February 25 - March 2, 2020

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 445

Planning Board Gives Nod to Move 52 N Bwy. Proposal Along

By Pat Casey

During the February meeting of the White Plains Planning Board two major projects involving mixed uses, including large-scale residential, were granted one-year site plan extensions. At the same meeting the revised project proposal for the former Good Counsel Campus at 52 N. Broadway was well received, and a request to create a County emergency homeless shelter at Mount Hope AME Zion Church on Lake Street was considered a positive, but required more information about zoning compliance.

Two major projects in the city's downtown receiving one-year extensions to existing site plans include the former AT&T building at 440 Hamilton Avenue. This project turns

an existing office building into residential apartments. Ground breaking on the project is expected within the next quarter.

Just around the corner at 200 Hamilton Avenue, Hamilton Green, needed to reinstate the previous site plan approval given in 2018.

Both projects required the completion of financial investment agreements before moving forward.

Discussion about the request by Westchester County to place an emergency homeless shelter on the second floor of Mount Hope AME Zion Church resulted in a recommendation to the Common Council to go forward with the project with a few cautions.

continued on page 2

Lady Tigers Take a Sectional

Win





There were some nerves showing early for White Plains in the Tigers' opening round Section 1 Class AA playoff game. With three eighth-graders and a freshman playing major minutes, but they made the Sectional win. Pictured Sequioa Layne goes up for a contested shot in the paint. See page 14 for the full story.



ROB DIANTONIO PHOTO

State Senators Urged to Provide More Money for Education, the Disabled

By Martin Wilbur

Local state senators listened last week to appeals from school administrators, childcare advocates and parents to increase funding for education and programs to help children and the disabled in New York's Fiscal Year 2020 budget.

Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-Yonkers) was joined by Senate colleagues Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro), Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers) and David Carlucci (D-Clarkstown) who heard from over 50 speakers during more than three hours of testimony at the County Center in White Plains last Tuesday.

In addition to the pleas for enhancing support for schools and to help defray the costs of day care centers, speakers also implored the lawmakers to prevent Gov. Andrew Cuomo's proposed \$2.5 billion cut

to Medicaid that would hurt the disabled and the elderly, to continue criminal justice reform, and support more affordable housing.

Debbie Schneider, a teacher in the Elmsford School District who lives in Ossining, said many districts, particularly high-needs districts such as Ossining, have been shortchanged millions of dollars in state aid. In the last 12 years, under the state's foundation aid formula, the district should have received about \$25 million more than it had while absorbing a 1,000-student increase in enrollment in that time, she said.

Schneider said with her son scheduled to enter kindergarten in the fall, she shudders to think what the Ossining schools will look like in another 12 years.

"The governor and New York State (have) failed a generation of children and

we can no longer sit by and let it happen again," Schneider said.

Karen Belanger, executive director of the Westchester Putnam School Boards Association, said Cuomo has proposed a relatively meager \$826 million increase in state aid to schools for the upcoming year. That falls far short of the recommended \$2.1 billion increase called for by the New York State United Teachers and other education groups around the state. A \$2.1 billion hike would also include the first installment of repaying an estimated \$3.4 billion shortfall in foundation aid to districts statewide.

Belanger said 70 percent of districts in Westchester and Putnam are in line for just a .25 percent increase this year in foundation aid, which fails to meet needs such as mental-health-related services for students and school security.

"We need flexible funding focused on mental health and security to allow our schools to help our students and to protect them as well," Belanger said.

Pleasantville Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter, who spoke on behalf of the Lower Hudson Valley Council of School Superintendents and the Lower Hudson Education Consortium, said districts are feeling the crunch of having been shortchanged for so long.

In addition, Cuomo has now proposed dropping the state's share of funding for students with disabilities, she said.

"The governor's proposal is harmful to our region's students and communities," Fox-Alter said. "It does not provide tax relief or support for our area, which has been hit very hard with the loss of

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State Senators Urged to Provide More Money for Education, the Disabled

continued from page 1

the SALT deduction, changes to STAR, no mandate relief with the tax cap and increasing student needs."

She urged the senators to reject the proposal to strip the aid for students with disabilities, have the foundation aid formula operate as intended, and focus on mandate relief.

Funding for childcare, especially in areas of the state with more need, is also deficient, said Betsy Block, a longtime Ossining Children's Center board member. She said with the increase in minimum wage, two parents working full-time

earning that salary would no longer qualify for child care subsidies, rising to just above the income threshold.

As a result, for the first time in its 125-year history, the Ossining Children's Center may have to turn away children because the demand would be too great. The center would then fail in its goal to provide affordable childcare for every working family, Block said.

"Unfortunately, our ability to fulfill this mission has been compromised in recent times," she said.

Lisa Rosenbloom, a current board

member at Ossining Children's Center, added that "the level of subsidy is so out of step with the cost of caring for children."

The loss of Medicaid funding also threatens to jeopardize the care and independence of people with disabilities, said Joe Bravo, executive director of the Westchester Independent Living Center. A state Medicaid Redesign Team has been given until Mar. 31 to come back with recommendations about where to cut the \$2.5 billion, which will provide no time for public feedback on the recommendations before the state budget is passed, he said.

Maria Samuels, executive director of Westchester Disabled on the Move, said organizations that help the disabled will have their ability to provide the services for that population's needs jeopardized, including having them live independently.

'We're going to lose the funding to keep people in the community," Samuels said. "People with disabilities, they need the support to remain in the community. If we lose that funding, they're going to have a problem."

There is a Mar. 31 deadline for the legislature to approve an on-time budget.

Planning Board Gives Nod to Move 52 N Bwy. Proposal Along

The shelter would function as a 24-hour shelter for families with children (16 person capacity and employees) as an overnight overflow for the county. Two bedrooms and two bathrooms (one with a shower and one with a shower/tub) are included in the plan.

Dr. Gregory Smith, the church pastor, defended the shelter proposal saying it fulfilled a mission of the church to help people. He explained that the shelter would not be used by families for more than one night and that transportation to the shelter would be provided.

Because a homeless shelter is not permitted in the zone where the church is located, a government use permit has been

John Ioris, Planning Board Chairman, said he has questions for the county and advised the Common Council to ask the county to define very specifically what they mean by an "emergency shelter."

Ioris said he was concerned about opening the door to other areas of the city to such government permits. "That would grossly defeat the zoning of the city right now,' he said. "This has to be done with some protections to the city."

Because the Common Council has scheduled a public hearing on the shelter proposal for its March meeting, the Planning Board decided to send a letter recommending approval with cautions.

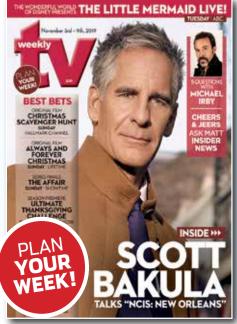
The amended petition for a zoning change at 52 N. Broadway features major changes to the original conceptual plan for the site. The developer said they had responded to negative reaction to the original proposal



The revised conceptual plan for a zone change at 52 N. Broadway incudes townhouses, preservation of more open space and consideration for the historic elements of the property.

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that the buildings were too tall, the density too much, the design located buildings too far to the east, traffic impacts on the local neighborhood were too great, and impact on the historical nature of the property too much.

The new conceptual plan does not address concerns about the toxic dumpsite on the property, but does change the design proposal to address other development concerns.

The alternative plan calls for 232 seniorrestricted independent living units with enhanced services and on-site staff, a 103unit assisted living facility, 28 two-story townhouses and 48 workforce apartments in one three-story building with most being studios or one bedrooms, and reducing the projected number of residents on the site from 1,085 to 610, a 44 percent decrease. The plan is to have as much underground parking as possible. The assisted living and independent living would be in two connected buildings with a single operator for both. A clubhouse for residents would be constructed behind the existing convent formerly owned by the Sisters of the Divine

The alternative plan reduces the number of proposed parking spaces to 450 from 655. According to the developer, with fewer people being proposed to live on the property $\,$ there would be fewer vehicle trips on and off the property than originally proposed.

