

**FREE**

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 440

## Gedney Field Under Major Renovation in White Plains

By Neal Rentz

When the new Little League baseball season opens in April in White Plains players will be competing in a newly renovated Gedney Field.

The field is temporarily closed.

White Plains Little League President Kevin Scully said last week the field is usually renovated every five to six years. A landscaper typically does such work as adding new infield dirt, over-seeding the infield and the outfield, aerating the grass infield and outfield areas. But Scully said the Little League Board determined major renovations were needed for the field due to all the use it receives. "It was time to invest in a major renovation that would enhance the Gedney Little League Field and rival or exceed the best Little League fields in Westchester County and the surrounding areas," Scully said.

Gedney Field is a traditional grass field, built to Little League International specifications, Scully noted. "With grass infields it is critical to have the proper drainage and quality infield dirt/clay that provides a smooth surface and minimizes 'bad hops' of baseballs and softballs," Scully said. "Having a high-quality Little League field benefits our league and our city. By hosting district and sectional little league tournament games we are bringing people from all over Westchester and the surrounding area into White Plains which benefits the immediate merchants on Gedney Way, but also other businesses in White Plains that these visitors patronize."

For this major renovation, the entire infield, grass and dirt, were scraped and removed and replaced with new grass and a special mixture of clay. Home plate and

*continued on page 2*

## Vacant High-Rise at Winbrook Campus Was Demolished Last Week



DAVID ROCCO PHOTO

A vacant building on the Winbrook campus (located at 135 South Lexington Avenue, White Plains) was demolished last week, clearing the way for the construction of The Overture at Brookfield Commons. The White Plains Housing Authority with co-developer Trinity Financial broke ground Nov. 15, 2019 on The Overture, the second phase of the redevelopment of the existing Winbrook Housing campus. When constructed, the building will include 90 apartments set aside for existing Winbrook residents. The remaining apartments will be available for affordable to low- or moderate-income households.

## State Legislators Call on Cuomo to Support \$35B for Road Repairs

By Martin Wilbur

A contingent of Westchester's state representatives called on Gov. Andrew Cuomo and fellow lawmakers last week to support a \$35 billion road and bridge repair bond to fix New York's crumbling transportation infrastructure.

Standing with a large contingent of members from Teamsters Local 456 and representatives of Rebuild New York Now at the union's headquarters last Friday in Elmsford, the legislators urged that an infrastructure bond act be presented to voters this November that would make the money available for repairs on state roads throughout New York over a five-year period.

Funding from the current \$29.2 billion capital improvement plan that was approved about five years ago is set to expire on Mar. 31.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

State Sen. Shelley Mayer announced support last week for a \$35 billion road repair bond to make much-needed improvements to the state's transportation infrastructure. She was joined by an assortment of elected officials and members of Teamsters Local 456.

State Sen. Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers) said that the poor condition of the roads in her district and throughout the region is the top complaint from her constituents. Many local and county officials throughout Westchester have also remarked in recent years how state thoroughfares have been allowed to badly deteriorate, triggering innumerable stories from drivers who have been left with flat tires and other damage to their cars.

"There should be long-term statewide improvements that make sense for the drivers and the people of our county," Mayer said. "We have a piecemeal situation, which is never good enough. This is the number one complaint I get throughout my district. The roads and bridges are simply not invested in the way our taxpayers need."

Investing in roads would also help the economy by creating solid, good-paying

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## Gedney Field Under Major Renovation in White Plains

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the pitcher's mound were raised in order to create the proper pitch that would enable rainwater to more easily drain off the field and minimize pooling and puddles. And new grass was laid around home plate to create the feeling of a major league ballpark. New sprinklers were added to improve the even watering of both the grass and dirt areas.

The field is scheduled to reopen with the 2020 Little League season in April. The White Plains Little League parade is slated for April 18 and the regular season will begin the week of April 20, Scully noted. "Depending on the weather, we may open the field to practices in April, but as of now, the field will be closed until the regular season begins," he said.

Scully said the entire cost of the roughly \$40,000 was paid for by the White Plains Little League. "The City of White Plains did contribute by allowing the contractor to dump the old grass and dirt in the City recycling center," he noted. The Little League White Plains used some of its capital projects funds and is conducting a series of fundraisers to cover the renovation costs, he said.

Scully said the Little League big fundraiser is a wine tasting scheduled for Jan. 24 at the Freebird Kitchen and Bar on Mamaroneck Avenue. The cost is \$40 for individuals and \$60 for couples. The Little League will hold other fundraisers throughout the year to replenish the capital projects fund, Scully said.

The renovations began immediately following the completion of the Little League



Gedney Field in White Plains is temporarily closed. The White Plains Little League recently completed a major renovation of the facility.

fall season in late October, Scully said. Westwood, NJ-based Field Pro Enterprises, which was also hired by the White Plains School District last fall to renovate several district ballfields, was hired by the Little League, Scully said, adding the company was highly recommended by the school district.

"The contractor fell in love with Gedney Field when he saw it and knew that a renovation would really make a difference for our facility, Scully said. "The contractor worked through November to get the grass

laid so it could 'take hold.' His unique supplier for the clay had equipment issues and had to wait for replacement parts from Ireland before he could mix and deliver our clay." Clay was delivered in late December and the contractor has been working around the weather to finish the project, Scully said. The contractor will return in late March to fertilize and seed the whole field and regrade the clay areas that might be affected by winter weather, he said.

Scully said the White Plains Little League

has a positive relationship with the City of White Plains, which owns and the field. "The Little League is very grateful to and dependent upon the City of White Plains, particularly the Department of Public Works and the Department of Recreation and Parks, for the support they provide," he said.

Although Gedney Field is a city field it is nearly exclusively used by Little League for games and practices from April through November, Scully said. In addition, the Little League uses the field to host district and sectional tournament games in June and July, he said. "The field does get used by 'Dads and kids' when not being used by the White Plains Little League and for the most part, the community respects and takes pride in Gedney Field," he said.

The field is officially referred to as "Gedney Little League Field," Scully noted. "We are celebrating our 26th season as an official little league," he said. The city created the field specifically for the Little League in 1998.

The Little League has named a walkway within the Gedney Field complex "Massaroni Way" for Rich Massaroni who was a past president of White Plains Little League and instrumental in getting the City to build Gedney Field, Scully said. "He remains a valued resource for the current board to help understand the history of different issues and decisions," Scully said, adding Massaroni's son, Patrick, is head coach of the Stepinac High School varsity basketball team and a White Plains Little League alumnus.

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# New Book Details White Plains in the 20th Century

By Neal Rentz

Former White Plains resident Ben Himmelfarb and current resident Elaine Massena worked in similar capacities in the city and would often cross paths in their jobs.

Massena is the city archivist with the city clerk's office and Himmelfarb was the local history historian at the White Plains Library.

"We were always contacting each other because of research queries from the public," Himmelfarb, who moved to Richmond, VA in February 2019, recalled last week. "Sometimes I could answer most of a person's question, but would need a document or photograph that was in Elaine's collection. Sometimes she needed something from the library's collection. Elaine has been with the city longer than me so she was a direct source I could go to for leads on where to look in collections for information. While she, of course, does a great job with finding aids and cataloging her collection, she also has an immense amount of knowledge on file in her brain."

Himmelfarb and Massena took their collaborations to another level by co-authoring "White Plains in the 20th Century," which was recently published by Arcadia Publishing.

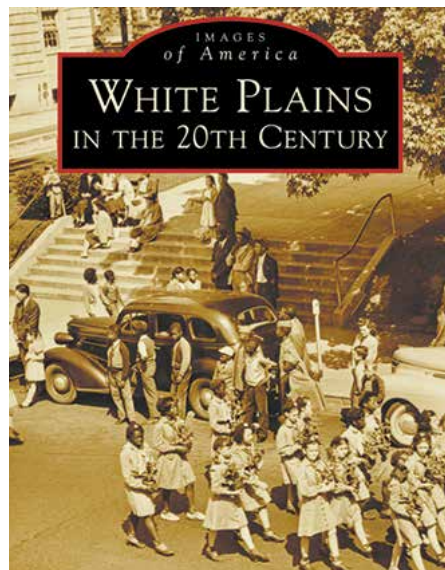
"Ben asked me to join him in writing this book for Arcadia Publishing and I was thrilled to do so," Massena recalled. The photo collections from the library and the city's archives include photographs taken by John Rosch, who was a photographer and city historian in the first half of the 20th Century

and to whom the duo dedicated their book, along with Renoda Hoffman, Massena said.

Massena, a 35-year resident of White Plains, noted she had retired from the Westchester County archives in Elmsford, where she was the principal archivist. Massena was recruited in 1994 by the White Plains City Historian Renoda Hoffman to help her organize and house her extensive collection of White Plains materials, including thousands of slides she had taken beginning in the late 1950's. Massena worked on a part-time basis with Hoffman from 1994 until her death in 2005. "She was the founder of the city archives and the guiding spirit in its growth," Massena said. "Thanks to advances in technology, we have been able to digitize most of Renoda's slides which document the changes in White Plains, as well as other collections in the archives. Some of the photos that we used in the book were taken by Renoda, such as the building of Route 287 through White Plains."

Massena said most of the book's photos are from the library or the city archives. "In a few circumstances we reached out to others for help," Massena said. "One example was the images used to illustrate the fact that there were automobiles manufactured in White Plains, right on Mamaroneck Avenue. I tracked down some descendants of the Grossman family who graciously provided images for the book."

Himmelfarb is currently the programming librarian at the Henrico County Public Library.



"White Plains in the 20th Century," written by Ben Himmelfarb and city resident Elaine Massena, was recently published by Arcadia Publishing.

"For me, the research for the book happened organically during my four years at the White Plains Public Library," Himmelfarb said. "Frankly, a good deal of the information presented in the book is the fruit of our labors answering questions for the public. For instance, on my own I don't know if I would have come across pictures of Italian Americans in the early 20th Century, but a query from someone seeking information about the lives of their ancestors in White Plains led me to consult every source our collection had on the topic. Following that I fleshed out the stories behind the pictures featured in the first chapter of the book, some of the best pictures in there in my opinion."

