornaments made from Styrofoam balls. Using straight pins that we purchased from the hat district on Manhattan's West 28th Street, we



By Bill Primavera

attached the balls adorned with fine ribbons, metallic threads, beads, semi-precious stones, feathers, pearls and crystals. The project became an addiction that gave us callouses and had us losing sleep, night after night.

A week before Christmas, all the ornaments were completed and the tree was easily assembled in three pieces. We strung it with multi-colored lights and golden tinsel garlands, which we haven't seen sold in the past 30 years, and there it remained in the corner until after Valentine's Day. Or was it Easter? Seriously!

We liked it so much that we excused its extended stay to visitors as camp art. We just didn't want to let go of that demonstration of our first and maybe our only major artistic project created together.

The ridiculousness of the situation paid off, however, when a national magazine was tipped off (by me) about our beautiful tree and published a photo feature about it

that appeared in mid-summer.

I often smile as I spy young families picking out real trees and wreaths, excited to get them home for holiday decoration. At the same time, I realize that I seem to have passed into a different phase, someone who decorates for the holidays but enjoys watching our kids pull out all the stops for their kids, whether it be mounting Santa and his reindeer on the roof or putting out cookies and milk. Good for them, but not necessarily for me anymore.

In my own family, there were a few years when we enjoyed four generations of our family gathering at our highly decorated home to celebrate the holidays. I'm looking forward to the day when we can expand generationally to that number once again.

In answer to the real versus artificial Christmas tree question, of the 94 million trees sold, 80 percent of them will be artificial.

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](http://www.PrimaveraPR.com)). To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

## The Continuing Virtual Travels of Wine and Food Enthusiasts



By Nick Antonaccio

Last week in our virtual tour of Spain's wine regions, we settled in on the Mediterranean coast, traveling along the southern areas of Alicante and Valencia.

This week, still focusing on the third of Spain's six wine regions, we'll travel a bit west to the region of Jumilla.

This region, sitting on a plateau surrounded by mountains, might seem like an arid landscape, and it would be but for the saving moisture and breezes embracing it from the Mediterranean Sea. Geographically west of Alicante and further inland, it is 150 miles southeast of cosmopolitan Madrid.

Here we have the perfect formula for a well-balanced wine: elevated topography, nutrient-deprived but moisture-retentive soil and cooling wind currents to offset the intense sun. As in other areas of the world, local vintners have experimented with various grapes over the centuries to determine which varieties fare best in this microclimate.

What they have planted and nurtured in over 80 percent of the vineyard acreage is the Monastrell grape. This grape has been grown elsewhere with a high level of

success, but the Spaniards have stamped it with a unique pedigree. Elsewhere it is known as Mourvedre and is produced in several regions in France and Australia. In Spain, the locals have capitalized on this grape's attraction to consumers and are producing a wine that is tailored to the American palate – fruit-forward, modest tannins and moderate alcohol (13.5 percent).

This is a true in-your-face fruit bomb. The characteristics of the wine sound more like ruminations on a food dish: blackberry and cherry flavors, spicy aroma, silky on the palate, complex structure, lingering finish. This is a perfect barbecue wine – in any season. Its younger sibling, rosé, is a refreshing and fruity summer quaffing wine.

I recently conducted a food and wine dinner featuring Spanish wines. The hit of the evening was a Jumilla from Altos de la Hoya, which was perfectly matched with tapas. Here is where the Monastrell grape shines. It matches well with many typical tapas dishes such as fish, game, Serrano ham, cheese, roasted peppers, gazpacho in a shot glass, all invariably garlic-laced.

It's now early evening on our virtual tour. Earlier we immersed ourselves in local culture by enjoying the centuries-old tradition of an afternoon siesta and now we're stopped at a typical Jumillian tapas bar before heading out to a local restaurant for dinner and late-night dancing.

We saddle up to the bar, order a glass of Monastrell from an unlabeled bottle (the good stuff sometimes doesn't make it out of the country) and select from the list of tapas. The bartender/waiter keeps track of what we order with a piece of chalk, writing on the slate bar top where we are sitting. We enjoy calamari, sardines and a sampling of Spanish cheeses – Manchego (mild, sheep's milk with a slight olive aftertaste), Cabrales (blue cheese) and Mahon (tangy, lemony, sea salt flavors).