The new plan is proposing to reduce building heights to a maximum height of six stories or 85 feet. The original plan was for a maximum of 10 stories, 140 feet. According to the property owner, the first 700 feet of the site will have building heights at 45 feet

The revised plan seeks to maintain several elements of the historic campus: the Chapel of the Divine Compassion, the Mapleton house at its present location and the west wing of the convent that faces North Broadway. There are 13 acres of the site that have historic designations. The original proposal was to move the Mapleton house from the southern portion of the site to the northern portion of the property and for 10 story-buildings to be constructed at the rear of the property.

The revised plan preserves the open space abutting North Broadway and the street view of the property. The public will have access to the roughly 2.3-acre front

Planning Board members agreed the new proposal was an improvement over the previous proposal and sent a letter to the Common Council stating their recommendation to move forward.

The Common Council public hearing on the 52 N. Broadway proposal is scheduled to re-open on May 4.

White Plains Releases New Promotional Video

By Neal Rentz

The City of White Plains released a promotional video on Feb. 18 showcasing the various positive aspects of the city.

"We wanted to tell the story of White Plains – living here, working here, enjoying all that we have to offer as a community," Karen Pasquale, senior advisor to Mayor Tom Roach, said last week. "Our intention was to produce a video that would highlight the many positive attributes of our community and distinguish us from others."

"From the Revolutionary War till today, White Plains has been at the center of it all," Roach said at the start of the four-minute 11-second video.

The various pluses of the city are described by a variety of individuals in the video including the schools, parks, diversity and convenience. "What really separates White Plains from other communities is the vibe, the feeling that when you live here you're part of something larger than yourself," Roach said in the video.

"Fortunately for us, we found the perfect people to help us create this video, Nitrous Ltd, owned and operated by White Plains residents Paul and Melanie Rosen," Roach said. "We are extremely grateful to Paul and Melanie for helping us capture the essence of White Plains in this terrific video. And we also extend our thanks to Westchester County Executive George Latimer and the county Industrial Development Agency for



A still from the new City of White Plains promotional video, which was released on Feb. 18.

funding this project on behalf of the city."

Paul Rosen, owner of Nitrous said, "As a business owner and resident of White Plains, I often find myself singing the praises of this great city. I wanted to create a video showcasing the great services, year-round events, fellow businesses and of course, the residents that make White Plains such a wonderful place to live. As a video production company, what better way is there for me to showcase the city

that I love?"

Pasquale said the video can be viewed on the city's social media sites, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, as well as the home page of the city's Web site, cityofwhiteplains. com. "The cable channel will be running the video as well," she said. "We have distributed it to local stakeholders, such as the business community, real estate community, hospitals and school districts."

"Our hope is that the video will showcase

White Plains as a great community in which to live, socialize, and locate your business," Pasquale said. "We intend to use the video as a marketing and economic development tool."



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Connecticut Governor Pulls I-684 Toll Plan Off Table

By Martin Wilbur

The prospect of a truck toll on I-684 was taken off the table Wednesday after Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont aborted a plan to place tolls at about a dozen locations throughout the state.

Lamont had targeted the 1.4-mile stretch of I-684 between exits 2 and 3 that briefly enters and exits Greenwich as one toll location. The money was to be used toward renovating and rehabilitating Connecticut roads and bridges, including a small bridge over the Byram River on the Connecticut portion of the roadway near where the toll was proposed to be located.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer expressed relief Thursday that Connecticut abandoned the toll specifically relating to I-684.

"I am pleased to hear that our Connecticut neighbors have decided to end their plans to charge tolls on the one-mile stretch of I-684 on our shared border," Latimer said in a statement. "My administration – and my colleagues in government – had serious issues with this plan from its inception and even took our case to the Connecticut state capitol to make those issues clear."

Lamont said at a Wednesday news conference that the Republican-led Senate, which had opposed his toll plan but wanted to dip into the state's rainy-day fund for road repairs, had planned to filibuster for 30 hours with no guarantee there would be a vote. The Senate also had made no efforts to schedule a vote on its alternative.

He announced that he'll propose to bond for the money that would have been generated by the tolls.

"I've got a legislature that doesn't want to make a decision when it deals with a problem that we've had, unfortunately, in this state for over a generation, that's our deteriorating roads and bridges and rail," Lamont said.

A concerted effort by a large group of Westchester officials protested to Lamont and Connecticut lawmakers about the proposed

I-684 toll. They argued that it would unfairly tax New York truckers and businesses on a highway that is overwhelmingly used by New Yorkers. Another concern would be that once the technology was installed, it could easily be changed to include passenger cars

The Town of North Castle would have likely been most impacted, particularly if trucks would have used alternate routes to avoid the toll by getting off at Exit 2 and taking Route 120 to northbound Route 22. Another option would have been for trucks coming from I-287 to head north through North White Plains, potentially adding traffic to an already-congested hamlet.

During a Jan. 31 public hearing in Hartford, officials from Westchester appealed to a state Assembly committee to reconsider the I-684 toll. Aside from generating more traffic on local roads, town officials pointed out that New York State has been paying for road maintenance, plowing and emergency services along that one-plus mile stretch under a 1966 agreement between the two states. The agreement also obligated Connecticut to structurally maintain the small bridge in the Greenwich portion of the roadway.

State Sen. Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers), said she was pleased to hear about Lamont's decision.

"Thank you to the many elected officials and advocates who made it clear that a Connecticut toll on I-684 would disproportionately impact New Yorkers and would be an inappropriate way to make infrastructure policy," Mayer said. "We share a commitment with Gov. Ned Lamont to improve road and rail infrastructure, and we hope to work collaboratively in the future on making these improvements."

Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains), said he believed the unified local response had an impact.

"I believe our loud resistance helped dissuade Connecticut from moving forward on tolling, and with Connecticut lawmakers failing to support the plan, we seemingly have victory in hand," Buchwald said. "Hopefully we can now get back to working across state lines on issues regarding our transportation needs."



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ROYALTY CHOP SHOP, WHITE PLAINS

By Neal Rentz

West Harrison resident Alex Reyes and White Plains resident Ramon Galindez are co-owners of the uniquely named Royalty Chop Shop, which they opened in White Plains three-and-one-half years ago.

Reyes explained last week how he and his partner came up with the name for their hair salon. "You kind of chop the hair off so we wanted to do a little play on the name instead of just calling it Ramon and Alex's Barber Shop. Change it up a little bit, make it a little different from what's out there," Reyes said.

The symbol of the salon is a crown and a coat of armor. "Royalty kind of goes with the theme," Reyes said.

Reyes said he and his partner looked around for a space for their new business for about a year before choosing its E. Post Road site. "We wanted something close to the main avenue, Mamaroneck Avenue," he said, adding the location is close to The Westchester shopping mall and other E. Post Road businesses. "It was perfect for us," he said.

Reyes said he and his partner are seeking a larger spot for their business close to their current location that would allow them to provide additional services.

Royalty Chop Shop primarily provides services for men and boys, though some women with short hair patronize the business, Reyes, said.

"We offer just the typical regular traditional haircut," Reyes said. "We offer



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

West Harrison resident Alex Reyes, left, and White Plains resident Ramon Galindez are co-owners of Royalty Chop Shop in White Plains.

hot towel shaves. We offer facials to take out the black pores. We do designs. A lot of kids like the little logos on the side. We offer a variety of services."

