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November 26 - December 2, 2019

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 9, Issue 432

## Planning Board, Residents Debate Sterling Avenue Subdivision

By Pat Casey

The public hearing on the proposed subdivision at 1 Sterling Ave., White Plains continued during the Nov. 19 Planning Board meeting.

At the reopening of the hearing, Planning Board chair John Ioris announced that the three-lot subdivision was fully zoning code compliant, setting the stage for discussion about the role of the Planning Board and the Common Council in determining policy regarding density and other zoning restrictions in the city.

Before residents were invited to the podium, a representative from

Fusion Engineering explained that the developer had revisited the proposed design since the last hearing and had decided to return to a single curb cut for a driveway into and out of Lot 1.

Access to Lot 1, which is proposed to house a two-family structure, had caused much concern in the neighborhood and among Board members, as cars exiting at one of the driveways would have to back out onto one-way Orchard Pkwy.

The new plan provides one-driveway for access in and out and extends the parking area to enable cars to turn around.

The developer noted that more new  
*continued on page 2*

## White Plains Grandpas United Musical Showcase - A Roaring Success



The Grandpas United Singers, led by Director Joseph Mosley, made their fun-filled and enthusiastic musical debut, singing several classics, including "We've Got Rhythm," "Charlie Brown," and "Yakety Yak" during the First Annual Grandpas United Musical Showcase at the Eastview Middle School, on Nov. 14. The show's theme was, "A Musical Journey for all Generations." Over 100 people attended the event. The Finale led by the charismatic Mr. Mosley and the Grandpas United Singers, was a grand sing-along of "What a Wonderful World" and the Banana Boat Song (Dayo)," topping off an unforgettable evening.

## Westchester Housing Report Highlights Need for New Affordable Housing Units

During a press conference on Nov. 19, Westchester County Executive George Latimer officially released the county planning department's housing needs assessment.

"Affordable housing is a major contributing factor to a balanced and well-functioning county and in turn, its communities and neighborhoods," Latimer said. "To that end, Westchester County undertook this Housing Needs Assessment to establish a data-based foundation for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in Westchester County."

"This Assessment is not a fair share housing allocation plan; it does not assign any number of units to specific municipalities. The Assessment looks at the County's history of housing policies; lays out the methodology for data analysis; provides findings on a wide variety of demographic, housing stock and housing affordability

issues; and provides recommendations, including Best Practices from across the country, to help the County move forward in addressing its affordable housing needs," Latimer explained.

The Assessment used a standard statistical approach viewing Westchester County as a whole and with a separate look at the municipalities.

Findings of the assessment include:

There are 345,885 housing units in Westchester; 81 percent of the housing units in the county were built before 1979.

The City of Yonkers has the most housing units with 82,562; the Village of Buchanan has the fewest with only 864; 62 percent of the County's units are ownership – slightly lower than the 63 percent national average; while 38 percent are rental units.

There are 2,476 Public Housing Units and 13,092 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers units.

There are 34,221 ETPA (Emergency Tenant Protection Act) units in 1,773 buildings in the county; 141,570 households (41.4 percent of the total number in the county) are living in homes and apartments that are paying more than 50 percent of their income toward their housing costs.

There is a significant shortage of housing for extremely low-income renters, people with disabilities, seniors, large families and the homeless. In particular, families and individuals who face intellectual and developmental disabilities, who need specialized housing with services, are not being adequately served.

There are 89,839 people living in poverty in Westchester (9.4 percent of the total population).

The greatest growth in population is in the 85 and over cohort (e.g. the Towns of Lewisboro and Pound Ridge with 232 percent and 202 percent increases respectively),

between 2000 and 2017, demonstrating the need for senior housing.

The combined population of the five largest cities represent 46 percent of the total population in the county.

The 30 to 44-age cohort shows decline, which may mean there aren't enough affordable housing options for young families.

More people commute into Westchester to work than those who live and work in the county; the majority of commuters (58 percent) drive alone to work.

There is no municipality where the market rate rent for a 2-BR unit is affordable to households earning the local hourly renter wage; the greatest monthly gap, at \$1,823, is in the Village of Pleasantville; municipalities with gaps over \$1,700 are in the City of Peekskill, the Town of Bedford and the Village of Port Chester.

*continued on page 2*



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## Planning Board, Residents Debate Sterling Avenue Subdivision

continued from page 1

trees would be added to the site to replace those being removed to allow for building and that the retaining wall had been studied, but no evidence could be found that it was moving.

Cracks in the grout and falling rocks above ground had caused concern, but the developer continued to claim the 120-year-old retaining wall remained structurally sound beneath the ground.

Several architectural design changes were also presented to show how the one single-family house and two two-family houses would have added design details and unique looks.

Michael Dalton, president of the Fisher Hill Association discussed a letter he had sent to the Planning Board regarding the neighborhood's concerns about the proposed project.

"Many things have been addressed," Dalton said, referring to the developer's most recent design changes. "But, the fundamental issue has not been addressed. Density and



Architect's 3-D rendering of proposed design for single-family house and two-family house.

appropriateness and compatibility in the neighborhood, that's really what our issue is. We want a lower density."

Dalton also noted that of the existing 28 large trees on the property, 17 will be removed.

Other residents speaking to the Board said they agreed with Dalton and that they would



Architect's rendering of second two-family house design, made to look like a single-family house.

rather see only two houses on the site – not three lots with five residential units.

"Do the right thing," they told the Board.

Ioris again noted that residents should direct their concerns to the agency that wrote the zoning law – the Common Council.

One resident asked if the houses would be available for sale or rental. The developer

said he had not yet decided.

Board member Lynn Oliva asked Planning Commissioner Christopher Gomez if the proposed plan was compatible with the White Plains Comprehensive Plan.

Gomez said there was little the Planning Board could do regarding any issue of appropriate zoning.

Olivia responded that a lot has changed in 30 years since the zoning code was written and that it might be a good idea to take a new look at the needs of the close-in neighborhoods of White Plains.

One resident commented that in the new residential market, young buyers were not interested in purchasing large houses on large pieces of property and that subdivisions might be the only way to keep the neighborhood alive with affordable housing.

The public hearing was adjourned to December. The Board is still waiting for the Environmental Review for the site from city staff.

## Westchester Housing Report Highlights Need for New Affordable Housing Units

continued from page 1

There are only three municipalities where the HUD FMR is affordable to households earning the local hourly renter wage – the Town of New Castle, and the villages of Bronxville and Pelham Manor.

The Housing Action Council found that 68.6 percent of households seeking housing under the Housing Settlement were already living in Westchester; there were 9,260 applicants for 395 affordable rental units in

development – a ratio of 23 applicants for every unit of rental housing.

The finding that 50.7 percent of all owner households earning between 30 percent and 50 percent of the County's Area Median Income (AMI) are severely cost burdened should not be a surprise, the report noted, but the conclusion that 22.9 percent of households earning between 80 percent and 100 percent of AMI might be (when one

considers that a family of 4 at 100 percent AMI earns approximately \$117,100 in Westchester County). It is important to note that these households have housing; but they cannot comfortably afford it.

Similarly, the Assessment concludes that 2,556 households in the county live in substandard housing. The Assessment also concludes that 4,523 households are severely overcrowded.

The total number of new affordable housing units needed, according to the assessment, is 11,703. This represents the total number of Westchester households that are severely overcrowded or Homeless, as well as the non-Westchester Homeseeker registrants.

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Briarcliff Manor



# Film about White Plains Shooting Wins Top Film Festival Honors

By Neal Rentz

The shooting of Kenneth Chamberlain Jr. on Nov. 19, 2011 in White Plains dominated local news at the time.

Today, the story about the circumstances surrounding the retired Marine's death will have an opportunity to reach a national audience through the feature film "The Killing of Kenneth Chamberlain," which was written and directed by David Midell.

The film premiered at the recent Austin Film Festival and received the two top honors – the Film Competition Jury Award for Best Narrative Feature and the Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature.

The film relates the attempts by White Plains police to subdue Chamberlain, 68, who had bipolar disorder. He was fatally shot during response to a medical emergency call at his apartment in the Winbrook Housing complex. A grand jury in 2012 reviewed the case and declined to bring charges against the White Plains police.

Kenneth Chamberlain, Jr., as administrator to the estate of Kenneth Chamberlain Sr., determined there was nothing he could see to encourage the dozen officers responding to take the actions they did that resulted in his

father's fatal shooting.

The Chamberlain estate filed a \$21 million wrongful death lawsuit against the City of White Plains but a federal jury rejected it. The decision is under appeal.

Prior to the start of his filmmaking career Midell worked as a teacher and therapist in disadvantaged areas of Chicago.

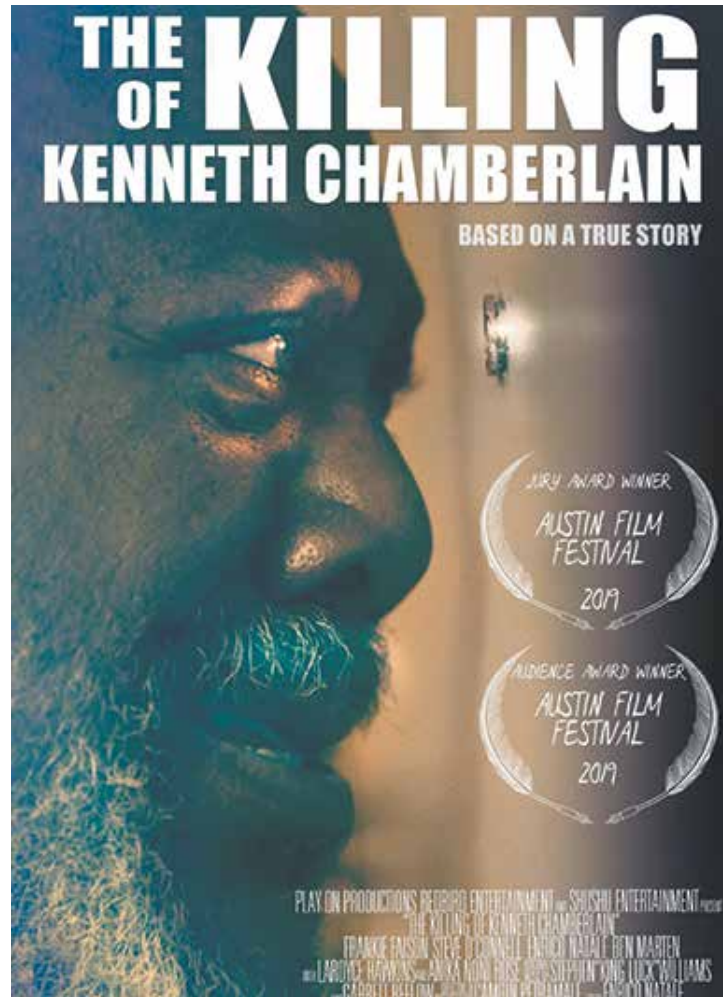
Midell, who lives in California, said last week he was researching incidents related to similar circumstances when he learned about the killing of Chamberlain. "Kenneth Chamberlain was one I had not heard of," Midell said.

