



Highlands Middle School Students Help 'Feed Westchester'



Students in White Plains Highlands Middle School packaged over 800 bags of green beans and delivered over 200 pounds of food donations to Westchester people who need them. On Feb. 1 the Highlands Community Service Club traveled to Feeding Westchester to deliver donations from their building food drive.

White Plains Rural Cemetery Assoc. Wins Appeal to Build Crematory

By Pat Casey

The White Plains Rural Cemetery Association has won an appeal in a quest it began in 2014 to build a crematory on its property at 167 N. Broadway in White Plains.

Claiming financial hardship partly because the cemetery is running out of room for future burials, the Association requested a Zoning variance to add a crematorium to the facilities and uses on the site.

The Jan. 30 decision by the Second Appellate Division that the Cemetery Association should be allowed to build the crematory stated that the White Plains Zoning Board's decision not to allow the variance was "arbitrary and capricious" because there was no rational basis for the Board to determine the Cemetery Association faced no real financial

hardship, a point often used to obtain zoning variances.

The Court decision also stated: "The Board improperly determined that the 1,800-square-foot crematory would alter the essential character of the neighborhood. The unrebutted evidence demonstrated that the crematory would be shielded from view, would be odorless and not emit visible smoke, and had passed all necessary emissions and air quality testing. Other evidence indicated that the structure would not have an impact on any nearby historical resources and the crematory was not visible from the nearest residence, which is 400 feet away and across a major interstate highway. The (Zoning) Board's other concerns that surrounding home values would decrease and that granting the variance would allow for additional

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White Plains Residents Blast N. Broadway Landfill at Council Meeting

By Neal Rentz

Several White Plains residents last week were sharply critical of how the open space fill area at 52 N. Broadway has been handled by the property's new owner and the city.

The residents made their comments about the fill area on the former Good Council campus during the Citizens to be Heard portion of the Feb. 4 Common Council meeting, the first time the session was televised. The half-hour "free-speech" session takes place before the official Council meeting begins and is not held to a set agenda.

The analysis of the open space fill area, prepared by Hauppauge, LI-based VHB that was submitted to White Plains



View of the former Good Counsel campus. The vacant area within the white property outline at the top right of the photo is the open space fill area.

Commissioner of Building Damon Amadio in January suggests, "the existing backfill material is not considered satisfactory and it may be necessary for same to be removed from each applicable building footprint (referring to the proposed residential development of the site)."

The analysis commissioned by the city is based on 14 samples taken from 11 borings at the site from late November to early December 2018.

The report continues: "Regardless of environmental impacts and the eventual plan for addressing the removal and/or capping of environmentally impaired soils, the generation and disposal of surplus soils should also be considered. VHB

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White Plains Residents Blast N. Broadway Landfill at Council Meeting

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anticipates that surplus soils will likely be generated due to the proposed site redevelopment activities, and there is a potential that geotechnical specifications will require additional excavation/removal of the backfill. Off-site disposal of surplus soils should be considered due to the impairments detected."

The history of toxicity at the former Good Counsel athletic field dates back to a period between 2004 and 2006 when backfill containing construction and demolition debris was deposited on the site. Upon inspection by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at that time, it was determined SVOCs were present in the fill

materials at concentrations exceeding the NYSDEC objectives.

At last week's meeting resident Deborah Zipf of 10 Stewart Place said she and other residents of her building were going to be monitoring the project being sought for 52 N. Broadway. "I can't say we are exactly glad to have the report on the contaminated site," she said.

Zipf said she was relieved that the report confirmed that the site was contaminated, which residents felt was the case all along. They expect the city to protect them. Remediation of the site will add dust, dirt and continuation to the neighborhood, she said.

Residents have questioned whether the

former owners of the site, the Sisters of the Divine Compassion, were forthcoming about the status of the landfill when they decided to sell the former campus.

"The developer was aware of the contamination before they ever purchased the property because why else would they have a soil removal budget prepared with the property appraisal if there was nothing wrong with the soil," Zipf said. The developer should take the project "back to the drawing board," she said, adding: The contaminated site "is an insult to the neighborhood."

Another 10 Stewart Place resident, Maria Gallagher, said the landfill results have made her more concerned about her health and angry. "If we, the nearby residents of this development plan, had not come forward" construction would have already begun, Gallagher said. The study was done after residents did research and commented at many Common Council meetings, she said. In 2005 a deed restriction was placed on the land and the cap was not supposed to be disturbed for 30 years, Gallagher said.

There are many other issues, including density, the local landmark status of the site, safety of the neighborhood and traffic that need to be analyzed by the city in addition to the contamination, Gallagher said.

Mayor Tom Roach said the consultant hired by the city will make a presentation

at the March 4 meeting of the Common Council. The DEC will have the opportunity to address the property during the meeting and then the public will have the chance to address the Common Council, he said. Roach said his intention was to continue the public hearing at the April Common Council meeting.

"We're taking this very seriously and I want to make sure everyone is heard," Roach said.

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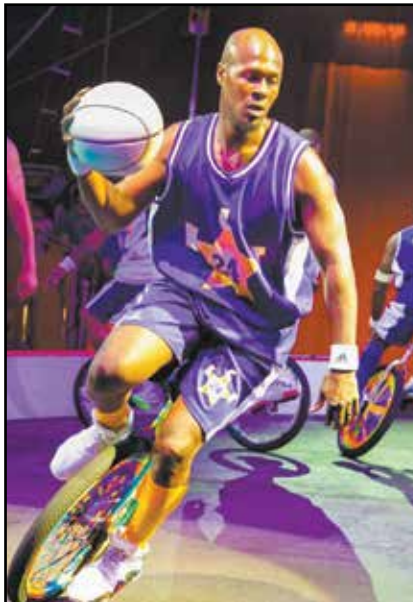
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More State Funding Sought for Seniors' Needs, Tobacco Fight

By Jade Perez

Community members and representatives of various organizations urged the area's state senators to increase funding for senior care and tobacco control along with improving state roads during a public hearing Feb. 8.

Westchester's state Senate delegation listened to two hours of comments on Gov. Andrew Cuomo's proposed 2019-20 executive budget at the Greenburgh Public Library.

Jacob Reckess, a member of the Empire State Association of Assisted Living's Board of Directors, said there are more than 1,500 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients in the senators' districts in Westchester and there hasn't been an increase in 12 years. SSI is a needs-based program that provides monthly benefits to people with limited income and resources who are disabled, blind or at least 65 years old.

"There's a recognition that this is a problem. So I ask you to continue the fight and get the message across," Reckess said.

Beth Finkel, the state director of AARP New York, asked that the governor's proposed \$15 million investment in home and community-based services be increased to \$25 million to keep pace with need. As the population ages, there are fewer people available to care for the growing number of frail and elderly people. Finkel said there are 2.6 million



JADE PEREZ PHOTO

Residents packed the meeting room at the Greenburgh Public Library last Feb. 8 to urge Westchester's state senators to increase funding for tobacco control programs, seniors and their caregivers and state road improvements in the 2019-20 state budget.

caregivers in New York contributing \$32 billion of free care to family members.

"If you had to go pay for that in the open market...those people would have to go into institutional care, which we all know how much more that costs," Finkel said. "So we need to get more money into those services that can provide meals, transportation, etc."

Elizabeth Hamlin-Berninger, the director of advocacy for the American Lung Association in New York, called for an increase in funding for tobacco

control, which aims to help people stop smoking and raise awareness of the e-cigarette problem.

"The CDC recommends that that program be funded at \$220 billion (nationwide) and New York is funding it at \$39,000," Hamlin-Berninger said. "New York brings in about \$2 billion of tobacco-taxed money and the MSA master settlement agreement money and we're not really sure where that money's going."

Hamlin-Berninger also expressed

concern that the U.S. Surgeon General called e-cigarette smoking an epidemic. Citing data from a National Youth Tobacco Survey that appears on the Food & Drug Administration's website, e-cigarette use among high school students increased by 78 percent from 2017 to 2018. Most of those kids will go on to smoke regular cigarettes, she said.

Abe-Baker Butler, a 16-year-old high school student who is vice president of the Westchester County Youth Board and Director of the Legislative Advocacy and Expansion for Students Against Nicotine, also called for more resources to combat teen cigarette and e-cigarette use.

Although the governor announced his intention to increase the legal age for buying tobacco and e-cigarette products from 18 to 21 in the state budget, Butler said that the age restriction is just part of the solution.

Butler noted that JUUL use has risen alarmingly because of its appealing flavors to teenagers. More than 37 percent of high school seniors used e-cigarettes in 2018, he said.

"These cigarettes can result in severe lung cancer, decreased immunity, inhibited brain development and popcorn lung," Butler said. "For the sake of our youth, we must take action to increase funding for preventive education, restrict flavors and regulate e-cigarettes."

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White Plains Rural Cemetery Assoc. Wins Appeal to Build Crematory *continued from page 1*

crematoriums to be constructed on the subject property are predicated on nothing more than speculation and appear to be the product of generalized community opposition.”

The nondenominational private cemetery has major historical relevance to the city of White Plains as a burial ground dating back to the 1700s and location for city ceremonies on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The grounds cover 30 acres with walkways, old trees and lush landscaping. The cemetery has operated since 1854, prior to the establishment of residential



The White Plains Rural Cemetery Association is seeking a zoning variance from the City of White Plains to build a crematory on its property at 167 N. Broadway.

zoning in the area. The operation of a cemetery was considered a legal, nonconforming use in the residential zone.

Residents of the North Broadway Citizens Association and the city of White Plains have expressed concerns to block the building of a crematory on the site since the request was first made in 2014.

A permit was initially denied by the White Plains Building Department and a variance denied by the Zoning Board of Appeals, which claimed the proposed crematory is not a conforming use in a cemetery.

To a request for comment on the Jan. 30 decision to allow plans for the crematory to go forward, John Callahan, Counsel for the City of White Plains said, “We are examining the opinion and have not yet decided on whether to seek leave to appeal from the court.”

Similarly, the White Plains Rural Cemetery Association responded: “On the advice of our attorney, we have no comment at this time.”

According to the 2018 Cremation and Burial Report, released by the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) over the next 18 years, the rate of cremation in the United States is projected to increase by nearly 30 percent. Already having outpaced the rate of burial for three consecutive years, the national cremation rate will reach nearly 80 percent (or 2.80 million cremations per year) by 2035, according to NFDA, based on a variety of factors including changing consumer preference, weakening religious prohibitions and environmental concerns. According to the 2018 report, the national 2018 cremation rate is projected to be 53.5 percent and the burial rate is projected to be 40.5 percent.