Reyes said he and his partner are full-time barbers at Royalty Chop Shop, which is open

every day. "I've been cutting hair for almost 18 years," Reyes said. "I originally worked in New Jersey. I moved up here eight years ago. I worked in a couple of barber shops in Mamaroneck and in White Plains and then decided to open up my own shop." Galindez was born in Puerto Rico and has been a White Plains resident for 13 years, Reyes noted. "We met at a barber shop. We worked there for a couple of years and then we decided to do our own thing," Reyes said.

Reyes said his business employs local residents. "The clients feel comfortable coming to them," he said.

Reyes said his business' clients include those who work in neighboring businesses, as well as live in White Plains. "People get to know us and they come back and refer people," he said. "They come from all over. We've got people coming from Connecticut from Nyack, Yonkers, Mount Vernon."

"Word of mouth is still the number one way of marketing and promoting your business," Reyes said. "If you do a good job people will come back."

Royalty Chop Shop is located at 219 E. Post Rd. in White Plains. For more information call 914-437-7437 or visit https://www.royaltychopshop.com/.

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Legal Notice

FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

In the Matter of a Proceeding Under Article 10 of the Family Court Act Docket No. NN-00156-20 F/U No. 150734 (1022 REMOVAL) SUMMONS (Child Neglect Case) ANEL T. WILSON A Child Under Eighteen Years of Age Alleged to be Neglected by NIGERIA WILSON, Respondent.

NOTICE: **PLACEMENT** YOUR CHILD(REN) IN FOSTER CARE MAY RESULT IN YOUR LOSS OF YOUR RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD(REN). IF YOUR CHILD(REN) STAYS IN FOSTER CARE FOR 15 OF THE MOST RECENT 22 MONTHS, THE AGENCY MAY BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO FILE A PETITION(S) TO TERMINATE YOUR PAREN-TAL RIGHTS AND TO COMMIT **GUARDIANSHIP AND CUSTODY** OF YOUR CHILD(REN) TO THE AGENCY FOR THE PURPOSES OF ADOPTION. IN SOME CASES, THE AGENCY MAY FILE BEFORE

THE END OF THE 15-MONTH PERIOD. IF SEVERE OR REPEATED CHILD ABUSE IS PROVEN BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE, THIS FINDING MAY CONSTITUTE THE BASIS TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO COMMIT GUARDIANSHIP AND CUSTODY OF YOUR CHILD(REN) TO THE AGENCY FOR THE PURPOSES OF ADOPTION.

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BY ORDER OF THE FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO THE ABOVENAMED RESPONDENT(S) WHO RESIDE(S) OR IS FOUND AT [specify address(es)]:

NIGERIA WILSON (Mother) Homeless Current Whereabouts Unknown A Petition under Article 10 of the Family Court Act having been filed with this Court, and annexed hereto

YOU AND EACH OF YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to appear before this Court at 111 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., 3rd Floor Annex, White Plains, New York 10601, on March 18, 2020, at 11:00 o'clock in the morning afternoon of that day to answer the petition and to be dealt with in accordance with Article 10 of the Family Court Act or any future adjourned date.

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County Residents Quarantined as Part of Coronavirus Precaution

Westchester County officials reported last week that 26 people had been quarantined within the county for possible exposure to the novel coronavirus but they are not sick and pose no threat to public safety.

A Feb.18 briefing in White Plains by Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler and county Executive George Latimer and other county officials provided an update on the precautions being taken in Westchester.

By Monday, there were only eight people who remained under quarantine, the county Health Department reported. The others who were released from quarantine are not

"We currently have travelers that have come back into the county from areas of the world where COVID-19 cases have occurred," Amler explained. "These people are not ill but we still have to monitor them."

There have been no cases of the novel coronavirus, referred to in healthcare circles as COVID-19, in New York State. As of Feb. 24, 35 Americans have been infected, according to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control website (www.ecdc.europa.eu).

Amler explained that a quarantine is for individuals who may have been exposed to the virus while isolation is reserved for those who are sick.

The original 26 individuals, whose identities and locations were withheld for privacy reasons, had voluntarily agreed to be quarantined at home until the 14day incubation period for the virus is over, Amler said. They have shown no symptoms and will not be tested unless symptoms appear, she said.

Arrangements were made to have food, medication and other basic items brought to the residents for the remainder of their quarantine.

Symptoms for COVID-19 are virtually identical to the more typical strains of influenza – coughing, sneezing, a sore throat or fever, Amler said. It is most commonly spread through coughing or sneezing but doesn't travel very far, typically no more than six feet, she said.

There's no way to tell the difference between COVID-19 and other strains of virus.

"But what you want to ask, have you traveled to China or have you traveled to any region of the world where there are evolving cases of this novel coronavirus and have you been exposed to anyone who's been diagnosed or to anyone who came from those areas that was ill?" Amler said. "The travel history is very, very important, and particularly for individuals who've traveled in that area for the last 14 days and developed symptoms."

As of Monday, 77,169 of the 79,360 cases of COVID-19 have been in China, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control reported. Most of the other cases identified are in South Korea (763) and Japan (144), along with other countries in that region.

There have been 2,618 deaths from the virus, with all but 26 confined to China, Last weekend, two deaths were reported in Italy and one in France.

Anyone with a travel history in the last 14 days to one of the countries with a high concentration of cases, would be put in contact with their local health departments upon return, which is how the county learned of the 26 people in Westchester, Amler said.

Precautions include frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or with a hand sanitizer, she said. Coughing or sneezing should be done into the arm and not the hands.

For more information on the novel coronavirus visit the Centers for Disease Control at https://www.cdc.gov/ or the county Health Department at https://health. westchestergov.com/

The Danger in Politicizing the Role of Dept. of Justice Employees

By Elliott Jacobson

There is a dangerous politicization of the role of Department of Justice employees happening, and it's not just limited to Washington, and sadly, it's not just limited to Republicans. Here in Westchester, District Attorney Anthony Scarpino was recently criticized by his opponent, Democrat Mimi Rocah, for revealing that his "Bad Cops List" — only recently released after undue delay — included a high-ranking appointee in his office. Scarpino's response? To attack Rocah, a former federal prosecutor (a friend and former colleague from the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York) saying "it's not surprising given her background working for the Bush and Trump Justice Departments." http://www. blackwestchester.com/mimi-rocah-dashiring-of-investigator-on-bad-cops-list/

This is not only a misleading statement - Mimi Rocah was hired under President Clinton and promoted under President Obama - but it is an incredibly dangerous, not to mention ignorant, statement by a law enforcement official. To say that federal prosecutors take on the politics of any particular president is factually false and is an insult to every career prosecutor who is desperately trying to protect the rule of law in this country right now. Career prosecutors like Rocah, like myself (before I retired), and tens of thousands of others, serve the country and the DOJ, not a president. If career prosecutors left service whenever there was a change in political power, our DOJ would be gutted and politicized, which is exactly what Donald Trump wants. In short, Scarpino is echoing the corrupt mentality of Donald Trump either out of ignorance of how the system works, or because he knows better but just doesn't care and would rather score cheap political points. For me personally, this is an issue about which I am particularly passionate; I was one of the

prosecutors involved in the prosecution of Bernard Kerik — the only New York City Police Commissioner to be convicted of a felony and to serve a prison term -whom Trump just pardoned, likely because he was a crony and former business partner of his personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani. This kind of politicization of our justice system is something people of all political stripes but especially Democrats — should be fighting against not perpetuating.

Scarpino owes Rocah - and every career DOJ employee - an immediate apology. And, he should stand up for an independent justice system now. The residents of Westchester County, myself included, deserve better than this.

Elliott Jacobson is a former assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York. The views expressed here are not those of the U.S. Attorney's Office or the U.S. Department of Justice.

County BOL to Consider Paper Carryout Bag Reduction Fee

As New York State's ban on single-use plastic bags takes effect in less than a week on March 1, the Westchester County Board of Legislators is taking up legislation to opt into New York's Paper Carryout Bag Reduction Fee.