We find out that the owner's brother moved to Manhattan recently to open the American branch of the family tapas bar. This adds to the growing trend of tapas and small plate Spanish-themed bars and restaurants proliferating in the New York City area, including the northern counties and eastward into Fairfield County.



Each of the tapas and the cheeses we've enjoyed tonight are now available in our backyard. (We silently thank the globalization gods.) We jot down a few of our favorite wineries and wines we sampled along the way, which, we are told, are all available at our wine merchants in The Examiner distribution area: Juan Gil, Finca Luzon, Panaroz, El Nido and even Wrongo Dongo (all under \$15).

Next week we will continue our virtual tour northward along the coast to Priorat and Penedes. Hasta luego!

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years he has conducted 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](mailto:nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com) or on Twitter @sharingwine.



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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](mailto:pcasey@theexaminernews.com). For a full listing of the upcoming week's events, visit [www.theexaminernews.com](http://www.theexaminernews.com) and click on Happenings.*

## Tuesday, Dec. 4

**Author Talk.** Join author Field Horne at 12:15 p.m. for a discussion of his new book *Westchester County: A History*, published by the Westchester County Historical Society. Horne will speak about the process of writing and the interesting discoveries he made. White Plains Public Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains.

**Tuesdays at Dorry's.** Gary Stern is Engagement Editor and head of the Editorial Board for *The Journal News/lohud.com*. He will talk about changes in the news business over the last decade, particularly regarding local and regional news. Weekly Table Talk 6 to 7 p.m. Food ordering starts at 5:15 p.m. Dorry's Diner, 468 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains; 914-682-0005. All are welcome.

**Cabaret Castle.** The Manhattanville College Music Department's Cabaret Performance Workshop will present this performance featuring the music of Jule Styne, best known for the shows "Gypsy," "Funny Girl," "Bells Are Ringing," "Peter

Pan" and "Gentlemen Prefer Blonds." Songs will include "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend," "Never Never Land," "All I Need is the Girl," "Everything's Coming Up Roses," "Just in Time" and "Let Me Entertain You." Other songwriters represented will be Gershwin, Michel Legrand, Cy Coleman, Charlie Chaplin and Cole Porter. There will be a special guest appearance by Manhattanville's pop vocal group, The Quintessentials. Manhattanville College's Reid Hall, West Room, 2900 Purchase St., Purchase. 8 p.m. Free. Info: 914-323-5260.

## Wednesday, Dec. 5

**Noonday Getaway Concert:** Yiying Niu, pianist, Prize Winner of the 2018 New York International Piano Competition. Presented in partnership with the Stecher and Horowitz Foundation. A Downtown Music debut. Free concert. Donations are welcome. 12:15 p.m. Grace Episcopal Church, 33 Church Street (Main Street at Mamaroneck Avenue), White Plains.

**Family Hanukkah Program.** Join award winning author/illustrator, Amalia Hoffman and her adorable cat puppets in a fun Family Hanukkah program featuring her book *Dreidel Day*. Follow cat and dreidels as they spin, bounce, hop and much more and see how much fun counting could be. Amalia will demonstrate how she created the cut-up paper illustration for the book and children will decorate dreidel designs to take home. For children ages 1-6 and entire families. Space is limited;

7 p.m. White Plains Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains.

**Purchase Latin Jazz Orchestra.** An exciting ensemble that performs music from all over Latin America. Featuring top students from the Purchase College Conservatory of Music, the musicians explore numerous genres including Mambo, Cha-Cha, Danzon, Festejo, and Porro. Whether performing classic compositions by the masters or newer works commissioned for the ensemble, seeing and hearing the orchestra is always a memorable occasion. Part of the 25 years of jazz study celebration. Purchase College's Conservatory of Music Choral Hall, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 8 p.m. Free. Info: 914-251-6700 or visit [www.purchase.edu/live/events/12973-purchase-latin-jazz-orchestra](http://www.purchase.edu/live/events/12973-purchase-latin-jazz-orchestra).

## Thursday, Dec. 6

**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](http://www.Wwinterwonderland.com).

**Marketing for Start-ups.** Join SCORE at 6 p.m. for a workshop that will cover the essentials of both marketing and sales. It will cover several scenarios with group discussion. Attendees can acquire skills to apply to their own businesses. No registration required. White Plains Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains.