More State Funding Sought for Seniors' Needs, Tobacco Fight

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Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner pushed for the state to make an investment to improve its roads. He showed recent photos of roads with large potholes, which drivers have had to cross onto the wrong side of the road to avoid, he said.

Feiner called the situation “dangerous and life-threatening.”

“The last time a (state) road in Greenburgh was repaved was four years ago and that's really unconscionable,” Feiner said. “I'm not here to ask for more funding for the town, cities or for villages, but I'm saying maintain the roads that are owned by New York State.”

Last Friday's forum followed a similar one held by Westchester's Assembly members on Jan. 31. Sen. Shelley Mayer announced to a packed meeting room at the start that two hours would be devoted to public comments, which limited the number of speakers.

State lawmakers are expected to vote on the 2019-20 budget by the Mar. 31 deadline.

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State Legislature Pushes Through 'Red Flag' Gun Law

By David Propper

Already boasting some of the strictest gun laws in the nation, the New York State Legislature recently passed a series of bills that made gun laws even tougher, but left a sharp divide among political parties.

With a Democratic majority in the state Senate and Assembly leading the way, new gun control legislation passed easily as Albany continues to move forward with a progressive agenda promised by Governor Andrew Cuomo during his State of State address last month.

The legislation included the "red flag" bill that allows law enforcement, school staff and family members to request a judge stop a person they believe is a threat to themselves or others from temporarily owning or buying a gun until a hearing is held. Other measures banned teachers from carrying a firearm on school grounds, extended the waiting period for someone to purchase a gun if they don't pass an instant background check and banned bump stocks being sold or manufactured, which can increase the rate of fire in a semi-automatic weapon.

"We take a big step forward today," Cuomo said during a gun safety forum. "No one wants to take guns from legal gun owners who are mentally healthy. We don't want people who are mentally ill or are past felons to have gun. That's all this is."

This is the second time during Cuomo's tenure in office that sweeping reforms aimed at gun control have been passed. The first time was in 2013--the SAFE Act--in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook school shooting that killed 27 people.

Putnam state representatives were split over the new set of bills. Assemblywoman Sandy Galef and Senator Peter Harckham, Democrats, voted in favor of the complete package of bills while Assemblyman Kevin Byrne and Senator Sue Serino, Republicans, did not.

The most controversial piece of the package was the red flag bill.

Serino, who lost a brother to suicide, said while she understands the intent behind the "red flag" law, the bill is too broad and fails to get to the heart of the issue when it comes to mental health and gun violence. She added the Democratic majority played politics and rushed the legislation through without getting input from appropriate stakeholders.

"I could not in good conscience support legislation that allows ordinary citizens, with no mental health training or background, to single out others as harmful while then failing to provide any mental health services, support, or legal assistance to the accused," Serino said in a statement. "That's a recipe for disaster."

She pushed for legislation that would've put more mental health professionals in

schools, but it was rejected by leadership within the state legislature.

Byrne voted against the "red flag" law because of numerous flaws, including opportunities for exploitation and abuse, lack of timely due process and that it provides no additional attention, services, or supervision for those individuals flagged for mental health help. Once a person is flagged as a possible danger, no action is required after confiscation until a hearing is held to determine whether or not that person should have their gun back, Byrne said.

"If these people are such a danger, we should not be leaving them in society where they may have access to alternative methods to harm themselves or others; they should receive an immediate mental health evaluation and the state should be providing assistance and support," Byrne said in a statement. "Without this added attention, there is a very legitimate concern that this law could unintentionally escalate a situation and further endanger public safety."

Byrne did vote to ban bump stocks, a piece of legislation he has consistently supported.

Supporting the set of gun laws, Harckham said the "red flag" bill was a "common sense gun safety" measure. He added that there needs to be a "high level of proof" that could result in a firearm

being taken away

County Legislator Nancy Montgomery, a Democrat, said she was heartened that state lawmakers have responded to the pleas from responsible gun owners and gun safety advocates. Families, mental health providers, medical professionals and law enforcement have the tools they need to identify people that might hurt themselves or others, she said.

"That will enable us all to proactively assist those who need intervention, and keep our communities safe. At the same time, we have protected the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners," Montgomery, a Philipstown resident, said in an email. "I hope that New York State's achievement will be a model for similar legislation across the country."

Patterson resident Andrew Falk, a former state Assembly candidate and current Working Families Party state committee member, said not taking action to curtail gun violence would be "immoral."

"We need to stop sacrificing our children on the altar of the Second Amendment," Falk said in an email. "To have a mechanism for reporting a person for additional scrutiny before a tragedy occurs is a safeguard that should be welcomed by everyone and one of the

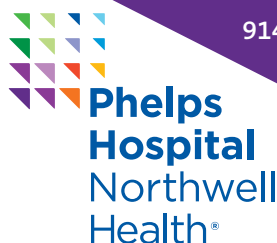
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Church Street Elementary School Students Honor Veterans with Valentines

By Neal Rentz

Valentine's Day came early Feb. 6, as fourth and fifth grade students from the Church Street Elementary School honored military veterans by presenting them with Valentines.

Last week's assembly was part of Assemblyman David Buchwald's Valentines for Veterans program. It was the first time the Church Street School participated in the program.

According to Buchwald's office, 4,000 valentines have been sent to Germany, Afghanistan, South Korea, and smaller deployments in West Africa.

The students were given Valentine's cards by Buchwald's office to color in.

"We've been running this program for five years and each year we have students just like you all around my Assembly district in Westchester filling out Valentines and expressing their thanks to our country's veterans," Buchwald said. "Valentine's Day, at its core, is about love."

"One of the things we should all love is the freedoms that we enjoy as Americans," Buchwald said. "We would not have those freedoms were it not for the men and women putting on the uniform of our country and serving in our armed forces."

White Plains Mayor Thomas Roach said his father and grandfather were US Navy veterans and his uncles also served in the military, with some of his uncles serving



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Fourth and fifth grade students presented Valentines to veterans on Feb. 6 as part of Assemblyman David Buchwald's Valentines for Veterans program. Shown above from the left are Buchwald, fifth grade student Olivia Tuzel, military veterans Sam Ritti, Peter Sasko, Peter Stone and Chester Edwards and fifth grade student Nathan Bartlett.

in Vietnam. "It's something that I grew up around," Roach said. "It's something we should all respect and remember."

Westchester County Board of Legislators Chairman Benjamin Boykin thanked the veterans for their service. "Because of you we are free," Boykin, a former White

Plains school board and Common Council member said.

Each Board of Legislators meeting beings with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance "and then we remain standing to honor the veterans who have served us here and abroad and those who have given the ultimate sacrifice," Boykin said.

The four veterans who accepted the students' Valentines last week were Peter Stone, Peter Sasko, Sam Ritti and Chester Edwards.

Ritti served in the US Army from 1966 to 1968. "The best thing I ever did was serve our country," he said.

Sasko, also a US Army veteran, serviced in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969. Sasko, who has 10 brothers and sisters, said, "I'm the only one who served in the military other than my dad."

Stone, who moved to White Plains in 1948, noted he joined the US Navy after graduating from college. "I served for 11 months over in Vietnam on a carrier. It was an experience I'll never forget," he said. Stone added he made many friends while serving in the military who he still shares a bond with today.

Edwards served with the US Navy in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969. Edwards praised the Valentines for Veterans program. He told the students when a US serviceman or woman serves overseas "they leave their families, they leave their children, they leave their parents. They go somewhere far, far away to do a hard job and then the holidays come and there's nobody there from their families," he said. "Those Valentine's you send them remind them of home and let them know that they are loved and appreciated."

Students asked the veterans a series of questions. A student asked if any of the veterans served on a combat mission. Sasko

said, "Being in a combat unit you probably have a mission every day," Edwards said, "We all went on many missions because a mission was just a job to go do something and come back. Every time we heard there was an enemy somewhere we would have to go there and take care of business."

Another student asked if any of the veterans served as spies. Stone said he was an assistant intelligence officer. "The first thing I had to do was get a top secret clearance," he recalled. Spies would report to him and his colleagues, Stone noted. "So we would know where the North Vietnamese were moving," he said.

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ENJOY LOCAL FOOD AND DRINK AT WOLF & WARRIOR BREWING COMPANY, WHITE PLAINS

By Neal Rentz

White Plains resident Mike Chiltern has been brewing beer out of his home garage and kitchen for more than eight years, earning awards in competitions nationally.

Chiltern has taken what was a hobby and turned it into his profession.

Chiltern, the sole owner, opened Wolf & Warrior Brewing Company in January in White Plains. A “soft opening” was held on Jan. 24 and he is seeking to hold a grand opening later this month.

Chiltern noted he took home medals in 13 of the 15 brewing competitions

he took part in. Last year, his Wolf of White Plains beer was awarded a gold medal from the National Home Brew Competition that was put on by the American Home Brewers Association.

Chiltern recalled last week how

he developed his passion for brewing. “I enjoyed preparing food and cooking and creating things that people can eat and beer is kind of a logical next step to that because it is a lot like cooking,” he said. “You make a recipe. You source your ingredients.

You have a process that you follow to achieve an end result that’s consumed by a human being.”

“I’ve always had a passion for beer, good beer, and different kinds of beer,” Chiltern said. “I wanted to try my hand at actually making it and the first beer I made turned out pretty well so I was hooked.”

Chiltern noted that his new restaurant has 16 beer taps and currently six are filled.

“My goal is to have all 16 filled with our beers right around the start of summer,” he said.

Chiltern said the brew day for one of his beers is about five to seven hours long to start the process. “After that it stays in the fermenter for anywhere between two weeks in the case of an ale, and as long as two months in the case of a lager or pilsner,” he said.

The new establishment also offers wine. Typically, the restaurant sells several varieties of red and white wines, Chiltern said. “We also are a New York State certified farm brewery so we’re going to start carrying more New York State wines,” he noted. “I just haven’t had the time to get linked up with vineyards in the state.”

Chiltern said his food menu will be expanding. “We’re going to try to stick to being 100 percent locally sourced for our food options and food ingredients,” he said, adding that the restaurant’s meat products are purchased from The Meat Hook in Brooklyn, which only sells meats from animals that were raised and slaughtered humanely in New York State.

Chiltern explained how he came up with the name for his restaurant. His wife, Jelena, is from Serbia and the couple was married in a fortress in Belgrade. They



White Plains resident Mike Chiltern is shown above making beer for his new restaurant, the Wolf & Warrior Brewing Company, which opened in the city in January.



White Plains resident Mike Chiltern, the owner of Wolf & Warrior Brewing Company, is shown above with his two sons, Vuk (left) and Branko.

have two sons, Vuk and Branko.