The fee would be five cents on each paper bag used at check out. Under the state law, three of the five cents will go to the state's Environmental Protection Fund. The remaining two cents will help local governments provide reusable shopping bags to residents.

Nancy Barr (D-Harrison), chair of the Board's Environment and Health Committee, said, "It's great that New York is finally eliminating single-use plastic bags at most checkout counters, but the real endgame is getting shoppers to switch to reusable bags. Across the country, from Los Angeles to Suffolk County, experience has shown that modest fees on bags is a more effective way of inspiring people to switch to reusables than bans on plastic alone."

A year after Suffolk County instituted a five-cent fee on all carryout bags, bag use both paper and plastic - dropped 80 percent, and more than 62 percent of shoppers were bringing their own bags or going bagless.

Board Chair Ben Boykin (D-White Plains) said, "Fees work to lower disposable bag use, and that's crucial for the environment. But our biggest concern is the potential impact of even this small fee on those for whom an additional 25 or 50 cents per shopping trip is a burden. The State law exempts recipients of aid under certain federal programs from the bag reduction fee. But there are many working people in Westchester who don't benefit from these programs and who may be challenged by the fee. That's why we will have to work

with the Latimer administration and State officials to get reusable bags into the hands of people for whom the fee may be a hardship.'

Non-biodegradable plastic bags clog local sewers and storm drains, pollute waterways endangering marine life, and are a major source of roadside litter. They're also derived from fossil fuels and so their manufacture stresses the environment and is non-renewable. Paper bags biodegrade, so they don't present the same problems for landfills, sewers, storm drains and marine life. But they can have a higher carbon footprint than plastic bags. Paper bags are thicker and heavier so they take up more space to store and ship, meaning the energy used with a switch to paper can be even higher than the energy used in manufacturing and distributing plastic bags.

Obituaries

Domenic A. Andreassi



Domenic A. Andreassi of Greenburgh, died peacefully in the early morning of Feb. 23 at Calvary Hospital where he had been receiving hospice care since March of 2019.

He is survived by his wife Elisa (Migliaccio) and his sons Anthony and John.

He was pre-deceased by his parents Anthony and Santina (Masci) and his sisters Anne Legnini and Frances Guadagno.

Born in Abruzzi, Italy on Aug. 22, 1944, he and his family emigrated to the Bronx in 1950 where he was educated in public schools. A graduate of Lehman College (BA) and Fordham University (MA), Domenic spent more than 30 years teaching in the South Bronx, mostly children with special needs.

He married Elisa in 1967 at St John the Baptist in Yonkers where they first lived, and

in 1973 moved to Greenburgh where they raised their sons. He served in the Army National Guard from 1967 to 1972. Domenic loved sports, especially cheering on the Yankees and the Giants, and in his younger years played lots of softball in the summer. He and his wife also enjoyed trips to Atlantic City and Las Vegas as well as travel to other parts of the world including four visits to Italy including two return visits to his place of birth.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Calvary Hospital in memory of Domenic.

Bertha Nunez

Bertha Nunez died Feb. 21. She was 99 years old.

She was born on Nov. 11,1920 in Lima, Peru to Eloisa and Manuel Eleazar Ponce.

Bertha married the love of her life Juan Alberto Nunez in 1961 and had three loving children: Lila DeArmas, Walter Ponce and Julia Ransford.



She was a homemaker and enjoyed time with her family

A supportive, loving, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Bertha enjoyed dancing, knitting and cooking for her family.

She is survived by three children, eight grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. She is predeceased by her husband Juan and sister

Joseph Kelly



On Feb. 15 Joseph Kelly, 83, passed away peacefully.

He was born on March 4, 1936 in New York City and was predeceased by his parents Sarah (Durkin), John and his brother, Edward Kelly (Cathy).

He and his brother, Ed, were both engineers and graduates of Manhattan College. Joe served in the Army and worked at his "first job" for 49 years. He was Chief Structural Engineer of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. He was part of the team that built the lower level of the George Washington Bridge. He worked on many projects and was a lead engineer in the construction of the Twin Towers, at the World Trade Center.

Joe Kelly was a survivor. He survived the first bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993 and survived 9/11/2001 walking down from the 74th floor of Tower One. He always remembered the firemen, who were walking up into the inferno. He was a quiet man who was concerned about world affairs and the betterment of all people.

He immensely enjoyed his family vacations at Lake George for over 50 years.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Carol, and his loving children Dr. Lesa Kelly (Paul Greco), Joseph Kelly (Judy) and Allison Kelly. He is also survived by his five grandchildren Brian and Taylor Kelly, Alesandra and Nicolette Greco and Preston Davis. In addition he is survived by five nephews, one niece and their spouses and children.

In Lieu of flowers, donations may be made to any one of the 911 Memorial Funds or to Tuesdays Children www.tuesdayschildren. org/support/ (they provide a lifetime of healing for families who have been forever changed by terrorism, military conflict or mass violence).



Elder Law and Estate Planning: A Series of Defined Terms

Guest



By Salvatore M. Di Costanzo

As an elder law attorney, I am frequently asked questions, the answers of which have been taken for granted during the ordinary course of business.

The common denominator among these questions surfaces from misunderstanding of words and phrases used

daily. I thought it would be a good idea to explain some of the words and terms we use that generate questions, ultimately assisting you in moving forward with your estate planning, or perhaps, reviewing the plan you have already put in place.

Agent: The person you name to act on your behalf under the terms of your power of attorney or health care proxy. Your agent generally must act in your best interests.

Basis: What you paid for an asset. Basis is the value that is used to determine gain or loss for income tax purposes.

Distributee: A person entitled to take or share in the property of a decedent under the statutes governing distribution. For instance, you may draft a Last Will and Testament leaving everything to your spouse. Under New York State law, however, your spouse and children are your distributees, because they would all inherit your property if you had no will.

Executor: A person you nominate in a will, later approved by the court, to carry out the terms of the will and to administer your

Fiduciary: The person or entity, usually an executor or trustee, designated to manage money or property for beneficiaries and required to exercise the standard of care set forth in the governing document under which the fiduciary acts.

Guardianship: court-controlled Α program for persons who are unable to

manage their own affairs due to mental or physical incapacity.

Issue: An issue includes individual's children, grandchildren and more remote persons who are related by blood or because legal adoption. An

individual's spouse, stepchildren, parents, grandparents, brothers or sisters are not included. The term "descendants" and "issue" have the same meaning and includes children born posthumously.

Operation of Law: In this context, this phrase means the way some assets will pass at death, based on state law or the ownership of the asset, rather than under the terms of a will or trust.

Pour Over Will: A will used in conjunction with a revocable trust. It passes title at your death to property not transferred to the revocable trust during your lifetime.

Power of Attorney: A document that authorizes one or more individuals to act in your place as agent (see above) with respect to some or all legal and financial matters.

The scope of authority granted is specified in the document. It is important to take the time necessary to work with an elder law/ estate planning attorney to modify the terms of your power of attorney.

Probate: The court's supervised process of proving the validity of a will.

Revocable Trust: created during one's lifetime over which the creator reserves the right to terminate,

revoke, modify or amend the trust. Revocable trusts are becoming increasingly popular.

Special Needs Trust: Established for the benefit of a disabled individual that is designed to allow him or her to be eligible for government financial aid (usually Medicaid) by limiting the use of

trust assets.

Stepped-Up Basis: Assets are given a new basis when transferred by inheritance (through a will or trust) and are revalued as of the date of the owner's death. If an asset has appreciated above its basis, the new basis is called a stepped-up basis.

Transfer on Death: A beneficiary designation for a financial account that automatically passes title to the assets at death to a named individual without probate. It's frequently referred to as a TOD or POD (payable on death) designation.