Himmelfarb said the book contains information compiled over the course of many years. The formal process of creating the book took about 18 months from conception to publishing, he noted.

Though much has changed over the decades in White Plains, immigration was a controversial subject even in the early part of the last century, Himmelfarb said. "There are almost always conflicts and tensions when new groups of people interact with each other, and the early 20th Century was notable for the anti-immigrant ideas aimed at people from Southern and Eastern Europe who were, at the time, the most recent



Ben Himmelfarb and Elaine Massena, the archivist for the City of White Plains, co-authored the recently published book about White Plains.

arrivals to the US," he said.

"On a positive note, like today, there were groups in White Plains (like the YMCA in the early 1900's) that supported peaceful integration of new immigrants," Himmelfarb said. "At the time, this meant a mix of assimilation and accommodation. Labor disputes between workers (often recent immigrants from Italy) and bosses over conditions at work sites around the county, especially the Kensico Dam and Reservoir, were common. The photographs in the book give a sense of the living conditions faced by many workers. Immigrants at the time were not just workers; some were landlords or business owners."

Himmelfarb and Massena held an author event in November, but they do not have any plans for future in person events on the book since Himmelfarb no longer lives in the New York area. But Himmelfarb said he would be happy to do virtual presentations and talks about the book.

Himmelfarb said he would like to collaborate on another book with Massena. "I think we'll give it a few years, but should we be around long enough we'll probably do 'White Plains in the 21st Century,'" he said.

The book price is \$21.99 and Himmelfarb said the best place to obtain it is at the White Plains Public Library or the city clerk's office. All proceeds from the book are split evenly between the City Archives and the White Plains Collection for their maintenance and growth.

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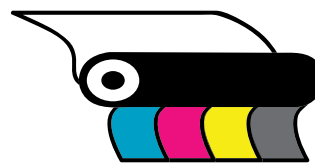
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# Tensions Rise in Valhalla Little League Field Lights Debate

By Joan Gaylord

The issue of whether there should be lights installed at Pat Henry Field in Valhalla continues to dominate the public conversation.

At last week's Town Board meeting, a roughly evenly divided number of residents lined up to speak about proposal at the county-owned baseball field, comments that included name calling and the threat of a lawsuit.

The Town of Mount Pleasant leases the field, located on South Kensico Avenue, from the county for use by the Kensico Little League. League officials have requested approval to install lights that they say would allow greater flexibility to schedule games

and provide the youngsters the thrill of playing night games.

League representatives have said they will cover all costs related to the project.

Residents along South Kensico Avenue have strongly opposed the initiative, citing concerns for safety and potential degradation of their quality of life. Pat Henry Field is located on a residential street and homeowners have asserted that the lights and noise from the games would continue late into the evening.

They have also expressed a concern for the increased traffic especially when commuters are walking home from the Metro-North station.

"We're collecting additional information," said Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi when asked

when the board planned to take a vote on the issue. "There are a few more things we need to look at from a legal perspective."

Even though the issue was not on last week's Town Board agenda, public comments continued for over an hour with virtually no agreement between the two sides. Little League parents and board members cited "the moral and civic responsibility" to provide healthy opportunities for area kids. The lights, they said, would allow them to expand those opportunities.

South Kensico Avenue resident Ken Noonan pointed out, however, that league registration has declined over the last few years and questioned the need for expanded opportunities for fewer players.

Noonan was one of several residents who

asserted that the neighbors do not oppose Little League baseball or recreational opportunities for children but were requesting equal consideration for their families. He asked why the two sides were unable to find a compromise, and raised an earlier suggestion to install lights at another location, possibly Virginia Road Field.

Bob Candrea, president of the Kensico Little League, repeated that Pat Henry Field has been the league's home field for decades, making it the only suitable place for the team to play. Candrea also argued against a suggested compromise that called for a guarantee for a 10 p.m. curfew.

"You want lights shut off at 10, but what if it's the fifth inning?" he asked. "You really want us to turn off the lights?"

## State Legislators Call on Cuomo to Support \$35B for Road Repairs

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jobs for workers, added state Sen. Peter Harchham (D-Lewisboro), contending that it is vital for the competitiveness and the economic development of the Hudson Valley.

The senator also said that since the state has lagged on its repairs it is unlikely that \$35 billion over the next five years will enable it to catch up on all the work that's needed.

"So, \$35 billion, it sounds like a lot of money; it's not a lot of money," Harchham said. "It's a drop in the bucket, but that's where we've got to start and it's essential we get this done."

Officials also argued that the infrastructure issue has wide bipartisan support. Legislator Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (R-Mahopac) was also on hand to speak about its importance.

"This is something we have a tremendous need for," Byrne said. "I'm proud to stand here with my colleagues to call for this significant increase in investment in the upcoming capital plan and we've got to get to work."

Mayer refused to speculate whether Cuomo would support the initiative until he releases his budget plan on Tuesday. The state faces a \$6 billion budget gap, about two-thirds of which is Medicaid related. But legislators remain hopeful that Cuomo will back the plan.

Cuomo had also advocated in his Jan. 8 State of the State address for a \$3 billion environmental bond on the November ballot.

"We're going to see what the governor puts on the table and then we're going to fight for what we think is absolutely essential," Mayer said.

Harchham said the state has to be able to turn its attention to multiple key projects simultaneously while Assemblyman Tom Abinanti (D-Pleasantville) said government's most important responsibility is the safety of its residents.

Meanwhile, Teamsters Local 456 President Louis Picani said the area's roads and bridges are in a "crisis" condition and that action must be taken.

"The crisis of the infrastructure here in Westchester County is an unfortunate site," Picani said. "We are providing a strong infrastructure proudly built by generations before us, and because of the lack of maintenance, these foundations that were so resilient are now probably beyond repair."

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# Another Candidate Signals He is Ready to Join the District 17 Congressional Race

By Martin Wilbur

Democrats may need to make room on the June primary ballot for one more candidate looking to succeed Rep. Nita Lowey.

The already crowded field vying for the Democratic nomination in the 17th Congressional District expanded to at least 10 candidates Sunday with the surprise announcement by longtime Pleasantville Board of Education Trustee Shane McGaffey that he would join the race.

Disappointed that the current crop of candidates has failed to address regional issues, including education funding and key tax matters that he argues have shortchanged the district's and state's taxpayers, McGaffey said he decided to jump in to help widen the debate.

"I know it's a long shot, but I am there to advocate for our district and local issues that aren't being discussed by the other candidates," he said. "I'm putting together a team right now. It may be late in the game. I understand that it's going to be a tough road to hoe, but there are some important issues and no one's talking about them, and if we don't talk about them, we can't accomplish them."

McGaffey, 49, said he would advocate for a regional cost index to help calculate federal income taxes. The current federal brackets impose a 22 percent tax rate on households earning \$77,400 to \$165,000 a year. In Westchester County, those earning at the bottom of that bracket are at the poverty level for a family of four when adjusted for



Shane McGaffey is prepared to make a late entry into the 17th Congressional District race.

regional costs.

Meanwhile, families earning less than that in many other areas of the country not only have the benefit of having their money go farther, but they're being taxed at 12 percent.

"That's serious money that we're leaving on the table that we're not getting back, plus on top of that, the state and local tax deduction, they're now capped at \$10,000,"

McGaffey argued.

He said there has also been little conversation so far in the campaign about finding ways of repealing the \$10,000 limit on state and local income tax deductions or at least getting that threshold raised.

The fact that New York is one of the top donor states in the country also needs to be tackled, McGaffey said. Last week, State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli issued a report that New York receives just 90 cents on every dollar it sends to Washington, the third worst in the nation.

Westchester also severely lags in reimbursement by the federal government for special education costs, he said.

McGaffey, a former Republican, works as the station manager at Pleasantville Community Television. He has served on the Pleasantville Board of Education for the past 10 years and is a former board president.

He said that national issues such as advocating for women's rights, equal pay, the impeachment debate and many of the social issues of the day are of critical importance.

"A lot of those issues are already being highlighted and I would work on them as well," McGaffey said. "They're important issues, but issues that are specific to our district, regional cost, the value of the dollar is so much less, and so when people talk about taxing the rich, they're talking about us."

He said each candidate needs to collect about 1,250 signatures on their nominating petition by the Apr. 2 filing deadline. He plans to shortly launch his candidate's

website once he receives his federal identification number that would enable him to start fundraising.

McGaffey said that with such a large field it also may not take more than 20 percent of the vote to win the primary, and he may be able to capitalize on the tax issue. However, he acknowledges that he has a lot to do in a short period of time.

"Build momentum, getting that message out there and making people understand how we're not getting our fair share," McGaffey said of the task he faces.

Other declared Democratic candidates for the 17th Congressional District are Assemblyman David Buchwald; state Sen. David Carlucci; Sleepy Hollow resident Allison Fine; Evelyn Farkas, a former assistant deputy assistant secretary of defense in the Obama administration; Mondaire Jones, who worked in the Department of Justice under Obama; veteran Asha Castleberry-Hernandez; former prosecutor Adam Schliefer; County Legislator Catherine Parker; and Rockland County resident David Katz.

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## Police Blotter

### Port Chester Man Sentenced to Prison for Sexual Abuse of a Child

Defendant Hugo Zuniga, 37, of Port Chester was sentenced Jan. 15 to state prison for sexually abusing a child. A jury found Zuniga guilty following a trial in October before Westchester County Court Judge George Fufidio. The jury returned its verdict Oct. 11, 2019.

Specifically, Zuniga will serve the following sentences: Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, a class D felony - 3.5 years in state prison and 3.5 years' post-release-supervision; Endangering the Welfare of a Child, a misdemeanor - 364 days in jail.

Upon release, Zuniga will have to register as a sex offender. The sentences will run concurrently.

In August 2018, Hugo Zuniga sexually abused a 14-year-old victim. Port Chester Police arrested Zuniga Nov. 8, 2018,



Hugo Zuniga

following a joint investigation between Port Chester Police and the District Attorney's Office Special Prosecutions Division.

