SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS April 10-April 16, 2018

Proposed WP Budget Considers Sales Tax Receipts Dip

By Pat Casey

The City of White Plains 2018-2019 Proposed Budget was given to the Common Council during its monthly meeting April 2. Eileen Bradley is the Chief Deputy Budget Director.

The total proposed General Fund Tax Budget is \$174,046,442, \$3,904,962 (2.3%) higher than last year's budget. The accompanying proposed property tax rate increase is 2.9% (\$211.36), based on a tax levy of \$59.8 million, representing 34.3% of total General Fund revenues. The tax rate increase is slightly below the state authorized tax cap.

The city's taxable assessment roll is \$283.1 million, an increase of \$1.4 million (0.5%) over the \$281.7 million found in the 2017-2018 adopted budget. It includes the transfer of the former Fortunoff

Other major revenue sources include unrestricted sales tax revenue of \$44.5 million, representing 25.6% of General Fund revenues and parking related revenues of \$25.5 million (meter fees, fines, permit charges), representing 14.6% of revenues.

Overall estimated revenues are \$0.2 million less than last year.

Intergovernmental grants and aid of \$8.1 million represent 4.6% of revenues. Of this amount \$5.5 million is estimated to come from New York State Aid and incentives to municipalities and \$1.95 million is generated from NYS mortgage

The Budget Message indicates that the property tax levy cap and reductions in sales tax returns continue to be a challenge for the city to provide optimum services and have the potential to impact negatively the city's fund balance, which has been rebuilt over the past eight years. Accordingly, the city is using its bonding authority to address capital needs, with a caveat that future debt service requirements will be a challenge.

Sales tax receipts, which used to provide a higher percentage of overall revenue for the city reflect new consumer shopping preferences, such as online purchases. It is anticipated that new residential units at various developments around the city will provide new shoppers.

In 2010 the Common Council established a tax stabilization account and adopted a 14% sales tax rate with proceeds used to fund the account. The tax is subject to renewal every two years and remains in effect through Aug. 2019. The amount in the account can be used to address either a significant and unforeseen shortfall in a major revenue source or provide funding for an unforeseen increase in expenditures.

Other budget highlights include the proposed \$6.6 million budget for the Library Fund at \$46,000 (0.7%) more

than last year. Property taxes will provide \$6.4 million (97.7%) of the funding needed for library operations with the remainder derived from user fees, grants, contributions and other revenue sources.

The major revenue sources for the Water Fund and the Sewer Rent Fund are user fees charged to external customers. The sewer rent rate will remain at 19% of the amount charged for water service.

On the expenditures side, personnel costs account for \$124.7 million, 71.7%. Salaries are \$75,974,634 in 2018-2019 compared with \$75,380,820 in 2017-2018. Employee benefits are \$48,763,688 in 2018-2019 compared with \$46,387,264 in 2017-2018.

To maintain stabilization, the proposed budget continues hiring restrictions initiated eight years ago.

The full budget can be viewed at www. cityofwhiteplains.com.

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NY Bar Association Acknowledges WP Youth Bureau



White Plains Youth Bureau received a \$2,500 donation from the New York Bar Association last week. From left to right Connie Jones, Dr. Bhavana Pahwa, Mayor Tom Roach, Ellis Mirsky and Frank Williams, Jr. received the gift for White Plains youth programs.

Esport Arena Opening at White Plains Galleria Canceled

Battleground Zero Esport Arena, a British-based company, had rented a 4,000 sq. ft. space in the food hall area of the White Plains Galleria mall and was expected to open in a week when a clarification about arcade gaming in the city's zoning code abruptly stopped the process over the weekend.

Referred to by gaming enthusiasts as an IMAX theater of video games where people gather to interact rather than play alone at home, the question about the facility's compliance with a law that prohibits arcades in the city caused members of the White Plains Building Dept. to stop the opening and conduct a

A report on lohud.com said the power was cut off and the manager and staff were escorted out of the building by mall security during a soft opening and press event on Saturday.

A press release posted on the front page of the Battleground Zero website by the company's CEO Steven Christophersen referred to the whole affair as "weird behavior" by the City of White Plains' Building Department.

In the press release Christophersen said, ...Our teams have worked extremely hard for this date, and we regret to inform you that we have been shut down by The

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Proposed WP Budget Considers Sales Tax Receipts Dip

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The budget review schedule:

Budget Överview - Tuesday, April 17, 6:30 p.m. Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall

Community Services, Public Works, Public Safety, Parking - Tuesday, April 24, 6:30 p.m. Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall

Public Hearing - Monday, May 7, 7:30 p.m. Common Council Chambers, City Hall

Budget Adoption – Wednesday, May 30, 6:30 p.m., Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall

Esport Arena Opening at White Plains Galleria Canceled

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City of White Plains Building Dept., and to make it worse we have no idea why since we were in line with all permits and requirements as verified by the White Plains City Inspectors. To make matters stranger the shutdown comes from an Engineer who declared that selling t-shirts, computers, desks, and chairs is considered illegal in White Plains and in a shopping mall. I am as confused as you are why an American city is against Internet, technology, and American businesses with software created in the United States and Silicon Valley."

The store's manager said he had been working with the Galleria for months.



Example of a Battleground Zero Esport Arena. Source: Facebook.

The building permits indicated that the business would be primarily retail. The arcade prohibition limits stores to three videogame machines.

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The lohud.com report quoted Karen Pasquale, senior adviser to White Plains Mayor Tom Roach, that it was a misunderstanding based on the information contained in (Battle Ground Zero's) original permit application as to what the space would be used for.

According to the lohud report, Pasquale further said the Building Department is working through that now and would be in touch with the applicant shortly.

The Battleground Zero website is also selling "Let Us Game" t-shirts aimed at White Plains. One reads: "We are in America, not Russia, and they game."





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Utility Company Heads Grilled During State Senate Hearing on Storms

By David Propper

The leaders of three utilities on the hot seat stood up for their companies' performances during a recent NYS Senate hearing in Albany to address massive and lengthy power outages that were caused by two powerful winter storms.

State lawmakers questioned the heads of the three utility companies about the apparent shortfalls of restoring power to thousands of Lower Hudson Valley customers following two massive storms in March, which led to universal outrage from local communities. Winter Storm Riley and Winter Storm Quinn wreaked havoc in Putnam and Westchester counties, with downed trees a common sight and lights out throughout both counties.

Local and state lawmakers have slammed companies like Consolidated Edison, New York State Electric and Gas, and Central Hudson for their performances since the bruising storms.

NYSEG CEO Carl Taylor said he was "very proud" of the work done by company workers after the two storms. He said NYSEG was prepared for the widespread weather event, but the Lower Hudson Valley faced the brunt of the storm. More than 3,000 wires went down, 400 poles broke, and damage occurred to other infrastructure that helps power

homes and businesses. About 870 workers worked 17-hour days on restoration until all customers were restored, he said.

"This was an extraordinary effort... in an extraordinary event," Taylor said, adding another storm after Winter Storm Riley hampered recovery efforts. Taylor noted NYSEG has committed millions of dollars into the Brewster division in years past and are developing ways to put together a climate resilient infrastructure.

Central Hudson CEO Michael Mosher said he understands power outages impose great stress and safety risks on customers, but putting the lights back on after major storms can pose challenges. In advance of Winter Storm Riley, Mosher said the organization prepared and called on mutual aid before the storm got underway. It was the fourth most severe storm in the past 50 years for Central Hudson, Mosher said. While every customer was restored right before the second snowstorm, it caused 50,000 outages, he added.

"Any comparison between any two storms and for that matter restoration performance between utilities is difficult and imprecise," Mosher said.

Con Ed CEO John McAvoy said as the company attempted to restore power after the first storm, the second storm delayed work. As for the communication

breakdown, McAvoy noted a software defect and modeling problem were the cause of that inaccurate information.

McAvoy said Con Ed understands why people were frustrated and upset with the company as they sat in the dark.

"This has been a difficult few weeks for our customers," McAvoy said.