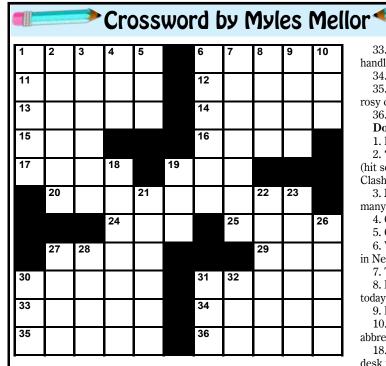
Trust: A legal entity created by someone for the benefit of designated beneficiaries under the laws of a state. A trust can be irrevocable or revocable.

Trustee: An individual, bank or trust

company designated to hold and administer trust property (also generally referred to as a fiduciary). A trustee has the duty to act in the best interests of the trust and its beneficiaries and in accordance with the terms of the trust instrument for the economic benefit of all beneficiaries.

Salvatore M. Di Costanzo is a partner with Maker, Fragale & Di Costanzo, LLP in Rye and Yorktown Heights. He is an attorney and accountant whose main area of practice is elder law and special needs planning. Di Costanzo can be reached at 914-245-2440 or at smd@mfd-law.com.





Across

- 1. Tops
- 6. You won't need a dromedary to find this Yorktown video transfer service
 - 11. Flat Indian breads
 - 12. Hemp plant
 - 13. City on the Ruhr
 - 14. Letter-shaped opening
 - 15. Basketball org.
 - 16. Drudgery
- 17. Painter of limp

- 19. Camera type, briefly
- 20. Steering bar of a bicycle, or new men's barbering establishment in White Plains -
 - 24. Lock opener
 - 25. Takes down a tree
 - 27. Trumpet sound
 - 29. Ludacris music
 - 30. Let go 31. Cultural, in
- combinations

- 33. Practice handling something 34. Gulf War ally 35. Displaying
- rosy color 36. Rope fiber
- Down 1. Put
- 2. "Rock the (hit song for The Clash)
- 3. Mixture of many spices
- 4. Chemical suffix
- 5. Common ID 6. Very numerous
- in Nebraska 7. Takes in
- 8. French Sudan, 9. Earth Day subj.
- 10. Directional abbreviation
- 18. Old-school desk feature
- 19. Sharp 21. Kind of sins
- 22. Port city of Denmark
- 23. African nation
- 26. Pamper
- 27. "Bird on a _ Hawn movie
- 28. Like the Gobi Desert
- 30. New Deal pres.
- 31. Symbol on
- Superman's chest
 - 32. Skater Babilonia

Solution on page 10



Getting Ready for Early Spring Garden Chores

As a realtor who frequently has sold to first-time home buyers, I always try to remember to advise them about the responsibilities of maintaining the property's outdoor landscape. When I first moved to "the country" from New York City, I had no clue and not so much as a rake or a hand spade to help me.

But after the shock of that first year's garden chores, I grew to love digging in the dirt and watching things grow.

After a while, I would experience the feeling of near euphoria as I anticipated my first days in the garden, but since moving to Trump Park in Yorktown, where all the gardening is done for me, all I can do now is reminisce about how special this welcome chore was.

Whenever I got down on my knees for the first time to accomplish some garden task. I would be thinking about the growth and color I'd enjoy in just a short time. But invariably I also would think of my mother.

Frequently my mother gave me advice without telling me any good reason for complying. One of those advisories was to avoid kneeling, instead of bending over, for garden chores that required closer proximity to the ground. Why, I don't know. I do know that my mother was very pleased with her agility into later life and wanted to demonstrate that ability. Or maybe she had heard of "gardener's knee."

As I grew older, I became aware that my back seemed to go awry more often than my knees. So, with no small amount of guilt, I did kneel to plant those first seedlings that I would buy from my local supplier. But I protected myself with either a garden kneeler or knee pads, which I don't remember being around when I was a child.

Of course, squatting is a good in-between measure, but I find that more taxing than either bending or kneeling.

Because I didn't have the time I used to when I was younger to plan and plant my garden, every step I took was orchestrated to reduce labor and maximize enjoyment of color and greenery from early spring to late fall.

For instance, while I envy those people who can build outdoor frames for planting seeds early or do it inside, I rely on one of the garden centers for my annual seedlings that are all ready for popping in the ground. Vicariously I can enjoy the planting from seed activity watching my young grandson proudly nurture his own vegetable garden.

This was my earliest spring garden routine:

I would first clean up all that nasty debris that I left the preceding fall that kept the ground from heaving and, at the same time, feed the birds, but would then lie in a state of rot in my annual and perennial beds.

Then, if I was quick about it, I would still prune my apple and cherry trees before they develop buds.

After my first year, I quickly got out of vegetable gardening (too much work for harvesting too little product), but if you still are, you can put lettuce seeds in the ground early in March. Then, every couple



By Bill Primavera

of weeks, start a new row to get results throughout the summer. If you're into planting onions and other hardy vegetables, now is the time to do it.

I would redefine my beds with a slight new edging around all of them.

Light thinning can be done in April to any shrub or tree except lilacs. Lilacs should have been done after blooming last year; if you do it now, there will be no bloom this year.

Prepare your beds by adding compost or fertilizer right now. I kept a natural compost pile that I had cultivated for a long time. and each year, I would rob this black gold to enrich the soil, depleted from last year's growth.

Mulch now for a weed-

resistant summer. Each spring, I would ask my trusty tree man to drop off a load of finely chopped chips. One load served my entire property for a season.

As you are preparing for planting your annual and perennial beds, the earliest spring bulbs will be blooming. Afterwards, be sure to deadhead them (remove the remains of the blossoms) but don't remove the leaves. Let them die back naturally so that they can feed the bulbs for next year.

Also, remember to schedule the time needed to trim spring-flowering shrubs, everything from forsythia to azalea, right after blooming for thicker growth and more blooms next year.

And, for anyone who gardens like I did kneeling rather than bending, remember to protect your knees with those knee pads or kneelers. Sorry, Mom.

Bill Primavera is either a realtor who writes or a writer who sells houses. As a realtor, he is associated with William Raveis Real Estate in Yorktown. Also, as founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com), his promotional endeavors focus on lifestyles, real estate and development. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.



The Lofty Role the Lowly Natural Cork Plays in Your Wine



otherwise mundane natural cork stopper has gained greater respect over the last year than at any time this century.

Natural cork fell

By Nick Antonaccio

out of favor with the advancement of

alternative bottle stoppers. Synthetic, glass, agglomerated corks (particles of natural cork glued together) and metal screwcaps gained popularity.

Today, the consensus favors natural cork and screwcaps, although the growth of screwcapped bottles seems to be waning. Consumer opinion rides high for the screwcap, not only for its convenience but also for the soiled reputation of natural cork that had significant levels of cork taint for a number of years.

However, many winemakers favored natural cork for its ability to interact with, enhance and preserve wine as a living, breathing organism.

As alternative stoppers grew in popularity, natural cork producers responded to their threat. The Portuguese cork industry, which dominates the market, undertook to remove the causes of cork taint and was successful in the near eradication of this perennial problem.

In the process of researching, and improving, the quality of cork, Portuguese scientists discovered its previously unknown qualities. Cork not only performs as a stopper; it affects the quality of the contents of the bottle it secures. And it depends how it is deployed after bottling.

Perhaps the cork is much more than a

functional closure. Perhaps qualities it has inherent that affect the quality and characteristics of the bottled wine. And perhaps lying horizontally may not be its best use.

Let's explore these two concepts of functionality and preservation.

Functionality: The Drinks Business, a trade publication, reported on a research paper in the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry concerning the impact of certain compounds in natural cork on the aging and quality of wine. The Drinks Business interviewed Dr. Miguel Cabral, director of research and development for Amorim Group, the largest producer of natural corks in the world.