The Chamberlain family has been intimately involved throughout the process of creating the film since pre-production began, Midell said. "I wanted to make sure they were comfortable with the film," he said.

Midell said he wanted to create a film that was not exploitative, but which had empathy for those involved in the White Plains incident. "Everything has shades of grey," he said.

Midell began working on the film in 2015 and completed shooting the movie in an area just outside Chicago and he finished post-production work in mid-2019. In terms of the time frame, "That's about average for a film," he said.

Midell said audiences were emotionally involved while



A poster for "The Killing of Kenneth Chamberlain," which recently won two top honors at the Austin Film Festival. Frankie Faison portrayed the title character.

watching his film with sniffles that could be heard at the end of the movie. The movie provoked discussion during the subsequent question and answer sessions.

Since its premiere at the film festival, Midell said he has received several financial offers. Midell said he is open having the film released theatrically and streamed.

Midell said he was particularly gratified by winning the top prizes at the festival, which featured movies with larger budgets and more famous actors.

"This has been a wonderful experience," Midell said. "We hope this film encourages conversation."

Chamberlain reacted to the success of the film last week. "This movie has already surpassed my expectations," he said. "My family and I were thrilled to know that it received two top awards at the Austin Film Festival without even having a ton of buzz around it. I hope that this movie will force discussion around the issue of police misconduct, brutality and criminality and I cannot wait until we're able to show the film locally in Westchester County."

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# County Receives \$100G Grant from Suicide Prevention Center of New York

On the heels of a successful suicide awareness and education campaign, the Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH) has been awarded a \$100,000 grant to develop, test and refine a formal in-depth suicide review process.

The money is part of a \$340,000 grant funded by the New York State Office of Mental Health (NYS OMH) that is being awarded to four counties greatly impacted by suicide – Westchester, Suffolk, Erie and Onondaga counties.

The purpose of the grant, “Learning from Loss: Suicide Fatality Reviews for Effective

Prevention Activities,” is to conduct detailed reviews of suicide deaths to identify systemic patterns and to ensure accurate data collection by local medical examiner offices. The DCMH officially launched its Westchester Suicide Fatality Review Team last Tuesday with a presentation from Dr. Kimberly Repp from Washington County, Oregon and other representatives from New York State.

“In order to further our efforts to reduce the number of suicide deaths in Westchester, we need to be able to look at these tragedies with a more critical eye,” said County Executive George Latimer. “Experts have

long believed that suicide deaths can be prevented, and with a focused Suicide Fatality Review Team in place, we can aim to lower the chances of suicide in Westchester.”

“We are appreciative of the New York State Office of Mental Health for awarding us this opportunity to prevent suicide deaths in our county,” said Michael Orth, commissioner of the county Department of Community Mental Health. “We have assembled talented partners to create our new-formed Suicide Fatality Review Team under the leadership of our medical examiner, Department of Health and Department of Community Mental Health along with other critical

stakeholders.”

The model being implemented in Westchester is based on a program that was successfully rolled out in Washington County, Oregon, where a multidisciplinary team with representatives from the medical examiner's office, healthcare providers, law enforcement, crisis workers, clergy and other community partners shared data during their reviews of suicide deaths. Washington County has seen the number of suicide deaths drop over each of the last three years the program has been in place.

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## Police Blotter

### Former Teacher Charged with Multiple Counts of Raping Teenager

John Fraioli, 34, of White Plains was arraigned on new charges related to having sexual relations with a child victim. Specifically, he is charged with five counts of Rape in the Third Degree, a class E felony; and five counts of Criminal Sexual Act in the Third Degree, a class D felony.

He surrendered Nov. 21 to White Plains Police and was arraigned in City Court.

Prosecutors allege, John Fraioli had sexual relations with a teenage victim in his White Plains home on five occasions during the period of June through October 2019.



He was arrested and charged in October in New Rochelle for sexual activity with the same child

victim while employed as a teacher at New Rochelle High School. He allegedly engaged in a sexual act with the victim in the school building during school hours last spring. Specifically, he was charged then with Criminal Sexual Act in the Third Degree, a Class E felony. The investigation continued and led to the further charges.

Fraioli resigned from his teaching position in June. He was released on bail, which was posted earlier. His next court appearance will be scheduled in Westchester County Court.

### Man named in Multicount Indictment for Taking Sexually Explicit Photos of Child

John Passaretti, 50, of both West Palm Beach, Florida, and Pleasantville, was indicted on 12 charges related to taking sexually explicit photos of a small child.

Passaretti is charged with: two counts of Use of a Child in a Sexual Performance, a class C felony; two counts of Promoting an Obscene Performance by a Child, a class D felony; two counts of Promoting a Sexual Performance by a Child, a class D felony; two counts of Possessing an Obscene Performance by a Child, a class E felony; two counts of Possessing a Sexual Performance by a Child, a class E felony; Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, a class D felony; and Endangering the Welfare of a Child, a misdemeanor.

On Oct. 29, Passaretti was arrested by Port Chester Police with the assistance of Pleasantville Police, after a complaint was made that he may have photographed a young child in a sexual way.

The incident was captured the day before in a Northern Westchester home on a video camera system, sometimes referred to as a "nanny cam." The High-Tech Crime Unit of the District Attorney's Criminal Investigators aided in the technology investigation.

Passaretti appeared before Westchester County Court Judge Anne Minihan. He is being held on \$500,000 bail. His next court appearance is scheduled for Dec. 17.

## Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center Receives National Recognition

The White Plains-based Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center (HHREC) received an award from Human Rights Educators USA (HRE USA) for outstanding human rights education.

The Edward O'Brien Human Rights Education Awards are given annually by the HRE USA to an individual and an organization for outstanding contributions to human rights education in the United States. Executive Director Millie Jasper accepted the award on behalf of HHREC at the ceremony held at the Roosevelt House in New York City.



Pictured left to right: David Shiman, Award Winner; Karen Robinson, 2018 Award Winner; Millie Jasper, Executive Director Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center; Monica Curca, Award Winner; Nancy Flowers, HRE USA.

The Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center's mission is to enhance the teaching and learning of lessons of the Holocaust and the right of all people to be treated with dignity and respect.

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# Lifting Up Westchester Seeking Holiday Donations

By Neal Rentz

In this season of giving the White Plains-based Lifting Up Westchester is offering many ways to provide a LIFT for those in need.

LUW, a nonprofit agency that provides homeless and poverty services to individuals throughout the county, has launched its third annual Holiday LIFT campaign.

The number one question LUW receives during the holiday season is "How do I help those in need?" Nancy Inzinna, LIFT volunteer and community outreach manager, said last week. "Holiday LIFT tries to match the community's desire to help with the kinds of donations and volunteering we need most to ensure that our homeless and low-income neighbors can enjoy the holidays."

LUW provides 2,000 holidays meals from its soup kitchen on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day, as well as filling and delivering 500 holiday food bags, distributing pies, cookies and goodie bags, wrapping and delivering hundreds of gifts to men, women and children in need and more.

"It is truly remarkable to see so many community members come together to help during the holiday season," LUW Executive Director Anahaita Kotval said. "Each person adds their personal spin on the holidays and delights in the opportunity to share their own traditions with our neighbors in need." All volunteer opportunities for serving holiday meals are filled, but there are other ways to get involved in the campaign, she said.

"There are a lot of things we try to



White Plains-based Lifting Up Westchester is seeking donations through its third annual Holiday LIFT campaign.

provide," LUW Director of Development Chris Schwartz said. Volunteers serve meals, through three shifts on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day, she noted. "It's really a community affair," she said.

LUW is asking residents to organize food drives. The most needed foods are turkeys, hams, instant mashed potatoes, gravy mixes, stuffing, canned vegetables, canned

cranberries, cake and brownie mixes. LUW is suggesting that residents donate the free turkeys or coupons for free turkeys that grocery stores give away during the holiday seasons.

Another request is for donations of grocery store gift cards with values of \$10 to \$25 that LUW will provide to vegetarians and families who traditionally eat something

other than turkey and ham.

Schwartz said LUW is asking residents to go to AmazonSmile and designate

"Lifting Up Westchester" as your charity of choice Every time you shop, log on through AmazonSmile and you will be taken directly to the Amazon site and .5 percent of your eligible purchases will automatically be donated to LUW.

A new way to donate to the drive is by going to Amazon.com and going to the LUW Toy Wish List and donating a toy.

Baked pies and holiday cookies are also being requested. Also being sought are new gloves, hats and scarves for residents of the Open Arms Men's Shelter and the Samaritan House Women's Shelter. LUW is also asking for donations of multi-cultural dolls, sports balls and board games for the children in the Brighter Futures Youth Programs. Gift cards for teens and wrapping paper are also being requested.

For specific date and timing information on Holiday LIFT activities, visit: [www.liftingupwestchester.org/holidays](http://www.liftingupwestchester.org/holidays) or contact the community outreach department via e-mail at [ninzinna@liftingupwestchester.org](mailto:ninzinna@liftingupwestchester.org) or call 914- 949-3098 Ext. 9735.

LUW also needs cash donations; donate at [www.liftingupwestchester.org](http://www.liftingupwestchester.org).

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# THE FOOTCARE RN, WHITE PLAINS

By Neal Rentz

White Plains resident Petula Griffith is a registered nurse who has a particular interest in foot care.

Griffith merged her more than two decades of experience as a nurse and interest to open The Footcare RN in White Plains in June. Its grand opening ceremony was held on Veteran's Day.

