



White Plains Schools Closed, Possibly Beyond Spring Break

By Pat Casey

Due to the State of Emergency issued by County Executive George Latimer on Monday, White Plains Schools will be closed for the remainder of this week and into next week, with a rolling five-day evaluation going forward.

Last Friday, Dr. Joseph Ricca, White Plains School District Superintendent, announced via a Facebook videoconference that all White Plains schools would be closed Monday and Tuesday this week and that snow days would be used to cover the closures.

On Monday, after a conference call with

the County Executive and the county's schools superintendents, Ricca held another Facebook videoconference to inform school staff and families that they should prepare for school closures to run through the scheduled Spring break, ending April 11 and possibly beyond.

Ricca said it is expected schools will remain closed with protection provided by the County State of Emergency declaration, which will prohibit any punitive government measures for the closures and also allow aid.

Ricca said parents and guardians would receive information from their children's teachers and the district regarding

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Stepinac Season Ends as Coronavirus Impacts CHSAA Playoffs



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTO

R. J. Davis, a four-year starter for Stepinac ended his high school basketball career in practice despite the Crusaders winning the Archdiocesan Championship and earning a number one-seed in the Intersectional Playoffs. Concerns over the coronavirus prompted the CHSAA to suspend all activities as of March 12. See full story on page 17.

Schools Closed, Non-essential Workers Told to Stay Home in Coronavirus Fallout

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County declared a state of emergency in the escalating battle against coronavirus Monday afternoon, a decision that will shutter schools and many businesses and keep thousands of workers home for the foreseeable future.

The decision, made by County Executive George Latimer over the weekend, was in concert with an increasing number of restrictions imposed through executive orders from Gov. Andrew Cuomo that closed down gyms, bars and restaurants statewide as of 8 p.m. Monday to limit public gatherings and hopefully halt the spread of the virus. Food establishments will be able to remain open only for takeout and delivery service.

Theaters are now closed and gatherings are limited to no more than 50 people.

While the private sector closures are

currently voluntary, that could change.

"We strongly advise that only services and businesses that are essential stay open," Cuomo said in his Monday morning briefing. "Grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies; it's not mandatory at this time. It may be in the future, but it is strongly advised at this time."

While most public and private school officials made the decision to close on their own by the end of last weekend, Cuomo's executive orders mandate closures starting Wednesday and stretching through Mar. 31, giving districts a chance to arrange for children who receive free and reduced lunch and for families that need to find daycare for younger students. It also allows schools to prepare to set up online learning.

Cuomo also asked that local governments reduce their workforce by at least 50 percent, keeping on only essential employees. Locally,

all municipal offices will be closed to the public, with many government meetings conducted by Skype or other technology. Libraries have been closed as well.

"Work from home. I'm asking the same thing of private businesses," Cuomo said. "If we can ask private business, the government leads by example. New York State will do this also."

Latimer said when he decided on a county state of emergency it would have mirrored much of what the governor imposed. The governors of New Jersey and Connecticut have also forced similar restrictions in their states.

"At the end of the day, we're not sure what the financial impact of this is going to be, we're not sure what the social impact is going to be, but most important is the saving of human lives," Latimer said.

On Monday afternoon, county Health

Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler said as COVID-19 spreads throughout the community, without a vaccine or a treatment the only way to contain the disease is to limit interaction.

"So that leaves us with one tool left in our chest and that is we can reduce exposure because without exposure there is no risk, without risk, there is no disease," Amler said.

As of 11 a.m. on Monday, there were 950 cases of COVID-19 statewide, including now 221 in Westchester. About 17 percent of the people who have tested positive needed hospitalization. There have been seven deaths caused by the disease statewide.

Cuomo said the need to limit public gatherings was to slow down the rate at which the virus is spreading. He said health experts have said those infected could be anywhere from 40 to 80 percent of the population.

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White Plains Schools Closed, Possibly Beyond Spring Break

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closures and procedures. Distance learning opportunities would likely begin next week and would be facilitated by teachers.

Prior to updates by Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Latimer on Monday, there was confusion as to why some Westchester school districts had closed and others remained open.

During his Friday Facebook conference Ricca explained that the White Plains School District closure was consistent with the model of social distancing that has been recommended by the CDC and many medical professionals.

On Friday morning more than 50 superintendents met with New York State and State Education Department officials to discuss the public health concern that the COVID-19 coronavirus poses to communities and schools. During this meeting, there was a collective concern for the health and safety of students, staff, and respective communities, Ricca explained. It was determined that some immediate action was necessary.

Dr. Ricca explained that Gov. Andrew Cuomo had not done a blanket lift of the 180-day requirement for school districts to receive state aid. He further explained that the requirement was lifted only for those schools with an identified positive COVID-19 case, which would close for 24 hours to determine next steps.

According to the Health Dept., the White Plains School District does not have a confirmed positive case, so far, Ricca said. This is why the District needed to use snow days for any closures."



White Plains Schools Superintendent Dr. Joseph Ricca during a Facebook videoconference, where he announced school closures due to COVID-19 concerns.

Members of the NYS legislature, aware of the confusing state of state school funding even under the recent executive order from the governor, quickly organized to prepare legislation, which it hopes to pass this week, that would guarantee any school choosing to close due to coronavirus concerns based on the health or safety of the school community does not lose state funding under the 180

day law, even if not directed by a state or local health official.

In an email message State Senator Shelley Mayer said, "To close or not to close a school district is a decision that each local superintendent must weigh with the advice of school board members, teachers, and community members. There are several challenges that each superintendent

or chancellor faces including childcare logistics for parents in districts that close, providing students who qualify for free and reduced lunch with meals, ensuring special needs students receive the services they need, and ensuring a plan for distance learning for schools that close for a longer period of time. These are all issues that my colleagues and I, in coordination with the Governor's office and state agencies, are working to address."

During the Monday videoconference Dr. Ricca emphasized that students were not on vacation and that play dates and finding other areas to congregate were not advised because the goal is to minimize exposure to the COVID-19 virus by limiting social contact.

Ricca advised parents to begin making plans for scheduling distance learning in their homes. With all sports suspended he further advised students to keep exercising.

Information about rescheduling of SATs and other exams as well as whether or not the prom and graduation would be cancelled would be addressed at a later date.

Dr. Ricca's videoconference can be viewed on the White Plains School District Facebook page.