“Vuk means wolf in Serbian and Branko means defender,” Chiltern said, adding he changed defender to warrior for this restaurant name. The boys get a kick out of the name of the restaurant, Chiltern said. “They love coming here.”

Wolf & Warrior Brewing Company is located at 195A East Post Rd. in White Plains. For more information call 914-368-8617, visit <http://www.wolfandwarrior.com/wolfandwarrior.com/Home.html> or send an e-mail to mike@wolfandwarrior.com.

El Centro Hispano Making a Difference in White Plains and Westchester for 45 Years

By Neal Rentz

El Centro Hispano has been a fixture in White Plains for four-and-one-half decades, providing assistance to local Hispanics in many ways.

Founding Executive Director Isabel Villar discussed her role in opening the center in 1974 in an interview last week. She said the center, which offers 27 programs, helped about 16,000 people last year.

“I am a political refugee who came from Cuba,” Villar said. “I was expelled out of high school because I was going to church.”

Villar said she had “no choice” and needed to come to America in 1966. Villar said she chose to come to White Plains because her uncle, a teacher, who was also a refugee from Cuba, was living in the city.

Villar said the first thing she wanted to do in White Plains was attend a church that provided a Spanish mass. Villar became the director of the Hispanic Choir at the Church of St. Bernard on Prospect Street, which offered mass services in Spanish, she noted, adding that she continues to sing at the church.

“[At the time] there was a very active monsignor here by the name of Monsignor Charles McManus,” Villar said. “He said Isabel, I need your help.”

Villar and McManus, who is now deceased, worked together to establish the center for the Hispanic immigrant



NEAL RENTZ PHOTOS

El Centro Hispano has been helping Hispanics for 45 years. Shown above are, from the left, White Plains resident Daisy Flores, assistant to the deputy director; White Plains resident Gisselle Robles, data specialist; Founding Executive Director Isabel Villar of White Plains; Jose Bohorquez, an instructor from Southern Westchester BOCES of Stanford, CT; Fatima Veleca, a volunteer and a sophomore at White Plains High School and Deputy Director Judith Aucar of White Plains.

community. At the time, Villar had just graduated from college in 1973 and obtained a teaching job in Norwalk, Conn. because she could not find a teaching position in White Plains, she recalled. McManus agreed to open the center at 3 p.m., seven days a week, to allow her to arrive back in White Plains, Villar said. “I could not refuse him. He was my spiritual pastor,” Villar said.

“At the beginning it was very difficult,” Villar said. “I had three strikes against

me. I am a woman. I am Hispanic and I was very young. So I had to prove myself. How did I prove myself? By working very hard. Doing whatever I felt was necessary for the community.” But Villar’s work not only helps the Hispanic community; it’s open to everybody else,” Villar added.

In 1977, Villar was joined at the center by Deputy Director Judith Aucar, a position she still holds.

Throughout its history El Centro Hispano has been located at 346 S. Lexington Ave., in Chapel Hall of The Church of St. Bernard, Villar noted. It assists

Hispanics from throughout Westchester County. “We are a multi-purpose center with an emphasis on education, technology and immigration,” Villar said. “When we came to this country my mother said to me you have to go to college because look what happened to us. We came to this country with the clothes on our backs. However, whatever you learn, nobody can take that away from you.”



El Centro Hispano Founding Executive Director Isabel Villar of White Plains stands in front of the center in White Plains.

El Centro Hispano provides immigration and translation services, computer and technology education to adults, education and cultural programs for youth and each year awards scholarships to high school students who are college bound.

The center’s 45th anniversary will be celebrated with a dinner dance on Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Crowne Plaza White Plains. For more information about the event call, after noon, at 914-289-0500 or send an e-mail to elcentrohispano1@gmail.com.

Time for Lowey, Congress to Support Green New Deal

By Zachary Fisch

I write to express my continued disappointment at Rep. Nita Lowey for her failure to take the bold and urgent steps needed to combat the growing threat of climate change to our region.

Lowey failed to support the call for a Green New Deal subcommittee that would have had actual power to draft legislation to address climate change. She only signed on to a non-binding resolution indicating general support for the Green New Deal after activists spent months flooding her office with calls and visits, and the day after this paper published a previous version of this commentary online where I called on her to support the resolution, which she originally declined to cosponsor. This is not leadership, and it is not enough.

Climate change is an existential threat to our civilization right now. Disasters like Superstorm Sandy, which affected thousands of families in Westchester including my own, will become common. The Lower Hudson Valley is 50 percent more likely to have a 100-year flood in the 2020s, and up to 190 percent more likely to have one in the 2050s. Large parts of our infrastructure, including Amtrak and

Metro-North, will be underwater within our lifetimes.

We don't have much time to stave off catastrophe. A recent U.N. report found that we need to reduce emissions by 45 percent in the next 12 years to keep the rise in global temperatures to a manageable level.

A Green New Deal would do just that. It would put people to work to decarbonize our economy and protect our homes and infrastructure. Not only could it literally save the planet, it would make our communities more livable and help us prepare to rescue the economy during the next recession. All the while, it would help lessen our county's staggering income inequality, among the worst in the nation.

We need policies that match the scale of this impending crisis. A select committee on a Green New Deal would not have enacted those policies; it simply would have studied the problem and recommended legislation for Congress to pass in 2020. It was a reasonable approach backed by people across the political spectrum: 81 percent of voters approved of the committee, including 64 percent of Republicans. But Lowey let it die.

Rather than backing a select committee on a Green New Deal like over 40 other members of Congress, Lowey did what she has done for most of her 30-year tenure in Congress: resist bold action. She instead backed a watered-down climate change committee whose chair, Kathy Castor, signaled a willingness to kowtow to fossil fuel companies and other polluters that have an interest in kneecapping our ability to avert climate catastrophe. That committee is unlikely to produce legislation that will stop our seas from rising and our forests from burning.

I was glad to see Lowey co-sponsor the resolution for a Green New Deal last Friday. Her statement offering support for this vital effort is important, and we thank her for it. But if it is not followed up with real leadership and action, it will mean nothing in the end.

I challenge Lowey to use her power as chair of the Appropriations Committee to take the concrete steps needed to protect Westchester and Rockland – and the planet. Push to replace Indian Point with renewable energy, not fossil fuels like coal or natural gas. Support debt-free college to enable young people to secure their futures

in fields critical to decarbonization, such as solar engineering and urban planning, without taking on debilitating student debt. Provide for jobs programs that pay a good wage to workers who help retrofit our buildings to the highest energy efficiency standards.

Climate change is not happening in 10 years. It's happening now. It's time for Lowey to realize that and act accordingly. We do not have time to wait. If we continue to allow her to play it safe, we will all pay the price for the rest of our lives.

Zachary Fisch is a Tarrytown resident and a third-year student at Harvard Law School.

Editor's Note: Lowey's office contacted Examiner Media after the original version of this article was published online and stated that the congresswoman supported the resolution in principle prior to signing on as a cosponsor. She was never an opponent of the resolution, a Lowey spokesman said. The spokesman also said the column did not lead to the congresswoman's decision to join as a cosponsor.

Reintroducing the Global Health, Empowerment, and Rights (HER) Act

By Rep. Nita Lowey and Sen. Jeanne Shaheen

President Trump, during the Feb. 5 State of the Union, announced, with few details, that the administration would be "launching the first ever government-wide initiative focused on economic empowerment for women in developing countries."

But while we share the goal of empowering women in developing countries, the overall health and socioeconomic wellbeing of women and girls depend in no small part on the availability of evidence-based health care services and information.

The administration has adopted a dangerous and politicized approach to the health and rights of the very women it now offers to empower, using U.S. aid for global health initiatives as a way to limit medical services to women that do not align with its political views.

Republican administrations have, from Ronald Reagan forward, prohibited non-U.S. non-profit organizations that assist with women's health programs in the developing world and take U.S. aid from even mentioning the existence of safe, legal abortion services — even if U.S. funds don't go towards those services. Known as the "Global Gag Rule," it's meant that even non-American organizations that want to provide reproductive health and family planning services to women abroad have to choose between lying to or keeping information from their patients, or forfeiting any money that comes from the U.S. government.

Rather than simply reinstating the gag rule as it applied to women's health services, the Trump administration expanded it to apply to all global health programs. Now, implementers of efforts to treat HIV/AIDS, malaria, maternal and child health, nutrition, tuberculosis and

more must devote resources and time to understanding the parameters of a policy that has never affected them before — and agree to abide by such a draconian policy or lose all U.S. financial support.

Responsible lawmakers understand that the benefits of comprehensive health care, including comprehensive reproductive health care, go beyond just improved patient outcomes. The security of nations, the economic development and productivity of states, and stability of societies are all linked to the health and rights of women. Simply put: Access to reproductive health care allows women to more fully participate in their respective societies and economies, improves both child and maternal mortality and empowers women to make decisions about their futures and those of their children. You cannot economically empower women if you refuse to empower them to make decisions about their own bodies.

Studies have demonstrated that the rule goes even further than its proponents claim in reducing women's access to reproductive health care: It can and

does reduce access to contraception in developing countries, leading to more unwanted and high-risk pregnancies and maternal illness and mortality. It also prevents the U.S. from working with many of our most trusted and experienced implementers of general reproductive health care, reducing the quality and efficiency of the programs we do fund despite the gag rule.

In a preliminary analysis of its impacts, research shows that rural or underserved women, children and young people and key populations affected by HIV are not getting the same quality health services as before. Another study found that a significant number of organizations funded through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief have altered how they operate and the services they provide because of the Global Gag Rule — despite the president's State of the Union promise to "defeat AIDS in America and beyond."

Congress must exercise its legislative authority to end the Global Gag Rule

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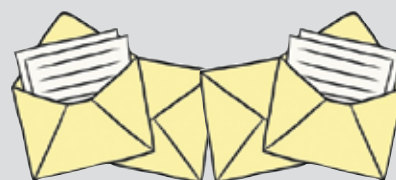
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Obituaries

Douglas Battipaglia

Douglas Battipaglia, a White Plains resident, died February 6. He was 72.

Douglas was born Dec. 11, 1946 to the late Dominick and Louise Battipaglia.

He served a tour in Korea in the U.S. Army from 1966-1968.

On June 1, 1969 he married his wife Joan in White Plains.

Douglas was a mechanical engineer, working for Union Carbide for 16 years, then he was self employed for 20 years for his company Flo Design and then more recently he worked for 12 years for Motor Classic and Competition in Bedford Hills.

He is survived by his wife Joan of White Plains, his daughter Kristine Battipaglia-Mascara of White Plains and his grandchildren Hailey Beth Battipaglia who is attending college in California, and Olivia Mascara of White Plains.