"I got into foot care because I have foot care issues. I have family members with diabetes and I realized that foot care is very important," Griffith said last week.

In 2016 Griffith took additional training for foot care.

Griffith said she offers many services at her new business, particularly preventative care, which includes dealing with toenail and skin issues, corns and calluses. Griffith said she deals with "anything that will allow the client to remain standing. For diabetics that's important. We prevent ulceration." Diabetics run the risk of needing foot amputations, she said.

Flat feet can be adjusted with the use of orthotics and the wearing of proper shoes, Griffith said.

Griffith said she also provides education about foot care. She helps her patients to choose to wear the appropriate shoes in collaboration with Com-Fit Shoes in Scarsdale and for them to wear the proper socks. "A lot of us don't wear the right shoes and I've been guilty of that," Griffith said.



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

White Plains resident Petula Griffith is the owner of The Footcare RN in White Plains, which opened in June.

"We tend to wear shoes that are very narrow, shoes that don't have a wide toe box."

High heels are "a big, big problem," Griffith said.

Griffith said many people will unnecessarily accept their foot pain. "It's not

okay because there are measures that can be put in place to avoid that," she said.

If necessary, Griffith will refer her patients to appropriate doctors, such as a podiatrist, their primary doctor or an orthopedic surgeon. Griffith said one of her clients had

a blister on his foot that would not heal and she referred him to a dermatologist. "They guy ended up having cancer," she recalled, adding that his skin cancer was dealt with and he no longer has the disease.

Griffith said she has trained those who serve as caregivers for seniors in foot care. "You immediately see the difference in their (seniors') feet," she said. "They became more mobile."

People who do not walk properly can develop back and knee problems, Griffith said.

Griffith said people often take their feet for granted. "Our feet are always hidden. They are in shoes," she said. "People say I have ugly feet. Nobody has ugly feet. We all need to have healthy feet."

The Footcare RN is located at 14 Mamaroneck Ave., Suite 404, in White Plains. For more information call 914-861-5929, visit thefootcarern.com or send an e-mail to thefootcarern@gmail.com.



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## Stop Corporate PAC Money from Influencing the Legislative Process

In his Gettysburg Address, Abraham Lincoln famously insisted that government must be of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Because corporations are not people, I firmly believe any Democrat seeking the nomination for New York's 17th Congressional District in 2020 must unequivocally reject all corporate PAC money. Unfortunately, almost all of the other candidates in this campaign have refused to take that pledge.

Corporations have distorted our democracy to enrich themselves at our expense. Our broken campaign finance system – aided and abetted by a series of Supreme Court decisions, the most infamous of which is Citizens United – has allowed a torrent of dark money to flood our political system. This has pushed our democracy into crisis, and nowhere is that more apparent than in our legislative process.

Corporations have a staggering amount to gain from influencing our legislative process, because they have a significant amount of business before Congress. Congress spends \$63 billion every year on subsidies for Fortune 500 corporations. Thanks to Donald Trump's tax scam – led by then-Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, who received \$1.5 million in corporate PAC money in 2016 alone – corporations paid \$91 billion less in taxes in 2018 than they did in 2017. If corporate PAC contributions are an

investment, then they are surely paying off.

It's not just Republicans who give out these benefits to big corporations at the expense of ordinary Americans – Democrats do it, too. In 2015, Congress attempted to close a loophole that saved the casino, hospitality, and real estate industries over \$1 billion in taxes. But then-Senator Harry Reid, who had received tens of millions of corporate PAC money throughout his career from those industries, intervened. The influential Senator made sure his corporate donors had their loophole preserved – costing the American people \$1 billion in tax revenue.

When Congressional candidates take corporate PAC money, there is extreme pressure not to bite the hand that feeds them. The result is that many members of Congress fight for their corporate donors, not their constituents.

In this election cycle, Democrats have been talking about enacting big, systemic change. But we can't just talk the talk. We have to walk the walk.

In order to tackle the big challenges facing New York's 17th Congressional District, we must take on entrenched corporate interests and challenge their power. Fighting the existential threat of climate change means taking on the fossil fuel industry. Guaranteeing healthcare for every American means taking on the health insurance and pharmaceutical lobbies.

Offering free public college and student loan forgiveness, in order to liberate an entire generation of people to buy homes in this expensive district, means taking on lobbies for the for-profit education and financial services industries. Reducing inequality by lowering middle-class taxes and making corporations pay their fair share means challenging powerful corporations that have collected record profits and handed out exorbitant executive compensation.

How can the people of Westchester and Rockland trust a candidate to solve these problems if that candidate is funded by the very corporations causing them?

Since announcing my campaign for Congress, political insiders have been telling me that my pledge not to take corporate PAC money is foolish. They say, "The first rule of running for office is: never leave money on the table."

But we are talking about United States Congress. Members of Congress are supposed to be leaders, and that starts with how they campaign.

*Mondaire Jones is a resident of South Nyack. A graduate of East Ramapo public schools and Harvard Law School, he is a Democratic candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives in New York's 17th District, which includes all of Rockland County and parts of central and northern Westchester County. You can read more about him at [mondaireforcongress.com](http://mondaireforcongress.com).*

## White Plains Seeks to Increase Public Understanding of Accessible Parking Needs

The White Plains Mayor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities has been working to increase the public's understanding of accessible parking. In 2017 the Committee partnered with White Plains Community Media to produce a PSA on accessible parking. The PSA serves as both a reminder and an educational and awareness tool for the public about the rules associated with accessible parking.

This year, they embarked on another initiative around accessible parking. Working directly with the City Parking Department, an informational flyer was created on the "Do's and Don'ts of Accessible Parking." This flyer is sized so that the City's Parking Enforcement Officers can include it in the envelope when they write a ticket for an accessible parking

violation. It offers some gentle reminders about the appropriate use of these parking spaces.

"This Advisory Committee has been one of our most active and engaged committees. They are proactive and committed to thinking creatively about how best to raise awareness and educate people around the issues affecting those with disabilities," said Mayor Tom Roach. "Their work has been thoughtful and effective, and has benefitted all White Plains residents."

"We are very pleased with our ongoing and successful collaboration with the Mayor and his staff in addressing issues that are critical to White Plains residents with disabilities, said Lisa Tarricone, Chair of the Mayor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities. "We hope our

latest "Do's and Don'ts of Accessible Parking" project will help to inform the public about the importance of accessible parking spaces, and remind them to think twice before using a designated spot that is reserved for drivers with disabilities."

The Mayor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities acts in an advisory capacity to the Mayor on issues relating to increasing public understanding and the inclusion of people with disabilities within the community. The Advisory Committee works toward the elimination of attitudinal and architectural barriers and acts as a liaison between city government and other agencies and services, acting as advocates for people with disabilities and making recommendations to the Common Council as it may deem advisable.

## The Arts Drive Economic Growth for Westchester County

By Michael Minihan

At this time every year, County budget season begins, and so too does the mad scramble for allocations of precious few dollars. If I could choose where to allocate more of those dollars, my choice would always be towards those things that are good INVESTMENTS for our community. I would choose to INVEST in the things that will bring people to Westchester, that will stimulate our economy, that will create jobs, that will increase our sales tax base. I would choose to INVEST in the Arts.

Every five years, a study is undertaken to quantify the positive economic impact of the Arts on Westchester's economy. Over the past 20 years, the economic impact of culture in our county rose by a record 189%. The most recent study, conducted

in 2015, identified \$172 million of economic impact, in the form of 5200 jobs, and \$13.9 million in sales tax revenue. And yet the term "starving artists" is more reality than cliché in Westchester. With essentially level county funding for the past twelve years, the support for this key economic driver that is the Arts has not kept pace with inflation, much less the dramatic influx of cultural organizations that now call Westchester home. In a two billion dollar budget, ArtsWestchester already consists of less than one-tenth of one percent for the arts, which for many residents is why they stay here. A meaningful increase would maintain ArtsWestchester's position as a major driver of economic growth for the County, and a significant source of sales tax revenue. Let's be bold and ramp up cultural funding by \$500,000 a year for the next two

years for a robust return on investment!

The first edition of this year's budget with a 3% increase for the arts will barely move the needle to grow the positive cultural impact on our county's economy. Please join me in my efforts on behalf of ArtsWestchester to convince our County government that the arts not only improve our quality of life in the county, but are a good investment in the sustained growth of our economy. Please join me in our request that the County provide a meaningful increase in the funding for ArtsWestchester in 2020 and beyond.

*Michael Minihan is Board President at ArtsWestchester and managing partner of venture capital firm BX3 Capital. A lifelong Westchester resident, Minihan has more than 20 years of experience as an international tax attorney and entrepreneur.*



## "Down Home" Community Awards Breakfast - December 4

All are invited to attend the First Annual "Down Home" Community Awards Breakfast on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 8:30 a.m. at Thomas Slater Center, 2 Fisher Court, White Plains.

Grandpas United of the White Plains Youth Bureau is an inter-generational grass roots program that mentors at-risk youth. They will be honoring Kevin McGuire, Commissioner of Westchester Department of

Social Services, and three original Grandpas United members - Nicholas Wolff, Dennis Cuddy and Deacon Dewitt Smith - for their ongoing support of Grandpas United and the White Plains community.

The "Down Home" breakfast menu will include a variety of Southern specialties, including sausage and grits, biscuits and gravy, as well as eggs and bacon.

The keynote speaker is Rev. Erwin Trollinger of the Calvary Baptist Church.

This event is open to the public. Tickets are \$10 per person.

For more information or to reserve your seat, contact the White Plains Youth Bureau at 914-422-1378.

The mission of Grandpas United of the White Plains Youth Bureau is to utilize

the talents, skills and experiences of our Grandpas to improve our community. We aspire to serve as role models and mentors to enhance the growth and development of our youth, while sharing our talents and experiences with one another, enabling us to maintain our dignity, self-respect and self-worth. For more information, visit [www.whiteplainsyouthbureau.org](http://www.whiteplainsyouthbureau.org)

## Santa's Mailbox Returns to City Hall

We hear that Santa Claus will be setting up a special mailbox starting on Wednesday, Nov. 27 on the front steps of City Hall, 255 Main Street, and that he is inviting all City of White Plains resident children to write to him this Holiday Season using his special mailbox.