State Senator Terrence (R-Yorktown) said a lot of the frustration came from bad communication and a better plan must be put together to improve services. Murphy said despite investigations following other hurricanes and major storms in recent years, the job done by utilities was "unacceptable."

"We can't beat Mother Nature, but we owe it to the people we serve to have a practical, effective emergency plan we can put into effect when outages do occur," Murphy said.

Murphy asked the three utilities if each company put forward an adequate effort, which didn't get a strong retort.

"I think you know the answer to that, that's why we're here," Murphy quipped.

State Senator Sue Serino (R-Hyde Park) asked whether the companies would reimburse for any lost food during the storm. Mosher said Central Hudson doesn't but provided dry ice for customers and Taylor said NYSEG would be sending information to affected customers about

possible reimbursement. Consolidated Edison is providing reimbursement.

Serino said while she was on the ground in the aftermath of both noreasters, she noticed Putnam faced a tougher time than Dutchess County restoring power and clearing debris. One 93-year-old constituent, Norma, who lives in Lake Peekskill, had to be rushed to the hospital after she could not get access to her heart medicine a couple of days following the storm. When she was released, she was taken to a Red Cross Center in Westchester and ended up wearing the same clothes on her back for eight days while her home had no power.

Norma was also told several times she had power back, when in fact she didn't that led to more confusion and heartache, Serino said.

"They deserve answers," Serino said of her constituents.

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Greenburgh Approves Honey Beekeeping Law

The Greenburgh Town Board has changed its zoning ordinance to allow beekeeping in the One-Family Residence District on properties of at least 10,000 sq.

Registration for beekeeping must be made through the Dept. of Community Development and Conservation.

The law states that apiaries (a hive or hive-like structure having removable frames specifically designed for housing a bee colony) shall be located at least 20 feet from any property line, excluding the front property line. No apiaries are permitted in the front yard.

The apiary's entrance must face away from the property line closest to the beehive and must be situated to avoid unreasonable interference with pedestrian traffic. In instances where an abutting or adjacent resident provides medical documentation of a serious allergy to bee stings, to the satisfaction of the town attorney, the apiary shall be located at least 250 feet from any property line.

The prospective beekeeper shall have, or cause to have, a physical barrier such as a fence or hedgerow along an appropriate portion or entirety of the nearest property line of the apiary.

Applicants must notify abutting or adjacent property owners/current resident, by U.S. Mail, both by first class and by certified return receipt, at least one month prior to the registration process with the Department of Community Development and Conservation. notifying them of their intent to register and maintain an apiary or apiaries.

On lots 10,000 sq. ft. to 40,000 sq. ft. no more than two apiaries are permitted. On lots greater than 40,000 sq. ft. no more than four apiaries are permitted.

Commercial signage associated with any apiary is prohibited.

Evidence of completed educational/ training programs by the prospective beekeeper must be provided in connection with the applicable registration form.

Annual registration is required.

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

State Gets in Under Wire, Approves New Budget for 2018-19

Up against a deadline with the Passover and Easter holidays at the beginning of the month, the New York State Legislature squeezed through a state-spending plan that averted a possible government shutdown.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo and top legislative leaders from the Assembly and Senate found common ground just before the spring holiday weekend that resulted in a \$168 billion state budget. It includes a \$1 billion increase for state education aid while still closing a \$4.4 billion deficit that made this year's budget process more strenuous.

An expansive sexual harassment policy was also voted through that would end most nondisclosure agreements and mandatory arbitration when a complaint surfaces in state government. Any government worker found to have committed harassment would need to refund any taxpayer-financed payout, the law states. Companies that want state bids for business would need to develop antiharassment policies and training.

But the budget once again left out substantive ethics reform, despite the conviction of a senior aide to Cuomo, Joseph Percoco, on corruption charges last month. Early voting reform was also left out and the Internet Fairness Act,

meant to tax Internet sellers, also failed to be included in the final bill.

State Sen. Terrence Murphy (R-Yorktown) said lawmakers made tough sacrifices to ensure that the budget was approved on time while preserving critical services and enhancing programs.

Murphy highlighted education funding and infrastructure investments included in the budget and stressed New York upheld its commitment to fight the opioid scourge by placing \$245 million to help residents addicted to drugs.

"We will not back down, we will not give up and we will continue to support our neighbors and their families," Murphy

He said the budget included \$24 million to assist local communities in Westchester that will be affected by Indian Point's pending closure in 2021. He also applauded the comprehensive sexual assault policies that were approved.

victims "Protecting of sexual harassment and assault has been on the forefront of our minds and has remained a priority throughout this legislative session," Murphy explained. provisions included in this year's budget put New York miles ahead when it comes to protecting those who have experienced such terrible acts."

Assemblyman Kevin (R-Mahopac) complained that the budget that needed to be closed and policies process was filled with flaws, including a lack of transparency. He said most of the bills connected to the budget were voted on when most New York residents were asleep. The Assembly didn't finish voting until after 4 a.m. on Saturday of the Passover/Easter weekend.

"We're voting on budget bills before a budget deal is agreed to," Byrne said. "When we're voting on spending, we don't know how we're going to pay for it, we don't know what taxes are in the deal, what taxes are outside of the deal."

He said he's upset an opioid manufacturer tax was included, which could eventually be passed onto consumers. While some of the money will go to fighting addiction, some of it will go to the general fund, he said.

Byrne said he was pleased new sexual harassment guidelines were put into place but said more state leaders should have been included in the process, including Sen. Andrea Stewart Cousins, the Senate Minority Leader. (Cuomo and three male legislators put the policy together.) He was pleased with funding for veteran services, schools, libraries and roads.

Assemblywoman Sandy D-Ossining) noted this was one of the toughest budget seasons she's been a part of because of the \$4 billion deficit enacted by the federal government. She said the state included legislation to give communities the option to potentially get around the GOP tax law passed by Congress last year.

Galef said she was pleased that \$24 million toward communities affected by the 2021Indian Point closure and an increase in school aid.

However, she was disappointed bail reform and early voting measures didn't make the cut in the final budget, though she noted the state legislature could get that legislation done later in the year.

"So many things dropped off the table," Galef said.





Westchester County Exec. and Bronx Borough Pres. Meet



Westchester County Executive George Latimer and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. sat down for the first time at the Bronx County Building last week with the goal of discussing ways the two governments can work together. The neighboring districts — while unique in their own ways — share a border and history, and with that comes shared concerns and shared solutions, both county leaders agreed. The meeting covered topics including where services can be shared, increasing public transportation between Westchester and the Bronx, creating opportunities for shared tourism events in Van Cortlandt Park and the Kensico Dam, and how Westchester and the Bronx can work together to create jobs in the expanding bio-tech field.

www.TheExaminerNews.com April 10 - April 16, 2018



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No. White Plains Residents Criticize Multi-Family Housing Potential

By Martin Wilbur

Several North White Plains residents urged the North Castle Town Board last week to back off any plans to create more multifamily zoning in the hamlet as part of the updated Comprehensive Plan.

Four speakers at the Mar. 28 Town Board meeting criticized officials for considering a potential zoning revision that could allow more mixed-use multifamily housing above ground-floor commercial spaces on Route 22.

The town is weighing whether to

increase the height limits on buildings in the Central Business district in North White Plains from two stories and 30 feet to three stories and 40 feet.

"We in North White Plains have more multifamily units than any other area of North Castle and we don't need or want any more than is already required," said longtime resident Ed Lobermann.

At a Mar. 22 Comprehensive Plan work session, the town's planning consultant, Frank Fish, recommended the Town Board evaluate allowing the extra floor. The rationale is that owners of certain parcels along the stretch would be more apt to redevelop their property because the current economic climate makes a two-story mixed-use building economically unfeasible.

Fish said that given the width of the roadway – about 44 feet – Route 22 could handle the additional height without it looking out of place. Generally, a one-to-one roadway width to building height ratio is acceptable, he said.

However, outspoken residents said there

is already heavy congestion on Route 22 during peak hours and an overcrowding problem in other areas of the hamlet. There are too many cars parked on many side streets, in some cases because of illegal apartments in private homes.