Cabral: "Amorim was attempting to put the science behind the belief that wine matures 'differently and better under cork.' When we put wine in a barrel there is an extraction of phenolic compounds from a barrel into the wine, and it's the same when we put wine in a bottled seal with a cork."

These compounds include tannins, phenols and polyphenols. Cabral has identified 40 different extractible compounds in a natural cork that may be beneficial to the aging of wine.

Preservation:

The common belief is that storing a bottle on its side will keep the cork moist and swollen, thus preventing it from becoming dry, shrinking and permitting external oxygen from permeating the contents.

According to Cabral, storing a wine bottle on its

side makes no difference to the moistness of the cork. If anything, it may hasten its deterioration. This startling assertion is based on Amorim's research results. "(H) umidity in the headspace of the bottle, at almost 100%, was high enough for phenolics to migrate from the cork stopper into the wine when the bottle was stored upright," Cabral stated.

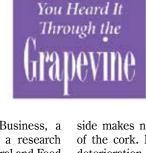
Further, "when you put a cork stopper in a bottle, the cork is squeezed and the air in it will compress as much as it can and then try to escape, and some of it goes up and some goes down, and so the oxygen comes from the interior of the cork, and comes in [to the bottle] up to 6-8 months." He added, "the network inside a cork is complicated, with millions of cells, so the air escapes slowly and then less and less.'

Startling to say the least. The symbiotic relationship of a cork and the bottle contents with which it interacts is highly complex and seemingly contradictory. Is it likely that modern science trumps centuries-old trial and error?

There are additional factors affecting the ageability and quality of wines. In future columns I'll delve into two of these: humidity levels and temperature of the bottle's storage environment, each key to the ability of cork to impart its unique characteristics.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years he has





Happenin

Tuesday, Feb. 25

Tuesdays@Dorry's. Jonathan Casanova, Supervisor of Exercise Programs, Burke Rehabilitation Center, Exercise and Mental Health: How Does Exercise Play a Role in the Coping Process? 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.

Wednesday, Feb. 26

Mother Nature's Storytime (Ages 2 to 4) Year-round, Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. Children, along with a parent or caregiver, enjoy days at the Nature Center with nature-themed stories, nature walks, live animals, and/or crafts. Dress for outdoor activity. Except in extreme weather conditions, a portion of each class is spent outdoors. Class size limited to 12. Pre-registration is required; no refunds. To register for Mother Nature's Storytime, contact Megan at 914-813-1831 or mbryant@greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Lunchtime Meditation. A weekly meditation program. Brief beginning instruction will be followed by meditation. No experience or special equipment needed. A guest instructor will lead the program the first Wednesday of each month. 12:15 p.m. For more information, please contact Christiane Deschamps at 914-422-1496 or cdeschamps@whiteplainsny.gov., White Plains Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains.

How to Build Your Business One Conversation at a Time. There is no better way to learn than working with other small business owners and entrepreneurs and bouncing different ideas, questions and concerns off each other. This round table discussion, led by Drew George, business entrepreneur and SCORE mentor, discusses ways to grow a profitable business. 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.

Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. In this exciting program, learn about how the Underground Railroad helped enslaved people escape to freedom. Students are invited to enact a play about an

Crossword Solution from page 8 MES CAME A N S АВ Α CA T S SEN LOT TO D A L SLR HANDLEBAR AWS K E Y W A W A R Α R E D E T H N SA LL U D SI

escape led by Tubman and Thomas Garrett through the Underground Railroad. Cosponsored by Greenburgh African-American Historical Alliance and the 400 Year Project. Thomas H. Slater Center, 2 Fisher Court, White Plains. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free. Info: 914-525-3076 or visit www.mlkwestchester.org.

Thursday, Feb. 27

Poets and Writers. Steven Salvatore is a young adult author and educator who will read selections from his debut novel, "The Other Side of Silence," which will be published by Bloomsbury in 2021. In this work, Salvatore, who prefers the term queer (identifying as both gay and genderqueer), wrote about a genderqueer student who dreams of being a diva like Mariah Carey. Salvatore teaches at Westchester Community College and Pace University. Westchester Community College's Davis Auditorium, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-606-6716.

Great Books Forum Series. "The Bluest Eye" by Toni Morrison will be discussed. Professor Keisha Miles will lead the discussion. Westchester Community College's Gateway Center, Room 131, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Info: E-mail Professor James Werner at james.werner@sunywcc.edu.

Friday, Feb. 28

Opening Reception for "Fragile Nature, River Studies in Glass." A solo exhibit of glass wall sculptures by David Licata, a multimedia artist and a dedicated naturalist. Conceptually, his work explores the fragile connections between humans and the natural environment. He presents nine new torchworked glass-hanging sculptures, some affixed to the wall and others suspended from the ceiling. Licata chooses glass for its inherent beauty and the endless variety of colors and textures he can create with the medium. Kenise Barnes Fine Art, 1947 Palmer Ave., Larchmont. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through Apr. 11. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and by appointments. Info: 914-837-8077 or visit www.kbfa.com.

Air Play. Come for an hour-long circus-style adventure about two siblings journeying through a surreal land of air,

uncommon beauty. Fabrics dance in the wind, balloons have a mind of their own, confetti turns into the night sky and an enormous canopy of hovering silk brings to life the very air we breathe. Flying umbrellas, larger-than-life balloons, giant kites and the biggest snow globe you've ever seen will make you gasp in wonder and laugh until it hurts. The creation of husbandand-wife team of Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone, Air Play merges circus and street theater performance art with the sculptural artistry of Daniel Wurtzel. This poetic ode to childhood will enchant and electrify the young and young at heart. For ages six and up. PepsiCo Theatre at Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 7 p.m. \$25 to \$45. Info and tickets: 914-251-6200 or visit www.artscenter.org.

transforming the ordinary into objects of

Westchester Photographic Society: Photo Competition 4B. Members compete in digital competitions; all prints and digital black and white. Critiqued by a professional judge. 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.

Lotus Land and Awaken: A Tribute to the Music of Rush and Yes. Two incredible bands in one night. With an unparalleled performance, American Rush tribute band Lotus Land brings the force of Rush live on stage. Enjoyed by diehard fans, musicians and casual music listeners, the Lotus Land experience has been heralded as the ultimate celebration of Rush's musical craftsmanship and spirited performances. With the setup and sound of the Canadian power trio, Lotus Land delivers the thrill that people expect when they see RUSH in concert. Awaken is comprised of extremely talented and seasoned musicians dedicated to celebrating the music of Yes. By combining elements from the original studio recordings along with the inspirational power of past live Yes performances, Awaken provides an authentic and dramatic musical experience that will impress even the most critical and passionate fans of the band they pay tribute to. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$30, \$35 and \$40. Info and tickets: 914-233-3586 or visit www. tarrytownmusichall.org.

Saturday, Feb. 29

Feeding Fun. Join naturalists for a handson program and learn about the care that goes into feeding the indoor animals as well as the birds of prey and barnyard. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: Free. Non-members: \$8. Also Mar. 15 and 28. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

An Evening of Music, Dance and Conversation. In celebration of Black History Month, attend an unforgettable evening of music and dance with four family ensembles as they perform and discuss the meaning of kinship, tradition and the arts. The event features the award-winning Prestige Step Team (New Rochelle), the Ptah-Shabazz Wisdrum Orchestra (White Plains), Bronx jazz legend Bertha Hope

with daughter Monica Meaux Hope (New York City) and the old-school hip-hop crew the Money Makin' Mob (Mount Vernon). ArtsWestchester, 31 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains. 7 p.m. \$10. Info and tickets: Visit www.artswestchester.org.

Sunday, Mar. 1

The White Plains Examiner is happy to help spread the word about your

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

> Beethoven's Mass in C Major. The choir of Christ's Church in Rye will be enlarged by numerous guest choristers from the surrounding communities and under the inspirational leadership of Dr. Sándor Szabó, an interim organist and choirmaster at the church. Christ's Church, 2 Rectory St., Rye. 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-967-1749 or e-mail sszabo@ccrye.org.