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Cancellations Due to Coronavirus Precautions Takes Toll on White Plains Businesses

By Neal Rentz

The double hit of the Coronavirus and the cancellation of the annual St. Patrick's Day parade have taken a toll on White Plains restaurants, the president of the Westchester Chapter of the New York State Restaurant Association said on March 14, the originally scheduled date of the parade.

The White Plains St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee sent an e-mail Web blast last week to explain its decision and stated it will meet in the near future to discuss a future celebration.

"This decision was not reached easily and came after discussions with medical experts, state, county and public safety officials," according to the committee. "We recognize that people will be disappointed by this decision (as are we), but our main focus is and must be the health, welfare, and safety of our residents, parade participants and attendees. After extensive review and consultation, we believe this is the prudent course. Thank you for your understanding," the Parade Committee statement said.

Westchester Restaurant Association President Casey Egan, owner of Emma's Ale House on Gedney Way, said his business has been hurt as a result of the virus. "I guess 60 percent off in a short period of time," he said.

Losing the parade was particularly harmful to his restaurant, Egan said. The

business generated on parade day makes up some for the slower business during the winter months, he said. "This would be the best day of the year" for his restaurant had there been a St. Patrick's parade, he said.

In response to Gov. Andrew Cuomo's mandate that facilities, such as restaurants, with maximum capacities of less than 500 people must reduce those capacities by at least 50 percent he has reduced the number of tables in his establishment and has spaced them apart, Egan said.

Egan said he has been making extra efforts for cleanliness at his restaurant. Every 20 minutes kitchen workers "go off the line and wash their hands," he said. Surfaces are regularly cleaned with disinfecting wipes, he added.

The current climate has been rough on local restaurants, Egan said. "It's a very challenging time for us all."

Stuart Levine, owner of LeVino Wine Merchants on Mamaroneck Avenue, said last week there were mixed financial aspects to the virus regarding his business. There has been an increase in sales to individuals who are working more from home and who are going out to restaurants and bars less than usual, he said. However, there have been several events scheduled for the coming weeks that have been cancelled due to the virus and he has lost sales that had been previously planned for those events, he said.

Man Found Dead in White Plains Sunday Morning

A White Plains man, 40, was found dead Sunday morning in a rooming house on Park Avenue.

Local police were reportedly performing a general welfare visit shortly after 6 a.m. Sunday when they came upon the wounded body, with blood on the scene.

"It is a Medical Examiners case at this time. We are conducting an active

investigation. We will not know if it is suspicious or self inflicted until the Medical Examiners report," Public Safety Commissioner David Chong told The White Plains Examiner. "We do ask anyone who saw or heard anything strange in the area on Saturday and early Sunday morning, also anyone with possible cameras to give us a call at 914-422-6111.

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Cuomo Curtails Candidate Petitioning After Calls for Action

By Martin Wilbur

Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed an executive order Saturday that suspends the petitioning period for congressional, state legislature and judicial races on Tuesday at 5 p.m. and reduces the number of signatures needed to get on the ballot.

Concerns arose as the number of COVID-19 cases in the New York metropolitan area and across the nation began soaring last week and health officials increasingly called for social distancing. The petitioning process requires that candidates and their surrogates approach registered members of their party to sign their petitions.

In addition, Cuomo's order reduces the

requisite number of signatures a candidate needs to get on the June 23 primary ballot to 30 percent of the threshold. Instead of collecting 1,250 signatures for congressional races, a minimum of 375 will be needed.

State Senate candidates now require just 300 instead of 1,000 and Assembly candidates need just 150 signatures rather than 500.

"Public health experts have been clear that one of the most common ways to communicate COVID-19 is through direct person to person contact, and we are doing everything in our immediate power to reduce unnecessary interactions," Cuomo said. "This executive order modifies the election process in a way that both protects public health and ensures the democratic

process remains healthy and strong regardless of the ongoing pandemic."

Last week, Democratic candidates in the 93rd Assembly District and 17th Congressional District races pledged to suspend petitioning in the wake of the coronavirus threat while hoping Cuomo would take action.

On Friday, a joint statement was issued by the five hopefuls in the Assembly race – Kristen Browde, Chris Burdick, Mark Jaffe, Jeremiah Frei-Pearson and Alex Roithmayr – stating that the candidates would not challenge petitions that appear to have the minimum number of signatures to get on the

ballot for the primary.


"We have agreed that none of us will challenge any ballot petitions which appear to contain the minimum number of required signatures from registered Democrats inside the 93rd Assembly District," the statement read. "Further, all of us discourage each of our supporters and each of the Democratic Committees in our district from issuing any challenges to petitions that have the requisite number of signatures from Democrats inside the 93rd District."

Likewise, eight of the more than a dozen candidates for the congressional race did the same. Catherine Parker, Adam Schleifer, Allison Fine, Asha Castleberry-Hernandez, David Carlucci, Evelyn Farkas, Mondaire Jones and David Buchwald were the candidates who agreed to the pledge.

"For the health and safety of the people of Rockland and Westchester Counties, our campaign staffs, and our volunteers, we are unwilling to continue business as usual," the congressional candidates' statement read in part. "The petitioning process to collect signatures requires face-to-face interactions that fly in the face of safety guidance issued by the CDC, state health officials, and Governor Cuomo."

In another order, Cuomo has temporarily suspended open meetings laws, which allows for government to hold meetings without the public and without video or audio. Most local governments have limited access to the municipal buildings and facilities, although many have made arrangements to live stream, tape or allow the public to listen to the audio of meetings.

'The number of signatures a candidate needs to get on the June 23 primary ballot is reduced to 30 percent.'



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Union Reps Criticize Hamilton Green Project and Developer at Citizens to Be Heard

By Neal Rentz

The Hamilton Green mixed use development was sharply criticized by two local union members during the Citizens to be Heard portion of the March 2 White Plains Common Council meeting.

The ordinance to create a new zoning district called TD-1 (Transit Development-1) and rezoning property including 200 Hamilton Avenue, the White Plains Mall, from Neighborhood Business District B-2 to TD-1, was passed by a unanimous vote of the Common Council in July 2018.

Buildings in the proposed development will include street-level retail, food hall, one acre of public open space, a parking garage and four residential apartment towers with 860 residential units, the tallest two buildings at 14 stories on 3.7 acres. There would be 956 parking spaces provided.

The property, now owned by W.P. Mall Realty, LLC and SWD 3 LLC, known as Street-Works Development, requested the zone change.