Under the recommendation to the board, a property owner would still need to obtain a special use permit from the town to have apartments on the second and third floor.

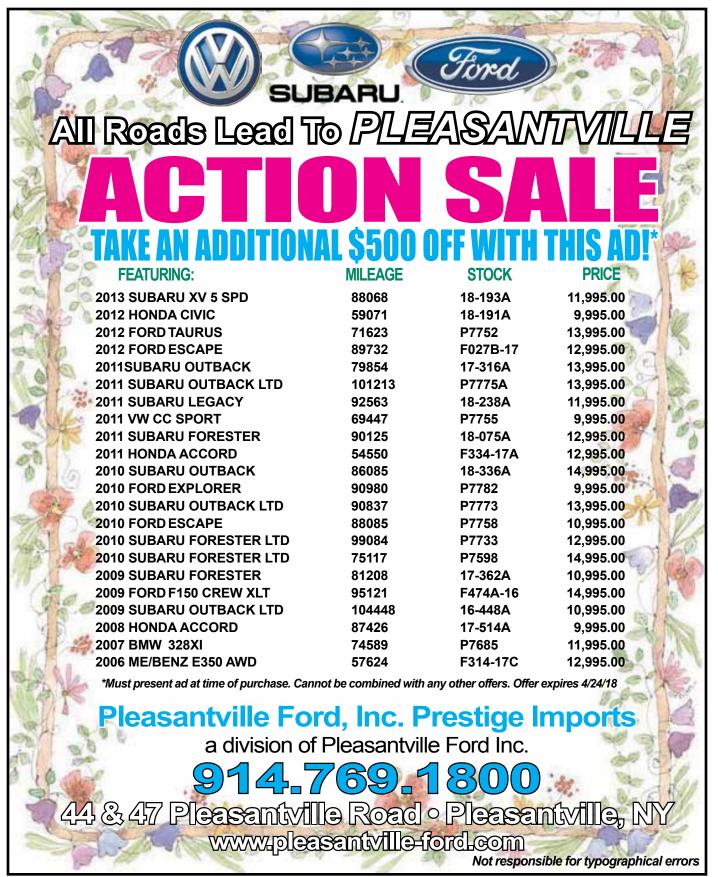
Town board members did express concern at last month's work session about the added density that a zoning revision could cause. Supervisor Michael Schiliro called on Fish and Director of Planning Adam Kaufman to estimate the potential number of units that could be built if the recommendation is incorporated into the updated Comprehensive Plan and zoning code.

It is believed that a handful of properties could accommodate the multiuse development, including Sir John Plaza, 690 and 901 N. Broadway and the property housing Imperial Wok.

One resident said it was wrong that town officials are looking to protect Armonk's Main Street from the possibility of the three-story regulation, also zoned as a Central Business district, because it's a narrower street. Meanwhile, North White Plains, which is already overcrowded, is threatened with more development.



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Police Blotter

Port Chester Man Sentenced in Violent Robbery Spree

On April 4, Westchester County District Attorney Anthony Scarpino, Jr. announced the sentencing of Daniel Thomas Jones (DOB 1/24/91) as a second violent felony offender following his plea in the 2015 death of Arturo Arias Garcia of Port Chester following a violent robbery spree.

Jones has been sentenced to 20 years in prison plus five years post-release supervision (PRS) for one count of Manslaughter in the First Degree, a class B felony; 20 years in prison plus five years PRS for one count of Robbery in the First Degree, a class B violent felony; and 15 years in prison plus five years PRS on each of two counts of Robbery in the



Daniel Thomas Jones

Second Degree, class C felonies.

All sentences to run concurrently with each other but consecutively to any

undischarged period of parole from an earlier crime.

On Nov. 25, 2015, at approximately 2:50 a.m., Jones and two co-conspirators approached two men sitting in a pickup truck located in the Stop and Shop Parking lot in Port Chester.

They assaulted and robbed the victims, stealing wallets, an iPhone, cash and a bankcard. Both victims suffered head injuries requiring medical treatment.

Three days later, Nov. 28, 2015, at approximately 4:40 a.m., Arturo Arias Garcia was confronted by Jones on Abendroth Avenue in Port Chester. Jones struck him in the head and Garcia fell to the pavement. Jones proceeded to steal the victim's cash and credit card.

At approximately 5:10 a.m., Garcia was

seen by a witness lying motionless on the sidewalk. He was observed motionless again by that same witness at 5:30 a.m. Five minutes later, the witness called 911. Police and EMT's responded to the location. They determined the victim had no pulse and were not able to revive him. The victim was later pronounced dead at Greenwich Hospital.

An autopsy determined that Garcia died from blunt force trauma to the head resulting in a fatal concussion.

An extensive investigation by the Port Chester Police and the District Attorney's Office placed Jones on Abendroth Avenue in Port Chester at the time Garcia was attacked. Further investigation revealed forensic evidence linking Daniel Jones to the Nov. 25 parking lot robbery.

Obituaries

Cecilia Murray

Cecilia Murray of West Harrison passed away April 6. She was 88.

Cecilia was born July 5, 1929 in the Bronx to Christopher and Cecilia (nee Bradley) McWade.

Cecilia married her husband, the late John P. Murray, on May 31, 1952 at St. Joseph's Church, Bronx. For over 25 years she was a representative with New York Telephone. Cecilia loved her family, her faith, and her travels.

Cecilia is survived by her three children, Barbara (John Gary Luboja) of Briarcliff Manor, James (Dorothy) of Troy, NY and John C. (Whitney) of Carmel, IN, her brothers William and Frank McWade, her sister Kathleen Pizzuti and her eight grandchildren, Barbara Luboja (Adam) Possidente, John P. (Christina) and Christopher Luboja, Benjamin and Adam Murray and Bradley, Jason and Paige Murray.

Besides her husband John, Cecilia is predeceased by her brothers Christopher and Peter McWade, and her sisters Mary Engel and Bernadette Blumenfeld.

Donations in Cecilia's name can be sent to the Victoria Home 25 North Malcolm St. Ossining, NY 10562.

Monroe Heidecorn

Monroe Heidecorn was born May 21, 1923 to Helen and David Heidecorn and passed away on April 6, 2018, one month shy of his 95th birthday.

A lifelong resident of Westchester County, he was born in Mt. Vernon and graduated with honors from EB Davis High School at the age of 16 – excelling in math. Monroe was accepted to Yale, class of 1944 (Sheffield School of Engineering). With the outset of World War II, he accelerated his studies graduating in October 1943. While in college, he enrolled in the Reserve Officer's Training

Corp (ROTC) and was inducted into the Army as a private on April 1, 1943, but returned to campus to complete his last term. After graduation he was sent to Officer's Candidate School (OCS) in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, which he attended from October 1943 to March 1944. As a 1st lieutenant in the Army he was sent to Italy with the 617th Field Artillery Observation Battalion under General Clark. He returned to the United States at the end of World War II but because he was short the requisite number of months to be fully discharged, he was redeployed to Europe to help with the post war efforts. He remained in Germany after being discharged from the Army and worked with the Civil Service War Department at the 56th Quarter Base Depot.

When Monroe left civil service, he entered the family retail shoe business, Economy Shoes, expanding it to six stores in Westchester and changing the name to Heide Shoes. He sold the stores but never retired transitioning to commercial real estate, which he actively pursued until his passing.

He was married for 58 years to Marian who predeceased him. He was a member of Kol Ami Temple in White Plains for 60 years.

His proudest legacy was of his 19 progeny: father of Gail Kedrus (Vitaliy), Debra Goldman (Noah) and David Heidecorn (Deborah); grandfather to Joshua Goldman (Eleanor), Eric Goldman (Elisabeth), Nadine Kedrus (Nicholas Marshall), Brooke Heidecorn (Brian Waldman), Keith Heidecorn and Katherine Goldman; great grand-father to Emma Goldman, Simon Marshall and Sarah Goldman.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hudson Valley Honor Flights in memory of Monroe Heidecorn. The Heidecorn Family Foundation will match dollar for dollar all donations made to HVHF. Make checks payable to H.V.H.F.