Mayor Tom Roach is honored that Santa has once again chosen White Plains for this very important purpose.

Children may drop their letters in the mailbox (no postage necessary!) any time from now through Monday, Dec. 16.

Children should remember to include



their return address so that Santa can send them a personalized reply.

Last year, we had an inquiry from a resident about how long Santa's Mailbox has been a tradition in White Plains. We started digging and found that the earliest reference to Santa's Mailbox we could find was from 1941. An article in the Reporter Dispatch mentioned that it was part of a Christmas balloon parade held in the downtown. According to the article, 5,000 letters to Santa were deposited in the mailbox that day. The mailbox was at that time owned by the Exchange Club, a civic

organization. The next reference we found was from 1972, which talks about how the mailbox was placed on the steps of the old county courthouse and how this has been a tradition in White Plains for "more than four decades." The county court house was torn down in the 1970's as part of urban renewal, and we believe that was when the mailbox was moved to the steps of City Hall and it became city property. A local newspaper article from 1991 shows the mailbox on City Hall steps.

We can safely say that this is indeed a Very Long-Standing White Plains Tradition.

## Residents Need to Request Transportation to Non-Public Schools

New York State Education Law §3635 requires parents to make a written annual request by April 1 if they are requesting transportation to a non-public school within the City of White Plains, in accordance with the District's mileage limits.

The required form is available at [www.whiteplainspublicschools.org](http://www.whiteplainspublicschools.org) under the Transportation Department, or by calling the Transportation Department Office at 914-422-2110.

Failure to submit this form by April 1 may result in denial of transportation.

## Holiday Wreath Laying Ceremony at Gate of Heaven Cemetery

Daughters of Liberty's Legacy have planned a wreath laying ceremony at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Dec. 14, at noon.

Seven specially designated ceremonial wreaths will be placed on memorials to remember those who served, honor their sacrifices and teach our younger generation about the cost of freedom during a ceremony that will be coordinated simultaneously at

over 400 participating locations nationwide.

If you would like to sponsor a wreath for a soldier's grave please go to [DOLL1776.com](http://DOLL1776.com). If you would like to volunteer to place a wreath on a soldier's grave please register with Cynthia: [cynthia@doll1776.com](mailto:cynthia@doll1776.com).

Gate of Heaven Cemetery is located at Stevens Ave., Hawthorne, NY 10532 (off Taconic Pkwy - back gate entrance).



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# Obituaries

## Margaret Cherico



Margaret (Croake) Cherico, 88, of White Plains, passed away Nov. 21.

She was born May 27, 1931 in Ticonderoga, NY to Thomas Croake and Marion Peck Croake

On Feb. 27, 1959 she married Rudolph A. Cherico at St. Bernards Church in White Plains.

Margaret worked as a Mortgage Processor for Home America for more than 20 years, retiring some years ago.

Margaret is survived by her loving husband, Rudolph, of White Plains and her children Thomas of Dallas, TX, Elizabeth Underkoffler of Katonah, Paul of Ridgefield, CT. She was predeceased by her daughter Mary Frances O'Donnell of Charlotte, NC. She is also predeceased by her brother Michael and sister Mary Ann Ryan.

Also surviving are her nine grandchildren Meghan, Patrick, Kaela, Rylan, Benjamin, Miles, Declan, William and Andrew and three great grandchildren Dillian, Liam and Cassidy.

Margaret was a member of the White Plains Woman's Club and Bridge club. She was an avid reader.

She was a dedicated mother who cherished her grandchildren and friends.

In Lieu of flowers, please make a contribution in her memory to The White Plains Public Library, 100 Martine Ave. White Plains, NY 10601, or your local Library.

The family will receive friends at McMahon, Lyon & Hartnett Funeral Home on Thursday, Dec. 5, from 3 to 8 p.m.

Mass will be Friday, Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. in St. Bernard's Church, South Lexington Ave. White Plains.

## Vincenzo Caridi

Vincenzo Antonino Caridi, Jr. died on Nov. 19.

He was born in White Plains on Oct. 21, 1938. His parents Vincenzo and Felicia Caridi, proud Italian patriots, immigrated to the United States through the famed Ellis Island Immigration Station at the dawn of the 20th century.

Vince's father, whom he and his six brothers and sisters called Poppa, would go on to serve voluntarily in the United States Army during the First World War. After graduating with honors from White Plains High School in 1958, like his father, Vince, too, would voluntarily serve in the United

States Army, attaining the rank of Technician Third Grade. He proudly served his country for six years at one of the highest levels of security clearance, "top-secret" stationed in Kenai, Alaska, in the U.S. Army Command post USARAK known as America's Arctic Warriors. Vince is a true American Patriot



and would go on to receive one of the Nation's highest honors, the Army Distinguished Service Medal, which was awarded to him in a private ceremony due to the nature of his service clearance held at USARAK, Alaska.

After his service in the U.S. Army, he would begin his career as a civilian in the communications and data management field, first with the Metropolitan Transit Authority in New York City. Some years later in 1981, he and his life partner of 46 years, Raymond Michael Grana, of the Grand Concourse area of Bronx, relocated to San Antonio, Texas making it their permanent home.

Vince Caridi was preceded in death by his parents Vincenzo and Felicia, his eldest brothers Antonino, Guisepppe Francesco, and Demetrio Caridi, his younger brother John, and two elder sisters Antonette Pavone, and Josephine Ferrara.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations in Vince's name to: The COPD Foundation - [www.copdfoundation.org](http://www.copdfoundation.org).

## Michael J. Pisani, Jr.

Michael J. Pisani, Jr. died on Nov. 18.

He was born in Brooklyn on May 4, 1938 to Michael J. Pisani, Sr. and the former Margaret Vespoli. He graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School in 1956 and Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn in 1959. Upon graduation he was commissioned in the U.S. Army Reserve and completed



Army Combat Engineer training at Fort Belvoir, VA in 1960.

He was employed by the New York City Transit Authority for 38 years as a civil engineer and project manager who maintained, built and refurbished train yards and stations throughout the New York City subway system. Following his retirement in 1994, Mike worked for M-Track Construction Company in the Bronx until 2007.

Michael met his wife-to-be, Aida Karabatzakian at a wedding in 1963. They married in 1965 and settled in Yonkers where they raised their three children. Community and church involvement were important aspects of Mike's life, having coached little league baseball for several years and later becoming a poll worker for the local election board.

At St. Gregory's Armenian Church during the past 45 years Mike was an active member of the Men's Club and was elected to the Parish Council, serving at times as Treasurer and as Council President. He also served as a member of the church Building Committee for many years, including during the 1990s when the Committee oversaw the development and construction of the new church and hall in White Plains.

Mike enjoyed traveling, watching baseball and hockey, running his model train collection, endlessly tinkering with his vintage British convertible sports cars, and, most especially, time spent with his grandchildren.

Michael is survived by his wife Aida, daughter Valerie (Rich) Mendelson, sons Michael (Kristen) and John (Stacy), and six grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Michael J. Pisani to My Second Home Adult Day Care, 95 Radio Circle, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549 or St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church, 1131 North Street, White Plains, NY 10605.

## Perry Janoff

Perry Janoff, of Scarsdale, passed away at the age of 100 on Nov. 18.

Although her father prevented her from being on the Little Rascals, all who met



her for the rest of her life noted her movie star-level charm and stunning beauty. She worked in the fashion industry in her younger years and was fashion icon to those who knew her even through her latest years. An acquaintance of Frank Sinatra,

Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, and Eleanor Roosevelt, Perry was a great lover of art, culture, and politics, taking the train from Scarsdale into New York City well into her 90's to see plays, art exhibits, and the like. A fighter through the end, she lived for three days with pneumonia in both lungs and acute kidney failure after being taken off all fluids and antibiotics.

In lieu of flowers, please vote and donate to the Democratic presidential candidate of your choosing.

## Virginia Hagen

Virginia D. Hagen, 87, of White Plains, formerly of Valhalla, was walked home to the Lord on Nov. 18, surrounded by her loving children.

Born on Feb. 9, 1932 in Rockville Centre, Virginia was the daughter of the late Rudolph P. and Sarah Irene Hagen.

Virginia, a lifelong poet, was a member of the Greenwich chapter of the National League of American Pen Women. Her 3-volume "Behind My Eyes" collection was published in 2007. In addition to writing poetry, Virginia's passions included



spending time with her family, attending mass and being a Eucharistic minister and experiencing beautiful sunrises on the beaches of Long Beach Island, New Jersey.

Virginia's love of God and her family will live on forever. We will miss our Mom, Grandma and Mema, but will always feel her love.

Virginia is survived by her children, Bill Morris Jr. (Susan), Kathy Morris-Karl (Mike), Jim Morris, Mary Beth Morris, Nancy Morris, Chris Morris, Reverend Robert Morris and Kerry Orlich (Robert); grandchildren Bill Morris III, Tim Morris, Patrick Morris, Mike Karl Jr., Mick Morris, Vance Morris and Bobby Orlich Jr., and great grandchildren Brooke, Daniel and Conor Morris.

Virginia was preceded in death by her sister, Beverly Cannon and daughter-in law Melinda Morris.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Blythedale Children's Hospital or St. Bernard's Church.



*continued on page 12*



# A Primer on How to Go About the Business of Decluttering

As a realtor, I find that one of the more difficult subjects to discuss with a listing client is clutter – or rather decluttering.

Outside of my real estate business, I have only occasionally dipped into the world of decluttering because I have relied on my wife Margaret, a natural neatnik and a supremely organized person, to keep our home in order.

Still, that doesn't mean I shouldn't lend assistance to her, or at least learn how to not get in the way. Over the years, some of the advice to the organizationally challenged has changed, and some has reappeared in a new form many times over.

Back in the 1980s, cleaning expert Don Aslett published "Clutter's Last Stand," one

of the most popular of his many titles. Aslett's claim to fame was to communicate the techniques and tools of a professional cleaner to the average homemaker so that she (or – shocking for the time – he!) could clean faster and more economically. His advice on clutter is to toss it, and his book is filled with inspiration on overcoming the internal resistance to doing so.

In the 1990s, organization expert Julie Morgenstern took a gentler approach in her book "Organizing from the Inside Out." Much of the basic advice is the same, but she advises that once the clutter-clearing dust has settled, you examine your life and interests when deciding where the things in your life should go.