### Free Computer Coding Education Offered to Westchester Middle School Students

T&T and The Digital Arts Experience (DAE) have partnered with The Westchester Library System (WLS) to bring a free computer coding educational program, AT&T's Code Heroes, to all 38 libraries in the Westchester Library System. The program will serve more than 400 students in grades 6 to 8, with a focus on engaging underserved youth. Young people from every Westchester community will have the opportunity to gain coding skills while learning how technology can be used for social good to curb cyberbullying, promote online safety and encourage good digital citizenship. The program is completely free and has been made possible by a \$70,000 contribution from AT&T.

All students entering sixth grade through eighth grade enrolled in a school in Westchester County are eligible to participate in AT&T's Code Heroes. No previous coding experience is required. Participants also do not need a computer to take part; all technologies and education resources will be



(Left to right) AT&T New York President Amy Kramer and NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins participated in the opening of AT&T's Code Heroes.

provided. Parents can register their children at theDAE.com/codeheroes and follow the instructions or directly through their local library. All dates and contact information for each library can be found via the registration page. Each library can accommodate 12 students, so it is recommended to register as soon as possible.

### New Rochelle Man Sentenced for Stealing Credit Cards from Sports Club Lockers

Defendant Ivan Vrabec, 50, of New Rochelle was sentenced Jan. 15 to two to four years in state prison. Westchester County Court Judge Michael Martinelli presided.

Vrabec pleaded guilty Dec. 4, 2019, to Identity Theft in the First Degree, a class D felony, for stealing victims' personal credit cards from sports club gym lockers.

Vrabec was charged in two different incidents.

On Dec. 14, 2018, Vrabec stole a credit card from the men's locker room at the New York Sports Club in Dobbs Ferry. There he opened the combination lock on the victim's locker and put it back on without the victim knowing someone had broken into it. He used the victim's stolen credit card to purchase over \$660 worth of wine from the Westchester Wine Warehouse

in Greenburgh.

In the second incident, on or around the same date, Vrabec admitted to using a stolen credit card belonging to a Hastings-on-Hudson resident to purchase high-end designer goods valued at approximately \$8,035.

Vrabec's plea of guilty to one count of Identity Theft in the First Degree covered both incidents.

The investigation and arrest into these crimes was a collaboration by the Westchester District Attorney's Office Investigations Division, Larchmont Police Department and Greenburgh Police Department.

## SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

### Wise Winter Weather Tips to Consider for Your Pet

Winter creates a whole new canvas in the living landscape, with snow blanketing our backyards, community parks and schoolyards. There are simple steps pet owners need to take to ensure their pups are safe and healthy during the cold weather.

The TurfMutt Foundation, which encourages outdoor learning experiences and stewardship of green spaces, offers these tips for keeping pets healthy and safe this winter.

**Bring Outdoor Dogs Inside:** The safest, most comfortable place for your pet during the winter months is inside with you. Remember, if it's too cold for you, it's also too cold for your pet. Offer a warm, dry place to rest inside. A pet bed works perfectly.

**Know Your Fur Facts:** With the exception of the fur in between their paw pads, which you should trim to prevent painful ice balls from forming, do not cut your dog's fur in the wintertime. Pets naturally develop winter coats to protect them from the harsh elements. Remember that not all dogs are created equally for winter conditions. Smaller dogs, those with shorter hair, older pups and pets who are sick might need winter attire like a coat or protective booties to be comfortable outside. For very frail pups and young puppies who have a hard time regulating their body temperature, you will want to limit exposure to necessary breaks and very short walks.

**Keep Them Clean and Dry:** Keep a dry, clean towel near the door to wipe down your pet's legs, belly and paws after each outdoor excursion. Also, check your dog's ears, paws and tail for any sign of frostbite, which shows up as discolored skin, swelling or blisters. Signs of hypothermia include shivering, shallow breathing, weak pulse and lethargy. If frostbite or hypothermia

appears, take your dog to a warm, dry place and contact your vet. Finally, ice-melt is helpful for humans, but it can hurt your pet by irritating their skin and can cause serious illness if ingested.

**Wear Reflective Gear:** Shorter winter days mean daily walks are often done after sunset. In addition to choosing a walking route that is lighted and keeping your dog close to you when walking, you can offer extra protection by getting your pet a reflective collar, leash or coat. Reflective clothing is a good idea for humans as well. Lighted headgear not only helps drivers see you, it also makes it easier to clean up after your dog when you're on a walk in the dark.

**Be Careful Around Ice:** Slipping on ice can cause muscle strains and other injuries. For those who live near a pond or lake, extra precautions need to be taken to keep your dog – and yourself – away from frozen bodies of water. Even if it looks solid, you or your pet could fall through.

**Be Food and Water Wise:** Winter air is dry, so make sure your pet has unlimited access to fresh, clean water to drink. Monitor their food and snack intake since indoor pets – like humans – will burn fewer calories during the winter months.

**Be Prepared for Emergencies:** When you are preparing your family's winter emergency kit, don't forget the family pet. You should include enough food, water and medication to last five days.

**Have Fun Inside:** As much as your dog might love romping in the snow, there will be days when winter weather makes getting exercise outdoors impossible. Stave off boredom by teaching your dog a new trick or working on an obedience lesson inside. Treat toys and puzzle games provide mental and physical stimulation until the weather improves.



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# BANG, WHITE PLAINS

By Neal Rentz

The owners of the new restaurant in the Savor section of The Westchester in White Plains gave their new business a simple name – Bang, for two reasons.

The husband and wife duo of New Canaan, CT residents Sharf Emdad and Tanjina Quazi, who opened Bang on Jan. 9, explained why they chose the name. “Bang, first of all, is short for Bangladesh, where we’re from originally,” Quazi said last week. “Then we just wanted to sort of open with a bang ... It’s a fun name.”

“We’re offering Bengali-Indian fusion food for people who don’t like curry,” Quazi said. “It’s a very light, fresh food you can eat every day. Everything is grass fed, hormone free and anti-biotic free. And the reason we worked on this concept is because all the Indian food that we have currently available is something we normally eat at parties or at weddings, which is very heavy, very rich.

“There has been much fusion between Indians and Bengalis “who have traveled thousands of years in different parts of the world,” Quazi said. “It’s kind of a fusion of all those flavors.”

Some of Bang’s specialties include banana samosas, which are sweet and savory banana-filled puff pastry; coconut beef and butter chicken, Emdad said. “Everything here is made fresh every day,” Quazi said.

Though the Bang menu does not prominently feature curry, the eatery’s



New Canaan, CT residents Sharf Emdad, right, and Tanjina Quazi opened Bang in The Westchester in White Plains on Jan. 9.

signature dish is jackfruit curry, Quazi said.

Aside from entrées, which include bowls and wraps, the menu offers such other selections as nitrogen-infused chai tea, and all-natural sodas

“Indian food has been a niche,” Emdad

said. “We want an Indian food that is light.” Emdad said the food served at Bang can be consumed without having to feel weighed down.

Quazi quipped that some people take Indian food and eat it in private “because it’s

messy and you don’t know what is going to happen afterwards.”

Emdad said the couple has had the goal of providing healthy food in an affordable price range. There are limited options for purchasing healthy food on a limited budget, he said. He and his wife are more focused on how much food they sell rather than on the profit margins, Emdad said.

Quazi explained why she and her husband chose The Westchester to house their new business. “The Westchester has a great population, well-balanced and there’s a great clientele that comes through here,” she said. “It’s sort of a pilot for us to see how people like it.”

Emdad said he hopes to expand Bang through franchising. “We hope to open one to two units every year,” he said.

Bang is located in the Savor section of The Westchester, 125 Westchester Ave. in White Plains. For more information visit <https://www.eatatbang.com/> or send an e-mail to [tq@eatatbang.com](mailto:tq@eatatbang.com) or [sharfemdad@banggrill.com](mailto:sharfemdad@banggrill.com).

NEAL RENTZ PHOTO



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## Obituaries

### Theresa Tisi

Theresa Tisi, 103, of White Plains passed away on Jan. 16.

She was born on April 5, 1916 in Marzi, Italy to Maria and Giuseppe LiMarzi.

Theresa married Vincent Tisi on April



27, 1947 in Dobbs Ferry. She worked as a cafeteria worker and secretary for various employers in White Plains, retiring in 1975.

Theresa is survived by her sons, Pasquale "Pat" Tisi of White Plains and Joseph (Susan) Tisi of Highland Mills, NY; her two grandchildren, Cara (Anthony) Martinisi and Marianne (Michael) Dehney; and four great grandchildren, Anthony and Nicky Martinisi, and Isabella and Madelyn Dehney.

She is predeceased by her parents, her sister, Barbara Trombacco, her brothers Vincent L., John, Steven, Peter, and Frank LiMarzi, her great grandchild, Christian Martinisi, and two daughter-in-laws, Cathie and Candy Tisi.

Theresa was a dedicated family woman who was beautiful inside and out. She was always there for others and was loved by many family and friends alike. She enjoyed sewing and bowling, and was involved with the Red Cross of White Plains and the Harrison Players.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Love From Heaven, Christian Martinisi Memorial Fund, 65 Pin Oak Drive, New Windsor, NY 12553; can232429@gmail.com - lovefromheaven.org.

### Anthony Alfero

Anthony L. Alfero, a Harrison resident, died Jan. 14 at the age of 94.

He was born March 28, 1925 in White Plains to the late John and Gaetana Alfero.

Anthony served in the U.S. Army from 1943-1946 where he received the American Service Medal, the European African Middle



Eastern Service Medal, the WWII Victory Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

On June 6, 1954 he married his wife Josephine in White Plains.

Anthony worked at A & P Supermarket, Westchester Country Club and was the owner of the Manor Deli. He also worked as a custodian for the White Plains School District, retiring to Florida in 1992.

He was an avid golfer, a member of the Roma AC and was in a bowling club.

He was a devoted, selfless son, brother, uncle, husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather and is survived by his children: Joseph Alfero of Tamarac, FL., Anthony Alfero of Plantation, FL, and Louis Alfero of Westport, CT; his grandchildren Kelsey Scott, Jarett, Tori, Sophia and Grace Alfero; and great grandchildren Jane and Peter Scott.