(Or Hudson Valley Honor Flight), P.O. Box 375, Walden, NY 12586. Online donations: www.hvhonorflight.com/donate.

John H. Benedetto

John H. Benedetto, of West Harrison, was called to his eternal home on April 5. He was born June 9, 1929 in Port Chester.

John is pre-deceased by his loving wife Theresa, and also pre-deceased by his parents Joseph and Mary Benedetto. John is survived by his daughter Beth, her husband Bob, and his much-loved grandson Danny, as well as his daughter Lori and granddaughter Jen. John also leaves behind two younger brothers Joe (Ann), and Donald (Ernie) and many dear cousins, nieces and nephews.

John had several jobs over the course of his 88 years, but his most rewarding job came later in life as a school bus driver. He truly enjoyed being with the kids he drove and was very well respected and loved by both the children and their parents.

Anyone who knows John, knows that in addition to the deep love he had for his family, he also had a passion for singing, the NY Yankees, and his country! They brought him a tremendous amount of joy throughout his life. His singing brought others joy too.

In his younger days, he entertained in nightclubs, and made appearances on the Ted Mack Amateur Hour, both the radio and TV show. Up until last year when he got ill, he performed annually at the Golden Harvest Senior Show at the Westchester County Center where he was always a HUGE hit.

John proudly served three years in the US Army, stationed in Japan, and received an honorable discharge after his time served. He was an extremely patriotic person, whose love for his country ran deep.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that donations

be made in John's name to Saint Anthony of Padua Church, 85 Harrison St., West Harrison, NY 10604.

Velma Rubbino Iannone

Velma Rubbino Iannone, of White Plains, passed away April 4. She was 90.

Velma was born October 28, 1927 in Derry, Louisiana to the late Meleet and Ellen (nee Ratliff) Floyes.

Velma is survived by her four children, Pat (Margie) Rubbino Jr., Betty (Bob) Gardiner, Diane (Charlie) Rubbino, and Linda (Bob) Foster. She is also survived by her seven grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.





How to Receive a Cablevision Outage Bill Credit

Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner is advising residents that if they lost Cablevision/Optimum service during the recent storms they can qualify for a credit on their bill.

"Cablevision knows by address about how long your service was out. If you were out for less than four hours you would not qualify. If you are out for a longer period of time you do," Feiner says.

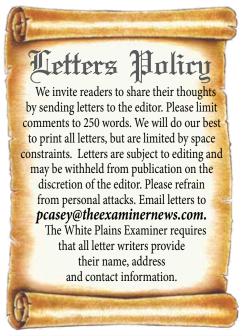
New York customers need to contact the company. "You need to contact them. Even though they likely know how long your service was out they will not credit your account automatically according to what they told me. You need to call," Feiner said. "You will need to know what dates you were out of service."

Feiner estimates that if your bill is in the area of \$200/month you should receive about \$6.50 off of your bill for each 24 hours you were out.

Customers can call 718-860-3513 or visit www.optimum.net/supporrt/outage/

Feiner further advises that if Greenburgh residents have trouble getting their refunds, they should contact him and he will follow up.









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Tell Congress to Help Stop Tariffs on Newsprint

By David Chavern

Canadian newsprint is not the enemy – tariffs are.

Every day at the News Media Alliance headquarters, a stack of newspapers arrives for myself and the staff. But with the Department of Commerce and the International Trade Commission currently considering tariffs on Canadian newsprint, those days of screen-free reading could be coming to an end.

The fact that newsprint is being threatened is the work of one newsprint mill in the Pacific Northwest, NORPAC. In August 2017, NORPAC petitioned the United States Department of Commerce to begin applying tariffs to newsprint imported from Canada, claiming the imported paper was harming the U.S. newsprint industry. But NORPAC is not acting in the best interests of newsprint consumers or the U.S. paper industry at large — they are acting in their own interest and no one else's.

The buying and selling of newsprint has always been regional without regard for the border. Consumers of newsprint — from newspaper and book publishers to telephone directory manufacturers — tend to buy newsprint in their region, close to their printing operations. The printers who typically utilize Canadian newsprint are those in the northeast and Midwest, where there are currently no U.S. mills operating.

But those regions are not newsprint deserts because of unfair trade by Canadian paper mills. Rather, newsprint mills shut down or converted to producing other, more profitable paper products when the demand for newsprint fell, something that has been happening steadily for decades. Since 2000, the demand for newsprint in North America has dropped by 75 percent.

But affordable Canadian paper has helped keep the printed news alive and flourishing well into the 21st century. With new tariffs, many smaller newspapers will feel their belts tightening. combination of preliminary countervailing and antidumping duties increases the cost of imported newsprint by as much as 32% and a number of newspapers have already experienced price increases and a disruption in supply. If the International Trade Commission and the Department of Commerce make these tariffs permanent in the coming months, it could lead some small local publishers to cut their print product entirely — or even shut their doors.

Some, like NORPAC, may argue that by imposing duties on Canadian imports we're saving American jobs and boosting our own economy, but while that may sometimes be true for other industries, the opposite is true of newsprint.

What we're seeing with the newsprint tariffs is not a government acting to try



David Chavern

to better the economy for its citizens. Instead, it is "political arbitrage" by one private investment group — where they are effectively looking to use the U.S. government to tax local and community newspapers across the United States in order to bolster their own bottom line.

When considering whether to take NORPAC's claims seriously, the Department of Commerce excluded input from U.S. newsprint mills owned by Canadian companies — specifically Resolute Forest Products and White Birch. Excluding manufacturers who, during the period of investigation, had three functioning newsprint mills in the U.S. because they have sister mills in Canada shows an unwillingness to understand the borderless newsprint industry and the restructuring that has taken place in recent decades.

If the tariffs on Canadian newsprint are allowed to stand, we're not only risking a centuries-old relationship with our neighbors to the north, but we're putting our own U.S. news industry in jeopardy. While the big national and regional papers may have less trouble finding the funds to keep their print editions coming, we could see small publishers lose footing, and those tiny local papers are some of the most vital members of our news community. Under the right conditions, those papers can find a way to maintain their footing, but if the newsprint industry can't support them, those communities will become news deserts, and that's a future none of us want.

We may not be able to save the entire industry by keeping tariffs off our paper, but we can keep it thriving while we reposition ourselves for the years to come. Having affordable newsprint will help us do that.

David Chavern serves as President & CEO of the News Media Alliance. Chavern has built a career spanning 30 years in executive strategic and operational roles, and most recently completed a decade-long tenure at the United States Chamber of Commerce.

National Black Caucus of Young Elected Officials Open Letter to President Trump

Last week, White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders reinforced that the Trump White House has no interest in holding police departments accountable for the epidemic of police shootings of unarmed Black people in our country. Press Secretary Sanders referenced the Stephon Clark shooting in Sacramento, CA, where Clark was shot eight times, mostly in the back, while standing in his grandmother's backyard, stating that it's "a local matter, and... something that we feel should be left up to the local authorities at this point and time." Sanders doubled down by adding the president is very supportive of law enforcement officers, while making no mention of support for the family impacted by this tragedy.

This thoughtless response from the highest office in our country comes at a time when a growing movement, led by communities of color and a new wave of young people, is seeking an end to all gun violence.

We as members of the National Black Caucus of the Young Elected Officials Network (NBC YEO) stand together to call for immediate actions that lead our nation to ending police violence and statesupported violence on black people.

As elected officials, collectively we represent over two million residents and police officers of integrity who live and work in constant fear of police violence and a lack of accountability. This substandard service is paid for with their

tax dollars, but leads to unfair treatment

As young elected leaders, it's on us to push for transformational change so that these situations never happen again. We continue to commit ourselves, our energy, and our local and state offices to solve this issue and ensure Stephon Clark, a 22-year-old father of two kids, is one of the 277 people fatally shot by police nationwide already this year.

We believe every level of government has a responsibility to ensure best practices are being implemented in all 17,000+ law enforcement agencies around our country.