He was a genius with anything mechanical, especially cars. He designed, built and raced two of his own cars and always was in a quest for speed. The faster the better! Douglas was a very wise and gentle man, who was always ready to help anyone in distress, especially family and friends. He will be remembered for his very dry sense of humor!

Simon Lowy

Simon Lowy, 94, of White Plains, passed away on Feb. 6.

He was born on Aug. 15, 1924 in Sieu Mare, Romania.

Simon was predeceased by his wife Sylvia (Rosenberg), brother Herman, and sisters Edith and Mindel.

After surviving the Holocaust, Simon and Sylvia came to the United States in 1950 and built their lives in the Bronx. A talented tailor, Simon was the owner of Simon's Cleaners in Manhattan. After retiring, Simon devoted his time to his most-treasured role —grandfather.

Although he had Alzheimer's in the last years of his life, Simon maintained his characteristic positive outlook, candor, and love of simple pleasures and his beloved family.

Simon is survived by his son William, daughter-in-law Reva, grandchildren Jenna and her fiancé William Becker, Adina and her fiancé Aaron Goss, and Matthew.

Jose Valencia

Jose B. Valencia, of White Plains, departed on Feb. 4.

He was born June 5, 1927 in El Salvador, Central America.

He was married on Nov. 25, 1952 to Hulda L. Flores.

He is survived by Hulda and his five children Oscar, Jose, Stella, Francisco, and Samuel. He was also blessed to have 17 grandchildren and

11 great-grandchildren.

Armand D'Amour

Armand A. D'Amour, of Elmsford, died peacefully on Feb.3 after a brief illness. He was 93.

D'Amour was born in Amesbury, MA on May 27, 1925 to Charles and Malvina (nee Leger) D'Amour. He is survived by his beloved wife of 70 years, Carol (nee Metzler). Loving father of the late Bruce (Judy), Kathryn (Michael) Shea, and Marylee. Dear brother of Raymond, Robert and the late Richard. Proud grandfather of Mandy (Kevin) Gillian, David (Vanessa), Courtney (Matthew) Winters, James Shea and Jessica (Mina) Rezk and adoring great-grandfather of Declan, Charles, Nora and Charlotte.

In 1936 D'Amour moved to Elmsford and attended Our Lady of Mount Carmel School and Alexander Hamilton High School. From 1942 to 1946, he served our Country proudly and honorably attaining the Rank of Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps. In 1948, he opened his own business, A & C Auto Body, Inc. in White Plains, which he operated until his retirement in 1991 and was a charter member of the Westchester, Putnam, Rockland Auto Body Association, serving on the Board of Directors from 1958 to 1991.

D'Amour made a lifelong commitment to community service. He was devoted

to advocating for the developmentally disabled and those with special needs for the past 50 years. His service included work with the Westchester School for Special Children, Westchester Institute for Human Development and Young Adult Institute.

Within the Elmsford Community, D'Amour was a 60-year active member of the Elmsford Fire Department where he was a firefighter and EMT. He served as Chief of the Department and President of the Fireman's Benevolent Association. From 1961 to 1967, he was a member of the Elmsford School Board and was Board President and Building Chairman. He served on the Village of Elmsford Planning Board from 1950 until 1972 and as a Village Trustee from 1981 to 1999.

D'Amour was also an avid golfer and a member of Knollwood Country Club for over 60 years. In recent years he was also an active member of Innisfail Golf Club. As a parishioner of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, he assisted his faith community serving as Trustee, Parish Council Member, Usher and member of the Knights of Columbus and Holy Name Society.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to: YAI Tarrytown, 677 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, NY 10591, Attn: Carol Ochs

Boomerang

Shaking your Booty to Tutti Fruti



By Richard Cirulli

The Devil made me Do it, Thank God.

“Whop bop b-luma b-bop bam bom

Tutti frutti, oh Rudy I got a girl named Sue, She knows just what to do, She rocks to the east

She rocks to the west, But she's the girl I love best”

—Richard Wayne Penniman (Little Richard)

The wise and enlightened often refer to the adage “harmony is the analogy of opposites” when confronted with divisive issues. The author will apply this adage to this column in a tongue-in-cheek manner in an attempt to bring harmony and a smile of nostalgia into the reader's life. Regretfully, a number of Americans today have reduced the memory of the sixties to simply the era of sex, drugs, and rock ‘n’ roll – the devil's trilateral commission. Thus, the decade that was marked with rapid social change and conflict is reduced to merely a marketable cliché that fails the discourse and harmony tests.

To begin, it would be fair to state that the genesis of the sexual revolution should go to Adam and Eve. Maybe they just got bored living for all eternity together naked in paradise with nothing to complain

about – no friends, no apps to download, just living in bliss.

Well, maybe a little taste of the forbidden fruit from the tutti frutti tree would help. What followed is history. As we fast forward from “the fall” and turn to the pages of history of the 1950s, to the genesis of rock, we find the likes of Little Richard, Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Johnny Cash, really shaking things up to get us back to the garden. Well thank the Lord, Great Balls of Fire there was a Whole Lot of Shaking Going on.

Taking a harmonic view of these events, as the nation divided itself in the 1950s between conservatism and liberalism, whites and blacks found themselves united, attending music concerts freed from the race line of segregation. The wall of racism was rocked to its foundation, like the wall of Jericho, with merely a few notes of the trumpeter's call.

In the months that followed Woodstock, America was ripe with Christian Hippies (euphemism for the long-haired) who embraced Godstock. This was also the time when even Billy Graham made peace with rock ‘n’ roll. Praise the Lord, there is a rock ‘n’ roll heaven for righteous brothers. By the early 1970s there were scores of

Christian rock and folk bands.

Now that we have removed the fig leaf that concealed the lies as to who really started the sexual revolution, we should also expose another myth of the sixties as to the origins of rock ‘n’ roll. Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

The credit should go to Sister Rosetta Tharpe (March 20, 1915- Oct. 9, 1973) known as “the Godmother of rock ‘n’ roll, the gospel singing electric guitarist who was the first to use heavy distortion. Her first recording was Rock Me in 1938, followed by her 1939 hit This Train. Rosetta's guitar style has influenced such notable guitarists as Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, and Keith Richards. Why even Elvis, the King himself of rock ‘n’ roll learned to rock while attending Pentecostal church services.

Wow, holy Armageddon!

In 1972, the Godstock concert drew 200,000 believers in Dallas, Texas, and by the end of the 1970s Bob Dylan's conversion resulted in the release of his Slow Train Coming album; the first of a trilogy of Christian albums. By the late 1980s, America was rocked by Stryper, a Christian heavy metal Christian group, achieving success with their To Hell with

the Devil album.

Holy oxymoron!

The influence of the Godstock can still be found today in such established bands and artists as U2, Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, and Jars of Clay.

In closing, the author, a light bearer of truth, will admit he had some fun debunking a few of the sixties myths, especially as a guitar toting and card-carrying AARP member. Well, what more needs to be said?

Whop bop b-luma b-bop bam bom
Tutti frutti, ask Rudy
Boomers still can shake their booty
Is Rockin their divine duty
They ache even at rest
Hiding wrinkles they do best
Still seeking a love fest

Great Balls of Fire
There is a whole lot of shaking going on
And thank God
I have the drugs (meds) that keep me rockin on

Dr. Richard Cirulli is a retired Professor, columnist, playwright, author, songwriter, and author of “The Songs of Roland”. You can view his website at Demitasseplayers.com .He looks forward to your comments at profcirulli@optonline.net.

Guest
Column



Summer Camp 2019



Risko Music School Offers Summer Rock Band, Musical Theater Camps

Since 2000, Mike Risko Music School has been offering the coolest summer camps around.

Children from kindergarten and up can choose either Rock Band Camp or Musical Theater Camp. All levels of musicians, actors and singers can participate – even if they are a beginner.

There are two weeks to choose from this year – the weeks of July 8 and Aug. 19. The camps run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a showcase at 6 p.m. on one of the evenings.

Musicians in Rock Band Camp are

placed in a band with children in their age range. Each band has a band manager who is one of Risko Music School's instructors. From concept to concert, they create a band from the ground up, which includes writing original music, learning covers, coming up with a band name and marketing plan and working toward a concert at week's end.

Children in Musical Theater Camp are also placed in a cast of peers in their own age range with a director, who is also an instructor at the school. They work on

creating a cabaret show of several of their favorite Broadway songs. They create skits and choreography to go with their songs and present their finished work at the concert.

Whichever camp a child chooses, everyone gets to take electives, including music lessons, master classes and more. They work on fun art projects geared toward their show, such as designing concert t-shirts and posters and create a promo video and design a program. Each day, there is lunch at the park and fun

games such as band versus band kickball and other outdoor activities are planned. Participants can also do yoga and tai chi.

Both programs are \$599 for the week. Registration before Feb. 28 results in a \$100 discount.

For more information and to register, visit www.mikeriskomusicschool.com. Space is limited to 30 children each week. Tuition must be paid in full. For any questions, call Mike Risko Music School at 914-762-8757.

Enrollment Open for Hoff-Barthelson Music School's Summer Arts Program

Enrollment for Hoff-Barthelson Music School's Summer Arts Program is underway.

Learn about the many facets of the program; enjoy students in performance; participate in a demonstration class to experience the fun first hand; and meet and mingle with students and parents. Attendees can also take advantage of a special open house registration discount.

The Summer Arts Program provides a joyous, transformative opportunity for artistic exploration for students in grades 1-10. Students form lasting friendships that help catalyze and reinforce learning. Each participant's program is individually tailored to his or her needs and interests.

Taught by top-flight faculty, offerings



Hoff-Barthelson Music School in Scarsdale and Mike Risko Music School in Ossining both offer summer programs for the young budding musician.

include instrumental classes, orchestra, chamber music, visual arts, world drumming, music technology, chorus, piano for non-pianists, jazz, rock, musical theater and frequent performance opportunities.

Unfettered by schoolwork and the scheduling challenges faced during the school year, Summer Arts Program students have the latitude to try additional instruments, experiment musically, take lessons every day and perform each week. Consequently, they're able to make tremendous progress over the program's five weeks (July 1 to

Aug. 2). Morning only, extended day and afternoon only options are available. Early bird discounts are available through Mar. 29.

Learn more about the program by calling 914-723-1169, visit www.hbms.org or e-mail summerarts@hbms.org.



Preparing Your Child – and Yourself – for Best Camp Experience

For parents, the most heart-racing, adrenalin-pumping moments happen when you let go and watch your child try something on his or her own.

The moment the training wheels come off, the first trip down the driveway on the skateboard, the time our children ride the school bus are more than just memories, these are critical moments that define growth and change.