**Holiday Networking Mixer.** Meet us in ArtsWestchester's gallery to start the holiday season off right! Join in on the merry-making by enjoying light bites and cocktails and dancing the night away to live music by DJ CLAFFMATIC. \$15 admission. ArtsWestchester, 30 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains.

**Great Books Forum Series.** "The Name of the Rose" by Umberto Eco will be discussed. Discussion led by professors Brian Centrone and Ed Cangialosi. Westchester Community College's Gateway Center, Room 131, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Info: E-mail Professor James Werner at [james.werner@sunywcc.edu](mailto:james.werner@sunywcc.edu).

**Purchase Dance Company's Fall Dance Concert.** Highlighting the dynamic range and technical virtuosity of the company's dancers and reflects the Conservatory of Dance's commitment to providing the best of both classical and contemporary training. Featuring premieres and fresh restaging. Purchase College's Dance Theatre Lab, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 8 p.m. \$17.50. Discounts

*continued on page 13*

## Christmas Show Rooted in Singer's Admiration for The Carpenters

By Anna Young

Get in the holiday spirit at The Paramount in Peekskill this Sunday afternoon for a one-of-a-kind Christmas celebration.

Singer Michelle Berting Brett and her seven-piece Nashville band, led by musical director Harry Sharpe, will bring The Carpenters' holiday classics and iconic hits to life in "Merry Christmas Darling: Carpenters' Christmas."

"We try to honor what Karen and Richard (Carpenter) created," Brett said of the brother-sister duo that had a succession of megahits in the early to mid-1970s. "I never get tired of singing these songs. It's just a joy."

Growing up in Canada, Brett listened to legends Donna Summer, Barbra Streisand and Karen Carpenter on her transistor radio hoping one day she could perform on stage. After studying opera and musical theater, Brett put together her own cabaret show in Toronto where she was told she shared a distinct similarity to Karen Carpenter.

"As I was singing the material, people started to tell me I sounded like Karen Carpenter," Brett said. "Inevitably they



Canadian singer Michelle Berting Brett, backed by a seven-piece band, will perform a holiday tribute show to The Carpenters this Sunday at The Paramount in Peekskill.

would ask if I would sing her songs and I added it to my set. People would tell me how much a particular song meant to them and it was always such an emotional connection to the music."

While working on a cruise ship in the

early 1990s, Brett toyed with the idea of a one-woman show based on The Carpenters' music. It wasn't until she met her producer and husband, Mark Brett, years later and sang him "Merry Christmas, Darling" that her idea became reality.

In 2009, Brett performed her very first tribute show in a small club in Toronto to critical acclaim, and four years later kicked off the "We've Only Just Begun: Carpenters Remembered" tour in the United States.

"It's been a wonderful adventure," she said. "I've always loved The Carpenters and it's always been a dream of mine to do this. As an artist you want to touch people on an emotional level."

With the festive show featured in venues throughout the country, Brett said her performance will put audiences in the holiday spirit with a decorative production and seasonal tunes that never go out of style. The two-hour show will include holiday classics such as, "Sleigh Ride," "The Christmas Song," "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "Do You Hear What I Hear," "I'll Be Home for

Christmas," "Merry Christmas, Darling" and many others.

"It's a great way to spend a night out with the family," Brett said.

The show's holiday music may be inspired by The Carpenters' "Christmas Portrait" and "An Old-Fashioned Christmas" albums, but Brett said she will also perform some of their greatest hits, including "Close to You" and "We've Only Just Begun."

While her Christmas show and tribute tour has had a dedicated following over the last five years, Brett is deeply appreciative that her passion for singing and admiration for Karen Carpenter has brought The Carpenters' beautiful music to audiences.

"It's amazing that this little tiny idea that I had based on a love for a beautiful singer has turned into this," Brett said. "It's been such a great gift."

"Merry Christmas Darling: Carpenters' Christmas" will begin at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$29, \$39 and \$49. For tickets and more information, visit [www.paramounthudsonvalley.com](http://www.paramounthudsonvalley.com). The Paramount is located at 1008 Brown St. in Peekskill.