The maximum allowed building height in the new TD-1 District is 280-feet. The B-2 zone only allows a 25-foot maximum height.

Access to the public open space, which is designed within the courtyard-like interior area, is available at six different locations from the four streets making up the block of the project. Part of the open space will be in an elevated area over the parking garage

Gabriela Silva said she and fellow workers at 1 and 3 Barker Ave. lost their jobs when Juda Klein, who has an ownership interest in Hamilton Green, switched cleaning



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Lenore Friedlaender, assistant to the president of SEIU 32BJ, discussed the Hamilton Green project at the March 2 White Plains Common Council meeting.

contractors. The new contractor paid much lower wages with few or no benefits, she said. Silva said her union was not able to meet with Klein.

Silva said she wanted the Common Council to consider workers when reviewing the project. “We at 32BJ believe strongly that the hundreds of jobs created by this project should be good jobs, paid at the prevailing wage with solid benefits,” she said.

The other speaker on the topic was Lenore Friedlaender, assistant to the president of SEIU 32BJ. She said her union wants the

developer to submit a new application that would be in line with new affordable housing requirements approved recently by the Common Council, Friedlaender said.

Friedlaender said the union was concerned about building code violations and took the developer to court after it became landlord of the White Plains Mall.

Friedlaender also said the developer stated in its application to the IDA the project was “a high financial risk that might lead to the project becoming economically unfeasible.” She said Street Works Development dropped

out of a \$1.6 billion planned for Quincy, MA due to unforeseen construction costs.

Friedlaender said in the developer's application it was listed as an LLC, which had not been formed and at a recent Common Council meeting would not name its financier.

Friedlaender also said the developer has not committed to hire local residents for construction and post-construction jobs, no commitment to pay prevailing wage or established industry standard wages.

Friedlaender said the Common Council should not approve Hamilton Green until her union's issues are addressed.

“Our union supports responsible development, which is why we are here today in opposition to the developer being granted tax abatements and other public benefits until the serious concerns regarding the brownfields remediation, financial viability of the project, transparency in ownership and quality of jobs and community benefits are addressed in a responsible manner,” Friedlaender said.

Messages left last week with representatives of the developer of the Hamilton Green project were not returned.

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Scarpino Warns Public to Beware Coronavirus Scammers

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County District Attorney Anthony Scarpino warned residents to be wary of various scams targeting growing fears surrounding coronavirus.

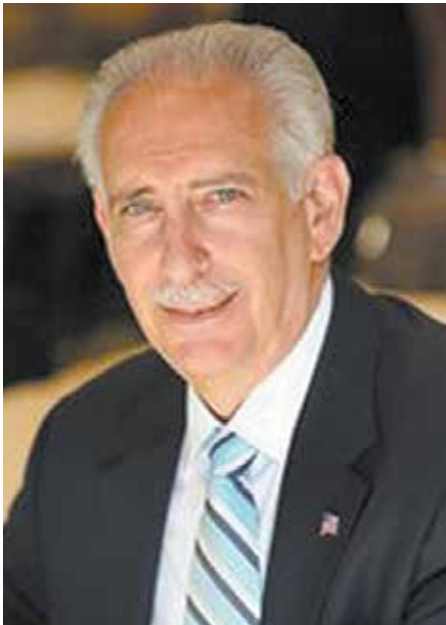
Scarpino also was investigating last week at least two e-mails that were directed at a member of the Jewish community in New Rochelle, the epicenter for COVID-19 in the metropolitan area, that included wording that could be considered anti-Semitic.

“There are scams out there dealing with vaccines for the virus, masks, gloves, all the items, hand sanitizers, that we’re having trouble getting, and they’ll make deliveries to you if you provide them with the money and, of course, they’re not providing them,” Scarpino said.

While it may seem far-fetched that anyone might fall for the rip-off, often sent to people via e-mail, the district attorney said all the scam artists need is a 1 percent success rate and their efforts prove profitable.

Although there have been no reports of scams as of late last week in Westchester, Scarpino said because the county has been in the national news as a result of the cluster of COVID-19 cases in New Rochelle, he expects swindlers to descend on the county and play on people’s anxieties.

He cautioned residents not to open e-mails if they don’t know the person or entity that is sending them and never to send money or provide credit card, bank account numbers and personal information



District Attorney Anthony Scarpino discussed scams and e-mailed hate messages connected with the coronavirus emergency last Thursday.

to anyone you don’t know.
“You have to be careful because this is a priority for the scammers to move in, and this is their job,” Scarpino said. “This is what they do every day.”

People are urged to call their local police department or the district attorney’s office if they are a victim of a scam or learn of any operations.

Hate Investigations

Scarpino said his office’s Hate Crimes Unit is working with local law enforcement to find out the person or group responsible for targeting a person who tested positive for COVID-19 in New Rochelle.

Since the initial reports of the virus in Westchester stemmed from people affiliated with a synagogue in that community, investigators are being vigilant that this could continue, he said.

Scarpino said the threats are not widespread, but he wanted to highlight the concern to the general public in case there are additional cases that come to light.

“There are people in all communities that are struggling with all sorts of personal issues, all sorts of demons, all sorts of mental health issues and the internet, they believe, provides some kind of anonymity, but it doesn’t always,” he said. “We’re trying to track down where that’s coming from.”

Criminal Justice System to Operate

While there may be various accommodations made to protect the public and personnel, Scarpino said in his briefing to the media last Thursday that essential court proceedings will continue. Ultimately, all decisions regarding the operation of the courts statewide will be made by the Office of Court Administration.

“We have to handle the emergency when a person is arrested, that has to be handled almost immediately,” Scarpino said.

He didn’t rule out other measures such as

changes of venue to areas of the state that could be less impacted by coronavirus or postponements of less serious crimes.

“I want the people to know that the district attorney’s office is up and its operational, law enforcement is up and operational, it’s not having any impact in regards to our investigations and our prosecutions and we are concerned about the health and welfare of our own workers and the community at large,” Scarpino said.

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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
LIANNA RAMOS (CIN# EM18967V) Docket No. NN-21557-19 **JOHAN RAMOS** (CIN# ES39924J) and Docket No. NN-21556-19 **JAYLON RAMOS** (CIN# FB62716D), Docket No. NN-21555-19A F/U No.: 125652 A Child(ren) under Eighteen Years of Age Alleged to be Neglected by **JEREMY CRUZ, SUMMONS** (Child Neglect Case)

Respondent.