He is predeceased by his three brothers; Carmine, Frank and John Alfero and three sisters Mary Zanazzi, Lucy Pinto and Blanche Marinelli.

Anthony will be remembered for being kind, warm, caring and sincere to everyone. He was loved by all.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Veteran's Association of America; <http://www.vetsaa.org/>.

### Robert James McKirgan

Robert James McKirgan, of White Plains and formerly of Ardsley, and Daytona Beach, FL, passed away Jan. 11. He was 82.

Robert was born Oct. 5, 1937 in Dobbs Ferry to the late Samuel and Emily McKirgan.

On May 2, 1981 he married his wife, Gertrude McKirgan, at St. John the Evangelist Church in White Plains.

Robert loved sport. He was an avid softball player, golfer, tennis player, skier, and swimmer, winning numerous softball awards as a pitcher. In his younger days, he was a lifeguard at Daytona Beach, FL. He was also a member of the Rotary Club.

Robert was a great husband, great friend and great neighbor. In retirement, he loved to spend time with his friends and play golf, and most especially to spend time with his wife. He had a deep love for Ireland and even travelled with his wife on an Irish pilgrimage to Lourdes. His final resting place will be in County Monaghan, Ireland.

Robert is survived by his nieces and nephews, his extended circle of friends, and his loving wife, Gertrude.

He is predeceased by his brother Douglas and his sister Alma.

### Anthony Lamattina



Anthony Lamattina, a Harrison resident, died Jan. 10 at the age of 30. He was born Nov. 29, 1989 to Vincent and Gayann Lamattina.

Anthony was a graduate of the Rye School of Leadership and was working as a Panel Installer for Primus Builders in Woodstock, GA since 2017.

He had a love for riding dirt bikes.

Besides his parents, Anthony is survived by his godmother Ellen Welsh, his uncle Joseph Lamattina, and his dear friend Valerie Doerr.

The wake service will be announced in the coming days and in lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.

### Esther Garbe

Esther F. Garbe of White Plains, passed away after a brief illness on Jan. 10.

Esther was born in Southbridge, MA to Karl and Liddy (Mersiowsky) Roth.

She earned a degree in Dietetic Nutrition from Lasell College in Boston. Following the completion of her degree she pursued her career at both United Hospital and White Plains Hospital.



Proud of her German Heritage, Esther joined the Dr. H. Ernst Schmid Unit of the Steuben Society of America where she met her husband, Alfred C. Garbe. Esther was a long time member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in White Plains.

She served as a volunteer at Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown for many years. Following the passing of her husband, Esther joined the St. Pius X of Scarsdale Catholic Widow and Widowers Club where she enjoyed countless outings and trips.

In recent years she moved to the Bristol Assisted Living at White Plains where she enjoyed the camaraderie of both old and new friends.

Esther is survived by many loving friends and caregivers.

Predeceased by both her parents, her husband and her beloved sister Helen Roth.

A memorial service and celebration of Esther's life will be held on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020 at 11 a.m. at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, in White Plains. Private interment will take place at the San Francisco Columbarium and Funeral Home, San Francisco.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to Rosary Hill Home, 600 Linda Avenue, Hawthorne, NY 10532.



# Summer Camp 2020



## Send Your 6 to 13 Year Old to Coding Camp This Summer

By Pat Casey

This summer a new camp experience will be available to Westchester children ages 6 to 13 at The Westchester mall in White Plains. The 3,000 sq. ft. space called Codeverse will feature cutting-edge gadgets, including a 20-ft TV wall and professional-grade lights and speakers, which can be controlled and programmed by kids using real code that they will learn to write using a proprietary coding language named KidScript.

Codeverse is the creation of co-founders Katy Lynch and Craig Ulliott, a British couple who moved to Chicago over a decade ago. They opened their flagship location in Chicago's Lincoln Park in 2017 and two additional locations a year later.

A partnership with Simon Malls brings them to White Plains and Boston in June.

Simon, which owns and manages The Westchester, has been seeking more family-oriented entertainment businesses to fill their retail space. The partnership with Codeverse was a logical connection, fitting the missions of both organizations.

"The Codeverse mission is to teach 1 billion children how to code," Lynch said in a recent interview with The Examiner. "We are showing children a new way of thinking in the digital age by exposing them to programming options. The Codeverse studios are designed to be digital playgrounds that promote inspiration and creativity."

Lynch said her husband Craig is a techie who began delving into software when he was 16. As "serial entrepreneurs," Lynch said they developed KidScript to manipulate software to control different gadgets and hardware. "It's like coding flash cards," Lynch said.

"At Codeverse we teach the basics as two modes. The first mode is to learn what can



Codeverse is an interactive coding studio and technology platform for children ages 6 to 13, offering after-school, evening, and weekend classes, as well as weeklong camps. A studio is opening at The Westchester in White Plains in June 2020.

be done and the second mode is to build," Lynch explained. "In build mode, we begin with a blank canvas using iPads. On the left side of the screen the kids type code. On the right side they import an object to manipulate with the code, learning the steps necessary for the object to take a certain action."

"The process teaches logic, how to get from A to B, as well as critical thinking and problem solving," Lynch said. "When the students graduate at 13 they can move on to working with existing coding languages

such as JavaScript, Ruby, Python and Visual Basic."

Codeverse offers two programs.

A summer camp created for beginners or experienced coders allows campers to spend a week creating their own mobile game while engaging in hands-on STEM activities, including 3D printing, robots, coding, and circuitry.

Each day of camp is assigned a theme. Throughout the week, campers embark on excursions (field trips) to nearby businesses. Lunches, beverages, and snacks

are provided.

To cap it off, campers show off their coding creations to family and friends during Demo Day, a fun celebration that is held every Friday afternoon during camp.

Camps run Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. throughout the months of June, July, and August. Complimentary early drop-off at 8 a.m. and late pick-up at 4 p.m. is accommodated, Lynch said.

Parents can pre-register students for 2020 Summer Camps at [codeverse.com/camps](http://codeverse.com/camps). The price is \$399 for the camp week. After June 1, 2020 that price will increase to \$499, Lynch said. The deposit is \$200.

A monthly membership program provides children with recurring weekly access to the Codeverse studio as well as exclusive access to KidScript for at-home use.

All Codeverse classes and camps are led by Guides, a collective of K-12 certified teachers, improv comedians, seasoned designers, engineers and game developers. "This diverse mix of backgrounds, skill-sets, and experiences creates a dynamic, fun, and engaging learning environment for the children," Lynch noted.

Guides are equipped with iPads that display stats on how every student is progressing through the curriculum.

Kids receive achievement pins and digital badges for demonstrating comprehension of coding concepts, controlling physical objects (using code) within the studio, and by building unique apps and games. Through a Parent Portal, parents gain real-time visibility into their child's progress and can view all badges earned by their child at the studio.

Codeverse Westchester is located in The Westchester mall at 125 Westchester Ave., #1160, White Plains (next to KidZania and Neiman Marcus).

## New Program Empowers Parents to Boost Early Learning

Science has consistently shown that the first three years of life are vital to a child's developing brain, and new research confirms that families play an important role in language development and educational readiness.

"We've seen first-hand in our research what a positive impact parents can have in the process," said Dr. Dana Suskind, professor of surgery and co-director of the TMW Center for Early Learning + Public Health at the University of Chicago.

Preliminary results from a five-year study, supported through a \$3 million grant by the PNC Foundation and conducted by the TMW Center, reveal that parents improved their toddler's language environments by increasing conversational turns almost four times more than parents in the

control group. These findings are particularly meaningful because they mirror new and emerging research that points to the importance of conversational turn-taking in building a child's language and cognitive skills.

These results are generating attention and investment in programs like "Any Time is 3Ts Time," a campaign launched by the TMW Center that's designed to empower parents with the knowledge and skills needed to make the most of everyday interactions with their young children.

The campaign, which is supported by an additional \$3.3

million grant from the PNC Foundation, is built on the "3Ts" – Tune In, Talk More and Take Turns



– and includes the distribution of online and print materials to parents through a network of community partners, particularly

in underserved neighborhoods. The free, easy-to-use resources at [the3Ts.org](http://the3Ts.org) will become available in both English and Spanish in early 2020 and eventually include access to an interactive web-based app.

The grant, which is supported through PNC Grow Up Great, a bilingual \$500 million, multi-year initiative helping prepare children from birth to age 5 for success in school and life, also will support the TMW Center's "Let's Talk!" parent group program, which is designed for deeper 3Ts engagement and includes real-time coaching and in-person sessions. The group program will

debut in Chicago and later extend to early education programs in other U.S. cities.

"We recognized an opportunity to develop high-quality, early educational resources for families with children under age three. Now, with proven research from the TMW Center, we are able to support their effort to make new resources accessible to millions of parents and caregivers across the country," said Sally McCrady, chair and president at the PNC Foundation.

Access to high-quality early education and resources is critical for a child's success in school and life. Thanks to new programs based on scientific research, more children are going to start school ready to thrive and learn.

*This article was printed by permission of [statepoint.net](http://statepoint.net).*

# Plan a Great Guest Room but Watch Out for the Smell of Fish

As a realtor, I take care to point out to buyer clients the various possibilities for that "extra" room that might be utilized as a den, office or guest room. If the luxury of a guest room is chosen, there are certain amenities that can make it a more enjoyable experience for overnight guests.

Sleeping overnight in another person's home or having a guest spend a night with you can be delightful or a real drag, depending on the level of planning that goes into the guest accommodations. I've experienced both situations.

The first time I was an overnight guest was as a senior in college when I was invited to join my roommate for a weekend in New York City where we were scheduled to stay with one of his best buddies.

I had never been in a Manhattan apartment, but my expectations ran high because I had just seen a movie that showed the city digs of Doris Day as the very height of sophistication.

What I found instead was a five-story walkup in the East Village, long before it was chic, arriving breathlessly to a cold-water flat, which have since been outlawed. My sleeping arrangements were on the floor where the coffee table stood but had been pushed away. I had only a blanket under me to prevent my bones from getting bruised on the hard floor.