> Music for the World. The Hudson Valley Symphonic Wind Ensemble will perform this benefit concert for the Maryknoll Sisters' mission work with the poor around the world. Under the direction of James D. Wayne, the 45-member ensemble's selections will include "Credence" by Smith, "Autumn Walk" by Work, "Pineapple by Sullivan-Mackerras, Seafarer" by Wood, "Poem for Flute" by Griffes-Thornton, "Serenade" by Bourgeois and "John Williams Fantasy" by Williams-Iwai. All proceeds raised from the concert will benefit the Sisters' mission work. Maryknoll Sisters Center, 10 Pinesbridge Rd., Ossining. 3 p.m. In advance: \$30. At the door: \$40. Info and tickets: 866-662-9900 or visit www.marvknollsisters.org/concert20.

> Downtown Music at Grace. Concert 4:30 p.m. featuring the traditional West African rhythms of Benin, combined with Caribbean styles and jazz, Jomion and the Uklos make festive, colorful music. These three brothers from Benin's coastal city of Cotonou amaze audiences with their furious rhythms and mystical harmonies. They joyfully flirt with reggae, salsa and jazz while drawing on their vast knowledge of traditional music and culture. Led by Samuel "Jomion" Gnonlonfoun, composer, arranger, singer and multi-instrumentalist who founded the internationally renowned Gangbé Brass Band, Jomion & The Uklos also features his brothers IB and Mathieu, and his daughter Rose. Currently based in Brooklyn, they have recently performed at the Lincoln Center Out of Doors festival, the B.B. King Blues Club and Grill, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Grace Episcopal Church, located at the intersection of Main Street and Mamaroneck Avenue in White Plains. Parking is available at either the Church Street or City Center garage. Tickets: Adults \$25; Seniors (65+) \$20; Students (with valid ID) \$15.

> Sunday Night Jam. Eclectic open event for all musicians and music lovers. Backline provided. Easy parking and great food. All instruments, genres and styles welcome, and includes covers, original music, full bands, duos, acoustic and electronic. If you are a solo singer, the house band can back you up. Freebird Kitchen and Bar, 161 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains. 8 to 11 p.m. No cover charge. Every Sunday. Info: 914-607-2476 or visit www.facebook. com/FreebirdSundayNightJam.

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Examiner Sports

Tigers Cruise Past Ramapo, Look Ahead to Mount Vernon

By Rob DiAntonio

Not many teams can match up with the athleticism and scoring prowess that White Plains' boys basketball team throws at them.

With lethal scorers like Quion Burns and Jayon Norwood leading the way, it's tough for opponents to keep up. Add in plenty of key role players and the Tigers have the ingredients to make a run at a Section 1 title.

That journey started last Saturday afternoon when the fifth-seeded Tigers cruised to a 58-43 win over No. 12 Ramapo in the opening round of the Section 1 Class AA tournament.

Burns tallied a game-high 21 points while Norwood added 18 points in the victory. Tymir Greene chipped in with 11 points.

"When we move the ball and get our 15plus assists, that's how we're supposed to play," White Plains coach Spencer Mayfield said. "That's our best basketball when we have balanced scoring like that."

It's a trio that isn't easy for the opposition to game plan for.

"When one person's off, the other one's on," Burns said when asked how difficult it is



ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS

White Plains' Jayon Norwood looks to attack the basket.



Tymir Greene handles the ball at half court while being closely guarded.



Quion Burns pulls up for a jumper in White Plains' 58-43 first round win over Ramapo.



Quion Burns, who scored a game-high 21 points, fires a three in White Plains' win over Ramapo.



The Tigers' Joe Carrier shoots a three from the left wing

to defend the Tigers. "If all three of us are on, then it's going to be a long night, honestly."

It was a long afternoon for the Gryphons as the Tigers built a 16-6 lead after one quarter. But Burns was relegated to the bench with two fouls early in the second quarter.

Norwood nailed a jumper from the elbow to stretch the lead to 20-10. He drove baseline and finished followed by another baseline drive, this time converting a three-point play to increase the lead to 25-12.

Greene buried a deep three from the left wing followed by a wide open three from Joe Carrier to make it 31-14. Carrier nailed another 3-pointer from the wing to send the Tigers into halftime leading 34-19.

"It's very important; we've got to have some quality depth," Mayfield said of the Tigers maintaining the lead with Burns on the bench. "We needed them to hold the fort until [Burns] got back."

Burns was back on the floor in the third quarter and he nailed two 3-pointers with the second one giving the Tigers a 40-24 lead with 3:28 left in the quarter. Off a missed 3-pointer by Norwood, Burns corralled the rebound out of mid-air and slammed down a two-handed dunk.

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White Plains Holds off North Rockland in Sectional Win

By Rob DiAntonio

There were some nerves showing early for White Plains in the Tigers' opening round Section 1 Class AA playoff game. With three eighth-graders and a freshman playing major minutes, it was expected.

But the eighth-seeded Tigers settled in and held off a late rally from No. 9 North Rockland to pull of a 52-41 win last Saturday afternoon.

"It's amazing," White Plains senior Julia Reggio said of having young players making big contributions. "It's really awesome for them to experience at such a young age, the speed of this game and how hard it is to be playing with us. I'm really proud of them."

After two 3-pointers from North Rockland, White Plains' lead was trimmed to 46-41 with 1:15 to play. The Tigers took a timeout and freshman Aliya McIver found senior Savannah Williams wide open in the corner for a clutch three, stretching the lead back to eight points with 52 ticks left.

"That was a turning point in the game," Reggio said. "We all were so pumped at that

Eighth-grader Sequoia Layne made 1 of 2 free throws then Reggio sunk two from the line to make it 52-41 and seal the win with 20 seconds left.

It was tied at 22-22 at halftime and both teams came out slow in the third quarter. A turning point came for the Tigers when Reggio finished off the glass through contact and made the free throw with 1.3 seconds left. That basket gave White Plains a muchneeded boost and a 35-29 lead heading into the fourth quarter.



ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS

White Plains senior Julia Reggio looks to finish over two North Rockland defenders.

"That was real big because I was trying to get her to start off the game like that, White Plains coach Benji Carter said. "I knew she was going to go into passing mode. But then, also, we've never (as a group) made it out of the first round, so she had that on her mind."

Williams found Layne on the fast break for a bucket then Layne finished inside



Ineivi Plata fires a 3-pointer.

to increase the lead to 40-31 with just under five minutes to go. A Reggio runner stretched it to an 11 point-lead about 30 seconds later.

"We were just playing strong defense, getting steals and getting fast breaks,' McIver said of the run. "This win means a lot because last year we didn't get past the first round. We just need to keep playing



hard and stay focused throughout the whole game. We just have to stick together, play as a team, communicate on defense, get fast breaks and play together."

Williams dished to a cutting Layne again, who did the rest to make it 44-35 with 2:13 to play. The Red Raiders answered with a three but eighth-grader India Newman

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Tigers Cruise Past Ramapo, Look Ahead to Mount Vernon

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"Moving the ball was a major key in keeping the lead today," Burns said. "When we're up, we tend to play selfish basketball because we know we're up and we just play for stats. But we kept playing together today and kept the lead."

Jason Giraldo made a runner with two seconds left in the third quarter to send White Plains into the fourth with a 47-30

Norwood provided the exclamation point on the victory, slamming down a fast break dunk to make it 54-38 with three minutes to

Eli Pierre and Jonathan Fortes each gave up plenty of inches when they guarded Ramapo's Nakhi Bishop, a towering center. Bishop, however, never got into a rhythm offensively despite his size advantage.