First, this responsibility falls with President Trump and Attorney General Jeff Sessions to denounce actions that harm innocent life and to become a Department of Justice (DOJ) that safeguards the rights of all Americans. Instead, President Trump has called on officers to be "rough" with people they arrest and Sessions has dismantled the division of DOJ that enforces best practice oversight.

DOJ has the monumental responsibility of ensuring that civil rights protections are enforced, especially for those who are too often the target of violations, including Black Americans and other people of color.

The National Black Caucus of the Young Elected Officials Network (NBC YEO) and People For the American Way Foundation

(PFAWF) will not stand idly by while President Trump and Attorney General Sessions abandon the Justice Department's legal and moral responsibility to uphold core constitutional principles.

PFAWF stands with the NBC YEO in calling on DOJ to restore the federal oversight policing program to curb abusive policing. U.S. Code 14141 allows the Justice Department to investigate any report of police actions that suggest a pattern of violations of community members' constitutional rights. When allegations are upheld, DOJ can seek agreement with local governments on police reforms.

The safety and protection of the public while sustaining everyone's civil rights should be the paramount concern and duty of law enforcement officials. We condemn abdication of federal oversight and urge DOJ to restore its commitment to fixing broken policing.

Initially, we call for:

- •Federal, state, and local prosecutors to prosecute police misconduct. We expect prosecutors to achieve justice and use their power to monitor police abuse.
- •Local prosecutors to create a local civil rights unit dedicated to investigating and prosecuting police misconduct fairly, transparently, and independently.
- •State attorneys general to provide recommendations and guidelines for local prosecutors and investigators of misconduct to ensure police accountability.
- •DOJ as well as state and local prosecutors to launch systemic investigations when agencies are suspected of engaging in "pattern of practice" violations and discrimination.
- •Local mayors and city councils to create civilian oversight structures, select police chiefs who prioritize building trust

with communities, conduct de-escalation and life preserving trainings, develop protocols to ensure these trainings are observed, and support alternative mental health interventions.

- •Every police department to reflect the diversity of the communities they serve and reject misguided practices such as "broken windows" and "stop & frisk."
- •Explore regulations on police use of firearms.

Together we stand united to sustain Black lives and end all gun violence. We say "enough" to a problem that has taken far too many family members from our communities. We assure our nation that success is possible—and we recognize the work of our very own, Portsmouth, VA Commonwealth Attorney Stephanie Morales, who is one of a handful of local prosecutors to convict a police officer of misconduct in the killing of an unarmed Black teenager.

Now is the time to push for transformational change and repair the grave harm that has been done.

-Sincerely in Service, Hon. Christopher A. Johnson, Westchester County Legislator, District 16; Hon. Shanae Williams, Yonkers City Councilmember, District 1; Hon. Quantel Bazemore, Village of Ossining Trustee; 100+ additional Local and State Young Black Elected Officials Nationwide

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Woman's Club of White Plains Gears Up For Annual Fashion Show

On Saturday April 21, the Woman's Club of White Plains will hold its Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon to support scholarships for White Plains students.

The luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. and includes a silent auction. Tickets are available on the Club website www. womansclubofwhiteplains.org.

When the tradition began in the 1950s, scholarships were awarded to nursing students at White Plains Hospital. Currently the recipients are graduating

seniors from White Plains who demonstrate academic promise, moral character and community service. The scholarship committee reviewed over 50 applications for scholarships from which it will select the winners. In addition, the Belle Knight Scholarship, named after the first president of the Woman's Club, will be given to a student with outstanding leadership skills and commitment to community. The recipients are honored at a dinner at the Woman's Club in May.





Send Your 2017 NYS Tax Refund Directly to Your 529 College Savings Plan

The 2017 New York State income tax return includes a new form to directly deposit your state income tax refund into a 529 College Savings Plan for a child, grandchild, friend or yourself.

Sponsored by Assemblyman David Buchwald in 2016, and unanimously passed by both the State Assembly and Senate, a new law (Chapter 454 of the Laws of 2016) is now in effect. This makes it easy to send your refund dollars right to your 529 College Savings Account using the newly created Form IT-195, which is submitted along with your resident or non-resident return.

Those savings can grow tax-free when used to pay for higher education expenses, including tuition, room and board, books and other supplies. New York State residents are encouraged to save for higher education using this program, and the earlier you get started the better.

Senator Thomas Croci (R-Suffolk County) carried the bill in the State Senate and was instrumental in getting the bill passed unanimously in both houses.

To open up a college savings account, visit https://www.nysaves.org/home/open-ny-529-account.html.

How to Live With and Address Noise Problems in Our Midst

Recently I was made aware that I'm probably a noisy person. Not to myself so much, but maybe to others. More and more, if I'm watching television in one room and my wife is in another, she'll say mine is too loud.

I'll always remember the surprise of once driving onto my property where I was to meet my trusty painter to discuss the job of repainting some of my interior spaces. I was a little late, so I jumped out of my car without turning off the motor or radio to unlock the place. My painter, who had worked for me for a long time, looked at me askance and said, "Knowing the kind of man you are, I never would have thought you'd play loud music in your car!" Yes, I like loud music.

For more than 40 years I lived on a property with no homes near me, but now that I'm living in a condo with neighbors across and down the hall, I guess my reverberating days are over if I'm to be a considerate neighbor.

Just last week, gentleman across the hall asked if the piano playing he heard was coming from my unit. Oh, no, I thought! I'm only able to play the American Songbook and I'm so rusty after a 30-year absence from the keyboard that I'm sure Cole Porter and Richard Rodgers are rolling over in their graves. Since that time, I haven't been playing late and have been using the soft pedal when I do.

Many of us have had some kind of proximity to a neighbor who is subject to noise we make. That can create problems, sometimes big ones. When

I moved into my first apartment in the city, it was new, cheap construction and



By Bill Primavera

the floor above me had no carpeting. Living there was a single mother who must have regularly worn spiked heels and had a child who could only have been possessed by a demon.

When my wife and I married and shared our first apartment in another new building, there was an older gentleman who lived in the apartment right off the lobby who loved to share his life with the building's other residents. He must have been involved with entertainment in the 1950s, because he would leave his door open and sing songs of that period without accompaniment. Only in New York, right?

His favorite was "A White Sport Coat and a Pink Carnation." Whenever my wife and I want to refer to the intrusion of one person's lifestyle, aka "noise," into another's, all we have to do is sing that song as code and it speaks volumes.

When we moved to the country, the vagaries of close proximity were lessened for sensitive ears and far different. There is the noise of lawn mowers, leaf blowers, and the biggest offender about which most of us complain, barking dogs, especially if they bark uninterrupted for too long. Most town codes have an acceptable length of time an owner can have a dog bark before a neighbor can ask that a warning be issued by the code enforcement officer.

For those of us who share condo or apartment walls, we have the same issues that those in the city have. I recently discussed this subject with a friend who

told me that he shares walls on either side of his condo unit with other retired people.

"I know most things about their lifestyles," he said, "like when the nice woman on one side of me can't sleep and I hear her TV go on in the middle of the night. We just adjust."

Sometimes it's a matter of luck or circumstances. My neighbor in the condo across the hall from my top-floor unit asked me if I hear a noisy motor on the roof as he does. I don't. He also indicated that he hears loud music until 11 p.m. and can't determine its source, while my unit is usually like a tomb. But, you never know.

Just recently, the condo next to mine experienced a major water leak from a burst pipe in the sprinkler system, causing major damage. All the walls and flooring had to be replaced, and the loud drilling and hammering that ensued for more than a month was almost unbearable.

Failing all else, I employed earplugs, the only solution.

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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Spring Cleaning In, Allergens Out

Guest



By Rajesh Gupta, MD

When the sun is shining, the birds are chirping, and a light breeze is blowing, it is oh-so-tempting to throw open the windows and enjoy the sights,

sounds and smells of spring. Maybe you are even itching (pun intended) to roll up your sleeves and tackle some serious spring-cleaning. But if you are one of the more than 20 million sufferers of allergic rhinitis, commonly called hay fever, you know that picture-perfect scene brings nothing but misery.