For many families, the first time they send their child to camp is one of the biggest let-go, hold-your-breath and watch-them-soar moments in childhood.

In today's world of high-tech kids and families who have a constant connection to each other, it's essential to take the time to emotionally prepare for camp. It is, of course, important to prepare the first-time camper, but families need to make sure that Mom, Dad, younger siblings at home – virtually everyone – is ready to adjust to camp life.

The American Camp Association® (ACA) provides these tips to help ease first-time families into the camp experience.

Parents. As parents, it is important to focus on the positive aspects of camp.

Remember that separation is natural, necessary and inevitable. What better place to have that first experience than in a caring and nurturing environment designed specifically for children?

Parents can also focus on the amazing benefits of camp – an experiential education like no other – teaching valuable 21st century survival skills like leadership, teamwork, problem-solving and interpersonal communication.

Siblings. Family therapist Bob Ditter, one of the nation's leading experts on camp, cautions it is likely that the child left at home will experience separation anxiety and truly miss his or her sibling. To help them prepare, be sure to talk about that. Before the eldest child leaves for camp, take a picture of your children together that the sibling can keep in their room or carry around. Remind your children about the communication they can have with each other through letters and postcards.

Other family members. Be sure that everyone is aware of the upcoming experience. Family members should know how to contact the camper, if they are interested, through letters and

care packages. Make sure to be aware of any communication policies the camp may have, such as no phone calls or restrictions on what can be sent in a care package.

In addition, an increasing number of camps are using websites to display photos or video during the camp session. According to ACA's 2011 Emerging Issues Survey, 75 percent of responding camps indicate that they post photos or videos to a website for families to view. Forty-five percent indicate that they post information, photos and videos to social media outlets like Facebook. Families should be sure to ask camp directors about these options.

Camp is an equal opportunity life-changer. By sending a child to camp, families are truly giving a gift that lasts a lifetime. Taking steps to mentally prepare for camp, families not only keep from getting "kid-sick" for their camper, but they can stay positive about the camp experience, which goes a long way toward helping first-time campers adjust to life at camp.

And just like taking off the training wheels, the moment families see their

camper radiating confidence and joy they will feel that burst of pride and gratitude that they provided their child this experience.

For more information about preparing for the summer camp experience or to find a camp, parents can visit www.ACACamps.org. This online resource for families includes expert advice, information on health and safety and ACA's searchable database of more than 2,400 ACA-Accredited® camps.



The Importance of Touch to Good Health



By Joanne Witmyer

Guest Column

From the time we are children, touch is an important part of our lives. When an object is placed into an infant's hand (and the palm is touched), his or her fingers close reflexively around that object in a primitive and powerful manner. The hand doesn't want to let go.

Physical touch is soothing and offers wellness benefits in many ways. The rewards of touch can be found by kissing a close friend on the cheek, stroking the fur of a cat or dog or receiving a spontaneous hug from your nephew.

Connecting with one another generates feelings of happiness in these ways:

Increasing the so-called "feel-good" hormone oxytocin, helping with thinking positively and maintaining optimism in our daily approach.

Contributing to feelings of more compassionate and trusting interactions with others.

Lifting dopamine and serotonin, which impact mood and reduce anxious, stressful feelings.

Improving the strength of immune systems, lowering heart rates and blood pressure.

As you interact with others this week, consider noticing how you feel after connecting with appropriate and meaningful touch. And think of ways to add more of that into your life. A friendly pat on the arm with a good friend, an extra



The need for people to touch others, whether it's a pet or a loved one, is known to bring positive health benefits.

cuddle with your cat or a longer embrace with your grandmother who is visiting will all go a long way toward promoting health and wellness.

I look forward to hearing how after you try these suggestions and how it benefits you.

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

Reintroducing the Global Health, Empowerment, and Rights (HER) Act

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and prevent its future reinstatement by executive action.

We are therefore reintroducing the Global Health, Empowerment, and Rights (HER) Act to codify into law the permanent repeal of the Global Gag Rule. If enacted, foreign NGOs would no longer be ineligible for U.S. foreign assistance on the basis of health or medical services, including counseling about abortion and referrals to legal abortion providers. The organizations, though, would have to do so with non-U.S. funds, and could only do so on the condition that those services do not violate the laws of the country in which they are being provided and would not violate U.S. law if provided to patients here.

The need to pass this legislation has never been as clear or urgent. We cannot defend free speech, improve health and sustainable development outcomes for developing countries and ensure the security and stability

of vulnerable populations by silencing medical professionals and subverting the private and sensitive physician-patient relationship. Forcing doctors to essentially commit malpractice is weakening the effectiveness of our foreign assistance by severing long-standing relationships and collaborations.

By passing the HER Act, Congress can ensure that the health of vulnerable women and families around the world no longer rests on the president's machinations but in the hands of our most capable and effective international partners. And then those women can take advantage of the economic empowerment programs the president seems so keen to promote.

Rep. Nita Lowey, a Democrat, represents New York's 17th congressional district and is the chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, a Democrat, is the senior U.S. Senator from New Hampshire.

Show Your Community Some Love This Valentine's Day

By Quint Studer

Most of us love our community and want the best for it. It's our home. It's where we live, work, learn, play and raise our families. And yet, it's easy to go about our daily lives without ever stopping to think what can I do to make my community better?

I get it. We are all busy. And it's easy to assume that someone else will do what needs doing.

But if there's one thing I've learned from my work with communities across the United States it's this: We are all owners. We don't need an official title. We don't have to be assigned a task. We don't have to be wealthy. We all have gifts to share and the ability to make a difference in the lives of others.

My dream is that, in honor of Valentine's Day, every citizen would do just one small thing to make their community better. We all know that random acts of kindness have positive ripple effects that reach far and wide, often unexpectedly so. Could you imagine the amazing results if everyone took part in a mass outpouring of love and positivity?

I'm not talking about big, complicated improvements. If you're a homeowner, you know something as simple as a fresh coat of paint can be a quick fix that makes a huge difference in how a room looks (and how you feel living in it). The same is true of a community.

You might start by taking a slow drive around your city. What do you see that needs to be repaired or replaced? Is there a field that needs to be mowed? Does a city park need some shade trees? Do flowers need to be planted? Is there an empty lot that needs trash hauled away or a dangerous road in need of a crosswalk?

Next, consider what resources you have at your disposal. Maybe you, personally, have the skills or the funding to fix something that's broken. If not, you may know someone who does. If you need proper permission, try to get it. There are always potential reasons why something can't be done, but it's often amazing

what can happen when we just ask.

Maybe your way of showing your community some love is to serve on the school board, to head up a "housing for the homeless" committee or to spend a day at your local food pantry or animal shelter. Not only will this single action serve a great practical need (many places are desperate for volunteers), it may inspire you to get involved on a deeper level.

This is a great opportunity for a group to work together on a project, but you don't have to join an organized effort.

Individual acts of love and kindness are meaningful, too. You can offer to clean up a cluttered yard or place a bench under a tree at the park. Once you start looking, you'll find lots of simple things you can do to make things better.

And we can all express our gratitude for what's right in our community. We can write a letter to the editor that celebrates the bright spots in our community. (Every community has them!) We can send a heartfelt thank you note to the hospital that took care of our loved one. We can thank a maintenance worker for keeping the streets clean. Positivity and gratitude are contagious. They make a difference. And it feels good to practice them.

Making the decision to love our community is a powerful first step. It's a mind shift that truly changes the conversation around what's possible. I've seen it over and over: When a community decides "we are worth it" and takes control of their future, huge transformations can follow.

Happy Valentine's Day.

Quint Studer is author of "Building a Vibrant Community" and founder Studer Community Institute in Pensacola, Fla., a nonprofit organization focused on improving the community's quality of life and moving Escambia and Santa Rosa counties forward. He currently serves as the Entrepreneur-in-Residence at the University of West Florida. For more information, visit www.vibrantcommunityblueprint.com and www.studer.org.

Guest Column

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The Front Door is Often the Key to a House

The front door can say a lot about a house, either reflecting the condition of the space within or contradicting it.

A beautiful, sturdy door with quality hardware greets the visitor with a confident hello; a weathered door, perhaps out of alignment with old or poorly functioning hardware, conveys something quite different about the house, something unappealing.

Just as a person can be judged within the first few seconds, a house is judged in great part by the condition, functionality and look of its front door. When showing properties to prospective buyers, I'm always surprised to find an older home that has been upgraded, but the owners haven't paid proper attention to the front door, especially its hardware.

If the door needs painting or is warped and if the hardware is tarnished and in poor working order, a pall can be cast over the entire house. Perhaps some homeowners are unaware of a deteriorating front door. Many people enter a side entrance or into the mudroom or kitchen. However, visitors normally come only to the front door.

While the functional purposes of a front door are to withstand the elements, help toward energy efficiency and provide protection, visitors view it as an aesthetic statement, even a psychological one. If the door is attractive and in good shape, that perception extends to the entire household – and to its owner as well.

Look at your front door and determine

whether it needs simply sprucing up or a total replacement. Some door problems can be repaired and others cannot. If the door is improperly hung, has trouble closing or latching, is slightly warped or is just sticking, these problems may be worth fixing. But if it has rot or is outrageously outdated in style, consider replacement options.

Whether you use a contractor or a handyman, get different opinions about which kind of new door to choose. Some would suggest that the top-quality material is still wood. Steel or aluminum may be recommended as the most sturdy and secure, but according to most remodeling contractors, the best choice today is the new high-quality fiberglass door. The insulation quality of the latter is better than that of a wooden door and it will not warp or crack.

The feature I like best about a good fiberglass door is that the manufacturers have managed to develop an incredibly realistic grain that matches real wood. Also, the number of door styles are

plentiful with beveled glass options available. Fiberglass can be stained or painted and fancy hardware can be applied to them, just as you would a wood door.

Door hardware, which in aesthetic terms, can make a door "pop." But if it's worn, that pop can be a dull thud.

The polished look is one factor, but a lock and handle's functionality are the primary things to consider.

Basically, locksets fall into two different categories, mortise or cylindrical. While I don't fully understand the difference in mechanical workings, my trusted locksmith tells me that mortise locksets, which are installed into a rectangular dugout in the door, offer the ultimate in security, design and ruggedness.

The choice of locksets and handles can be a daunting experience. When I went hunting for new hardware, I was overwhelmed by the selection. I took a picture of the set I thought the most attractive and showed it to my locksmith. I asked him to supply the best choice for my particular door. Better to leave such things to the experts, unless you're a great do-it-yourselfer, which I am not.

Highly polished solid brass knobs, backplates, thumbatches are desirable but, fair warning, they can be quite expensive.