"They did a very good job of not letting him get to his spot," Mayfield said. "Some of the guards did a good job of rotating down and helping out. They all brought energy and tried to keep him off the glass."

The Tigers also won the loose ball battle, out hustling the Gryphons throughout the contest.

"That was one of our things, we wanted to win the effort game," Mayfield said. "I thought we did for the most part. We got a little sloppy offensively. For the most part,



Tymir Greene rises up for a shot in the paint.

we had control the whole time."

White Plains (16-5) will travel to fourthseeded and defending section champion Mount Vernon for the quarterfinals on Friday, Feb. 28 at 4:30 p.m.

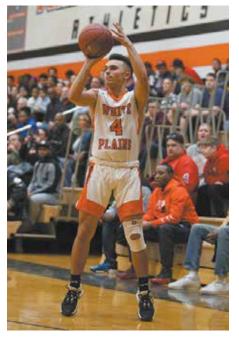
"Discipline, ball movement and we've



Eli Pierre of the Tigers drives to the basket around Ramapo's Nakhi Bishop.

got to play hard," Burns said when asked what the keys are to beating Mount Vernon. "They're going to come in and try to thug us so we've got to play hard."

The Tigers defeated Mount Vernon in a 67-66 nail-biter back in January.



The Tigers' Paul Sevcik takes a three.

"We're going to have to play better than we did today," Mayfield said after the win over Ramapo. "We're going to have to make shots, move the basketball and make a consistent effort defensively.'

• • • • • • EXAMINER SPORTS • • • • •

Tigers' Season Ends in Overtime Against Rams

By Rob DiAntonio

Each time White Plains inched closer or tied the game, Carmel always had the answer.

The No. 13-seeded Tigers forced overtime but fell to the fourth-seeded Rams 7-6 in the opening round of the Section 1 Division 1 Playoffs on Saturday night at Brewster Ice Arena.

Steven Mount scored the game winner for Carmel on a scrum in front of the net with 3:03 left on the clock.

The Rams had taken a 6-5 lead with 4:30 left in the third period but Daniel Cardozo fired a wrister top shelf to tie the game with 2:21 to go.

Cardozo, who finished with three goals



John Myers and Daniel Cardozo celebrate a goal.



ROB DIANTONIO PHOTOS



Teddy Hauser carries the puck up the ice in White Plains' 7-6 White Plains' Jason Monte looks to clear the puck out of the defensive end. overtime playoff loss.



Daniel Cardozo led the Tigers with three goals and two assists.

and two assists, used his next-level speed to beat the Rams' defense multiple times.

Carmel captured a 4-2 lead with 22 seconds left in the second period but John Myers scored on a feed from Cardozo with

six seconds on the clock to make it a one-goal game heading into the final period.

Cardozo scored on a power-play goal with 6:36 left in the third period to tie the game. Carmel answered 36 seconds later but



White Plains coach Howie Rubenstein talks with the Tigers before the start of the third period.

Cardozo wrapped around the back of the net and tied it up again just 10 seconds after that.

Myers tallied two goals and three assists in the loss. Joey Kittelstad added a goal. Devin Garnett and Teddy Hauser each had two assists. Justin Esposito made 45 saves in net

The Tigers concluded the season with a 9-12 record.

White Plains Holds off North Rockland in Sectional Win-

continued from previous page

drove and scored to get the lead to eight points with 1:45 remaining.

"I think they might take it up another level," Carter said of his squad. "That's my hope, just from seeing the pressure that went on today."

Reggio finished with a game-high 13 points and had five rebounds. Layne registered nine points and 10 boards. McIver had a strong all-around game with six points, eight steals and five assists. Williams totaled six points and six rebounds. Ineivi Plata added six points and grabbed three steals.

The tenacious Tiger defense forced the Red Raiders into 24 turnovers.

White Plains (15-6) will travel to topseeded and unbeaten Ursuline (21-0) for the quarterfinals at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28.

"I know we haven't been to the



Freshman point guard Aliya McIver drives the lane in the Tigers' playoff win.



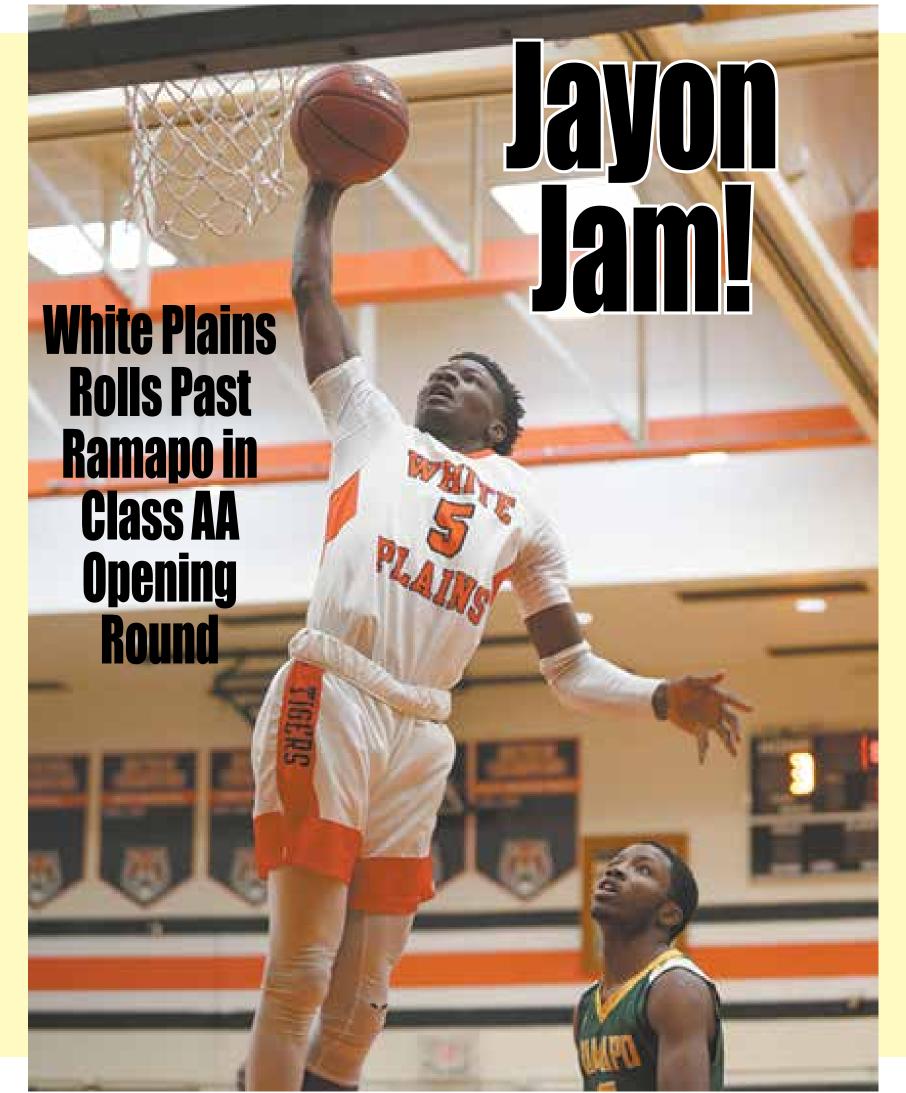
White Plains coach Benji Carter talks with the Tigers during a timeout.

(Westchester) County Center before so we're all super excited and ready to work hard," Reggio said. "We have to just bring it to the next game. We have to just play them like they're another team and don't let their name affect how we play."

Carter believes his upset-minded Tigers match up well with the Koalas, who boast multiple Division 1 players on their roster.

"Even though they're very solid," Carter said, "We feel that if we make no mistakes and do everything containment wise and detail wise...our offense speaks for itself. We feel like it's easy to learn, but it's unstoppable."





ROBERT DIANTONIO PHOTO