Starting as a web forum participant in the early 2000s, Marla Cilley grew an immense and loyal internet following through her system of changing habits via "baby steps," cleaning by zones a little bit each day, and lovingly accepting one's own organizational imperfections. To her, "clutter cannot be organized" and she places great importance on tackling even a bit of it regularly each day.

A later organizing guru is Marie Kondo, whose 2014 book, "The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of



By Bill Primavera

Decluttering and Organizing," was a worldwide bestseller, and whose next book, "Spark Joy: An Illustrated Master Class on the Art of Organizing and Tidying Up," was equally successful.

If you take only a superficial glance at her KonMari Method, it seems to be about folding and arranging clothing and other items into mesmerizingly neat and tiny arrangements. Kondo is featured in many hypnotic YouTube videos demonstrating this aspect of her method, and you will probably learn a tidier way to fold shirts from her, if nothing else.

Her system goes well beyond that, however, ultimately focusing not as much on what to discard, but on choosing what to keep based on how much joy it brings you. It even gets downright mystical.

For example, in Kondo's second book, to determine whether or not a series of books gives you joy, you may want to arrange them in a stack and hug it to see how it makes you feel. That's a little far out, even for me, but her passion certainly has had an effect on people.

Among her more pragmatic pieces of advice, she advises the opposite of Cilley's "FlyLady" approach of baby steps. When decluttering, pick one category, scour your entire home for items in that category and

sort through them all at once. Seeing all 12 of the similar shirts, for example, will make it easier to know which are your favorites, and the lift from completing the task will be a reward in itself.

The recurring thread in all this advice seems to be that clutter will not make you happy, and whatever does make you really happy is not clutter. I may not reach my wife's levels of neatness, but I have certainly felt the pleasant effects of letting go of old things as my life and my interests change.

Now is as good a time as any to begin the process again.

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. ([www.PrimaveraPR.com](http://www.PrimaveraPR.com)) His real estate site is [www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com](http://www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com). To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076 or e-mail [williamjprimavera@gmail.com](mailto:williamjprimavera@gmail.com).

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**Across**

- Gorgon slain by Perseus
- "Criminal Minds" network
- Its scale uses no black keys
- Weeder's tool
- Russian dynasty
- Ore. neighbor
- "What Kind of Fool"
- "Losing My Religion" rock band
- Where to find the art of Israeli self defense in Putnam, \_\_\_\_\_ Mahopac
- Accessory for Sherlock Holmes
- Volunteer's words
- Pilgrim's destination
- Dedicated lines
- Tuna type
- Rule out
- You won't get "stung" at this Armonk restaurant
- Web site address end-

**Down**

- Imperfection
- Rock music style
- Not bright
- Italian article
- Submarine detector
- Oenophile's concern
- Former French president
- Spanish grocery
- Jack-tar
- Ms. Vance, to Lucy
- Lock opener
- Halfway
- Used a cell
- Chemical salt
- Solar \_\_\_\_\_
- Experimental area
- Tons
- One who cries "Uncle"
- Clamor
- \_\_\_\_\_ be good if
- Certain neckline
- Before, to Keats

**Solution on page 13**



# The Internet's Impact on Our Lifestyles – and Wine-Buying Practices



By Nick Antonaccio

Remember when the Internet was a novelty? That new site, Amazon, had just gained widespread popularity for selling and shipping books to your doorstep, at a 30 percent discount. Now, Amazon has embedded itself in the very psyche of conducting our lives.

If I think back to the “good old days,” before there was Amazon Prime and others of its ilk, before Apple became the ultimate enabler in 2007 of managing our lives according to their business model, I remember the tactile nature of a shopping experience, when we wore out our shoe leather, not our keyboard or keypad buttons.

At the breakneck speed with which the internet has consumed our lives, who can predict what lies ahead. A short 12 years after the introduction of the iPhone, a Yogi Berra quote seems prescient: “The future ain’t what it used to be.”

When I apply this smartphone phenomenon to my personal life, I reminisce of the meaning of commerce before the ubiquitous and all-consuming stranglehold of today’s technology.

Here’s my singular perspective:

1. Shop local? The plaintive call to support our neighborhood establishments becomes more difficult each year. Increasingly, we have no reasonable choice but to use our keypads, rather than our shoe leather, to

wend our way through our shopping chores.

2. Use of our smartphones has been evolving. How many of us use the telephone feature as our primary contact with the outside world? Our “smartdevices” have created new alternatives to communicate with each other. While I’ve evolved from telephone to e-mail to texting as my primary mode of communication, today’s young generation has leapfrogged past me, relying more and more on Instagram, Snapchat, WhatsApp and several select platforms I’ve never heard of.

3. Dine at your favorite restaurant with friends and family? No need to do so in 2019. The online prepared-food industry penetration into our lives is rising at an astonishing rate. In the past, it was simple: pull that dog-eared menu from the kitchen drawer, call your local eatery, wait 20 minutes, then drive to pick up your order.

Here’s today’s gamechanger: bookmark your list of favorite restaurants on your device, order directly from their clickable menu and then select a home delivery app option. A few clicks and your favorite food is digitally processed and delivered to your door.

4. It wasn’t so long ago that our primary source for purchasing wines was our local retail shop. More and more I see this buying pattern transitioning to a virtual experience.

A few of the numerous alternative resources available include:

a) Wine apps that offer you curated offerings available with a simple “purchase” click.

b) A plethora of online wine clubs offering their suggested selections, delivered to your door automatically every month or quarter. Just provide your credit card and you will be constantly stocked with the club’s favorite wines.

c) Flash sale sites continue to proliferate. How can you turn down an offer to order a highly rated wine (typically, the site’s unilateral rating) at a significant reduction in

price (according to the site’s unconfirmed statistics)? In case you forget to check in daily on the site’s offerings, they e-mail you a friendly reminder of their daily specials. If you are judicious, these sites can be a fine source of worthy wines. If you are able to be judicious.

d) Direct-to-consumer sales are on the rise, as are the offerings. In the old days, the only outlet for many small producers was direct sales to consumers. The rub was the high cost of shipping. Today, that barrier has been significantly reduced. Consumers have the opportunity to enjoy a fine Napa Cabernet Sauvignon from a small producer of less than 100 cases at a price, including shipping, that allows the producer to compete with wines

available in other consumer channels. And that’s outside of the Amazon Prime network.

I’m still a holdout for the physical interaction of securing my purchase, when possible. I prefer shoe heel clicks rather than mouse clicks. Join me in stemming the tide of digital dominance.

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.

**You Heard It  
Through the  
Grapevine**



## Obituaries

continued from page 10

### Daniel John Portanova

Daniel John Portanova, a W. Harrison resident, died Nov. 16 at the age of 83.

Dan was born on May 26, 1936 in Purchase to Mary and Daniel Portanova.

He spent his early years on New Street surrounded by the Portanova clan. He and his mom moved to Lakeview Avenue in Silver Lake at the age of 12 after his father became ill. Dan would live in Silver Lake for the rest of his life.

Dan graduated from White Plains High School and headed for the Marines. After his discharge he became a White Plains Fireman. In January 1958 on a blind date, he met Judi Brassington, a girl from the Bronx. It was love at first sight! They were married on November 29 that year and would be happily married for almost 61 years, raising two sons, Mark and Danny.

Dan left the Fire Department to buy a bar with Judi’s brother Eddie. Neither had bartending experience so it was quite a wild ride! “The Mayfair Room,” located on 47th Street in Times Square attracted many interesting patrons that would become recurring characters in Dan’s trademark storytelling.

Dan and Eddie remained partners, buying a small tavern close to home called “The Bullpen” across from Silver Lake Park. A few years later they sold it to buy a restaurant with Uncle Freddie that would become “Casarella’s,” a well-known institution in all of Westchester. Many Casarella and Portanova family members worked at the



restaurant. Casarella’s made everyone feel welcome. The home cooked meals Freddie and Gracie made and comforting atmosphere were enjoyed by many for 20 years. Dan retired from the restaurant business in 1994, spending many happy winters in Florida with Judi. He would come full circle by returning to Purchase to become the Manager at The Blind Brook Club. He matched up members for rounds, ran the golf shop and became a confidante to many.

Dan spent his entire life serving others and will be missed by all who knew him, especially his wife Judi; their son Dan and his wife Patty and their children Matthew, Andrea and Michael; their son Mark and his wife Sue and their children Kristen, Tyler and Stephanie.



white plains  
performing  
arts center

### Theatre for Young Audiences



### A Winnie-the-Pooh Christmas Tail

Book, music & lyrics by James W. Rodgers  
Inspired by A.A. Milne's Winnie the Pooh

Friday, November 29  
11:00 AM & 2:00 PM



### The MAGIC Dreidels

By Jenna Zark  
Adapted from the book by Eric A. Kimmel

Thursday, December 26 - 2:00 PM  
Monday, December 30 - 11:00 AM

Created for kids & performed by adults, these shows are fun for the whole family!

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# Where to Celebrate the Holidays



By Morris Gut

The Holiday Season is upon us, so whether you've been naughty or nice, time to make plans with friends and family. If you are going out, here are some festive suggestions for every palate, each offering a good dose of Holiday cheer. Seasoned Greetings!

## Creatively Festive at the 808 Bistro

Approaching their 10th year, this eclectic Italian and American eatery on Scarsdale Ave. in Scarsdale, glows nightly in a rainbow of alternating colors. Glistening ceramic and metal tiles highlight the 50-seat dining room and ceiling. There are modern artworks and lighting, silver metal chairs softened by stressed leather seats offer comfort, as does



Hot antipasto platter for two at Mario's.

the friendly staff. It's a Manhattan vibe and it's all kept properly casual. Chef/owner Sal Cucullo Jr. is a C.I.A. graduate who practically grew up in restaurants, working kitchens owned by his Italian family as well venues of every stripe. He knows how to cook Italian, but for as long as I have known him, his creativity has never been bound by culinary borders. He can knock out a delicious version of Grandma's Gnocchi in a basil-pomodoro sauce one moment, and in another prepare a decadent Baked Macaroni and Cheese with chunks of lobster and shrimp, infused with truffle oil that will propel you to foodie

heaven. The 808 Bistro, 808 Scarsdale Ave., Scarsdale. 914-722-0808, [www.the808bistro.com](http://www.the808bistro.com).