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Upon your failure to appear as directed, a warrant may be issued for your arrest and/or the Court may proceed to inquest and hear and determine the petitions as provided by law.

Dated: February 26, 2020

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Clerk of Court

AKRF, WHITE PLAINS

By Neal Rentz

Justin Seeney is senior technical director for AKRF, which has had an important part in creating several major developments in White Plains and elsewhere.

Seeney, a White Plains native who currently resides in Brooklyn, is a civil engineer. He said last week AKRF has done work for both commercial and government development projects. “We work on a broad range of projects here,” he said. “Our clients are either large real estate developers or municipalities.”

The company has 10 offices in the northeast.

One of the company’s current projects is the proposed Hamilton Green, a large mixed use development that would be located in White Plains, as well as Brookfield Commons, which would also be in the city and would include both affordable and market rate housing, Seeney noted. “We are trying to shape these communities and improve the community as a whole,” he said.

Some of the municipal projects his company works on are environmental projects such as wind power farms in the Atlantic Ocean and streetscape projects, Seeney said.

Seeney said he is “part project manager, part designer. You get to wear a few hats here at AKRF, which is something I like.” This could include designing or managing a project through the approvals process, he said. “How do we help our clients get things built,” is the responsibility of AKRF,



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Justin Seeney is the senior technical director of the White Plains office of AKRF.

Seeney said. Seeney said he “kind of fell into” his profession. “I’ve always been pretty good at math,” he said. “Engineering sounded good to me.” His college, the University of Delaware, offered an Engineering Undecided program. During the first semester of the program

students can study several different engineering fields, he said. Seeney said he gravitated to civil engineering. “I like the big projects feel of it and I like the infrastructure side of it,” he said. “To me it seemed to be a place where you could really make an impact.”

One of the projects Seeney is especially proud of is the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project in Manhattan. Seeney said it is “hopefully a trend setting project.” The area was devastated by tropical storm Sandy in 2012, he said. The company is creating a huge flood berm by raising the land by about 12 feet and turning it into “active use space” that can be used by the residents of lower Manhattan as a park, he said.

“They call it civil engineering,” he said. “It’s for civilization. You’re building the things that create our society and make us civilized. You need water, you need sewers, you need roads and you need protection.”

Seeney said his profession is gratifying. “What you do does make a positive impact,” he said.

The White Plains office of AKRF is located at 34 S. Broadway, Suite 401. For more information call 646-388-9542 or send an e-mail to jseeney@akrf.com.



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Two USPS Employees Test Positive in WP, Library Closes Indefinitely

Over the weekend two US Postal Service employees at a White Plains facility tested positive for coronavirus. One employee is in the hospital the other is recovering at home.

A report on News12 Westchester said many employees were concerned for their health and safety and did not want to return to work, despite assurances from the Postal Service that the situation is being monitored and guidelines from government health agencies are being followed.

A contract cleaner was hired for the Northeast region to conduct daily deep

cleaning of local postal facilities.

The March 15 public service message on the USPS website indicates that there is currently no evidence that coronavirus can spread through the mail.

The USPS message further states, "Currently, we are not experiencing operational impacts as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic and we are using this time to review/revise our contingency plans should they be needed. Regarding the importation of packages, the CDC states there is likely very low risk that the

COVID-19 can be spread from products or packaging shipped from China, because of poor survivability of coronaviruses on surfaces. Also, according to the CDC, there currently is no evidence to support transmission of coronavirus associated with imported goods; and there have been no reported cases of COVID-19 in the United States associated with imported goods."

Also on March 14, the White Plains Public Library announced it would close Sunday, March 15, until further notice, as a measure of caution.

Reschedule Primaries from June to September

NYS should change the primary date for Congressional, State Legislative seats and District Attorney races. The current primary date is in June. Between now and June very few people will be paying attention to the candidates, virtually no one will attend forums and debates and few people

will want to shake the hands of candidates. These races are important. The candidates are working hard, trying to get attention of voters who are not interested because they are focused on coronavirus. In many instances the winner of the primary contests will automatically win the election because

some communities are one party districts. I believe that the primary date should be rescheduled to September.

—Paul Feiner,
Greenburgh Town Supervisor

County Consumer Protection Inspectors Helping Residents Impacted by COVID-19

After learning that some businesses are choosing to refuse providing services to the people of New Rochelle, especially those in the one-mile radius outlined by New York State, the Westchester County Consumer Protection Department is making clear that any business discriminating against New Rochelle or Westchester consumers will be issued tickets under all applicable law. Inspectors have been assigned to closely watch for any unconscionable trade practices that harm New Rochelle's residents or any Westchester residents going forward.

Westchester County Executive George

Latimer said: "We are one County – one community - and it is going to take all of us to overcome this crisis. And make no mistake, we will. To hear of businesses working under a completely opposite premise is unacceptable and we must not tolerate it."

Consumer Protection Director Jim Maisano stated: "It's outrageous that any business would avoid interacting with New Rochelle or Westchester during this crisis. If we identify any businesses discriminating against New Rochelle or Westchester consumers, our inspectors will investigate and issue appearance tickets to hold these unscrupulous business accountable. We will help educate businesses that such behavior is unacceptable in our County. We hope all residents will contact our office if they are

treated improperly."

New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson said: "It's disgraceful for any business to deny services to New Rochelle residents, so we're teaming up with the County to protect our rights. I am grateful for the excellent work of Westchester's Consumer Protection Department, and, together, we will always stand up for our people."

If any New Rochelle or Westchester County consumer, especially those in the one-mile radius, believes they've been a victim of an unconscionable or deceptive trade practice by a business relating to the coronavirus, or for any other reason, please contact the Westchester County Consumer Protection Department by calling 914-995-2155 or sending an email to ConPro@westchestergov.com.

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Tidbits on
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It's Time for All of Us to Do Our Part to Fight the Coronavirus



By Dr. Laura Korin

As a physician, I'm not an alarmist. Most physicians aren't. By our training, we learn to check ourselves and remain calm in the face of a crisis.

But I'm here to sound the alarm, or rather, to join in with other physicians sounding the alarm about the coronavirus (COVID-19). First from Wuhan, then Italy, and more recently the U.S.

I am a primary care physician, the person you trust to guide you to better health and help you recover from illness, the shoulder to cry on, someone who cheers you on in your efforts to improve your life. I hope you will heed my words.

I am in contact with thousands of physicians across the country and the world. Our message is simple: stay home! We are not asking you to panic. We are asking you to take our warnings and instructions seriously and help us save your life and the life of others.