The two most common seasonal allergy triggers are pollen and mold. Beginning at this time of year and lasting into the fall, those pollen and mold spore particles are plentiful, airborne, and inevitably find their way into your home. Two-thirds of those with seasonal allergies are usually

also allergic to dust, and the mites it harbors, as well as pet dander.

For allergy sufferers, there's plenty to sneeze at this spring, but there are also ways to keep your home and airways clean and clear.

Pollen Protection

- •Keep doors and windows closed.
- •Leave shoes and pollen-covered clothes at the door or in a designated spot that doesn't track it throughout the house.
 - •Park the car in the garage.
- •Wash your hair at night so you don't take pollen to bed with you.
- •Wipe indoor pets down with animal wet wipes after outdoor play.

Manage Moisture and Mold

•Use a HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) purifier in your home to catch and kill airborne mold spores.

- •Use a dehumidifier to keep moisture below 50 percent.
- •Replace air filters monthly with HEPA filters to block mold spores and pollen from entering through vents.
 - •Spray visible mold with a vinegar, tea tree oil, water mix.
 - •Clean moldy showerheads by tying a plastic bag filled part way with vinegar to the showerhead and let it sit 30 minutes to overnight and then rinsing.

Dust and Dander

•Dust every square inch and surface from the top down.

(Fun tip: Use a lint roller on lampshades and rubber band a dust cloth around the end of a broom for hard to reach places.)

•Don't dry dust. Trap dust with a wet cloth using a natural spray bottle mix of one half-cup of vinegar to two cups of water.

- •Declutter every day so piles of books and magazines don't become dust (and mite) bins.
- •Use dust mite mattress and pillow protectors. Wash bed linens weekly in hot
- •Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter and empty in an outdoor bin so particles don't stick around.

Pull on some good quality rubber gloves and wear a facemask, when necessary, to keep your spring-cleaning from making your seasonal allergies worse. Even a quick touch to your face can set off a series of sneezes and sniffles. While red, itchy eyes and a chronically runny nose are a miserable nuisance, it can affect your ability to get a good night's sleep and can aggravate asthma, eczema and migraine headaches.

Dr. Gupta is Medical Director, AFC Urgent Care Yorktown. www. AFCurgentcareYorktown.com.

On the Road In Search of a California Wine Gem



By Nick Antonaccio

disconnect that marks the state of retail wine sales United the States today. The quality of wines being produced domestically has been

on the upswing every year over the past quarter century. It seems each year that the industry overcomes the obstacles Mother Nature imposes. Quantity may be affected, but not quality. This bodes

well for consumers seeking quality at reasonable prices.

On the other hand, it has become increasingly difficult to discover new wines. The overwhelming quantity of wine in the retail marketplace is produced by a small group of mega corporations and distributed by an even smaller number of national distributors.

The smaller, artisanal wineries and winemakers are easily lost in the barrage of labels of the industry corporate leaders. The typical production of these smaller producers is less than 5,000 cases, rarely sufficient to sustain the appetite of large distributors bent on repeat sales and sustained retail shelf space.

I've undertaken a personal quest to ferret out exceptional domestic wines that rarely occupy retail shelves. There are several wine shop owners who share week's column. my passion and goal. They seek out small distributors and are willing to offer selections with limited availability. Their customers understand the pitfall of finding a unique wine, becoming enamored with

its bouquet or flavor profile and then rarely, if ever, seeing the wine again. In my opinion it is a fleeting love affair worth enduring.

But what of the artisanal wines that never land on Westchester wine shelf? they doomed Are to tasting room sales, struggling in relative obscurity? The solution to this consumer dilemma is becoming increasingly clear to me. If limited production winemakers find it difficult to reach out to a consumer base,

then it behooves consumers to seek out these wineries.

Last year, and again this year, my wife and I embarked on pilgrimages to find the hidden gems of California wine country.

The strategies we employed on our travels through Napa Valley and Sonoma County were presented in last

This week, I share several of these adventures up and down wine country highways and byways.

We began our journey on the northern trails of Napa in the town of Calistoga.

> Our goal was to find a headquarters from which to travel the lesser-known side roads of the Silverado Trail. We found this at the Calistoga Ranch Resort. The rooms were built into the sides of the eastern ridge above the valley, with vistas across most of the valley floor. In near proximity were several wineries we had discovered on the Internet and from sommeliers at local restaurants. But the greatest insights were in front of us each day as we checked in with the front desk and concierge at the ranch. We were in pursuit of winemakers who

were "living the dream," making cult-like wines in arguably the most prestigious and expensive – vineyards in the world.

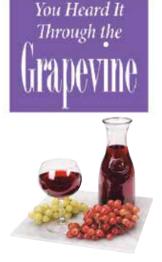
We engaged our enthusiastic staff at the ranch each day for their insights. Little did we realize that the front desk was a venue for local winemakers to engage staff in conversation and invite them to sample their wines. The staff was living the dream of personalized tours and tastings of wines they otherwise would not encounter. They unselfishly shared the names and arranged several exclusive appointments.

We were now living the dream ourselves. Electronic gates swinging open at a hidden driveway at the mention of Shannon, our enthusiastic oenophile at the ranch; following "Waze"-challenged directions to the home of a virtual winemaker; and squeezing in a lunch break at a local farmto-table restaurant.

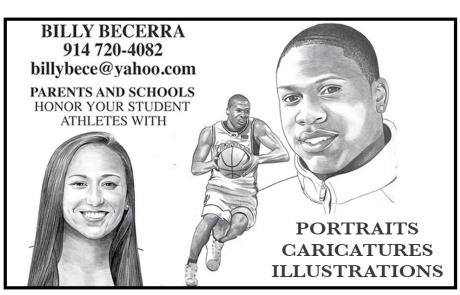
Each winery was unique. From touring the modern facility at AonAir Wine to sitting at the dining room table of the owners of WaterMark Wine, we shared the dream with the winemakers, bonding with nature and becoming mail-order fans of our newly discovered favorite wines.

Coming in a future column, the behind-the-scenes story of select wineries as entrepreneurs' dreams materialize into success.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 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 or on Twitter @sharingwine.









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LEGAL NOTICES

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MID-LAND AVE DELICATESSEN LLC filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/12/2018. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the principal business address: 24 Cedar Place, Rye, NY 10580. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF BOWIE BROWS, LLC. ART OF ORG. filed with SSNY on 02/07/2018. Office in Westches-

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ter County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 128 Court Street White Plains, NY 10601. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF HAUS OF FUREY LLC. ARTS. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/22/18. Office: West-chester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC at 36 Lee Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ALM SPEECH THERAPY, PLLC ART. OF ORG. filed with SSNY on February 13,2018. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served, SSNY shall mail process to: 2810 Springhurst St, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE WEST HOLLOW GROUP LLC. Art of organization filed with the SSNY on 1/29/18. Office location is PUTNAM County NY. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 7 West Hollow Rd Brewster NY 10509. PURPOSE: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SET IT IN STONES, LLC Art of organization filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/08/2017. Location: Westchester

County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: 71 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CG MEDICAL BILLING SERVICES, LLC Art of organization filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/22/2018. Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: 168 Douglas Ave., Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF RED-LINE VENTURES LLC. Articles of Org. filed with NY Sec. of State (SSNY) on 2/21/18. Office in Westchester Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 1045 Park Street, Parkmall, Peekskill, NY 10566, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF RNB NEW YORK REALTY, LLC. Arts of Org filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/8/2017. Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Kristen Renzulli, 31 Overlook Drive, Chappaqua NY 10514. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF FERGUSON SERVICES LLC. Articles of

Organization were filed with the SSNY on 12/20/17. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to FERGUSON SERVICES LLC 90 Shingle-house Road Millwood NY 10546. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF KATIE MORGAN, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on 2/5/18. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 121 North Chatsworth Ave., Larchmont, NY 10538. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF EMER-SON INK LLC filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/13/2018. Office loc: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: 46 Grand-view Avenue, White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose: Literary Services.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SERENITY PUBLISHING, LLC. Art of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/05/2017. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and mailed by SSNY to: 312 Watch Hill Road, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567. Purpose: Any lawful acts.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ALEX BOFFI, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/31/2018. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 14 Westview Avenue, Unit 603 Tuckahoe, New York 10707. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF KSCRATCH NETWORKS, LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/13/2010. Office loc: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: 5 Shatterhand Close, White Plains NY 10603. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MOORELOVE4YOURSOUL, LLC. Art of organization filed with the SSNY on 3/19/18 located in Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC at 25 Lake Street #4J, White Plains, NY 10603. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity.