## Classic Holiday Steaks and Chops

Proprietor Alex Ahmetaj, a veteran of the restaurant-hospitality field, updated the menu at Alex's Bar & Grille offering big cuts of aged steaks and chops along with generously served Northern Italian/Continental fare. The staff brings years of experience and a European flair to White Plains. Customers enter the multi-section dining room through the inviting bar/lounge with its black industrial ceiling, banquets and soft lighting. The handsome dining room is split into cozy sections with white tablecloths, colorful deVelleneuve impressionist paintings and warming sconces. Mediterranean clay colored banquets and chairs complement wooden walls and plush beige curtained windows. Check out such specialties as: Pan Fried Calamari with hot cherry peppers, Linguini alla Vongole, a delicious fresh Branzino prepared tableside, classic Veal Parmigiana, grilled Filet Mignon, NY Sirloin Steak, or the Pork Chops. Save room for the house made Tiramisu or Cheesecake. Daily happy hours in the bar/lounge 4 to 7 p.m. Alex's Bar & Grille, 577 North Broadway, North White Plains. 914-358-1444, [www.alex577.com](http://www.alex577.com).

## Family-Style Holiday Platters at Route One

Dario Gaite has opened Route One Family Style Ristorante on Boston Post Road in Larchmont. It is at the same site that previously housed La Riserva. Gaite also operates La Spezia, a 4-year-old family-style Italian restaurant in Sea Cliff, Long Island. The dining rooms at Route One have been beautifully refurbished: resplendent with new white tiled bar, artworks, plush dark wood floors, seating, chairs and tabletops. The ceiling is a lush red with new lighting fixtures. According to Gaite, the kitchen prepares all orders 'at the moment' to assure freshness. All dishes can be ordered for one, with larger platters for two or more, as if it was 'Sunday afternoon at Grandma's'. Be seated in the lovely multi-section dining room and let the staff suggest their hearty specialties. Private party facilities. Free parking. Route One, 2382 Boston Post

Road, Larchmont. 914-834-5584, [www.route1restaurant.com](http://www.route1restaurant.com).

## Festive Salsa at Minis Latin Fusion

Nicole Pirraglia-Piparo of City Island has opened Minis Latin Fusion, a charming restaurant in the same strip mall that previously housed Fratelli's. The menu offers colorful, flavorful Latin specialties such as fresh-made traditional Sancocho Stew, 'Picaderas' such as Cuban Spring Rolls, and Shrimp Tostones. 'Plato's Fuertes' include Minis Burger, Pernil, Mofongo, Ropa Vieja, and Churrasco with rice and beans. The new lunch menu served 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. includes Minis Carne Hero, with flank steak, pepper jack cheese, pickled onions, served with choice of yuca fries or French fries.

There is Tres Leches Cake and Passion Fruit Cheese Cake for dessert. Cute spot. Happy Hours 3 to 7 p.m. featuring specially priced cocktails and appetizers. Minis is open Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Mondays. Free parking. Minis Latin Fusion, 237 Main Street, New Rochelle, 914-355-5609.

## Celebrate in the 'Old Neighborhood'

Start off with some shopping on Arthur Ave., then head over to Mario's. Since 1919 five generations of the Miglicucci family have worked the front and back-of-the-house at Mario's Restaurant making sure patrons are well served at this venerable Little Italy institution. There are private party and meeting facilities for 20 to 145 guests overlooking bustling Arthur Ave. Amiable Joe Miglicucci, the current patriarch, is there with his wife Barbara, daughter Regina and sons Michael and Mario. Joe's mom, Mama Rose Miglicucci, was considered to be 'the first lady of Arthur Ave.' This restaurant has a long 100-year history, and it is the stuff of Italian-American 'foodie heaven'. For those in the know, the old-world menu also holds many surprises. Through the years, celebrities from all walks of life and politicos galore have passed through. Open Tuesday through Sunday. Free parking lot and valet service. Mario's, 2342 Arthur Ave., Bronx. 718-584-1188, [www.mariosrestarthurave.com](http://www.mariosrestarthurave.com).

## Felice Navidad at Cantina, White Plains

Cantina is a good spot for Happy Hours, served 3 to 7 p.m., featuring specially priced cocktails and bar snacks. While most concentrate on the tasty Tacos, I went for the Crispy Mango-Jerk Chicken Wings one late afternoon and was blown away. Wow! John Solo and his team opened Cantina Taco & Tequila Bar on Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains last March in the former Black Bear space. It has a bright aqua pastel façade and a sprawling rustic multi-level interior dining room and long bar. This management operates several other restaurants in New York City: two in Harlem, and The Grand in Astoria. Tempting specialties include: Modelo Beer Battered Fish Tacos, Garlic Shrimp, and Chicken-Lime Bowl, served with rice, peppers, black beans, sliced avocado and fresh corn. The restaurant is open from 3 p.m. to midnight 7 days a week.



Fresh apple strudel at the 88 Bistro, Scarsdale.

Cantina, 166 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, [www.cantinany.com](http://www.cantinany.com).

## Chestnuts & Carolers at Mulino's Holiday Fest

It is over-the-top at Mulino's of Westchester in White Plains during the holidays and it begins with the bright glittering lights and smell of chestnuts roasting at the entranceway. Take home a bag of them fresh from the roaster. The annual Christmas Holiday Fest at Mulino's lasts right through the season and it's a sight to behold for the whole family. The fountain garden is beautiful as is the lavish dining room and bar/lounge. General Manager Gimmy Cavagna and his staff are keeping the premises spiffy as ever: gesticulating Christmas decorations galore, holiday carolers, life size toy soldiers, the bursting colorful floral displays, the



Delish Pernil Quesadillas at Minis Latin Fusion.

handsome multilevel seating area. A special holiday menu is served. Open 7 days. Bring the whole family. The place sparkles. Valet parking. Reservations advised. Mulino's of Westchester, 99 Court Street, White Plains 914-761-1818, [www.mulinosny.com](http://www.mulinosny.com).

## Party at the Diner

Chef-owner and personable host Dean Vivolo serves his robust regional Italian cuisine out of a vintage diner just across from Harrison's Metro-North station. Sit at the counter, tuck into a booth, or take a table in the rear greenhouse and enjoy the surprising contemporary and traditional flavors emanating from his kitchen: tasty thin-crust pizza; Crostino di Polenta topped with wild mushrooms, gorgonzola and tomato sauce; Grilled Rack of Lamb; Braised Lamb Shanks; Boneless Rabbit; Lasagna Bolognese al Forno; and wonderful Spaghetti a la Vongole. Good wine list. Sparkling lights evenings. Open 7 days for lunch and dinner. Free parking. Trattoria Vivolo, 301 Halstead Ave., Harrison. 914-835-6199, [www.trattoriavivolo.com](http://www.trattoriavivolo.com).

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

Crossword Solution from page 11

|    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|
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| 10 | A | M | I | N | O | R |   |    |   |   |   |   |    |    | 11 | H | O | E |   |   |
| 12 | R | O | M | A | N | O | V |    |   |   |   |   |    |    | 14 | I | D | A |   |   |
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| 37 | D | E | S |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   | 38 | P  | E  | E | D | E | E |   |

HELP WANTED

INSTRUMENT MAN

(Elmsford, NY) Verify the accuracy of survey data, inc measurements & calculations conducted at survey sites; REQ: Bachelor's degree or foreign equivalent in Construction Management, Civil Engineering, Structural Engineering or related field. 2 yrs exp in job offrd or rlted position such as Project Manager or any role w/similar job duties. Full term of exp must inc analyzing survey reports, maps, drawings, & blueprints. Must have 30 Hour OSHA. Any suitable comb of ed, exp or training will be accepted. Mail res: **Line + Grade Surveyors, 23 Nepperhan Avenue, Elmsford, NY 10523.**



# Happenings

**Tuesday, Nov. 26**

**Trove Time.** Trove Time is an early literacy playtime for ages 2-4 with a caregiver. Children and their caregiver will play together, hear stories, and learn about enriching a child's life and increasing their early literacy skills. Tickets will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis beginning 30 minutes prior to the program. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. White Plains Library.

**Meet the Authors:** White Plains City Archivist Elaine Massena and former Local History Librarian Ben Himmelfarb collaborated on "White Plains in the 20th Century," a pictorial history published by Arcadia Publishing. Their book draws from the unique collections of the Office of the City Clerk and the White Plains Public Library, along with some material from the Westchester County Archives. Focused on the changing built environment of the downtown area (especially the growth during the 1920s and the Urban Renewal period in the 1960s and 1970s), the book also contains lots of lesser-known historical figures and episodes from the 1900s in White Plains. Part social history, part photographic retrospective, White Plains in the 20th Century illustrates better-known episodes of the city's past and brings newer historical narratives to light as well. Himmelfarb and Massena will discuss the book and their writing process and will allow time for a Q&A session. 3 to 4 p.m. Community Room, White Plains Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains.

**Israel Action Committee.** Representatives of Israeli and Palestinian Civil Society to Speak at Temple Israel of New Rochelle on "The Lived Reality in Israel and the Palestinian Territory: Current Political Developments and the Prospects for a Peaceful Settlement." Doors open at 7 p.m. Event begins at 7:30 p.m. Temple Israel of New Rochelle 1000 Pinebrook Boulevard, New Rochelle. RSVP to Howard Horowitz at howardh@horowitzresearch.com or by calling the Temple Office 914-235-1800 to

**"Tech Tuesday."** is a series of classes for children, specifically in grades 1-6. Each week, a particular topic related to digital technology is presented. Participants of this week's session will learn about game design and what goes into digital game-making. 4:30 to 5 p.m., Galaxy Hall, White Plains Library.

**Wednesday, Nov. 27**

**Farmers' Market.** Downtown Farmers' Market on Court Street in White Plains. Hours of operation each Wednesday are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Lunchtime Meditation.** A weekly meditation program. Brief beginning instruction will be followed by meditation. No experience or special equipment needed. A guest instructor will lead the program the first Wednesday of each month; 12:15 to 1 p.m. White Plains Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains.