We are scared. We have learned how bad the situation can get from physicians in other countries, as well as heartbreaking accounts from my colleagues in the Seattle area, who are forced to make painful decisions.

In the United States, health professionals have little to no access to protective equipment and are beginning to fall ill. Physicians, other healthcare providers, first responders, janitorial staff, are literally risking their own lives while battling for yours and doing so without proper equipment. Stay home!

Also, I can't believe I have to write this, but please stop stealing masks, hand sanitizers, gloves from your doctors' offices or hospitals. I get it, you're scared, but our supplies are severely limited and they won't help you as much as they will us. Don't you want us around to help you or your loved one if one of you is ill?

Also, don't lie about your symptoms to get through the screening process because you want to be tested but your symptoms are mild and you were recommended to stay home. Now you've exposed everyone in your path, including the clinical staff trying to care for the critically ill, and you might not get tested anyway. There is a limited supply of test kits, and not everyone qualifies for testing.

Despite what you may have heard, not everyone can get the test, even if the doctor wants to test you. Hopefully, this will change soon. I'd love to test everyone, then we'd really get a sense of the impact here, but we can't yet.

If you are sick, definitely stay home and contact a medical professional first to see if you need to be seen. Only go to the emergency room if you are having an emergency. Look

at your local health department website for links and information about what to do if you get sick and how to prepare your home.

Other than that, please stop traveling, meeting up with friends, having parties or playdates, going to the gym, going to bars. I understand that your children may be frustrated by the realities of social distancing and interruptions of their normal activities. But the school closures will accomplish nothing if you continue with gatherings, small or large.

The symptoms of coronavirus take days to manifest themselves. Someone who comes over looking well can transmit the virus. It's okay to take go outside for walks, runs, biking (and you should, it's a great stress reliever), but maintain distance, ideally six feet between people outside your family.

Call your friends and check in with your older neighbors to see if they need something while you are (sparingly) going to the grocery store or pharmacy. Take care of each other, just don't hang out with each other. Continue to cover your cough and wash your hands, but that alone is not enough. Stay home!

Early and aggressive social distancing can flatten the curve, not overwhelm our healthcare system and eventually may reduce the length and need for longer periods of extreme social distancing later, which is what has occurred in Italy and Wuhan. We

all need to do our part during these times, no matter the difficulties. I hope one day you can tell us we overreacted, then that means we all did our part.

Many people are literally risking their own lives while fighting for yours. Please stay home. It is the absolute least you can do.

Laura Korin, MD, MPH, is a family physician and preventive medicine/public health physician who trained at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. She practices at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx. She was raised in Pleasantville and continues to have close ties to the village.

Guest Column

For the latest local reporting tidbits on coronavirus (COVID-19) follow @examinerstone and/ or @ExaminerMedia on Twitter. Visit our website for daily coverage of major developments: TheExaminerNews.com

Crossword by Myles Mellor

1	2	3		4	5	6	7
8				9	10		11
12							13
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34					35		36
37					38		
39						40	

Solution on page 13

Across

1. Crooner, Smith

4. Bern's river

8. Swindler

11. Brad, e.g.

12. Meet, as expectations

13. Summer colors

14. It's found in banks

15. "It takes a ____" or Armonk specialty food store, ____ Prime Meats

17. Healthy

19. Seafood

20. Send the troops home

22. Dentist's advice

26. Elbow's site

28. Fix

29. You don't have to be a "melophile" to attend this Brewster school, but it helps, Music ____

33. Female pronoun

34. Boring triplet

35. Robin Hood's girl

37. St Patrick's place

38. Toyota pickup

39. It can be less traveled

40. Perplexed, at ____

Down

1. Bash

2. Saint and a founder of scholasticism

3. Madame, for short

4. Deer's headgear

5. Battery for laser pointers

6. Halo

7. Otherwise

8. Three, they say

9. Off-road goer, for short

10. Like some roulette numbers

16. Chuck

18. Abhorred

21. Half a bikini

23. Positive aspect

24. Desert bordering the Red Sea

25. African carnivore

27. People in charge, abbr.

29. "Good buddy"

30. Spiced stew

31. Rink star Lipinski

32. French "water"

36. Some midwives, abbr.

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Despite Empty Shelves, There Is Plenty of Food

By Pat Casey

An article published by The NY Times Monday said: "Americans have been alarmed by empty grocery shelves, but while food suppliers and retailers say they are struggling with surging demand, they insist the supply chain remains strong."

On Friday, Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner wrote that New York State needs to address panic supermarket buying.

"In recent days NYS and other states have tried to address the coronavirus crisis by encouraging people to avoid large crowds. Schools, colleges have been shut down, sports events have been cancelled, Broadway theaters have gone dark and more employees are working from home, avoiding subways and trains. Yet, the supermarkets are overcrowded with people who are close together, panic buying. Every shopper who is in a supermarket over-packed with shoppers is increasing the chances of getting infected and infecting others. I was at Shoprite on Central Avenue two nights in a row. The parking lot was packed. I did not go in. I



Empty shelves on the bread aisle of a local supermarket.

heard that the lines during the day were enormous," Feiner said.

Feiner would like the state to address the problem. "If a supermarket is packed

with hundreds of people (and shoppers are within six feet of each other) they can spread the virus," Feiner says. "In the UK some supermarkets, facing the same problem,

have started to ration food because panic buying left shelves empty. There is no need to buy more than needed."

On Monday, addressing the needs of senior citizens in the community, local Stop & Shop stores announced reduced hours and special shopping times to accommodate and protect older customers.

"In order to allow more time for our associates to unload deliveries, stock shelves, and better serve our customers throughout the day, Stop & Shop has adjusted its hours of operation to 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. at most stores beginning Monday, March 16," an email from the company's management said.

Also, to better enable social distancing, effective on Thursday, March 19, Stop & Shop will create hours specifically geared to accommodate customers 60 and older. Stop & Shop stores will open from 6 to 7:30 a.m. only for customers over the age of 60 who the CDC and local health officials say are most vulnerable. ID will not be requested for entry, but the company will ask customers to leave if they are not members of this age group.

Schools Closed, Non-essential Workers Told to Stay Home in Coronavirus Fallout

continued from page 1

While an estimated 80 percent of those infected may have few or no symptoms, they can still spread the virus to the vulnerable population of seniors, those with underlying health issues and compromised immune systems, Cuomo said. If that happens the healthcare system could buckle, he said.