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## LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STAR-**

**DUST ADVISORS, LLC.** Articles of Organization were filed with SSNY on 08/02/2018. Office location is New York County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **70 Pine Street, Apt. 3204, New York, NY 10005. Purpose: Distribution of educational products and services to all NYS schools.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE ART CLOSET LLC.** Articles of Organization were filed with SSNY on 09/26/2018. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **50 Old Roaring Brook Rd., Mount Kisco, NY 10549. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CURATED FOR YOU BY KATRI.** Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/25/2018. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, **6 Barron Cir., Chappaqua, NY 10514. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

**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

*continued on next page*



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next week's publication

*continued from previous page*

against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **33 Windmill Rd., Armonk NY 10504. Purpose: Any lawful activity.**

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF BOND RESOLUTION SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville, Westchester County, New York (the "Village"), at a meeting held on November 26, 2018 adopted a bond resolution, which is subject to a permissive referendum, that authorizes the issuance of \$225,000 serial bonds of the Village to finance the purchase of machinery and apparatus to be used for constructing, reconstructing, repairing or maintaining Village improvements, including a dump truck to be used by the Department of Public Works (the "Project") the cost of each item of which is \$30,000 or more. The period of probable usefulness is fifteen (15) years and the bonds are payable from amounts to be annually levied on all the taxable real property in the Village. Pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder ("SEQRA"), the Village has determined that the project is a Type II Action requiring no further action under SEQRA. **Noreen Regan, Deputy Village Clerk, Village of Pleasantville, Westchester County, New York**

**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.**

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## Happenings

*continued from page 11*

available for seniors and students. Also Dec. 7 at 8 p.m., Dec. 8 at 2 and 8 p.m. and Dec. 9 at 3 p.m. A special pre-concert talk with the artists moderated by Conservatory of Dance Assistant Professor Darrah Carr will be held on Dec. 7 at 7:15 p.m. Info and tickets: Visit [www.artscenter.org](http://www.artscenter.org). Tickets will also be available at the door (cash and check only).

### Saturday, Dec. 8

**Family Holiday Pop-Up Cards.** Pop-up cards are fun to make and give. The techniques are easy to learn and always bring a smile. This workshop will teach you how to make a holiday-themed card for anyone – even those who say "humbug." Led by Susan Kaufman. Pelham Art Center, 155 Fifth Ave., Pelham. 10 a.m. to noon. Member: \$41. Non-members: \$45. (Fee includes one parent and one child.) Registration required. Info and registration: Visit [www.pelhamartcenter.org](http://www.pelhamartcenter.org).

**Brunch With Santa.** Santa, Mrs. Claus and their friendly Christmas elves are taking a break from their busy holiday schedule to host a family brunch. Share a memorable time with your kids in a fun-filled atmosphere of Christmas excitement featuring a delicious brunch

buffet. Musical entertainment sets the mood, including an old-fashioned sing-along. Bring your camera so you can take a holiday picture with Santa. Buffet includes scrambled eggs, bacon, sliced turkey, macaroni and cheese and assorted baked goods. Westchester Broadway Theatre, 1 Broadway Plaza, Elmsford. Doors open for first seating at 10 a.m. and the second seating at 1:45 p.m. Adults: \$40 per person (plus tax). Children (13 and under): \$27 per person plus tax. Info and reservations: 914-592-2222 or visit [www.broadwaytheatre.com](http://www.broadwaytheatre.com).

**Orpheus Chamber Orchestra Featuring Steven Isserlis.** Music by the tragically short-lived Hans Rott gives a tantalizing taste of a rising star admired by Bruckner and Mahler. British cellist Steven Isserlis navigates a dizzying spectrum of unabashed emotions in Bach's Cello Concerto in A Major. Finally, Schubert commingles anguish and sublime beauty in the string quartet based on his song "Death and the Maiden," which the orchestra plays in the lush arrangement by Mahler. The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill

**"Amahl and the Night Visitors."** Purchase Opera presents Gian Carlo Menotti's beloved opera that tells the story of Amahl, a curious young boy with an elaborate fantasy life, and his mother, a poor widow struggling to find a way

for them to survive. One night, three wondrous, otherworldly strangers appear at their door, laden with riches and asking for shelter for the night. Awestruck and uncertain, the mother and her son invite them into their humble home, unaware that their lives will forever be altered. A perfect introduction to opera for all audiences, especially children. The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 7 p.m. \$20. Seniors: \$15. Children: \$5. Also Dec. 9 at 1 p.m. Info and tickets: 914-251-6200 or [www.artscenter.org](http://www.artscenter.org).