**Lucy's Laugh Lounge:** Joe Praino and Friends. Praino is returning to Westchester

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**.

for one night and one show only. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. \$20. Info and tickets: Visit [www.lucyslaughlounge.com](http://www.lucyslaughlounge.com).

**Thursday, Nov. 28**  
**Happy Thanksgiving!**

**Friday, Nov. 29**

**Black Friday Weekend Holiday Market.** Explore Lyndhurst Mansion transformed into an extravagant wonderland of holiday splendor. Visitors can walk the mansion at their own pace without a guided tour and experience the wonderland of holiday vignettes. Also, browse the new holiday market featuring more than 60 local and regional makers and artists, perfect for those looking to find holiday gifts. Hot food and beverages will be available for purchase in the pop-up café. There will also be holiday card photo ops and seasonal activities for the whole family to enjoy. Lyndhurst Mansion, 635 S. Broadway, Tarrytown. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adults: \$24. Seniors, students, military personnel and AAA members: \$22. Children (under 16): \$16. Also Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. Info: Visit [www.lyndhurst.org](http://www.lyndhurst.org).

**Winnie-the-Pooh Christmas Tail** will play the White Plains Performing Arts Center at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tickets are \$17 for youth and \$22 for adults. White Plains Performing Arts Center is located on the third level of City Center off Mamaroneck Avenue and Main Street in White Plains. For tickets visit the theatre box office Monday-Friday (11 a.m. to 6 p.m.), purchase the tickets online at [wppac.com](http://wppac.com) or call 914-328-1600. For Group Sales, please contact [boxoffice@wppac.com](mailto:boxoffice@wppac.com)

**Westchester's Winter Wonderland.** Celebrate the holidays close to home. A one-of-a-kind holiday experience featuring Santa's Village, amusement rides, unlimited skating on an outdoor ice rink (skates included), the Winter Wonderland Holiday Circus, food and beverage options and a dazzling light show. Kensico Dam Plaza, 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla. 5 to 10 p.m. \$20. Children (under 3): Free. Fridays from 5 to 10 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays 4 to 10 p.m. through Dec. 22. From Dec. 23 through Jan. 4, 5 to 10 p.m. on weekdays and 4 to 10 p.m. on weekends. Closed Dec. 24 and 25. Info and tickets:

Visit [www.winterwonderland.com](http://www.winterwonderland.com).

**Saturday, Nov. 30**

**Small Business Saturday.** Shop at stores in downtown White Plains and receive up to two hours free parking.

**Holiday Train Show.** Looking for a fun experience this holiday season for you and your family? Enjoy zooming freight cars, flashing bells, tooting whistles and more at one of our most popular events. A thrill for all ages. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Members and children (under 2): Free. Non-member adults: \$10. Non-member seniors and students: \$9. Non-member children (2-12 years old): \$8. Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 15. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**The Avengers – Endgame.** (Movie PG-13, 2019, 180min). The remaining Avengers must gather their strength to defeat the mad titan Thanos and restore the decimated universe. 1:30 to 5 p.m. Galaxy Hall, White Plains Library.

**The Smithereens.** Founded in New Jersey, The Smithereens have been creating electrifying original rock 'n' roll for four decades. Jim Babiak (guitar), Dennis Diken (drums) and Mike Mesaros (bass) grew up together in Carteret and lead singer, the late Pat DiNizio, hailed from Scotch Plains. The band's take-no-prisoners sound, reflecting their Garden State roots, has resonated with fans worldwide over the course of 17 albums and 2,500-plus live shows. They will be accompanied by special guest vocalist Marshall Crenshaw. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$35, \$45 and \$55. Info and tickets: Visit [www.tarrytownmusichall.org](http://www.tarrytownmusichall.org).

**Sunday, Dec. 1**

**City Lights, Bright Holiday Nights:** The City of White Plains will kick off the start of the holiday season on Sunday, Dec. 1 with its annual City Lights, Bright Holiday Nights Community Celebration from 4 to 6 p.m. at its new location on Court Street between Main Street and Martine Avenue.



## White Plains Welcomes the Holiday Season

**There's a lot going on in White Plains this holiday season.**

**City Lights, Bright Holiday Nights:** The City of White Plains will kick off the start of the holiday season on Sunday, Dec. 1 with its annual City Lights, Bright Holiday Nights Community Celebration from 4 to 6 p.m. at its new location on Court Street between Main Street and Martine Avenue.

All are invited to attend and take in the sights and sounds of the season. Guests will enjoy music provided by the White Plains Youth Bureau Chorus, Ridgeway Alliance

Chorus, Calvary Baptist Youth Choir, White Plains Chorale Singers, The White Plains Middle School Jazz Band, and the Archbishop Stepinac High School Chorus.

Santa will be making a special visit to Court Street for the occasion with his special guests the White Plains High School Marching Band. Also visiting the event will be Santa's friends Frosty and Rudolph. Other park activities include: A spectacular ice carving exhibit, holiday-themed tattoos, hands-on crafts, the Grinch, snow globe photo booth (camera not provided), and an

opportunity to write your letters to Santa.

Mayor Tom Roach will light the beautiful 24-foot tree in the park, decorated with LED lights to be enjoyed for the season. Complimentary refreshments will be provided.

Sponsors of this free event, open to all White Plains residents, are: Trader Joe's, Stop & Shop and Webster Bank.

**WinterFest:** The City's 5th annual WinterFest Holiday Market will once again be held on Court Street between Martine Avenue and Main Street (the same location

as the Farmers' Market) in downtown White Plains. WinterFest offers a unique holiday shopping experience and is a great place to pick up unique holiday gifts.

WinterFest kicks off on Wednesday, Dec. 18 and runs through Monday, Dec. 23 and will be open Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Monday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.





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## LEGALS

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW #2-2019 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**, that the Town Board of the Town of Putnam Valley duly adopted Local Law #2-2019 on November 13, 2019, a Local Law to override the tax levy limit established in the General Municipal Law 3-c for the fiscal year of 2020. **Sherry Howard Town Clerk Dated: 11-20-19**

**NOTICE FOR BIDS The Town Board of the Town of Putnam Valley will receive bids for the following: ASPHALT LAID IN PLACE; HOT ASPHALT; COLD PATCH; BASINS; GRATES; FRAMES WITH LIDS AND RISERS; CRUSHED ITEM 4; WASHED CONCRETE SAND; BANK RUN; TOP SOIL; CRUSHED STONE; LIGHT STONE; GUIDE RAIL; LIQUID MAGNESIUM CHLORIDE; PIPE** It is mandatory that all bidders complete the form referring to Sections 103a and 103d of the General Municipal law. Specifications, forms and other information available from the Superintendent of Highways. Bids will be received until **DECEMBER 10, 2019 at 02:00 PM.** All bids are returnable to the Office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley, New York 10579. Please put "HIGHWAY BID" on your bid envelope. The Town reserves the right to waive any irregularities or informalities in or reject any or all bids. **BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD Sherry Howard Town Clerk Town of Putnam Valley Dated: November 21, 2019**

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF 2020 PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN/DISTRICT AND HIGHWAY BUDGET PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**, that the 2020 Preliminary Town/District and Highway Budget was adopted as the final budget on November 13, 2019, as per Town Law Section 109. Pursuant to Section 108 of the Town Law, the salaries adopted of the Town Officials are hereby specified as follows: Town Supervisor \$ 75,366.20 Councilpersons, four @ \$15,000.00 each Town Clerk

*continued on next page*

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continued from previous page

\$ 67,910.54 Highway Superintendent  
\$94,873.48 Sherry Howard Town Clerk  
Dated: 11/14/19

To All Interested Parties, Coming  
this January, 2020, there will be 3 seats  
available for the Parks and Recreation

**Commission.** The Parks and Recreation  
Commission serves primarily as an  
advisory board to the Parks and Recreation  
Department. Typically, the Commission  
will meet once a month to review certain  
aspects of the department including, but  
not limited to programs, projects, spending

and community relations. The board has  
always been made up of a diverse group  
consisting of qualities such as; local business  
owners, financial experts, people with  
athletic backgrounds and people with arts  
backgrounds. If you are interested, please  
submit a resume and a letter of interest to  
Supervisor Sam Oliverio at Soliverio@  
putnamvalley.com or mail to 265  
Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley,  
NY 10579. If you have any questions  
you can contact Frank DiMarco at  
fdimarco@putnamvalley.com or call my  
office at 845-526-3292

Please be advised that the next  
meeting of the Planning Board will be  
held at Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake  
Road on Monday December 2, 2019 for  
the purpose of considering the following  
applications: Regular Meeting Start Time:  
6:00pm AGENDA PUBLIC HEARING  
The following public hearings have been  
scheduled for December 2, 2019 at 6:00PM  
(or as soon thereafter as agenda conditions  
permit) at the Putnam Valley Town Hall,  
265 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley,  
New York, 10579. All interested parties are  
invited to attend and will be heard. A copy of  
the application materials and plans may be  
inspected during normal business hours at  
the office of the Planning Board Clerk, Town  
of Putnam Valley Town Hall. 1. **Filho  
Residence, - 135 Bell Hollow Road (TM#  
51-1-4/File: 2019-0190)** The subject  
property consists of + 19.2 acres of land  
and is located on 135 Bell Hollow Road and  
within the R-3 Zoning District. The applicant  
is proposing to construct a swimming pool  
and terrace. A Site Development Plan, Major  
Grading and Wetland Permit and Wetland  
Mitigation is required. 2. **Perez, Octavio,  
Ridgecrest Road (TM# 83.56-1-5, 6 & 7/  
File: 2018-0187)** The subject property  
consists of ±2.72 acres of land and is located  
on Ridgecrest Road and within the R-1  
Zoning District. The applicant is proposing  
to construct a single-family residence.  
REVIEW 3. **Gan, Roy, - 560 Oscawana  
Lake Road (TM# 62.-1-37&38/File:  
2019-0206)** The subject property consists  
of + 3.58 acres of land and is located on 560  
Oscawana Lake Road and within the R-3  
Zoning District. The applicant is proposing  
to construct a single family residence on an  
existing parcel where a dilapidated residence  
will be removed. A Site Development Plan

and Major Grading permit is required. 4. **Putnam Valley Fire Station- Oscawana  
Lake Road (TM#72.20-1-7.12/File2019-  
0196)** The property consist of +/- 10.3 acres  
of land and is located on Oscawana Lake  
Road and within the R-2 Zoning District.  
The applicant is proposing to construct a  
Fire Station building +/-30,000 sq.ft. in size,  
with well and septic system, 127 parking  
spaces, stormwater management facilities  
and related site improvements. 5. **Putnam  
Valley Volunteer Ambulance Corp.  
(TM# 72.20-1-7.11/File2019-0204)** The  
applicant is proposing an amended site plan  
for improvements to allow shared access  
and parking with proposed fire station on  
adjacent property. The Planning Board will  
consider adopting a resolution declaring  
intent for lead agency for the Fire House and  
Ambulance Corp. project. EXTENSION  
5. **Juliano, Sam,-50 West Shore Drive  
(TM: 62.13-2-18 / File:2010-0073)**  
APPROVAL OF MINUTES 6. Approve  
Minutes of November 4 & 18, 2019