"That's what you hear every day on TV. The concept is right," Cuomo said. "Flatten the curve, slow the spread so the healthcare system can handle it. When they say this, I don't think of a curve, I think of a wave. The wave is going to break, and the wave is going to break the hospital system. We're doing everything we can to flatten the curve."

Currently, there are about 53,000 hospital beds throughout the state, 3,000 of which are in intensive care. Cuomo said he wrote an open letter to President Donald Trump asking that the Army Corps of Engineers be deployed to help retrofit empty facilities into hospitals.

Latimer said Westchester is among the counties looking to identify empty spaces that can be used.

"There's no road map as to what we do next and how we move forward on this," Latimer said.

For local officials, the challenges ranged from convincing their constituents to heed the warnings of the authorities or addressing irrational fears to making sure essential services are operating properly.



PAUL CARDI PHOTO

The growing health crisis caused by coronavirus produced long lines of shoppers at local supermarkets last weekend, including at the ShopRite Sunday morning in Thornwood.

As this issue of The White Plains Examiner went to press the White Plains Mayor's office did not have updated information about any additional COVID-19 cases in the city. As of last Thursday, three people had tested positive for coronavirus in White Plains, according to the mayor. "We have been informed that these individuals are abiding by all the required quarantine measures," Roach said.

Out of an abundance of caution, the White Plains Public Library building was closed to the public starting Sunday, March 15. "We will be sharing more information about how you can use our virtual services in the days to come. In the meantime, we have a robust e-book and e-audio collection available, as well as many resources for streaming media, including Kanopy, an excellent film collection," Roach said.

In connection with the White Plains School District closure this week, the White Plains Youth Bureau will also be closed.

If you are experiencing symptoms associated with coronavirus, please call either the White Plains Hospital Hotline at (914) 681-2900 or the NYS Dept of Health Hotline at 1-888-364-3065. Professional staff will screen you over the phone by asking you a series of questions and assess your need for testing.

-Pat Casey contributed reporting to this story.

Proposed \$233.2 M White Plains 2020-21 Schools Budget Meets Tax Cap

By Neal Rentz

White Plains Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Ricca has proposed a \$233.2 million budget for 2020-21 that would meet the state-mandated tax cap.

Ricca presented his spending plan at last week's Board of Education meeting.

Under the ledger, 75 percent of the spending would go toward employee salaries

and benefits. Some of the additional positions being sought by Ricca include two guidance counselors, two social workers, one music teacher, two security assistants and one assistant athletic director.

Nearly 84 percent of the proposed budget is funded through the property tax.

Proposed capital projects, which would be paid through the capital reserve, include

at Highlands Middle School new heating, ventilation and controls (\$7,034,600); at George Washington Elementary School a complete renovation to original restrooms (\$559,000); at the Mamaroneck Avenue Elementary School a new public address and clock systems; (\$462,400) and at the Rochambeau Alternative High School replacement of domestic water, hot water

lines and restrooms (\$1.16m) and the installation of new corridor ceilings and LED lighting (\$784,000).

The Board of Education is scheduled to hold a budget workshop on March 23 and adopt next year's spending plan on March 30. A public hearing on the budget will be held on May 11. District residents are slated to vote on the budget on May 19.

Sea Flame Seafood & Steakhouse Restaurant Premieres in Scarsdale



By Morris Gut

Restaurateur and hospitality veteran Petrit Bica premiered Sea Flame Restaurant in the Vernon Hills Shops along White Plains Road in Scarsdale, across from Barnes & Noble. 'Pete' Bica, who will be the on-site general operations

manager, had previously partnered at Michelangelo's Italian Restaurant on Arthur Ave. in the Bronx. Most recently, he was general manager for several Wolfgang's Steakhouse locations in Manhattan. He is a genteel, knowledgeable host.

The dining room is mirrored with soft class-casual tones. Artsy lighting fixtures hang from the ceiling. There are modern artworks. Tables are well spaced for comfortable dining. A large wine rack separates the dining room from the kitchen.



The long sparkling marble top bar is already drawing a daily networking crowd. The staff is most professional and ready to please.

Bica insists on resourcing the best in the marketplace for his kitchen. Seafood is delivered fresh daily, primarily from local fishermen on Long Island. High quality USDA Prime meats come from Master Purveyors in the Hunts Point Market.

Sea Flame's eclectic Italian/American/Steakhouse menu includes such fine starters as: daily Raw Bar featuring a Seafood Tower; Grilled Octopus; Baked Clams; Sizzling Canadian Bacon sliced thick; Sea Flame Crab Cake; Sliced Beefsteak Tomatoes with Onion or Mozzarella.

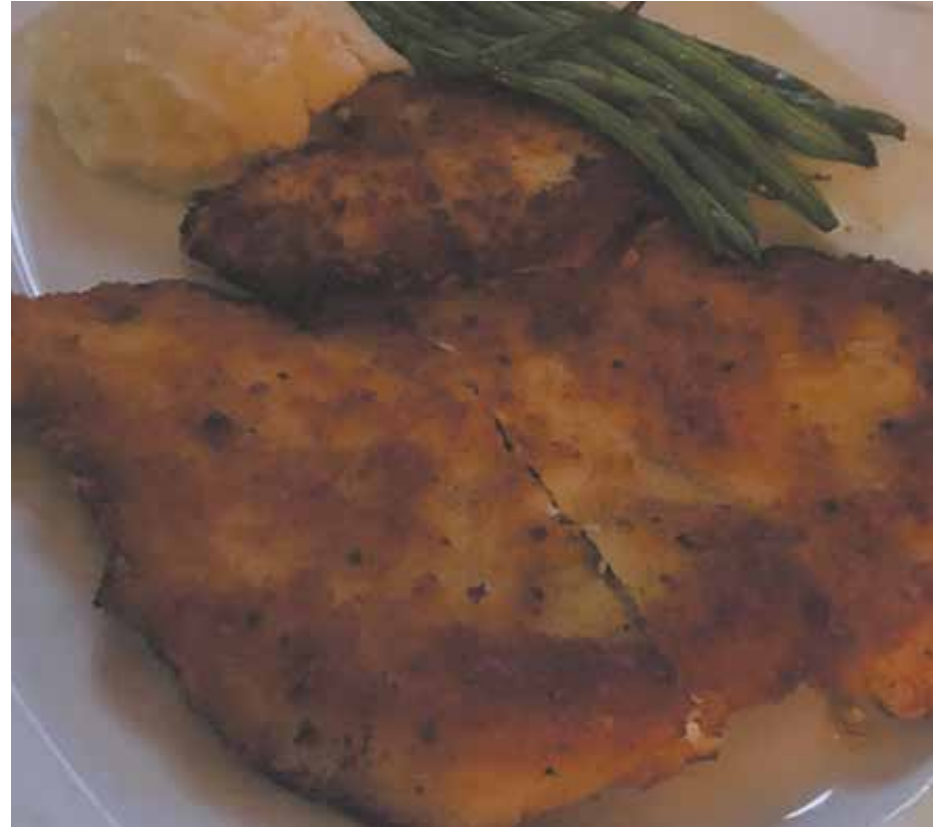
Signature main courses include: Seafood Risotto with shrimp, scallops and lobster; classic Surf & Turf with filet mignon and lobster; Prime Dry Aged Tomahawk Steak; Porterhouse for two, three or four; and Double Cut Veal Chop. Good fresh salads at lunchtime.