When it comes to selecting a color for the front door, it is a situation of relating to, or contrasting with, one of the other tones found in the house or the landscape that surrounds it. Many people today choose a deep green or red (which has many hues such as black cherry and adobe) to have their front doors stand out. There is a bigger trend now toward selecting yellow, which can be toned down with a covering glaze.

One cardinal rule about color: a front door should never be stark white. The theory is that the door should relate to the landscape in some way and pure white is rarely found in nature. If your preference leans toward white, it should have a hue of another color, such as pink or yellow. The large casing around the door should be a different color than the door itself. The casing should be treated like a trim, matching windows and other trim.

For both curb appeal and resale value, spruce up the front door, and in a sense, you have a new home.

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



By Bill Primavera

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Crossword by Myles Mellor

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Across

1. Lessen gradually
4. Show ____
7. "Murders in the ____ Morgue"
10. Round table member
11. Snobbish
13. Shelley's "____ Skylark"
14. Storage places
15. Bud
17. Spread
18. Wish harm upon
20. Dexterity
24. Walks along
27. Irish Poet or Yorktown financial planner, RF ____
32. Bibliographical abbreviation
33. Dissimilar
35. Frat house letter
36. Mark for misconduct
37. One of the Mannings
38. Dentist qualification

Down

1. Cornerstone abbr.
2. Tropical rain forest, e.g.
3. Interweaves
4. Look good on
5. Feverish
6. Italian for "uncle" or Croton deli
7. Canadian rebel Louis
8. Court grp.
9. Site for crafty entrepreneurs
12. Coffee stirrer, abbr.
16. Young lass
19. Something to pick
21. Hails
22. Worked (up)
23. Preferences
25. Passed out
26. Ristorante offering
27. Country singer, Wynonna
28. Flat
29. Thanksgiving dishes
30. French for key
31. Ireland's Irish name
34. Family

solution on page 17

Exploring the Perception vs. Reality of Sweet and Dry Wines



By Nick Antonaccio

I know what wine you're drinking.

Oh, I hear you trying to convince me of a particular varietal or style you're drinking, but I know what you're buying – and enjoying.

And I have the facts and stats to prove it.

Last week, I reviewed a report on the wine drinking habits of Americans. I decided to compare the data with anecdotal inputs. And I was surprised at the results. Well, maybe not. Nevertheless, I now know what you are drinking.

I encounter many wine consumers who, when asked their favorite style of wine, will emphatically reply, "I only drink dry wine."

Whether they prefer white or red, I often receive a response such as "I don't like sweet wines, the drier the wine the better."

Here are the facts I've culled, based on an independent poll of consumer preferences. (The format offered specific choices; respondents were requested to check all that apply.)

Semi-sweet: 45 percent

Smooth: 44 percent

Fruity: 40 percent

Sweet: 38 percent

Dry: 36 percent

Savory (less fruit): 18 percent

Tannic: 6 percent

Clearly, a dry style is not the dominant preference of consumers. My conclusion? American wine consumers have a sweeter tooth than I believed.

It has been extensively reported that Americans consume alarming amounts of sugar. We've all read of the epidemic of obesity and diabetes in the United States. Soft drinks, chocolate, other candies and breakfast cereals continue to be consumed at alarming rates, albeit abating lately.

Why should our preference for wines be different?

The generally accepted definition of sweet wine is one with residual sugar of 30 grams per liter. This includes Sauternes and Ice Wine. Wines with nine grams or less are generally considered to be dry, that is, all of the sugars in the fermented grapes have been converted to alcohol. That leaves a significant range for semisweet wines.

I define sweet-style as fruit forward with a hint (or more) of sugar, either in the mouth or in the finish, and low in acidity. (The higher the acidity the lower

the perception of sweetness.)

I tend to write about drier styles and varietals of wines. I've expounded on dry white wines I prefer, from Sauvignon Blanc to Burgundian Chablis to Brut Champagne to bone-dry Riesling. I've espoused the virtues of drinking dry red wines such as Chianti Classico, red Burgundy, Aglianico and Sagrantino.

I rarely write about sweet-style wines. Past columns have fleetingly touched on sweet Riesling, Gewürztraminer, Moscato, Prosecco, even White Zinfandel, each with equal disdain. I have treated

certain reds with similar snootiness, from the current rage of fruity red blends to fruit-forward Merlot.

Perhaps I should change my focus.

The wine companies that dominate the American wine market understand the American consumer better than I. Americans participating in their focus groups have let down their guard, expressing their preference for sweeter-style wines. These elite 2 percent of wine companies account for more than 80 percent of wine sold in the United States; their marketing focus is spot-on.

On a smaller scale, a number of wineries with tasting rooms typically produce a sweet white and/or red wine,

to meet consumer demand. And sales justify these decisions. This is especially so in New York State regions. Finger Lakes wineries cater to consumer demand with multiple offerings of Rieslings and Gewürztraminers. Some consider these to be the finest in the country. Even I prefer several to pair with Asian dishes.

The Italians have also capitalized on the American sweet tooth. Prosecco, a typically sweet style of sparkling wine, has enjoyed skyrocketing sales in the last 10 years. Several producers supplement their wines with doses of sugar to meet the American preference. For a portion of Americans, Prosecco is the sparkling version of White Zinfandel.

Everyone's palate is different. My sensory receptors may conclude a particular wine is a dry style, while you may consider it a sweeter style. My palate's physiology may detect dryness before sweetness in a wine.

Drink as your palate dictates, not as a wine writer suggests.

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 or on Twitter @sharingwine.



Woman's Club of White Plains Supports Veterans



Hudson Valley Honor Flight was the beneficiary of the Woman's Club of White Plains Holiday Dinner and Boutique this year. Traditionally, a military or veteran's group is chosen to receive a donation and the Club was honored to support Hudson Valley Honor Flight. Chet Edwards, board member of HVHF, was present with two other volunteers during the dinner to promote the organization and answer questions. Hudson Valley Honor Flight's mission is to honor veterans from WWII, Korea and Vietnam by flying them to Washington DC to visit the memorials and Arlington National Cemetery. To date, they have made 21 flights. PICTURED: Heather Adessa, White Plains Woman's Club, presents check to Mary and Chet Edwards, HVHF.

State Legislature Pushes Through 'Red Flag' Gun Law

continued from page 5

reasons many of us have worked so hard to make a Democratic State Senate a reality."

But Putnam GOP committee chairman Tony Scannapieco said now "some jerk in the street" can call authorities and assert a person shouldn't have a firearm because he is mentally unwell. He called the legislation "insane."

"Every time there's a mass shooting, they're always complaining we need to talk about reforms," Scannapieco said. "When a guy takes a truck and drives down a park in Manhattan and kills a bunch of people, they don't say anything about trucks."

The Putnam County Firearm Owners Association (PCFOA) slammed the new set of gun laws rolled out and accused

Cuomo of pandering for political reasons all while depriving residents in the state from their right to bear arms. The PCFOA said the state assembly and senate attacked several different amendments in the Constitution and the new legislation "has no basis in law and no basis in fact."

"And such actions have been undertaken with the primary goal of promoting an anti-American political agenda," the PCFOA stated. "The members of PCFOA oppose the enactment of any legislation that infringes upon any Rights especially the Right of the People to keep and bear arms and considers such laws to be politically motivated, unconstitutional and beyond lawful Legislative Authority."

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Happenin8s

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

Wednesday, Feb. 13

Storybook Dancing. Steffi Nossen School of Dance presents Storybook Dancing, a creative movement class for 3-4 year olds taught by Kristina Todd Nelson, or another instructor. Space is limited to 20 dancers; tickets will be handed out on a first-come, first-served basis starting 30 minutes before the program. White Plains Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains.

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. For more information, contact Christiane Deschamps at 914-422-1496 or cdeschamps@whiteplainsny.gov.

Noonday Getaway Concert. Pianist, First Prize Winner of the 2012 New York International Piano Competition, joins with five members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra to play the Piano Concerto No. 5 (Emperor) of Ludwig van Beethoven from a rare nineteenth century transcription of the original score. A group of folk song arrangements by Percy Grainger will round out the program. Presented in partnership with the Stecher and Horowitz Foundation. 12:10 p.m. 30-minute concert. Free admission, donations accepted. Grace Church, 33 Church St., White Plains. This concert is made possible, in part, with the generous support of Beverley and Sabin Streeter.

Which Craft? Wednesday. Valentine's Day Cards. Make your own Valentine's Day card and learn the art of paper quilling. 4 to 5 p.m. at White Plains Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains.

Valentine's Day Dinner Dance. Intergenerational dinner dance, 5 to 8 p.m.; Community Center, 65 Mitchell Place, White Plains; free; 914-422-1423.

Resilience Screening. The Westchester Resilience Coalition, which was initiated as a result of the library system's Community Conversations program, is building awareness of the impact of childhood trauma on child head AND adult health outcomes. There is solid science behind this that shows the damage that is done and the ways to mitigate it. At 7 p.m. at

Rye Presbyterian Church, 882 Boston Post Rd., Rye, there will be a one-hour documentary around screening followed by a discussion of what individuals and communities can do in response.

Native Plants at Home. Native plants can provide your yard with year-round beauty while providing essential habitats and food sources for wildlife. Micah Slavkin, of Symbiotic Ecological Design, will discuss what makes a plant "native," why you should consider incorporating them into your garden and which native plants are best suited for the home landscape. Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main St., Dobbs Ferry. 7 to 9 p.m. Free. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Thursday, Feb. 14

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. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at White Plains Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains.

T(h)ech Thursday: Coding for teens. 4 to 5 p.m. White Plains Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains.

ABBA Dancing Dream Valentine's Day Concert. Celebrate with your valentine the Dancing Dream tribute band is one of the best ABBA tributes bands since ABBA itself. This New York City-based band electrifies audiences of all ages with the best ABBA hits. They have been featured on the Stephen Colbert Show and in large venues across North America. Westchester Broadway Theatre, 1 Broadway Plaza, Elmsford. Dinner at 6:15 p.m. Show at 8 p.m. \$89 per person (plus tax). Show only: \$55 per person (plus tax). Info and tickets: 914-592-2222 or visit www.Broadwaytheatre.com.

"Tibet: The Trail of Light." An encore screening of this film that follows the wanderings of Ani Rigsang, a Tibetan nun Hamid Sardar first met 15 years ago when she began her travels with the ultimate goal of attaining the immortal "Rainbow Body." Sardar's extraordinary eye for image and place is on full display in this rich and mysterious film, taking us through some of the world's most remote and difficult settings, traversing a landscape that is simultaneously real and mythic, secular and sacred. Sardar is one of the most thrilling documentary filmmakers and photographers working today. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m.