Notice is hereby given to interested  
parties that a Public Hearing will be held  
by the Putnam Valley Zoning Board of  
Appeals on Thursday December 5, 2019  
at 6:30 at Town Hall, 265 Oscawana  
Lake Road for the purpose of considering  
the following petitions and requests  
together with all other matters that may  
properly come before the Board at this time.  
AGENDA New Application 1. **Putnam  
Valley Volunteer Ambulance Corps., 218  
Oscawana Lk. Rd, 72.20-1-7.11; R-2**  
Request lot coverage variance, and variance  
for additional road frontage. 2. **Putnam  
Valley Fire Department, Oscawana  
Lake Rd., 72.20-1-7.12; R-2** Request  
variance for fire station cupola height,  
building and retaining wall side setback and  
sign size and illumination. An interpretation  
of the Zoning Code to determine whether  
variances are needed for stormwater outlet  
structure, refuse enclosure, sign setback  
and retaining wall heights. Request variances  
that are required from interpretation. 3.  
**Krugman, Samuel, 22 Twilight Lane,  
62.11-1-44; R-3** Request front yard setback  
variance for construction of new screened  
porch. BY ORDER OF THE TOWN OF  
PUTNAM VALLEY ZONING BOARD  
OF APPEALS WILLIAM MASKIELL  
CHAIRMAN

continued on next page

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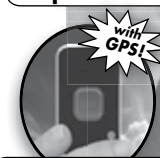
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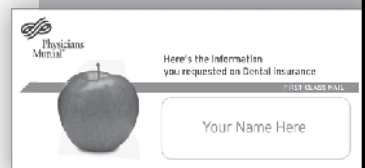
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# The WHITE PLAINS Examiner Sports

## Put Away the Pig Skin: It is Time for Tigers Boys and Girls Basketball

By Albert Coqueran

On Friday, the White Plains High School Boys and Girls Basketball Programs kicked-off their 2019-20 campaigns with an enthusiastic pep rally dubbed "Fear The Roar Tiger Tip-Off Madness" held in the Harry Jefferson Gym at WPHS.

The Tigers Boys will open their 2019-20 season while hosting the 26th Annual Harry Jefferson Boys Basketball Showcase at WPHS. The two-day event pits Harrison High School against Ramapo High School in the first game at 4:30 p.m. and WPHS versus Peekskill High School in the second game on Friday, Dec. 6.

On Saturday, Dec. 7, Fox Lane plays Spring Valley in the opening contest at 2:30 p.m. and Horace Greeley challenges Poughkeepsie in the second game at 4:15 p.m.

The Tigers Girls Basketball Team will open their 2019-20 campaign on the road at Mt. Vernon High School, on Wednesday, Dec. 4. They again as in previous years will participate in the annual Irvington High School Tournament, on Thursday, Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 7. The Lady Tigers Home Opener versus Scarsdale High School is



WPHS Head Boys Basketball Coach Spencer Mayfield (left) and Assistant Coach Spencer Smith (right) will guide a team led by (l-r) senior forwards Quion Burns and Jayon Norwood with juniors forward Joe Carrier and guard Tymir Greene when they open their 2019-20 season with the Harry Jefferson Showcase, on Dec. 6, at WPHS.

the Semifinals at the Westchester County Center.

The Tigers were well prepared this season to take the next step and challenge for the Sectional Title. A feat Mayfield has not accomplished since 1999. Mayfield has led the Tigers to two Sectional Titles and two NYSPHSAA Titles 1994 and 1999.

This season the Tigers Boys were well aware that with the arsenal of experienced players they were supposedly returning, a third Sectional Title in Mayfield's 27-year tenure was certainly within reach.

Nonetheless, devastating news surfaced prior to the opening of camp when Tigers team leader and high scorer Eisaiah Murphy transferred to Our Saviour Lutheran High School in the Bronx. Murphy had accumulated 885 career-points in three years playing varsity. He was on target to be the Tigers Boys next 1000-point career scorer before he transferred.

Furthermore, their roster of experienced clintal dwindled even more when junior guard Mekhi Woodbury was deemed ineligible to play this season during training camp. "Really, I just focus on the players that

*continued on next page*



Tigers feisty point guard senior Paul "Mr. Hustle" Sevcik (left) will miss the beginning of this season after offseason surgery for a torn ACL. However, steadfast Assistant Coach Ed Sands (right) will be on the bench starting his 13th season with his calming effect and father figure persona respected by players.

slated for Monday, Dec. 16 at 4:30 p.m.

On Friday prior to the pep rally, Head Coach Spencer Mayfield sat in his office pondering the beginning of his 27th season at the helm of the Tigers Boys Basketball Program. Mayfield is coming off of a successful 2018-19 season, whereas the Boys varsity squad compiled a 15-8 record.

The Tigers Boys were the number four-seed in the Section 1 AA Playoffs last year, while beating number 13 Ossining in the first round, number five Scarsdale in the Quarterfinals in overtime, only to lose to arch rival number one seed Mt. Vernon in



On Friday in the Harry Jefferson Gym at WPHS, the Tigers Cheerleading Team energized the packed house of supporters during the "Fear The Roar Tiger Tip-Off Madness" pep rally to kick-off the Boys and Girls Basketball 2019-20 seasons.



# EXAMINER SPORTS

continued from previous page



The 2019-20, Tigers Girls Basketball Team includes (front, l-r) team leader senior Savannah Williams, two eighth graders India Newman and Inievi Plata, freshman Aliya Mclver, and senior team leader Julia Reggio. [Back, l-r] juniors Daniela Falcone, Daisy Klink and Adriana Moreno, Head Coach Benji Carter, senior Elma MrKulic and eighth grader Sequoia Layne.

are still in the program. As far as Eisaiah, we just wish him well and wish his family well and hope he has future success in all his endeavors," stated a gracious Mayfield.

The loss of two valuable teammates did not seem to dampen the spirits of the team as an enthusiastic practice ensued on Friday. The three undisputed leaders of the Tigers team are 6' 5" forward Quion Burns, Jayon Norwood, a 6' 3" powerful quick slasher and point guard Paul Sevcik, who will miss the beginning of the season due to an ACL tear.

"Honestly it puts a little bit more pressure on me but more pressure on the team. Since two key players are missing, everybody just has to step up and do their part and I have to step up too," stated Burns.

Junior guard Tymir Greene and junior forward Joe Carrier will also be impact

players for the Tigers this season. "We still feel really confident about this season. We have really good players who have yet to show their full potential," commented Carrier. "I think the season went well last year and we are looking forward to a really good season this year," said Carrier.

## The Tigers Girls Seek that Elusive League Championship

Benjamin "Benji" Carter is starting his third season as Head Coach of White Plains Girls Varsity Basketball. Carter has led the Tigers to the Section 1 AA Playoffs each year but has yet to make it through the First Round.

Last season the Lady Tigers finished 12-9 overall, 9-2 League, while placing second in Conference 1B. It seemed the Tigers would

crack the First Round ceiling last season and make it to the Quarterfinals. But it is no secret that the Lady Tigers hoopsters go as far as their star player Julia Reggio takes them. Consequentially, Reggio was taken ill last year and she did not play in the First Round game.

The Lady Tigers lost to North Rockland in the First Round last season. They are certainly seeking to avenge that disadvantaged loss and crack the First Round ceiling this season. "Oh yeah, that is one of our goals, that is the plan. We want to win the League Championship then crack that first round ceiling and make it to the County Center," said Carter.

The Tigers Girls basketball Team has not won a League Championship since 2007, when they celebrated winning four straight Section 1 AA Gold Balls (2005-2008) under the leadership of heralded former Head Coach Sue Adams.

A five-year varsity starter, senior shooting guard Reggio is the key to the team. Reggio averaged 17.4 points, 5.8 rebounds, 1.4 assists and 3.1 steals per game last season. She can score from anywhere on the court and draws the attention of opponents entire defenses just by merely walking onto the court.

The other leader for the Lady Tigers is senior guard Savannah Williams, who Carter needs production from to be successful this season. "Savannah left a lot of points on the court last year. I put her and Reggio on a



Freshman point guard Aliya Mclver will have a lot of responsibility this season while making sure she penetrates defenses and makes precise passes to teammates. She proved worthy of the starting role this season after averaging 6 points, 4 rebounds, 2.6 assists and 2.5 steals last season.

pedestal as far as athleticism and once she changes her mindset this year she can put up 20 points per game," commented Carter.

"I feel we have a lot of potential this season. We are focused this season on using our strength which is our speed," evaluated Reggio. "We are really trying to win the league this year and then go to the County Center and win it all," projected the Lady Tigers star player.



White Plains resident Derrick Warren better known as "DJ D LYFE" cranked out the tunes during the "Fear The Roar Tigers Tip-Off Madness" pep rally to support the Tigers Boys and Girls Basketball Teams.



The Tigers Girls Basketball Team show a circle of strength led by team leader Savannah Williams (center) during the "Fear The Roar Tigers Tip-Off Madness" at WPHS on Friday.





# White Plains High School Boys and Girls Basketball Kick Off New Season

ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTO

White Plains High School Boys and Girls Basketball Programs kicked-off their 2019-20 seasons with "Fear The Roar Tiger Tip-Off Madness." The Tigers Cheerleading Team and Mascot Tiger led a packed gym of supporters cheering the basketball teams during a pep rally at White Plains High School, on Friday.