**The Young Masters:** Hoff-Barthelson Music School's Festival Orchestra Winter Concert. Under the direction of Jun Nakabayashi, listen to Schubert's Overture in the Italian Style in D Major, Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E Minor, Op. 64 and Bizet's Symphony No. 1 in C Major. Violinist YooJin Jang, winner of the 2017 Concert Artists Guild Competition, joins the Festival Orchestra as guest soloist for the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto. Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 468 Rosedale Ave., White Plains. 7 p.m. Suggested admission: \$20. Students: Free. Info: 914-723-1169 or visit [www.hbms.org](http://www.hbms.org).

**"Christmas Carol."** Revelers can share in the spirit of the holiday season in a dramatic performance of Dickens' classic. Along with musical accompaniment,

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master storyteller Jonathan Kruk brings new life to the classic Charles Dickens story of Ebenezer Scrooge, the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future and Tiny Tim in this Historic Hudson Valley production. Recommended for ages 10 and up. Historic Old Dutch Church, 430 Broadway (Route 9), Sleepy Hollow. 3:30, 4:45 and 6 p.m. Adults: \$25. Children (under 18): \$20. Also Dec. 9, 15 and 16. Info and tickets: 914-366-6900 or visit [www.hudsonvalley.org](http://www.hudsonvalley.org).

### Sunday, Dec. 9

**Local Hero Awards.** The Town of Greenburgh's Human Rights Advisory Committee has selected three local residents and a church to be the recipients of its first Local Hero Awards in recognition of their work to promote human rights in the town. They will be honored at a ceremony at 2 p.m. at the Greenburgh Public Library, 300 Tarrytown Road, Elmsford, at an event jointly sponsored with the United Nations Association Westchester Chapter and cosponsored by the Greenburgh Library. The free event is in observance of Human Rights Day, the annual international celebration of the UN's 1948 adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.





## EXAMINER SPORTS

# Stepinac Opens 2018-19 Basketball Season with Loss at Hayes

The Stepinac High School Varsity Basketball Team has set the achievement bar as high as possible for this season, after winning the NY CHSAA AA League Title, the CHSAA AA City Championship and AA Federation Championship last season.

The Crusaders finished the 2017-18 season ranked 11th in the nation with a 27-5 overall, 13-4 League record, while going undefeated at home at 9-0.

"The biggest thing for us to reflect on is that we had unbelievable accomplishments last year but last year is last year. This is not from just me but also from my staff, returning players and players. This is a different group, a different team and a different mindset," stated Head Coach Pat Massaroni, beginning his fourth season at the helm.

The Crusaders certainly gathered a new group at Basketball Media Day, on Nov. 27. They will not have Alan Griffin's 19.2 points, 3.8 assists, 10 rebounds and 2.4 steals per game to depend on this season, as he is displaying his talents at the University of Illinois.

Xavier "X-Man" Wilson will also be missed. The 6'7" forward is in Prep School, after contributing 7.8 points, 7.3 rebounds and 1.6 blocks last season. The Crusaders also lost the 6' 10" frame of center Joel Soriano, who will play for Fordham University next season.

However, do not despair for the Crusaders, as they are still deep with talent.



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

[L-r] Junior RJ Davis, senior Ed Sanchez, sophomore Adrian "A.J." Griffin, Jr., sophomore Malcolm Chimezie and junior Matt Brand, are five of the ballers who will lead the Crusaders basketball team, while defending their CHSAA AA Federation Title this season. Senior Eduard Minaya (not pictured) will also be a team leader.

They bring back junior, RJ Davis with his 20.8 points, six assists, six rebounds and 1.7 steals per game last season. Also returning is the younger Griffin brother, Adrian, Jr. who is a sophomore that has already made his mark in the CHSAA AA, by averaging 12 points, six rebounds and 1.6 blocks per game last season.

Griffin, A. J. as he is referred to, was already a physical marvel. However, he gained 50 pounds of muscle and has grown two more inches during the off-season. He now stands at 6'6" tall and weighs 210 pounds.

"I gained about 50 pounds and grew two inches. I have been jumping rope

and working on my footwork. I definitely plan on expanding my game this season, while being more vocal and playing better defense," said Griffin.

The Crusaders opened their 2018-19 season with a loss, 86-76, to rival Cardinal Hayes, in the Bronx, on Friday. However, the Crusaders first loss this season must be measured considering that four of their top players were sidelined with injuries. Davis, Griffin, Eduard Minaya and RC Ketchum transfer, 6' 8" junior Alpha Bangura, Jr. DNP.