Members: \$9. Non-members: \$14. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Valentine's Day Concert. Chopin, Chocolate and Champagne for Valentine's Day. Celebrated Carnegie Hall pianist Katya Grineva will serenade the audience with a selection of romantic classical pieces, including Debussy's Clair de Lune, Chopin's Fantasie - Impromptu and Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata. The concert will also celebrate Tarrytown Music Hall's 39th anniversary of being saved from the wrecking ball in 1980. Begins at 8 to 10:30 p.m. Tickets \$45, VIP tickets \$75, include post concert champagne and dessert reception. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown.

Friday, Feb. 15

Lego Club. For children grades 1 to 3. Play with the library's Legos. White Plains Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains.

Purchase Symphony and Jazz Orchestras Celebrate Black History Month. The concert includes an excerpt of William Dawson's "Negro Folk Symphony," an orchestral suite from Gershwin's landmark "Porgy and Bess," and a set of big band music by African-American composers and arrangers. The Performing Arts Center at Purchase, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 7 p.m. \$20. Info and tickets: 914-251-6700 or visit www.purchase.edu/music.

Great Composers Lecture Series: The Music of Love and Passion. Musicians can certainly hear and have not been deaf to the sirens and sounds of love - passions that have animated music almost as much as life. Acclaimed pianist and lecturer Michael Boriskin leads this steamy session exploring different kinds of love - romantic, physical, religious, spiritual - in the works of Mozart, Strauss, Mahler, Ravel, Prokofiev, Bernstein and others. Their music, with or without words, has exerted the power of love's turbulence, chaos, drama, tenderness and intensity. Hoff-Barthelsson Music School, 25 School Lane, Scarsdale. 7:30 p.m. \$25. Hoff-Barthelsson students: Free. Space limited; reservations strongly encouraged. Info and reservations: 914-723-1169, visit www.hbms.org or e-mail hb@hbms.org.

Saturday, Feb. 16

Mother Goose Story Time. A half hour of rhymes, songs and stories that encourage early literacy skills for ages 0-2 with a caregiver. 11 to 11:30 a.m. White Plains Library, 100 Martine Ave.

Opening Reception for "The Creative Spark." Mamaroneck Artists Guild members show their creative influences and vision in recent 2D and 3D work.

Mamaroneck Artists Guild Gallery, 126 Larchmont Ave., Larchmont. 3 to 5 p.m. Free. Exhibit runs through Mar. 2. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 12 to 5 p.m. Info: 914-834-1117, visit www.mamaroneckartistsguild.org or e-mail gallery@mamaroneckartistsguild.org.

Cirque Zuma Zuma. This African-styled acrobatics show, featuring acrobats who made their U.S. television debut on "America's Got Talent," includes uniquely talented individuals from 16 African nations. Acrobats, tumblers, lion dancers, contortionists, singers and gymnasts band together for a high-flying, off-the-wall spectacle of pulse-pounding movement. Traditional arts and circus skills blend with classic African style. Westchester Community College's Academic Arts Theatre, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 7 p.m. \$24. Seniors and students: \$22. Children (under 13): \$18. Info and tickets: 914-785-6262 or visit www.sunywcc.edu/smartarts. Tickets may also be at the box office 30 minutes before the performance.

Robin Spielberg in Concert. Treat your Valentine to a romantic evening with this pianist, composer and recording artist. Spielberg is known for her expressive, lyrical performances that bring tradition, classic, original and popular music to life. Her concerts intertwine captivating music with stories that inspire, enlighten and make us laugh. Names to the prestigious Steinway Artist Roster, Spielberg has sold one million CDs, and has hundreds of millions of spins on Pandora Radio and Spotify, making her one of America's most popular contemporary female artists. Black Box Theatre, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 8 p.m. \$97.50 (includes dinner). Info and tickets: 914-251-6200 or visit www.artscenter.org.

Sunday, Feb. 17

Winter Wolves for Kids. This is the best introduction to wolves for families with young children. Children will learn about the mythology surrounding wolves and the important role of wolves in the natural world. This is an exciting time for wolves; they're out searching for prey as their growing pups experience their first winter season. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and potentially behold the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Guests will enjoy hot beverages in the woodstove-heated classroom. Dress for cold weather. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: \$15. Children (under 12): \$12. Also Feb. 23 at 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

continued on page 17

Dramatic TZ Bridge Construction Photos on Display at White Plains Library

By Pat Casey

If you watched the construction of the new Tappan Zee Bridge (the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge) from afar, awed by the beauty of steel towers and sleek construction, you won't want to miss a photography exhibit currently on display at the White Plains Public Library.

Westchester resident and photographer David Rocco has selected some of his favorite shots from a collection of over 10,000 photographs he has taken of the bridge during demolition and construction over the past six years. He has mounted them on the walls of the newly renovated Museum Gallery where they will be on display until March 22.

When severe weather struck and two barges with two sets of assembled deck sections broke away and floated eight miles downriver, Rocco was there, working his way onboard a tug boat, taking photos to provide visual testimony of the efforts of the bridge crews and teams.

Rocco followed the building schedule of the new bridge, taking note of major



Photographs of the six-year construction of the new Tappan Zee Bridge by David Rocco are on display at the Museum Gallery in the White Plains Library.

construction events, sometimes flying overhead in a helicopter or jumping over fences on the shoreline (with permission, of course) to get the best angles and most exciting shots, some by day and some by night.

Ready to action at 3 a.m., Rocco captured the removal of the old bridge's truss section as a floating crane moved the section over the river to the Tarrytown side of the Hudson and the railroad tracks.

When asked last week if he had any favorites, Rocco admitted, "there are quite a few." Some involve close-ups of the construction workers, such as the ironworkers who connected girder pieces, others, such as the final demolition explosions, reveal the raw power of the major construction event.

A special reception will be held on March 2 at 2 p.m. if you would like to meet the artist. The event is free and open to the public.

White Plains Library is located at 100 Martine Ave., White Plains.

Music Conservatory of Westchester Offers Musical Masters Lecture Series for Adults

The Music Conservatory of Westchester will present four in-depth musical experiences as its new Musical Masters Lecture Series begins on Sundays at 2 p.m. during spring 2019. Open to the public, the Conservatory's lecture series will include insight from experts Michael Boriskin, Mark Morganelli, Andrew Armstrong, and Elliott Forrest on the topics of Chamber Music, Brazilian Jazz, Musical Storytelling, and Film Music.

On Sunday, March 3, the first of the four lecture presentations, "The World of Chamber Music: Rational (and Irrational) Conversations," will be led by Michael Boriskin, Artistic & Executive Director of Copland House.

An internationally acclaimed pianist and expert on chamber music, Boriskin will dive into the concept of this genre he describes as "rational people conversing." He will share his take on the provocative, innovative, and intensely moving musical works written for small instrumental ensembles that inspire these dialogues. With live and recorded performances, his presentation will sample revered classics, lesser-known masterworks, intriguing rarities, and works mixing unusual instrumental combinations, as well as recent pieces that are new benchmarks for coming generations. In a musical



Michael Boriskin

TRACY KETCHER PHOTO

adventure, the lecture will explore the span of nearly 250 years of chamber music compositions from Haydn, Beethoven, Brahms, Dvorak, Tchaikovsky, Copland, Messiaen, and much more, discussing the mastery within these conversations both rational and irrational.

On Sunday, March 31, enjoy "Brazilian Jazz: From Samba to American Standards" presented by Artistic Director of Tarrytown's Jazz Forum and Brazilian Jazz expert Mark Morganelli. Discover the cross-fertilization between Brazilian music, illustrating the genres of bossa nova, samba, and toada, and American Jazz influences, accompanied

by Morganelli's latest recorded work, Brasil! Lecture attendees will also be treated to a live musical performance by trumpeter/flugelhornist Morganelli demonstrating the unconventional, "new wave" rhythms that continue to move music lovers around the world. Compositions by Brazilian Jazz greats Antonio Carlos Jobim, Luiz Bonfá, Claudio Roditi, and Marcos Valle will be played and woven into the discussion.

"Musical Storytelling: The Poetry behind Piano Masterpieces" with concert pianist Andrew Armstrong will be presented on April 28 and "Film Music:



Mark Morganelli

WESTCHESTER MUSIC CONSERVATORY PHOTO

Groundbreaking Director/Composer Collaborations" with Peabody Award-winning Broadcaster & Producer and WQXR radio host Elliott Forrest on May 19.

All Musical Masters Lecture Series events will take place at the Music Conservatory of Westchester, 216 Central Avenue, White Plains. Tickets for individual lectures are \$25 each, available for purchase online at <http://www.musicconservatory.org/mcw-events>.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF EATON TAX SERVICE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY on 01/02/2019. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **Eaton Tax Service LLC, 142 Mt Joy Pl, New Rochelle, NY 10801. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

The name of the LLC is Goodbear Holdings LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on December 20, 2018. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LLC is to be located in Westchester County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is **c/o 25 Bank St. Apt 214K, White Plains, New York 10606.**

The name of the LLC is Goodbear Property LLC. The Articles of Organization of the LLC were filed with the NY Secretary of State on December 20, 2018. The purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity. The office of the LLC is to be located in Westchester County. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is **c/o 25 Bank St. Apt 214K, White Plains, New York 10606.**

DB PRINTING & PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS LLC, Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY 9/26/2018. Office loc: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: LLC: **United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CASA CORDOVA, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/16/19. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **1251 Wilson Road, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK: COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER. CONQUISTADOR JY L.P., Pltf v. F & B FUEL OIL CO., INC. et al., Defts. Index No. 64165/2017. pursuant to the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated November 26, 2018 and entered on January 15, 2019, I will sell at public auction at the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, White Plains, New York 10601, on February 26, 2019 at 10:00 a.m., prem. k/a 12 a/k/a 10 Ludlow Street, Yonkers, N.Y. 10705 (Section 1, Block 161, Lot 9) Approx. amt of judgment is \$427,401.90 plus costs, attorneys' fees and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Barbara Lerman, Esq., Referee. JACOBOWITZ NEWMAN TVERSKY, LLP, Attys. for Plaintiff, 377 Pearsall Ave., Ste C, Cedarhurst, NY.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF NEWCASTLE BUILDING INSPECTORS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/7/2019. Office Location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC at: **P.O. Box 99 Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THUMBS UP! ENTERPRISES, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on 1/24/19. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to principal business address: **420 South Riverside Ave, Croton on Hudson, NY 10520. Purpose: Youtube Channel.**

TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY WORK SESSION February 13, 2019 1. Pledge of Allegiance 2. Presentation by Michael Adamovich regarding repairs needed by

continued on next page

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continued from previous page

PV Historical Society 3. **Approve purchase** of three "Welcome to Putnam Valley" banners 4. **Appoint** Philip Ammann for the Board of Assessment Review 5. **Consider** concept approval of tower 6. **Set date** for public hearing for NRI 7. **Appoint** Daniel Gibbs Bulk Drop-Off Attendant 8. **Appoint** Jarred Buchanan as Zoning Board ad hoc member 9. **Parks** and Recreation refunds 10. **Request** to lower the cell tower building permit fee 11. **Discuss** expenditure for library sign 12. **Acceptance** of property donated by Mel and Eileen Kowal 13. **Discuss** LED

light conversion for all street lights. 14. **Begin discussion** re: de-icers. 15. **Audit** of monthly bills.