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

Tuesday, April 10

Tuesdays at Dorry's. Guest speaker Lena Anderson, President White Plains/ Greenburgh Branch NAACP. Founded in 1909, the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) is the nation's oldest, largest and most widely recognized grassroots-based civil rights organization. Its mission is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination. Locally, it is a resource about which many of us know too little, and Lena Anderson will describe the ways the WP/Greenburgh branch is carrying out its mission. Tuesdays@Dorry's gathers conservation partners every Tuesday to share a meal and learn from presenters invited each week. Food ordering starts at 5:30 p.m. presentation 6 to 7 p.m. Dorry's Diner, 468Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, 914-682-0005.

WPCNA Meeting. The April meeting of the White Plains Council of Neighborhood Associations will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Education House, 5 Homeside Lane, White Plains. The Guest Speaker will be Madeline Zevon, Health Care Chair for the League of Women Voters (LWV) in Westchester and in New York State. The LWV is championing the New York Health Act, a single-payer health program currently before the NYS Legislature. According to Ms. Zevon, it would ensure that everyone in NYS would have health care costs covered. There would be no co-pays, no deductibles and no premiums. It would be paid for by a progressive, sliding-scale tax based on income. Ms. Zevon will open the floor for questions and discussion after her presentation. The meeting is open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Back to Nature Enrichment Program.

This new afterschool nature immersion program emphasizes outdoor activities that encourage children to form a love and respect for nature that will last forever. Age-appropriate STEAM education concepts will be woven into the program using nature as a teaching tool. Experienced education staff nurtures each child's relationship with nature and their peers while allowing them to explore the wonders of our natural world. A 10week program that meets every Tuesday Thursday. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Greenburgh. 3:30 to 5 p.m. \$550 per child for two days a week. \$300 per child for one day a week. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-723-3470 or visit www. greenburghnaturecenter.org.

"Les Enfants de la Chance." The Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center presents a screening of this film about a boy and eight other children living with hospital staff in France during World War II to prevent their deportation to a concentration camp. In French with English subtitles. The program begins with Christian Bailey, assistant professor of history at Purchase College, who will speak at the reception. Purchase College's Humanities Theatre (located in the Humanities Building), 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 6:30 p.m. Free. Seats limited to the first 200 RSVPs. Info and RSVP. Contact Millie Jasper at 914-696-0738 or mjasper@hhrecny.org.

Wednesday, April 11

Noonday Getaway Concert. Anna Han, pianist, described by the Washington Post as "prodigiously gifted... a display of imagination, taste and pianistic firepower far beyond her years." She has won a number of prestigious international competitions, including the First Prize of the 2012 New York International Piano Competition. Anna has performed at the John F. Kennedy Center, Alice Tully Hall, and the Phillips Collection in Washington D.C. She is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Music degree at The Juilliard School and was a recent winner of the Juilliard School's Gina Bachauer Piano Competition, awarding her a full-tuition scholarship. Presented in partnership with the Stecher and Horowitz Foundation.12:10 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, 33 Church St., White Plains. This 30-minute free concert is open to the public.

Mother Nature's Storytime. Nature-themed stories, nature walks, live animals and/or crafts. For children two to four years old; with a parent or caregiver. Dress for outdoor activity. Except in extreme weather conditions, a portion of each class is spent outdoors. Meets six consecutive Wednesdays. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 10 to 11 a.m. Members: \$50 for six-week session. Nonmembers: \$90. Pre-registration required. Info and registration: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge and its Role in Restoration of Industrial Contamination in the 21st Century. Traditional Ecological Knowledge refers to the evolving knowledge acquired by indigenous people over time through direct contact with the environment. Dr. Chuck Stead who was lead investigator on a major Ford Motor Company cleanup

in the Ramapo Watershed working with the Ramapough Lunaape Munsee Nation has encouraged a return to traditional pathways of recovery for the community and the land. Stead's forthcoming book, "Get the Lead Out," chronicles the dual journey of land stewardship and a contaminated community in recovery. In partnership with the Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www. greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Thursday, April 12

Yom Hashoah Holocaust Commemoration. Featuring Holocaust survivor Agnes Vertes as the keynote speaker and the procession of Westchester's rescued Holocaust Torahs. Garden of Remembrance, 148 Martine Ave., White Plains. 12 to 1 p.m. Free. Rain or shine. Info: 914-696-0738 or e-mail info@hhrecny.org.

Friday, April 13

Community Gun Buy-Back. Sponsored by the NYS Attorney General's Office in collaboration with the City of White Plains Dept. of Public Safety, Westchester County District Attorney Anthony Scarpino, Jr. and County Executive George Latimer will be held 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Mount Hope AME Zion Church, 65 Lake St., White Plains. Nonworking and antique firearms - \$25; rifles and shotguns - \$75; handguns - \$100; assault weapons - \$150. Payment will be made by debit card at the site once the unloaded gun is received and screened by officers. Guns must be unloaded and placed in plastic, paper bag or box and transported by car in the trunk. This is an amnesty program, no identification is required and no questions and will be asked of the person dropping off the

continued on next page

Go Green White Plains 6th Annual Earth Day Shoe Recycling Initiative

We all have them – an old pair of shoes (or two or three) lying on the floor somewhere in the back of our closets, getting dustier by the week. The City of White Plains is challenging residents to reach into their closets – all the way to the very back – dig out those old dusty shoes, and donate them to a Citywide shoe recycling effort as part of the City's celebration of Earth Day. This monthlong green effort is underway and will culminate in April.

This is the sixth year the City will undertake a shoe collection and recycling drive. Over the past five years, working together with local businesses, religious organizations, neighborhood associations and schools, White Plains collected over



20,000 pairs of shoes. Those shoes were diverted from the waste stream and went on to find a new life where they were greatly needed. The City has once

again partnered with Soles for Souls (www.soles4souls.org) on this recycling initiative.

In recognition of this achievement, Soles for Souls sent over 200 pairs of brand new shoes to White Plains to redistribute in the community. The goal this year is to get that total number up to 25,000 pairs of shoes collected.

Donating your shoes couldn't be easier. There is now a dedicated Soles for Souls Bin located at the Gedney Recycling Facility. In addition collection boxes are located in these public buildings for drop off during regular business hours:

- City Hall: 255 Main Street
- Library: 100 Martine Avenue
- Youth Bureau: 11 Amherst Place

- Gillie Recreation Center: 11 Gedney Way
- Ebersole Skating Rink: 110 Lake Street
- Ed House, 5 Homeside Lane

In addition, the White Plains School District is again partnering with the City to aid in recycling efforts. Families with children in the public schools will be able to drop off shoes at the Soles for Souls drop boxes located in each school building.

Shoes will be sorted over the weekend of April 21-22 at the Gedney Recycling Facility. If you would like to donate your time to a worthy cause, you can help with sorting and bagging shoes for shipment, email jiannetta@whiteplainsny.gov.

Spring is coming; so clean out those closets and do something good for our environment at the same time!

Happenings

continued from previous page

firearm(s). Licensed gun dealers and active or retired law enforcement officers are not eligible for this program. Call 212-416-6044 for more information.

"The God of Isaac." An Arc Stages production about a young man who goes on a spiritual quest to find out about his Jewish heritage. Using comic moments from classic American literature and film to help him learn, audiences will find themselves laughing hysterically one moment and wiping a tear the next, as he works through life lessons dealing with his high school Jewish girlfriend, his shiksa wife and his loving, interfering mother. Directed by Stephanie Kovacs Cohen and written by James Sherman. Arc Stages, 147 Wheeler Ave., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. Adults: \$28. Seniors and students: \$22. Also Apr. 14 at 8 p.m. Info and tickets: 914-747-6206 or visit www.arcstages.org.