My buddy was luckier the first night because he got to sleep on the sofa, which our host proudly announced had been retrieved from the sidewalk. The second night, I got the sofa, but it was actually more

uncomfortable than the floor.

To bathe, there was no shower, but rather a claw-footed bathtub, elevated on a platform across from a galley kitchen. When it was not in use, the tub was covered with a wooden top that served as the kitchen table. There's nothing to compare with my memory of bathing in the tub while our host prepared scrambled eggs 18 inches away from me, and then to eat breakfast on top of the tub where I had just bathed.

I vowed that someday I would have my own place in the city and invite all my out-of-town friends to visit me with a stayover they would remember. After I married, my wife and I couldn't afford to have an extra bedroom in our first apartment, but at least we were able to offer a comfortable Castro Convertible in the living room.

It wasn't until we moved to the country that we were able to realize our dream of having a nice guest room. In fact, we had two. While they are beautifully appointed with comfortable beds and attractive furnishings, they lacked one feature that I think is the most important for a top-notch guest room: a private bathroom. Nobody likes the idea of being caught in his skivvies on the way to a

shared bathroom.

One reason that I love visiting my brother- and sister-in-law is that in both their homes, one in Florida and the other in Asheville, N.C., there is a separate guest suite. To stay with them is truly like a fabulous vacation.

Not all of us can have a separate suite for guests, but we can compensate for it by providing other amenities that speak of comfort, convenience and luxury. For that, I consult with my wife Margaret who's the ultimate homemaker and hostess. Her advice:

Fluffy new guest towels neatly folded on a corner of the bed or on a chair can make guests forget that they don't have a private bathroom.

It's nice to have some totally empty drawers in the room, if not an entire chest of drawers. Also, there should be at least half a closet for hanging clothes. My wife likes to put attractive hangers in that space.

A comfortable easy chair with a light positioned for reading is always welcomed, along with an interesting selection of magazines and books. Guests are unlikely to read an entire novel while staying over, but they might enjoy the coffee table book variety that can be glanced at.



By Bill Primavera

A lighted bedside clock is especially appreciated by guests. Sometimes, you feel that time is altered when you're not surrounded by the familiar trappings of home.

Like a hotel, you might add a couple of bottles of water and some packaged snacks, healthy and otherwise.

A couple of liqueur bottles with some dessert wine glasses on a side table would be really nifty.

Of course, a television set or even a laptop on a desk is a great way to have your guests entertain themselves at least part of the time they're with you.

Also keep in mind that too special a guest room may encourage guests to stay longer than you want. Remember Benjamin Franklin's advice: "Guests, like fish, begin to smell after three days."

*Bill Primavera is a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com), specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. His real estate site is www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com and his blog is www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.*



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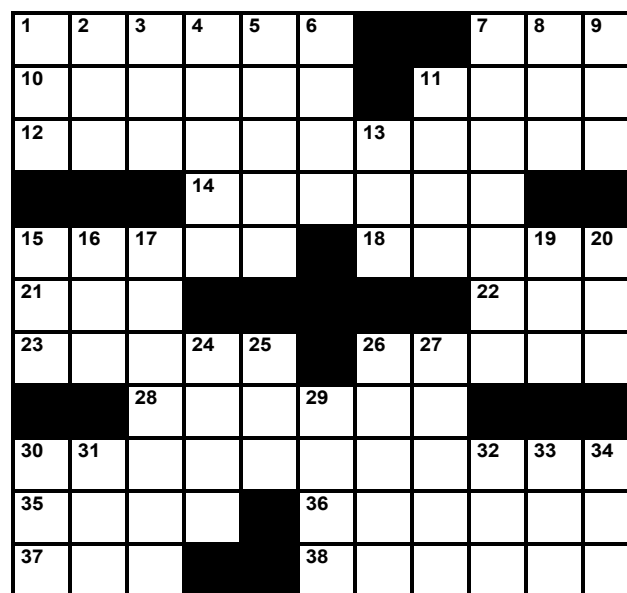


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## Crossword by Myles Mellor



### Down

1. Christmas worker
2. Paulo
3. PC "brain"
4. Longtime talk-show legend
5. Lies
6. Forest unit
7. Natural alarm clock
8. BBC rival
9. Some degs.
11. Philosophical subjects
13. Car club
15. Kind of student, abbr.
16. Environmental controllers, abbr.
17. Jewelry guru
19. Aishwarya of Bollywood
20. Time, in Torino
24. Beer buy

### Across

1. Chaperone
7. Chest part
10. Thirsty cat or dog
11. Microscopic amount
12. Frankie Valli would get his clothes cleaned here in Cortlandt, \_\_\_\_\_ Organic Cleaners
14. Elite groups
15. Bad, with crystal
18. Houston player
21. Prefix with center
22. Big part of an elephant
23. African art gallery in White Plains
26. Courtyards
28. Breakfast cereal
30. Minty cocktail
35. Arkansas state tree
36. "The \_\_\_\_\_ File" spy thriller
37. "Tinker, tailor, soldier, \_\_\_\_\_" movie
38. "\_\_\_\_\_ the thought!"

25. Surgery ctrs.
26. Part of an X-ray machine
27. Become narrower
29. Pancake maker
30. Location device
31. Tear (away)
32. Tire gauge meas.
33. Curving shape
34. Stadium sound

**Solution on page 13**

# A Burst of Color and Flavor at Minis Latin Fusion



By Morris Gut

Nicole Pirraglia-Piparo and her husband Michael J. Piparo of City Island have opened Minis Latin Fusion in New Rochelle, a charming new restaurant bursting with flavor. Highlighting the walls are Latin-themed artworks and a big bright Minis Latin Fusion logo light at the cozy bar. Nicole had spent years working restaurants along City Island Ave. They want to bring a Latino theme to Westchester and New Rochelle's emerging restaurant scene.

The starting menu offers such fresh made appetizers as: Sopa di Camarones with Juarez sherry; traditional Sancocho Stew; Creamy Garlic Shrimp Tostones; Steamed Clams with chorizo Piquillo peppers; Ceviche con Tostata; and Chicharron di Pollo.

Fresh salads include: Caesar Salad in Parm Basket, with crispy tamale croutons; Tomato Avocado Salad, with chipotle orange vinaigrette, and crispy tostones; and Tossed Baby Arcadian Greens, with sherry guava vinaigrette.

Beautifully plated entrees: include Latin classics like: Mofongo, choice of garlic shrimp, pollo guisado or pulled pernil mojo; Ropa Vieja Tacu, served with aji Amarillo sauce and blistered piquillo peppers and Flounder is served over seafood Paella; and



Pork belly rice with poached egg and plantains at Minis Latin Fusion.

a hearty Grilled New York Steak is served with goat cheese garlic creamed spinach and spicy roasted calabaza and chimichurri sauce.

Luncheon specialties include Carne Hero, N.Y. strip topped with chimichurri mayo, cheese and caramelized onions; Fish & Chip Sandwich on brioche bun topped with spicy Caribbean tartar sauce; a Minis Burger with pico de gallo, shredded cheddar and pepper jack cheeses; and Tamarind BBQ Pernil, brailed pulled pork served on a brioche bun.

There is a leisurely Sunday Brunch served 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Choices are a la carte and include: Empanadas con Picadillo;

Classic Caesar Salad; Venezuelan Frittata, eggs, chorizo, plantains, spinach, onion & tomato; Smothered Fried Chicken over Belgian Waffle, red eye gravy and fresh fruit; and Shrimp Scampi over Arroz Blanco, garlic shrimp, white rice with tomato, red onion and avocado salad.

Save your sweet tooth for such tasty desserts as Carrot Cake Bread Pudding with Bustello cream Anglaise; Café Patron Chocolate Torte with coconut white chocolate macaroons; Tres Leches Cake and Cheese Cake Brulee. If it's a special occasion, go for the big Maduro Sundae.

Special Hint: Happy Hours offering specially priced cocktails and appetizers is



Big Maduro Sundae at Minis Latin Fusion.

served 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Great for the networking crowd.

Minis Latin Fusion Restaurant is located at 237 E. Main Street, New Rochelle. The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner from noon Tuesday through Saturday. Main courses price range: \$17 to \$29. Sunday Brunch served 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Price range: \$8 to \$22. Full take-out. Bar/lounge. Cocktails. Catering for home or office. Delivery service. Closed Mondays. Major cards. Casual dress. Free parking area. Reservations suggested for larger groups. Phone: 914-355-5609. Website under construction: [www.minislatinfusion.com](http://www.minislatinfusion.com).

## Lunar New Year Feasts, Year of the Rat

The Chinese Lunar New Year celebration begins on Saturday, Jan. 25 and will last for two weeks. Many Asian eateries will be marking the festivities with special dishes and menus. Be sure to check ahead for exact dates, times and pricing.

Over at Aberdeen Seafood & Dim Sum, 3 Barker Ave., White Plains (914-288-0188), in the Residence Inn, the staff told us they would be offering special New Year banquets for two weeks. You can also celebrate with a run through their popular

Dim Sum, or from the regular menu; [www.aberdeenwhiteplains.com](http://www.aberdeenwhiteplains.com).

Ku Asian Bistro, 480 New Rochelle Road, in the Chester Heights section of Bronxville (914-668-8877), has a fine hand with their regional Chinese fusion specialties. 'Ku' is a Chinese word meaning 'fantastic', so be seated and let Chefs Wang and Qiu surprise you with their delightful Asian fusion flavors. From the Chinese kitchen try the Spareribs, Shrimp with Long Bean, Moo Shu Pork, Kung Pao Chicken, and General Tso's Chicken. Happy Hours:

Monday through Friday, 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday brunch served 1 to 4 p.m. Bar/lounge. Party facilities. Free parking; [www.kuasanb.com](http://www.kuasanb.com).

Mister Chen, 265 Mamaroneck Ave., Mamaroneck (914-777-1212), the new Chinese spot along the Asian strip, serves wonderful house made Soup Dumplings and Buns, Chicken Lo Mein, and tasty Honey Glazed BBQ Spareribs; [www.misterchenny.com](http://www.misterchenny.com).