Fresh Salads include: Classic Caesar Salad; Wedge Salad; and a signature Chopped Salad with romaine, fresh baby spinach, green peas, carrots, corn, sweet red peppers, hearts of palm, avocado, feta cheese and a house vinaigrette dressing.

Beautifully plated seafood, poultry and pasta entrees include: Sea Flame Seafood Risotto with shrimp, scallops, calamari; Seafood Pescatore; Chicken Marini with parmesan crust; Chicken Parmigiana; hearty Chicken Scarpriello; Wild Salmon; Grilled Branzino; and Chilean Sea Bass.

Carnivores will certainly enjoy the Beef Prime Dry-Aged for 28 Days: Bone-In New York Sirloin; Filet Mignon; 26 oz. Rib Eye; classic Surf and Turf; and Porterhouse Steak for two, three, or four.

Selections called 'Chops & Fire' include: Veal Chop; Lamb Chops; Pork Chops; Veal Milanese; and Veal Parmigiana. Supplementary sides: German Potatoes; Creamed Spinach; Asparagus; Brussels sprouts and Lobster Mac and Cheese.



Delicious Chicken Martini at Sea Flame.

Leave room for such desserts as: N.Y. Cheesecake; Chocolate Mousse Cake; Tiramisu; and Hot Fudge Sundae. Desserts are served with house made Schlag.

Sea Flame is located at 709 White Plains Road, Scarsdale/Eastchester. The restaurant serves lunch, dinner seven days a week and Sunday Brunch. Same menu served all day. Price range main courses: \$19 to \$29. Prime Dry Aged Steaks and Chops: \$32 to \$58. Prix Fixe Lunch: \$22.95. Banquet facilities. Full take-out. Delivery service. Major credit cards. Proper casual dress. Free parking. Reservations accepted: 914-874-5366. www.seaflamerestaurant.com

New Restaurants in the Works

Graziella's to Open 2nd Spot in White Plains.

The DiFeo family is opening another Graziella Italian Restaurant at the sight of the former Luka's (Ernesto's) 130 W. Post Road. Work on the interior is going on at this writing. The original site is at 99 Church St., White Plains. Founder Gracie DiFeo and her family are still at the helm at both restaurants, as well as their new Mt. Kisco location. The family is also affiliated with Westchester Burger Company restaurants around the county. www.graziellasrestaurant.com.

El Barrio Coming to Scarsdale/Eastchester.

Chef Sal Cucullo Jr. and partners at the former 808 Social at 185 Summerfield St., Scarsdale, are rebranding the eatery into El Barrio Mexican Restaurant highlighting Mexican street food. It should be open by early April. There will be some fine talent at

work here. Playful new design, too. Chef Sal also operates The 808 Bistro on Scarsdale Ave., Scarsdale.

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



Pete Bica of Sea Flame with his Prime Aged Steaks.



A view of the dining room at Sea Flame, Scarsdale.



Grilled Octopus at Sea Flame.



Baked Clams at Sea Flame.

Coronavirus Concerns Visit the Real Estate Industry

A while back, I wrote a column about doorknobs that I thought was comical. It included one of my wife's famous Lithuanian sayings, "I visited my friends only to kiss the doorknob," which translates simply that they were not home. Lithuanians have quaint expressions for nearly everything they do.

But can you imagine anybody kissing a doorknob today, considering that the typical doorknob probably harbors more germs than any other fixture in our homes?

As a realtor, I and my colleagues have been advised this week by the National Association of Realtors (NAR) that the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has been changing the way we should operate in and around homes we are listing for sale or viewing with buyer clients.

According to a new survey just conducted by the association, nearly one in four home sellers nationwide are changing how their home is viewed while that home remains on the market, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The changes include eliminating open houses from their marketing plans, requiring potential buyers to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer, asking buyers to remove shoes or wear footies and other changes.

The percentage of sellers adopting these and other changes climbs to 44 percent in Washington state and 34 percent in

California, two of the states hardest hit by coronavirus.

The NAR's Economic Pulse Flash Survey, conducted on Mar. 9 and 10, asked questions about how the coronavirus outbreak, including the significant declines in stock market values and mortgage interest rates, has impacted home buyer and seller interest and behavior. Several highlights of the member survey include:

--Thirty-seven percent said lower mortgage rates excited home buyers much more than the stock market correction.

--Almost eight out of 10 (78 percent) said there has been no change in buyer interest due to the coronavirus.

--Sixteen percent said buyer interest has decreased due to coronavirus, with members in California and Washington state citing larger decreases in buyer interest – 21 percent and 19 percent, respectively.

--Nearly nine out of 10 members (87 percent) said coronavirus has not affected



By Bill Primavera

the number of homes on the market.

In Washington state and California, 5 percent and 4 percent of members, respectively, reported homes were removed from the market. That figure is 3 percent for members nationwide.

To me and my real estate colleagues, all relevant news is local, and in checking with my office at William Raveis in Yorktown, I learned that two weeks ago, the number of showings scheduled on Saturday were 34. As I write this on Saturday this week, I've called my office to learn that that number of scheduled showings had dropped dramatically to nine showings and, before the end of the afternoon, four of those had been canceled.

So, hold on to your hats, home sellers and fellow realtors, and let's all hope that the number of coronavirus cases starts declining soon. If not, all we can do is be patient and, most of all, be safe.

Bill Primavera is a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. (www.PrimaveraPR.com). His real estate site is www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.