Senior Guard Ed Sanchez, who will anchor the team this season, scored 19 points with five assists, freshman Samuel Gibbs had 16 points in his AA debut, and sophomore upstart Malcolm Chimezie added 16 points, 10 rebounds and three blocks, while returning junior Matt Brand, a White Plains resident, notched 10 points and six rebounds in the Crusaders loss to the Cardinals.

The Crusaders will compete again this year in the Slam Dunk Tournament at the Westchester County Center. They will play AA rival St. Raymond in the opening round, on Friday, Dec. 21, at 8 p.m.

Stepinac will usher in the New Year with their Second Annual Crusaders Classic against archrival Iona Prep, at the Westchester County Center, on Friday, Jan. 4, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. The inaugural Crusaders Classic drew 3500 fans to the Count Center, despite blustery weather conditions.

## Stepinac Athletics' Signing Day Ceremony Highlights Baseball Stars

By Albert Coqueran

Stepinac Athletics held a Signing Day Ceremony in the gym at Stepinac High School, on Wednesday, Nov. 14. Crusaders Head Baseball Coach Keith Richardson hosted the event, as three of his senior players signed to attend colleges after graduating in 2019.

Senior infielder Michael Becchetti signed a Letter of Intent to attend NCAA Division I Fairfield University of the (MAAC) Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference. Crusaders Designated Hitter Izaiah Walker signed to take his skills to Southern Connecticut State University located in New Haven, CT. The Owls participate in NCAA Division II Northeast 10 Conference.

Also, senior Nickolas Venuti signed to attend College of Mount Saint Vincent of the NCAA Division III Skyline Conference and will play locally in Riverdale, NY.

Two more seniors from the baseball team, who were not able to participate in the event, also made commitments to area colleges. Pitcher Chris Fox will attend Dominican College in Rockland



PHOTO COURTESY STEPINAC ATHLETICS

Stepinac Athletics held a signing ceremony to celebrate three senior baseball players who signed Letters of Intent to attend colleges after the 2019 Baseball Season. [L-r seated] Nikolas Venuti, College of Mount Saint Vincent, Izaiah Walker, Southern Connecticut State University and Michael Becchetti, Fairfield University. They were joined by (l-r standing) Assistant Baseball Coach Anthony Arrichiello and Head Coach Keith Richardson.

County of the NCAA Division II Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference and infielder Jonathan Delango will join teammate Venuti at College of Mt. St Vincent in Riverdale.

Also, Colin Sharkey, who did not attend the signing ceremony, committed to play NCAA Division I Lacrosse for University of Vermont of the America East Conference.





# ..... EXAMINER SPORTS .....

## NY Knicks Overtime Win Brings Back the Garden as We Knew It!

By Albert Coqueran

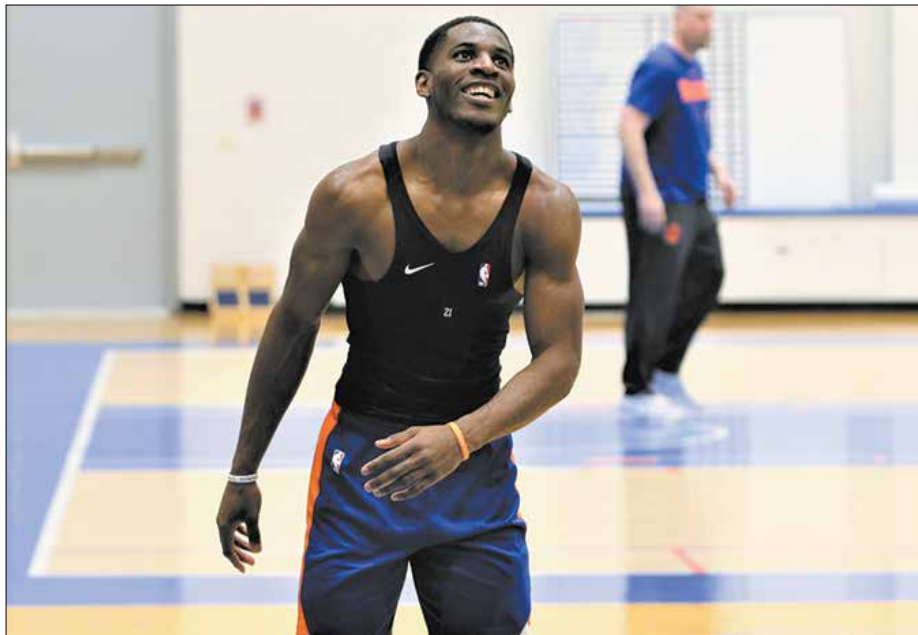
Loyal NY Knicks fans would have to admit that it has been a lowly existence at Madison Square Garden the past five years. The excitement generated throughout the Garden during the Patrick Ewing era has long dissipated. The Knicks have recorded five straight losing seasons the past five years and have not made the playoffs since the 2012-13 season.