Omandarin Chinese Cuisine, 361 N. Central Ave., Hartsdale (914-437-9168), will be serving some of the classics: Peking Duck, assorted Hot Pots, and hearty Mandarin Pork Shank, in their beautifully decorated dining room; [www.omandarin.com](http://www.omandarin.com).



Fresh soup dumplings at Mister Chen

## Feasting on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 2

A celebration of another kind, Super Bowl Fifty-Four, Sunday, Feb. 2, from Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida, will be marked by many area pubs, taverns and restaurants with hearty food, beverage and spirited conversation.

If you think gourmet dining and Super Bowl Sunday is an oxymoron, check out Chef-Restaurateur Peter X. Kelly's plans. At his Restaurant X and Bully Boy Bar in Congers, Rockland County, and at X20, Xaviar's On Hudson, Yonkers, they are promising a Super Bowl bash with the 'X' factor. Pre-game festivities start at 5 p.m. and include a Sushi Bar and Oyster Bar, along with assorted finger foods. Watch the game from your own table on large screen TVs.



Appetizer Platter at Minis Latin Fusion.

A buffet of items will be 'passed' directly from quarterback Peter Kelly's kitchen to all guests during the game, leading to a Fourth Quarter dessert service. What do you think about this menu during the Super Bowl Half Time? Cowboy Rib Eye, Roast Rack of Lamb, Honey Glazed Ham, King Salmon, Sauteed Breast of Capon, served with all the trimmings. Assorted pastries will complete the game. Cost is: \$125 per person, excluding tax and gratuity. For extra info: Restaurant X, 845-268-6555, or X20 Xaviar's On Hudson, 914-965-1111 [www.xaviars.com](http://www.xaviars.com).

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



Honey glazed BBQ spareribs at Mister Chen.

# Happenings

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

## Tuesday, Jan. 21

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

**Westchester County Cheerleading Invitational:** 5 to 10 p.m., Westchester County Center, 198 N. Central Ave., White Plains. Fees and pre-registration required. Call 914-231-4645. Also Jan. 22. Snow date Jan. 23.

**Tuesdays@Dorry's.** Joan Grangenois-Thomas is of Haitian descent. She will give an overview of the current status of Haiti. Joan is a 30-year resident of Port Chester, has a long history of civic and community engagement, and today is Trustee for the Village of Port Chester, and volunteer executive director of Sustainable Port Chester Alliance. She was a past president of the Port Chester/Rye NAACP and a past member of the Rye, Rye Brook & Port Chester League of Women Voters. Joan has been recognized by the Westchester County Human Rights Commission. At Dorry's she will help enlighten us about Haiti. Weekly table talkers. All are welcome. Food ordering begins at 5:15 p.m. Presentation 6 to 7 p.m. Dorry's Diner, 468 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains.

**Legendary Tuesday Night Jam.** This jam has fostered many great musicians over the years. Some have gone on to tour, win Grammy Awards and achieve celebrity status. You never know who you'll hear. Come on down, play or listen, dance, drink and enjoy. All levels of musical talent are welcome. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. No cover charge. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-747-4740.

## Wednesday, Jan. 22

**Noonday Getaway Concert.** Addie Rose Forstman, Soprano and Edward Forstman, piano explore the best of American art song including the incandescent works of George Hubbard "Hub" Miller (who was also a first rate cowboy and electrical engineer) plus music of Samuel Barber, and Wesley York. A Downtown Music debut. 30-minute free concert begins at 12:10 p.m. at Grace Church, White Plains. This concert is made possible, in part, with the generous support of Nick Wolff and Daniel Luckner, Better Homes and Gardens/Rand Realty, White Plains.

**The Basics of Intellectual Property.** Intellectual property is one of the most important and valuable assets of any business. Laurie Marshall, founder and president of Marshall Law Group, and Libby Varghese, counsel for Scarinci Hollenbeck, will help entrepreneurs and small business owners better understand the different

types of IP and how to protect them. SCORE Headquarters at White Plains Public Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: Visit [www.westchester.score.org](http://www.westchester.score.org).

**UJA-Federation Westchester Guys' Night Out.** Talk Mets baseball with SNY Mets announcer Steve Gelbs, meet Westchester Table Tennis Center owner Will Shoyt, and enjoy some friendly competition playing ping-pong with the pros. There will also be a craft beer tasting and barbecue buffet. Westchester Table Tennis Center, 175 Tompkins Ave., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. \$100. Registration required. Registration: Visit [www.ujafedny.org/guys-night-out](http://www.ujafedny.org/guys-night-out). Info: Contact Alexis Goldstein at 914-385-2122 or [goldsteina@ujafedny.org](mailto:goldsteina@ujafedny.org).

**Wing Nite: For Men Only.** A Support Connection program open to men whose lives have been affected by a spouse or partner going through breast, ovarian or gynecological cancers. Relax and have a night out with the guys. Enjoy good food and the company of others who understand how you feel. Furci's, 334 Underhill Ave., Yorktown Heights. 7 to 9 p.m. Free. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

**"The Rest I Make Up."** Maria Irene Fornes was one of America's greatest playwrights and most influential teachers, but many know her only as the ex-lover of writer and social critic Susan Sontag. The visionary Cuban-American dramatist constructed astonishing worlds onstage, writing over 40 plays and winning nine Obie Awards. At the vanguard of the nascent Off-Off Broadway experimental theater movement, Fornes is often referred to as American theater's "Mother Avant-Garde." When she gradually stops writing due to dementia, an unexpected friendship with filmmaker Michelle Memran reignites her spontaneous creative spirit and triggers a decade-long collaboration that picks up where the pen left off. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit [www.burnsfilmcenter.org](http://www.burnsfilmcenter.org).

## Friday, Jan. 24

**Medical Marijuana Now.** With the passage of The Compassionate Care Act by Gov. Cuomo in January 2014, treatment is now possible for specific medical conditions. We will discuss this legal medical alternative, the diseases for which it is available and methods to travel this path. Discussion led by local physician Dr. Lynn Parodneck, certified medical marijuana prescriber in New York State. Briarcliff Manor Public Library, 1 Library Rd., Briarcliff Manor. 2 to 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-941-7072 or [www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org](http://www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org).

**Opening Reception for "Half Way To Reality and a Little Bit Lost."** A solo exhibit of paintings by New York artist Sandrine Kern. Madelyn Jordon Fine

Art, 37 Popham Rd., Scarsdale. 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through Mar. 7. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**Westchester Photographic Society:** Theme I. Members show their creativity by capturing digital images based on a given theme. For adults 18 years old and up. Westchester Community College's Technology Building, Room 107, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. (Use Parking Lot 11) 8 p.m. Free. Info: 914-827-5353 or visit [www.wpsphoto.org](http://www.wpsphoto.org).

**"Urinetown."** Random Farms Kids' Theater presents this show about a terrible water shortage, caused by a 20-year drought, has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs. Amid the people, a hero decides that he's had enough and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. Adults: \$20. Students and seniors: \$18. Premium seating (first four rows of center orchestra): \$25. Also Jan. 25 at 2 and 8 p.m. and Jan. 26 at 2 p.m. Info and tickets: 914-631-3390 ext. 100 or visit [www.randomfarms.com](http://www.randomfarms.com).

## Saturday, Jan. 25

**Westchester Great Books Council's Annual Day of Discussion.** This year's annual daylong event features discussion of "The Trial" by Franz Kafka and "House Made of Dawn" by N. Scott Momaday. Both authors tell captivating tales of two young men caught; Josef in "The Trial" by the invisible law and Abel in "House Made of Dawn" between traditional and modern society. A light breakfast and a delicious catered lunch included. Snow date: Jan. 26. Briarcliff High School, 444 Pleasantville Rd., Briarcliff Manor. 9:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. \$25. Registration required. Info and registration: Visit [www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/januaryevent2020.pdf](http://www.briarcliffmanorlibrary.org/januaryevent2020.pdf).

**Treasures of the Miller House.** Enjoy a presentation about the collections, the family and the house. Miller House, 140 Virginia Rd., North White Plains. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-428-1005.

**Eyes on Owls.** Did you know that owls cannot move their eyes but they can turn their heads up to 270 degrees? Get to know owls and uncover the secrets of these mysterious night dwellers. Learn about their eating habits by dissecting owl pellets, then complete the bone puzzle to discover exactly what was on the menu for dinner last night. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: Free. Non-members: \$8. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**Hudson Chorale Goes Classic.** Hudson Chorale returns with a full orchestra and soloists for two performances of great

classical music. Hudson Hudson Chorale and Maestro Ira Spaulding have embarked on an exploration of great German composers, with the support of a grant from the Westchester Community Foundation. The program includes masses by Haydn and Beethoven and Mozart's little jewel "Ave Verum Corpus." Followed by an informal reception to meet and chat with the conductor, soloists, orchestra and chorus members while enjoying some delicious refreshments. Maryknoll, 55 Ryder Rd., Ossining. 3 p.m. In advance: \$25. At the door: \$30. Students: \$10. Also Jan. 26. Info and advance tickets: 800-838-3006 or visit [www.HudsonChorale.org](http://www.HudsonChorale.org) or by calling 1-800-838-3006.

**Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center: French Enchantment.** Experience the grace, wit and charm of French music. The program begins and ends with early works by Saint-Saens and Faure that recreate the elegant atmosphere of 19-century Parisian salons. In the between, the Ravel sonata, written soon after World War I, uses just two string instruments to produce a composition of unique, austere beauty. These three inimitable works capture the essence of pure melody in its most delightfully fundamental form. Performing Arts Center at Purchase, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 5 p.m. \$13.75 to \$62.50. Info and tickets: 914-251-6200 or visit [www.artscenter.org](http://www.artscenter.org).

**Rita Harvey's Heart Like A Wheel:** A Tribute to Linda Ronstadt. This show celebrates one of the most beloved and versatile pop singers of the past five decades. Hear the hits that Ronstadt helped make famous ("You're No Good," "Blue Bayou," "When Will I Be Loved," "It's So Easy," "That'll Be the Day," "Desperado," "Heat Wave" and many others) as well as stories behind the songs that highlighted her career. These timeless favorites are performed by Broadway star, Rita Harvey, backed up by four incredible rock musicians. White Plains Performing Arts Center, 11 City Place, White Plains. 8 p.m. \$37.50. Info and tickets: 914-328-1600 or visit [www.wppac.com](http://www.wppac.com).