FORMATION OF ETNA CAPITAL ADVISORS LLC FILED WITH THE SECY. OF STATE OF NY (SSNY) ON 1/25/19. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to **Richard Imprescia, 1821 Casey Ct., Mohagan Lake, NY 10547. Purpose:** Any lawful activity.

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Happenings

continued from page 14

Celebrate Washington's Birthday. With the White Plains Historical Society, 1 to 3 p.m. at Washington's Headquarters - Jacob Purdy House, National Historic Site, 60 Park Ave., White Plains. This year's event features author and journalist Henry Schlesinger (coauthor of Spycraft: The Secret History of the CIA's Spytechs, from Communism to Al-Qaeda), who will speak about "George Washington: America's First Spymaster." The event starts promptly at 1 p.m. with a flag raising and honor guard (including General Washington himself). Free admission and refreshments. For more info, call 914-328-1776 or email: info@whiteplainshistory.org.

Tuesday, Feb. 19

Tuesdays@Dorries. NYS Senator Shelly Mayer will provide an update on doings in the State Senate. We will hear her perspective about what is occurring and what to expect. Many changes have taken place in Albany since she last spoke with us, and we look forward to hearing about them from her point of view. Weekly table talk, everyone is welcome. Food ordering begins at 5:15 p.m. Presentation 6 to 7 p.m. Dorries Diner, 468 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains.

Wednesday, Feb. 20

Stewart-Cousins and state Sen. Shelley Mayer will co-host a Black History Month celebration with a screening of this documentary about the late New York congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to Congress and to seek a major party nomination for president. Presented in partnership with the Port Chester/Rye NAACP, White Plains/Greenburgh NAACP, New Rochelle NAACP, and the YWCA of White Plains & Central Westchester. White Plains Public Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains. 6 p.m. Free. RSVP suggested. Info and RSVP: www.eventbrite.com/e/free-screening-of-chisholm-72-unbought-unbossed-tickets-55979011731.

Westchester Wednesday Dance.

French-American choreographer Carole Alexis and her Ballet des Amériques dance company bring a rich and sprawling repertoire to audiences in this three-performance series. These weekday evenings of dance offer audiences a break in the workday routine and a chance to witness the original work of the Tarrytown Music Hall's company-in-residence. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 7 p.m. \$20 and \$35. Info and tickets: Visit www.tarrytownmusic hall.org.



Crossword Solution from page 12

1	E	B	B		4	B	I	Z		7	R	U	E
10	S	I	R		11	E	L	I	12	T	I	S	T
13	T	O	A		14	C	L	O	S	E	T	S	
15	A	M	I	G	O		17	S	P	L	A	Y	
18	B	E	D	A	M	N							
			20	S	L	E	I	G	22	H	T		
							24	T	R	E	A	25	26
27	J	O	Y	C	E		32	E	T	S	E	Q	
33	U	N	A	L	I	34	K		35	T	A	U	
36	D	E	M	E	R	I	T		37	E	L	I	
38	D	D	S		39	E	N	S		40	S	T	D

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EXAMINER SPORTS

Crusaders Scale Mount St. Michael, 83-63, for Thrilling Home Win

By Albert Coqueran

Stepinac High School had four players score in double-figures, as the Crusaders defeated Mount St. Michael Academy, 83-63, in an exciting home game on the Stepinac campus on Friday.

Crusaders junior guards R.J. Davis and Luke Fizulich scored a team-high 19 points each. Senior Eduard Minaya netted 18 points and sophomore phenom Adrian Griffin, Jr. scored 17 points.

However, the final score was not indicative of the competitiveness in the game. The Crusaders (9-14, 6-10 CHSAA AA) probably played their best game this season and had to in order to beat the Mountaineers (13-9, 8-7 AA).

Davis scored on an acrobatic layup at the buzzer to give the Crusaders a mere two-point lead, 16-14, at the end of the first quarter. Furthermore, despite Fizulich's four three-pointers in the second quarter, the Crusaders led by only four points, 39-35 at halftime.

The Crusaders hit on seven three-pointers in the second quarter including Fizulich streaking with four three-pointers, Minaya dropping two and junior Matt Brand added one from behind the arc.

Nonetheless, the Crusaders onslaught of three-pointers in the second quarter only kept them in pace with the Mountaineers. Forward Ibrahim Wattara scored 10 points complemented by Mike Green hitting two three-pointers and Malik Pringle scoring from three-point range in the second quarter for the Mountaineers.

But the game changed in the second half as Stepinac went on an 8-0 run in the first three minutes to increase their lead by 12 points, 47-35. Though when Crusaders forward Sunil Fong, playing for the injured Malcolm Chimezie, had to



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

In a pregame ceremony Stepinac honored longtime CHSAA and NCAA Division 1 official John Letscher. Letscher has worked as an official since 1964. In 1988, he became the supervisor of officials of the CHSAA. Letscher (center) joined by colleagues was honored by Stepinac for his long and meritorious service to the CHSAA, after announcing he will retire at the end of this season. Letscher is a Hartsdale resident and an inductee in the CHSAA Hall of Fame.

sit with four fouls, the Mountaineers took advantage and cut the lead to six points with 3:50 remaining in the third quarter.

Nevertheless, each time the Mountaineers seemed to gain momentum, the Crusaders responded by scoring one big shot after big shot. Davis and Griffin led the scoring attack in the third frame with eight points each.

The game was won in the third quarter as the Crusaders outscored the Mountaineers, 22-9. Mount's Green finished with a game-high 28 points, including 13 points down the stretch in the fourth quarter. Wattara had 26 points in the game. But Green and Wattara were held to four points each in the third quarter,

as the Crusaders built an insurmountable lead 61-44. The Mountaineers never got closer than 11 points in the fourth quarter but the excitement continued in the Stepinac gym. Fizulich drained two more three-pointers egged on by the crowd and even scored a four-point play.

If any player was a fan favorite during this game it was Luuuuke! "I have been working really hard and my teammates put me in a position whereas I could do it," commented Fizulich. Davis added,

"I told Luke shooters shoot, continue to shoot. He was on fire and we just kept giving him the ball."

Griffin, Jr. also known as "AJ" also sent the Stepinac fans into a frenzy when Davis threw him a half court Alley-Oop pass and the Crusaders sophomore backwards dunked it with two hands. But the play was officiated as a no-basket, as Griffin hit the rim before the ball went through the hoop.

Griffin, Jr.'s father Adrian Griffin, Sr. a former NBA player who is presently the Lead Assistant Coach for the Toronto Raptors, his mother Audrey and sister Aubrey were all in attendance. Aubrey Griffin, a senior at Ossining High School, scored 40 points and grabbed 21 rebounds the day before in the Pride's, 90-54 win over Albertus Magnus. Griffin will play for the legendary University of Connecticut Women's Basketball Team next season.

Stepinac has won five of their last seven games after starting the season with a four-game losing streak. Stepinac remains in sixth place in the NYCHSAA AA with a 6-10 league record. However, a team coordinated 20-point win against the third place Mountaineers could spark the Crusaders with Playoffs set to begin on Sunday, Feb. 17.

"We feel like we are getting better each game. We are finally seeing our players, playing the roles they need to play. We really do not care what seed we are (in the playoffs), we have to go out and compete every night," stated Head Coach Pat Massaroni.



Crusaders junior Luke Fizulich (left) on defense guards Mountaineers Mike Green. However, it was Fizulich's offense that sparked the Crusaders to an 83-63 win over Mount. Fizulich hit six three-pointers in the game, including four in the second quarter to tally 19 points.



Stepinac sophomore Adrian Griffin, Jr. goes strong to the hoop for two of his 17 points in the Crusaders, 83-63 win over Mount St. Michael Academy on Friday, Feb. 8.

..... EXAMINER SPORTS

Stepinac Celebrates Three Football Players Signing to Attend College

By Albert Coqueran

On Feb. 6, Stepinac High School ushered three more members of their 2018 CHSFL AAA and CHSAA New York State Football Championship team to the college ranks.

Senior defensive end Sunil Fong signed a Letter of Intent to attend Butler University and play football for the Butler

Bulldogs of the Division I Pioneer League in September.

Also, senior middle linebacker Kevin Gray will firm up the defense for Pace University of the Division II Northeast 10 Conference. Gray signed a Letter of Intent to play for the Setters led by Head Coach Andy Rondeau. The Offensive Coordinator for the Setters is former

White Plains High School Assistant Football Coach Conor Gilmartin-Donohue. Gray will play football locally for the Setters at Pace Stadium in Pleasantville.

The third signee on Feb. 6 was running back Malik Grant, the workhorse of the Crusaders 2018 NYS Championship team. Grant will take his special talents to Sacred Heart University and play for the Pioneers of the Division I Northeast Conference.

Grant gained 1490 yards on 163 carries while averaging 135.5 yards per game with 10 touchdowns last season. Furthermore, Crusaders fans will never forget Grant's illustrious performance against Iona Prep in the CHSFL AAA Quarterfinals last season.

Grant gained 405 yards on 32 carries and scored three TDs, while leading Stepinac to a 37-26 win over the Gaels.

Crusaders Grant, Gray and Fong will be welcome additions to Sacred Heart, Pace and Butler Universities academic and football programs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPINAC ATHLETICS

On Feb. 6, Stepinac High School celebrated three members of its 2018 CHSAA NYS Championship Football Team signing Letters of Intent to attend college. [L-r] Defensive end Sunil Fong will attend Butler University, running back Malik Grant signed to attend Sacred Heart University and middle linebacker Kevin Gray will attend Pace University.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPINAC ATHLETICS

Theresa and Michael Gray the parents of Stepinac senior middle linebacker Kevin Gray (center) celebrate with their son as he signed a Letter of Intent to attend Pace University and play football for the Setters. Kevin's father Michael is also an alumnus of Stepinac, while graduating in 1981.

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