Nonetheless, there is a new generation of “young guns” creating a new era of excitement at “The World’s Most Famous Arena” and their talent was on full display on Saturday.

If you were fortunate enough to be part of the sold-out crowd of 19,812 fans in Madison Square Garden on Saturday to witness the Knicks (8-16) beat the Milwaukee Bucks, then you shared a throwback ambiance of the Garden of old. “The Garden as We Knew It!”

The Bucks is the top scoring team in the NBA, averaging 121 points per game, with the second best record (15-7) in the league. The two teams scored a total 270 points in the game, as the Knicks outlasted the Bucks, 136-134 in overtime, as the Garden crowd erupted in old fashion style. “Our fans are behind this team. They understand this is going to be up and down with these youngsters but they are behind us because they see us playing really hard and trying to win every game,” said Knicks Head Coach David Fizdale.

Knicks rookie guard Kevin Knox



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTO

Damian Lillard spent much of last season assigned to the Westchester Knicks but joined the NY Knicks roster at the end of last season and has remained thus far this season. Lillard, practicing at the MSG Training Facility, is one of the NY Knicks “young guns” while averaging a team best 18 points per game in the last three games.

silenced recent critics while playing like a man possessed. Knox is one of Fizdale’s “young guns.” The Knicks rookie scored 13 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter. He led the charge to erase a 14-point deficit with seven minutes left in the fourth quarter, as the Knicks fought back to tie the game 124-124 in regulation.

When Knicks guard Emmanuel Mudiay made a three-point shot to tie the game with 24 ticks left on the clock,

the Garden exploded with enthusiasm. It was like revisiting the days when Ewing held his arms high, as the Garden crowd screamed with approval.

Mudiay, another of Fizdale’s “young guns” logged 28 points on 10-of-18

shooting with seven assists in the game. Mudiay led the attack in overtime with seven points and two rebounds, as the crowd rocked the Garden!

When Knicks guard Damyean Dotson, another of Fizdale’s “young guns” hit a three-pointer to give the Knicks the lead 135-134 with 1:09 remaining in OT, the Knicks faithful exploded again, as if John Starks had just made “The Dunk.” It was Dotson’s fifth straight three-pointer in the game.

Dotson shot 5-for-5 from behind the arc, while scoring 21 points and securing five rebounds in the Saturday-evening thriller at MSG. The elder statesman of the “young guns” Tim Hardaway, Jr. at 26 years old, notched 21 points, eight assists and four rebounds in the game.

Remember this was the Bucks the Knicks beat, who are in first place in the Central Division and tops in scoring in the league while averaging 121 points per game. It is also where Giannis Antetokounmpo resides, who is averaging 27.5 points and 13 rebounds per game.

Antetokounmpo scored a remarkable double-double of 33 points and 19 rebounds in the game. But the NBA All-Star and his supporting cast could not outwit the “young guns” of the Knicks or the throwback roar of the Garden crowd!

## Tigers Pitcher Anthony Burgio Signs with Division II Mavericks



MATT BERKMAN PHOTO

On Wednesday, Nov. 21, in the Media Room at White Plains High School, Tigers senior baseball pitcher Anthony Burgio signed a Letter of Intent to attend Mercy College. Burgio (center) was accompanied by his mother, Maria (left), sister, Juliana (right), father, Tony (standing right) and Head Baseball Coach Marcel Galligani to celebrate the event. Burgio will attend Mercy College in September. He will pitch for the Mavericks of the NCAA Division II East Coast Athletic Conference on the turf field in Dobbs Ferry. The Head Baseball Coach for Mercy College is Chris Schoen, a Hopewell Junction resident, who will begin his third season at the helm in 2019. By Albert Coqueran

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