## Sunday, Jan. 26

**Feeding Fun.** It's mealtime for the animals. Join our naturalists for a hands-on program and learn about the care that goes into feeding our indoor animals as well as our birds of prey and barnyard. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: Free. Non-members: \$8. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**Bindlestiff Family Cirkus.** They have traveled the world, bringing a unique hybrid of vaudeville and circus spectacle to communities far and wide. This performance harkens back to the earthy and gritty heyday of the traditional American circus that toured the country by caravan at the turn of the 20th century, while adding the artistic twist of co-founders Stephanie Monseu and Keith Nelson. Jugglers, acrobats, plate spinning,

*continued on next page*

# My Dry January and a Historic Commemoration



By Nick Antonaccio

At the beginning of the month I vowed to join the Dry January movement, abstaining from alcohol for 31 days. I hope you have considered this challenge as well.

How have I been persevering? I haven't fallen victim to abstaining from abstaining. I've developed strategies for specific situations. Allow me to share several with those of you who are participating, and those who may consider abstaining in future months.

1. Out at a restaurant, I pour the first glass as a standard amount. I sniff and swirl, not sip. The waiter won't ask if I'd like a refill. My friends don't goad me about abstaining. When someone at the table is ready for a final pour, I offer them my unfinished glass.
2. If my fellow diners order a cocktail before a restaurant meal or a social gathering at a bar, I'll order a mocktail. These non-alcoholic drinks mirror many of the sophisticated new cocktails on beverage lists. I can raise my mocktail glass for a toast, sip it in a bon vivant style while engaged in convivial conversation and even order a second.
3. Abstaining at home is challenging. Wine

enhances so many dishes and influences my palate to appreciate food on a unique plane. I must admit, our longstanding family tradition of Friday night pizza, wine and a movie without a bottle of red is quite unfulfilling. Alas, I have no clever alternative. Reluctantly, tap water it is.

4. For other occasions, mineral water with a squeeze of lemon, or one of the flavored natural seltzers, is a reasonably acceptable substitute.

Past the halfway point in my Dry January (or Dryanuary), I'm also finding positive effects. My ability to abstain from alcohol is not as difficult as I had imagined (whew). I wake up feeling refreshed, am getting more out of my early morning gym workout and saving on wine purchases. But I do miss the ethereal experience of savoring the full cycle of wine appreciation and enjoying the full benefit of pairing wine and food.

But it's only 31 days, less than 10 percent of the year. I can do this. I'd like to think a number of you have taken this challenge. E-mail me with your experiences.

But now I'm beginning to think of the potential momentum created by Dryanuary.



What if the movement started to grow, across all drinking-age generations, but especially among the self-declared alcohol abstainers of the Millennial generation?

What if the movement began to spread to organized groups averse to alcohol consumption and who espouse temperance? (Mothers Against Drunk Driving; the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, a government agency; and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which has spent \$265 million since 2015.) Their influence is significant and broad-based.

What if popular support began to grow across local cities and towns and a national march on Washington was held, further creating an awareness of the negative effects of alcohol consumption?

What if legislators in Congress realized the popularity of this national temperance movement and began to consider legislation to address their constituents' concerns?

What if this groundswell gained momentum, resulting in a proposed amendment to the Constitution and brought to the public for a vote?

What if it passed?

Preposterous, you exclaim. Not in an

enlightened society of diverse opinions, practices, preferences and beliefs.

This week we recognized the 100th anniversary of the effective date of the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which made it a federal crime to manufacture, sell, transport, import or export "intoxicating liquors." Wine was included in this ban.

Prohibition was arguably one of the most controversial, and perhaps least enforced, Constitutional laws in our history. It was repealed by the Twenty-first Amendment, the only amendment to suffer such a fate.

The nation was under the alcohol ban, not for the equivalent of a Dryanuary, not for an entire year, but for 13 long, dark years, straining the very fabric of our society.

Consider all the facts, weighing them carefully as you consume wine and consider its effects on your health and sociopolitical lifestyle.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member of the Wine Media Guild of wine writers. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at [nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com](mailto:nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com) or on Twitter @sharingwine.

## Happenings

continued from previous page

sword swallowing, brain twisters and risk-taking feats set to live music in a fun and interactive show perfect for the entire family. Westchester Community College's Academic Arts Theatre, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 3 p.m. \$26. Students: \$24. Children (under 13): \$18. Info and tickets: 914-606-6262 or visit [www.sunywcc.edu/smartarts](http://www.sunywcc.edu/smartarts).

"Sparkling Amazons" Closing Party. A sparkling toast in honor of the contributors and to bid farewell to the current exhibit. Refreshments included. Katonah Museum of Art, 134 Jay St., Katonah. 3:30 to 5 p.m. Members: Free. Non-members: With museums admission. Info: Visit [www.katonahmuseum.org](http://www.katonahmuseum.org).



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Monday, Jan. 27

**Holocaust Remembrance.** The White Plains Public Library will welcome local award-winning author Amalia Hoffman for a free event for children in grades 1-6 and their families in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day. Hoffman will share her personal journey and the inspiration for writing her book, *The Brave Cyclist: The True Story of a Holocaust Hero*, which is a recent Junior Library Guild Gold Standard selection. Participants will join in a discussion about how Gino Bartali's heroic acts during the Holocaust can inspire us to achieve social justice, diversity, and mutual respect. Hoffman's presentation will include pictures from the collection of Gino Bartali's granddaughter. White Plains Library, Galaxy Hall, 4:30 p.m.

### Crossword Solution from page 10

1	E	S	C	O	R	T		7	R	I	B
10	L	A	P	P	E	R		11	I	O	T
12	F	O	U	R	S	E	A	S	O	N	S
				14	A	T	E	A	M	S	
15	M	E	T	H	S		18	A	S	T	20
21	E	P	I							E	A
23	D	A	F	24	O		26	A	27	T	R
			28	F	A	R		29	I	N	A
30	G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
35	P	I	N	E			36	O	D	E	S
37	S	P	Y				38	P	E	R	I

## Remember Brian (Cookie) Robinson and Support Local Youth Programs

### Welcome to the

## Brian M. Robinson Foundation

# SUPER COOKIE BOWL

### Auction Fundraiser

#### Raffle Tables @ Live Auction

Our event today will feature both raffles of luxury goods and services as well as an exciting live auction! We invite you to enjoy food, drinks and great company as you peruse the raffle tables and auction catalog. Raffle tickets can be purchased at the front table or from our roaming auction assistants. Thank you for your generosity!

#### Honoring a friend, serving our community.

Today as we gather to remember our dear friend Brian "Cookie" Robinson, we seek to honor his memory through our foundation's commitment to serving the youth and community of White Plains. All funds raised today will go toward supporting local student athletes through scholarships to attend Camp Quarropas.

The Brian M. Robinson Foundation warmly invites the greater White Plains community to the 2nd Annual Super Cookie Bowl on Saturday, Feb. 1 at Vintage Bar and Restaurant, 171 Main Street, White Plains.

Thanks to our community's support and generosity at last year's Super Cookie Bowl, The Brian M. Robinson Foundation was able to accomplish a great deal for youth within our community. With the funds raised, we sent five student athletes to Camp Quarropas Summer Camp, where Coach "Cookie" was a former director. The foundation awarded three scholarships for higher education to White Plains seniors through the White Plains High School College and Career Readiness Program. As a partner of the Jump In and Swim Program, we helped provide non-swimming students an introduction to water safety and swimming fundamentals through a two

week immersion course.

With your continued support and generosity, we look forward to even more outreach and connection with the White Plains community in 2020.

With these exciting programs, and the hope of so much more to come, The Brian M. Robinson Foundation is excited to invite the community to our upcoming fundraiser, The 2nd Annual Super Cookie Bowl. The fundraiser will be held the Saturday before Super Bowl LIV, Feb. 1, from 4 to 8 p., at Vintage Bar and Restaurant, 171 Main Street, White Plains. The Super Cookie Bowl will feature a live auction, live music, open bar and dinner buffet, and a special tribute to the memory of our beloved friend, Brian "Cookie" Robinson.

Advance tickets are recommended and can be purchased online at <https://www.brianmrobinsonfoundation.com/events.htm>.

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*continued on next page*

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# The WHITE PLAINS Examiner Sports

## Alexa “The Great” Qualifies for Olympic Trails

By Albert Coqueran

It is not often that I refer to an athlete as “The Great.” However, eighth grade Highlands Middle student/athlete Alexa Reyna very much deserves the prestigious accolade. If you proclaim to be a local sports enthusiast, unless you have been living under a rock in White Plains, the name Alexa Reyna is familiar to you.

Reyna was proclaimed a High School All-American Swimmer after only her second season competing in varsity swimming. As a seventh grader in 2018, she broke school records in the 500 and 200 Freestyle. Reyna was also a member of the 400 Freestyle Relay Team with Ava Iannetta, Luisa Nierhoff and Kayla Shannon that broke the Tigers school record in 2018.

Reyna broke her own record in the 500 Freestyle this season as the Tigers Girls Swimmers went undefeated at 9-0 and captured the League 2 Title. Reyna is also the current NYSPHSAA Champion in the 500 Freestyle and holds the New York State and Sectional records in the 500 Free, while swimming the record-breaking time of 4:47.80 in the NYSPHSAA Meet in November 2019.

On Sunday, Jan.12, the 14 year-old Reyna really made a splash in the pool while competing with the Westchester Aquatic Club in the Jim Woods Memorial Meet at Rutgers University. Reyna logged a 16:48.25 in the 1500 Meters, which qualified her for the Olympic Trails.

In June this year, Reyna will travel to Omaha, Nebraska with the Westchester Aquatic Club and Head Coach Carle Fierro to compete for a spot on the Olympic Team. The first two finishers in Omaha make the Olympic Team. “It is a bit overwhelming at my age to know I made the Olympic Trails. I do not think it has completely processed yet that I made the time,” commented Reyna. “I would be so excited if I make the Olympic Team. It is something that I have been dreaming about ever since I was really young,” said Reyna.