Saturday, April 14

Family and Systemic Constellations Workshop. A revolutionary approach to addressing personal and systemic issues, whether in relationship to others, at work, with one's self or the world at large. It provides a unique level of perspective that supports healing, wholeness and change. Today's topic is creativity and living your potential. Led by Eve-Marie Elkin. The Aligned Center, 1 Bridge St., Suite 64, Irvington. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$40.Info: 914-292-0930 or e-mail info@ thealignedcenter.com.

Steffi Nossen School of Dance Anniversary Concert Series and Gala. The school is celebrating its 81st anniversary with its gala and the final night of the three-dance concert series. Performances will honor the Steffi Nossen's Community Relations Director Judith Ross for her outreach efforts and breaking down barriers so that all members of the community have access to enjoy dance classes and performances. SUNY Purchase Performing Arts Center, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 7:30 p.m. \$50 to \$175. Info and tickets: 914-328-1900.

Sunday, April 15

Jeremy Denk in Concert. Denk is one of America's foremost pianists. Winner of a MacArthure "Genius" Fellowship, the Avery Fisher Prize and Musical America's Instrumentalist of the Year Award, Denk was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2016. Purchase College's Concert Hall, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 3 p.m. \$25, \$45, \$55 and \$65. Info and tickets: 914-251-6200 or visit www.artscenter.org.

Springtime Classical Music Treasures. Enjoy time-honored compositions by Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven. Presented by the Camerata Chamber Players, which

boasts a memorable 31-year history from its inception. Westchester Community College's Classroom Building, Room 200, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 3 p.m. \$20. Seniors: \$18. Students: \$14. Info and tickets: 914-606-6262 or visit www. sunywcc.edu.

Rustles of Spring: Celebrating Paul Dunkel. One of Copland House's most heartily-applauded commissioned works, "Crossings," by two-time resident Pierre Jalbert is one of the highlights of this concert of music about changing seasons, life cycles and transformations. "Crossings," inspired by the composer's French-Canadian ancestry and its migration from the Old World, has been widely performed since Music From Copland House premiered it at Merestead in 2011 and subsequently recorded it. The work and its composer were among those widely championed by founding flutist Paul Lustig Dunkel, whose life and career is celebrated at this wide-ranging concert that also includes music by Aaron Copland and William Albright. Followed by a post-concert meet-the-artists reception. Merestead, 455 Byram Lake Rd., Mount Kisco. 3 p.m. \$25. Friends of Copland House: \$20. Students (with I.D.): \$10. Info and tickets: Visit www. coplandhouse.org.

Third Sunday Walk. A family friendly walk for adults and children five years old and up. Rain or shine. Pruyn Sanctuary, 275 Saw Mill River Rd., Chappaqua. (Meet at Woodmill Road trails entrance). 3 p.m. Free. Rain or shine. Meets the third Sunday of every month. Info: 914-666-6503 or visit www. sawmillriveraudubon.org.

Steve Earle and the Duke: 30th Anniversary of Copperhead Road. Three-time Grammy Award recipient and 11-time Grammy nominee Steve Earle is a legendary artist of American music. With more than 20 albums and collaborations with some of the most prolific artists in the contemporary music history, Earle continues to perform and bring his talent to his fans across the country. Earle has performed with the likes of Sheryl Crow, The Indigo Girls, The Pogues, Lucinda Williams, Shawn Colvin, Patti Smith, Chris Hillman, The Fairfield Four and The Del McCoury Band. During his four-decade career, he has also become a writer/author, actor, playwright, record producer and radio host. Paramount Hudson Valley, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill. 7 p.m. \$47, \$60.05 and \$74.35. Info and tickets: 914-739-0039 or visit www. paramounthudsonvalley.com.

Jam Session. Sunday nights at The Haven at Lagond, each week spotlights a different genre and well-known guest musicians. This Sunday features Jazz/Latin jam. Anyone with a desire to play – 18+ over - can join the jam on stage and sit in with peers as well as have an opportunity

to meet and play with professional musicians. Adult players of all levels are welcome as well as spectators. Doors open at 7 p.m. Musicians are brought up on a first come first serve basis. The Haven at Lagond Music School is located at 9 Haven Street, Elmsford. Visit www.lagondmusic. org to find out about special guest artists.

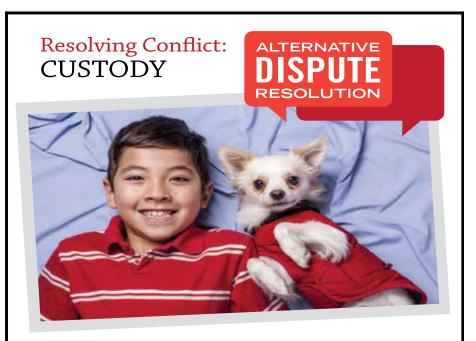
Monday, April 16

National Healthcare Decisions Day. White Plains Hospital Center for Cancer Care will provide the opportunity for Hospital patients, visitors and staff to complete their Health Care Proxy from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Center's lobby located at 2 Longview Avenue, White Plains. Trained members of the Hospital staff will be available to assist people in the completion of their proxy and to answer any questions they may have. The New York State Department of Health indicates that: "The New York Health Care Proxy Law allows you to appoint someone you trust - a family member or close friend make health care decisions for you if you lose the ability to make decisions yourself. Your agent can also decide how your wishes apply as your medical condition changes. Hospitals, doctors and other health care providers must follow your agent's decisions as if they were your own. You may allow your agent to make all health care decisions or only certain ones. You may also give your agent instructions that he or she has to follow.

Tuesday, April 17

Holocaust Remembrance Program. The Westchester Community for Humanistic Judaism invites families and friends to a special Remembrance program at 2:30 p.m. with Reb Aliza sharing her family history of hiding out during the Nazi onslaught in Holland. She was a "hidden child" for several years. She will also speak of the Dutch Resistance and family involvement. The event will be at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 468 Rosedale Ave., White Plains. There is no charge for admission but donations are welcome. For more information visit twchj.org.





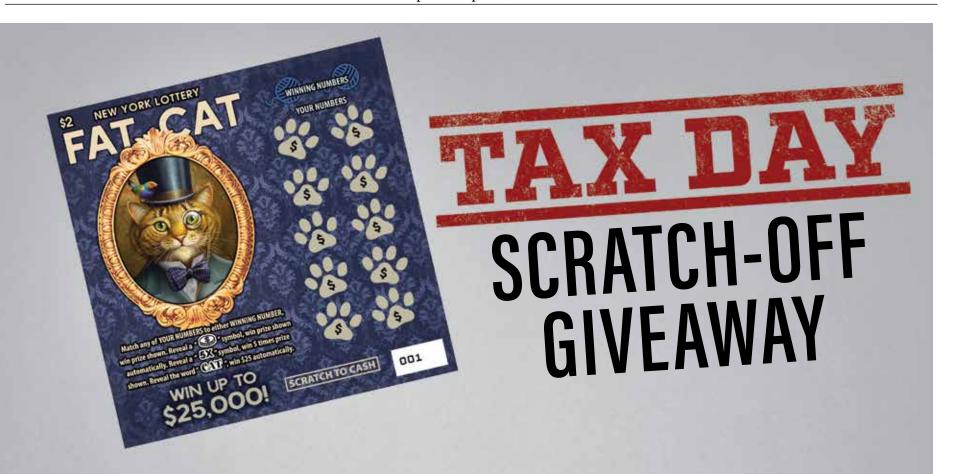
A divorced couple with shared child custody was referred to us for mediation by the court when the son refused to see his father. After discussions with the parents and step-parents, and speaking separately with the son, the mediator uncovered that the boy missed his dog when he was at his father's house, and that he did not like the way his step-mother reprimanded him.

The mediator worked out an agreement that let the son take his dog when visiting his father, and the mother and step-mother agreed to reprimand the son the same way. When the mediation ended, the son happily told the counselor, "I didn't know so many people loved me."

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