“The amount of work and effort it took to get Alexa where she is now says a lot about her dedication and motivation,” acknowledged WPHS Head Swimming Coach Patricia Gilmartin. “She is an incredible hard worker and she drives

herself,” stated Gilmartin.

Alexa is the youngest of three Reyna sisters who competed on the White Plains High School Girls Swim Team last season. Margaux, a graduation senior, was a Team Captain and Salma a sophomore competed

in 100 Freestyle and Backstroke.

“No I am not surprised! But had you asked me when Alexa started swimming at eight years old, if we would have been here today. I would have said no way,” replied the Reyna sisters’ mother, Stephanie

Reyna. “You never know, you just hope your children do well. Alexa worked very hard and made a lot of sacrifices. I am just happy for her,” said Alexa’s proud mother Stephanie.



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTO

Alexa Reyna, the NYSPHSAA Champion and NYS and Section 1 record holder in the 500 Freestyle has qualified for the Olympic Trials. Reyna, an eighth grade student at White Plains Highlands Middle School, swims on the Tigers Varsity Swim Team. On Jan. 12, while competing with the Westchester Aquatic Club at Rutgers University, she qualified for the Olympic Trails in the 1500 Meters with a time of 16:48.25.

# EXAMINER SPORTS

## Tigers Boys Swim to Undefeated 9-0 Season and League Championship

By Albert Coqueran

Patricia Gilmartin has been the Head Coach of White Plains High School Boys and Girls Swim Teams for over three decades. Gilmartin led the Tigers Girls Swimmers to an undefeated 9-0 record and a League Title during the 2019 Fall Sports season. Now she has matched that mark with her Tigers Boys Swim Team, as they have also achieved a 9-0 undefeated record and captured the League 2 Championship during this Winter Sports season.

On Friday, in their regular season finale, the Tigers Boys swimmers sunk the consortium of Rye-Blind Brook-Rye Neck High Schools, 98-82, at Hommocks Middle School in Larchmont. The win secured an undefeated 9-0 record and the League 2 Title for White Plains.

"It is really wonderful. It nice to feel the hard work that everyone has put into it and to have this kind of success is awesome," proclaimed Gilmartin, as she watched her team celebrate around the Hommocks Pool, in Larchmont. Hommocks Middle School is the Home Pool for Mamaroneck High School.

The Tigers started believing that the goal of an undefeated season was attainable after they edged League 2 rival Lakeland-Panas-Putnam Valley, 87-82, on Jan. 9. Although, the Tigers still had two challenging meets remaining on their schedule. Lakeland-Panas was vying for first place and the League 2 Title with White Plains.

"I have been coaching for many years and our win against Lakeland-Panas was one of our top victories. We were not expected to win that meet on paper but the Boys stepped-up in the pool and won it," declared Gilmartin.

The Tigers went on to defeat Wappingers, 94-82, on Tuesday, Jan. 14, for their eighth win and then wrapped-up their 2019-20 regular season with the win over Rye-Blind Brook-Rye Neck. Tigers' junior diver Chris McGuire scored a 244.95 for first place against Rye. McGuire's mark was only a few points shy of the school record. "I am really proud of this team and I am proud that I did my part to help us go 9-0," commented



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

On Friday, the White Plains High School Boys Swim Team beat Rye-Blind Brook-Rye Neck, 98-82, at Hommocks Middle School in Larchmont in their final regular season meet to go undefeated at 9-0 and capture the League 2 Championship.

McGuire.

Tigers 100 Butterfly expert Jose Contreras and his family migrated from Ecuador to the United States three and a half years ago. Contreras, who is presently a senior at White Plains High School, has been a member of the Tigers Boys Swim Team since coming to this country.

Contreras scored a first place win against Rye and a second place victory in the Wappingers meet in the 100 Butterfly. "I work hard every single day to better my abilities. I have been in this country only three and a half years. Since I have been in this country this team has been the greatest experience of all," stated Contreras.

Senior Joshua Billig has been on the team since eighth grade. He usually competes in the 50 Breaststroke and 200 Medley Relay but has been sidelined with Tendinitis. Billig has witnessed the progress of the Tigers Boys Swim Team over the past five years. "This is the best record that we have had since my five years on the team. I knew we could go 9-0, once we got to four or five wins, it was just a matter of motivation and drive," said Billig, a Team Captain.



[L-r] Tigers junior Humberto Aguilar placed first in the 100 Backstroke, junior Cooper Lang placed first in the 50 Freestyle and second in the 100 Freestyle, senior Jose Contreras took first place in the 100 Butterfly, sophomore Kevin Euyoque won the 500 Freestyle and placed second in the 200 Freestyle and junior Diver Chris McGuire scored a 244.95 to win the diving competition.



WPHS junior Chris McGuire bats cleanup for the Tigers varsity baseball team. McGuire is also the top Diver for the Tigers Boys Swim Team. McGuire scored two essential first-place finishes in the last two meets of the regular season. McGuire scored 231.97 against Wappingers, on Tuesday, Jan. 14 and a 244.95 against Rye, on Friday, Jan. 17.



JORGE GONZALEZ GUILLOT PHOTO

WPHS senior Jose Contreras swims to second place in the 100 Butterfly against Wappingers, on Tuesday, Jan. 14. Contreras then followed-up with a first place finish on Friday, Jan. 17, against Rye-Blind Brook-Rye Neck, to help the Tigers win their final two regular season meets to achieve an undefeated, 9-0 record and the League Championship.



Head Coach Patty Gilmartin (second left) and the Tigers Boys Swim Team celebrate winning the League 2 Title with an undefeated 9-0 regular season after beating Rye-Blind Brook-Rye Neck, 98-82, at Hommocks Middle School in Larchmont.

..... EXAMINER SPORTS .....

# Tigers Win Three Straight, Capture Peekskill Tourney Title

By Rob DiAntonio

Coming off a head-scratching overtime loss to Fox Lane, White Plains' girls basketball team rebounded last week with three straight wins, including capturing the Peekskill tournament title.

The Tigers cruised past host Peekskill 65-26 in the championship game of the Lou Panzanaro Tournament on Sunday afternoon.

Senior sharpshooter Julia Reggio (11 points) was named the tournament's MVP while eighth-grader Ineivi Plata (9 points) was selected to the all-tournament team. Savannah Williams added 12 points. Katie McAteer and Adriana Moreno chipped in with eight and seven points, respectively.

White Plains routed Haldane 55-28 in the opening round of the tourney on Friday. Plata posted 14 points with Reggio adding 13 points.

Earlier in the week, the Tigers came away with another lopsided victory, defeating visiting Horace Greeley 65-30 in a league contest on Wednesday.

It was 15-5 Tigers at one quarter. Plata swiped a steal and scored, followed by a block and fast break bucket from Aliya McIver to get White Plains out to a quick start in the second quarter.

White Plains closed the half on a 6-0 run with buckets from Plata and Elma MrKulic, and two free throws from McAteer. They led 33-17 at the break.

The Tigers started the third quarter similar to how they started the game. Reggio, Moreno, Plata and Daisy Klink sparked a 14-1 run out of halftime to give them a commanding 45-18 lead.

"We haven't really been doing that in games," White Plains coach Benji Carter said of starting each half strong. "We'll start off well and then the second half we'll be sluggish. We've turned that into our ultimate focus."

White Plains headed into the final quarter leading 49-24.



ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS  
Savannah Williams swoops to the hoop in a 65-30 win over Greeley last Wednesday.



White Plains coach Benji Carter talks with the Tigers prior to the fourth quarter.

The Tigers, who held Greeley to just 13 points in the second half, used their pressure 2-3 zone defense to create headaches for the Quakers.

"That's going to be our main defense, the 2-3 extended," Carter said.



Aliya McIver looks to pull up for a shot against the visiting Quakers.



White Plains coach Benji Carter talks with the Tigers prior to the fourth quarter.

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EXAMINER SPORTS

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continued from previous page



Katie McAteer lines up a three.



Elma MrKulic looks to score inside.



Julia Reggio, who was named MVP of the Peekskill tournament, heads for the hoop.

“That’s something we have to master. Extending it and being in the right position is what we needed to work on and they did a good job. I think that’s going to help us out moving forward.”

McIver (14 points), Reggio (12 points) and Plata (10 points) were in double figures for a Tiger team that had 11 different players score. MrKulic added eight points.

“It’s awesome because they all can score and they all have different skillsets,” Carter said of everyone getting involved in the

scoring. “I’m trying to get my guards to understand who’s a catch-and-shoot girl, who’s an off-the-dribble girl. Once we really understand our position as players, then we can get more offensive production.”

The program is in good hands for years to come with young players like Plata and McIver, a freshman, already making big impacts.

“They’re still learning,” Carter said of the duo. “Once they get all the way there about

how the game is played, man they’re going to be something to watch. They help us out tremendously. A lot of teams don’t know they’re that young. They’re going to be the difference makers.”

White Plains (10-5) has a 10-day layoff before it takes on reigning Section 1 Class AA champion Ossining in a road league game at 4:15 p.m. on Jan. 29. It will then look to avenge a loss to league opponent Fox Lane two days later at home.

“We’re right where we need to be,” Carter said. “Our record doesn’t say who we really are. To me, we should have only lost two games. Some of those games we gave away once we watched film. Those adversity losses have really helped us out and we’ve figured out where we need to be through those losses.”



Ineivi Plata attacks the basket in last week’s home win over Greeley.



Daisy Klink focuses at the foul line.



Aliya McIver looks to create a jump ball.

# White Plains High School Boys Swim to Undeclared 9-0 Regular Season



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTO

White Plains High School senior Jose Contreras flexes his muscle after finishing in First Place in the 100 Butterfly against Rye-Blind Brook-Rye Neck, at Hommocks Middle School, in Larchmont, on Friday. Contreras's victory helped the Tigers Boys Swim Team win their regular season finale to complete an undefeated 9-0 League 2 Championship Season.