Burgundy: The Impact of History on Today's Prestigious Wines



By Nick Antonaccio

The wines of France's Burgundy region are famous for their unique aroma and flavor profiles – and their relative scarcity compared to worldwide demand. This imbalance has driven prices of the most famous wines into the collectors-only stratosphere.

To a certain extent, this obsession has obscured the underlying turbulence of the region's roots.

One cannot fully appreciate the wines of Burgundy without an insight into the local

culture, passion, geopolitics and, perhaps most of all, its history.

While Burgundy vineyards comprise only one-eighth the land coverage of California vineyards, they are owned or managed by a similar number of growers – approximately 3,000. Do the math: Burgundy vineyards are generally miniscule in size compared to California. But this wasn't always the case. The history of Burgundy is a tale of the ebb and flow of land control over millennia.

For this column, I've condensed the 2,000-year history of this region into four distinct periods. Each has enhanced the quality and appreciation of the fine wines produced in this ancient region.

1. The Romans.

Roman troops swept through this area in the fifth century and occupied the land for several centuries, experimenting with various grapes, eventually concentrating on Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. At the end of the eighth century, King Charlemagne brought the influence of the Roman Catholic Church to much of France, including Burgundy.

As its ruler, he fancied the local red wines and acquired a parcel of land. However, legend tells us that the king had a habit of staining his beard at mealtimes, embarrassing his wife. She preferred that he drink white wine as a kingly alternative. To this day, this parcel of land, Corton-Charlemagne, is an island of Chardonnay in a sea of Pinot Noir.

2. The Dukes of Burgundy.

In the 14th

century, this warring family conquered and occupied Burgundy with a stranglehold on the local economy for the next 200 years. And Burgundy flourished. However, as the Roman Catholic Church gained influence in France in the 16th century, the House of Burgundy felt the need for the eternal salvation promised by the church. They were convinced that the way to salvation was through spiritual, not financial, wealth. They gradually transferred ownership of much

of their Burgundian lands – and vineyards – to their winemakers, the church's emissaries: Benedictine and Cistercian monks.

3. The Monks. It is during this era (the 16th through 18th centuries) that the reputation of Burgundy as a fine winemaking region flourished. The monks were fastidious recordkeepers, diligent laborers and insightful winemakers. They catalogued each inch of land for its natural qualities – soil composition, exposure to the sun, elevation of vineyards – and planted vines accordingly. They perfected ages-old winemaking techniques. They even sold a portion of these sacramental wines to the aristocrats. And then came...

4. The French Revolution. After Louis XVI was dethroned and beheaded, the revolutionaries distributed much of the wealth of the aristocracy and the church to the commoners. With their new and reclaimed holdings, the newly enfranchised winemakers embraced the land and gained worldwide popularity for their wines.



'What we taste today is the evolution of Burgundy and the culmination of thousands of years of influence and refinement.'

Upon Napoleon's accession to emperor in 1804, his Napoleonic Code further distributed the land of Burgundy to the heirs of its citizens. Generation after generation, the vineyards were continually subdivided amongst the heirs of each succeeding generation, resulting in the hodgepodge of small vineyards that exists today. A number of today's winemakers produce just a few hundred cases of wine from vineyards only a few rows wide.

What we taste today is the evolution of Burgundy and the culmination of thousands of years of influence and refinement. This is the pure essence of Burgundy. Not solely the grapes or the land, but the echo of the ancient footsteps in the vineyards.

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



Obituaries

Luigi L. Finateri Jr.

Luigi L. Finateri Jr., 68, passed away March 14.

He was born Dec. 6, 1951 in White Plains to Virginia (nee Rincicotti) and Luigi Finateri Sr., and raised by Leonilda Finateri.

For over 20 years, Louie worked as a professional mover for Morgan Manhattan Moving & Storage Co., retiring in 1997. Along with his father, he cofounded Louie's Tree Service.

Louie is survived by his son, Luis Finateri; four brothers, Joseph, Mario, Angelo, and Anthony Finateri; two sisters, Claudia Amelio and Anna Marie Karr; and his beloved companion, Christina Finateri.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Louie's name to Rosary Hill Home, Hawthorne, NY.

Andrew Helmut Schon

Andrew Schon, 82, passed away on March 12 at his home in White Plains.

Andrew was born in Budapest, Hungary to George and Selma Schon on May 24, 1937. At the outset of World War II in Europe in 1939, George Schon had to serve in a forced labor camp along with other Hungarian Jews. He continued to serve with minimal furloughs until 1944 when he was taken POW by the Russian Army. In March 1944, German forces occupied Hungary. Andrew, then seven years old relied on his mother's resourcefulness and kindness of

friends to avoid being captured and placed in concentration camps by the Nazis. The Russians liberated Hungary later in 1944 and Andrew, Selma and George were reunited in late 1945. Andrew's sister Judith was born a year later.

In 1956, Andrew, then 19 years old, was attending Engineering School and working for the Railroad. In late October of that year, a student protest escalated into a revolt against Soviet-imposed policies. This protest attracted thousands as they marched through central Budapest. By the end of October, Andrew was obligated to report for mandatory military service. However, during this period, the Soviets retreated and there appeared to be an impending negotiated withdrawal of Soviet rule. However, in early November, a large Soviet force invaded Budapest and other regions of the country and thwarted the revolution. At this time, being considered AWOL from his mandatory service, Andrew made plans to escape Hungary. He used his credentials from and knowledge of the Railroad system to help force a train to stop only one mile from the Austrian border. He managed to safely enter Austria on foot. His linguistic skills allowed him to effectively serve as a German - Hungarian interpreter for other refugees being processed. This service helped expedite his receiving a visa to enter the United States in January 1957.

Andrew assimilated quickly into American culture and raised his three sons with his first wife Sheila in Flushing, NY. He was an active civic leader in the community, serving

on the board of directors for Embassy Co-op, North Flushing Swim Club, Mitchell Linden Baseball League and local Cub Scouts. He was also the NYPD liaison in the community during the Son of Sam attacks in 1977.

Andrew had a successful career as a Mechanical Engineer, retiring approximately 10 years ago. He continued to provide leadership and mentorship with the General Society of Mechanics & Tradesmen of The City Of New York. Also, he volunteered on a regular basis as a patient advocate with White Plains Hospital.

Surviving Andrew is his loving and devoted wife of almost 34 years, Harriet Schon. In addition to his wife, he leaves behind his sister Judith Yoblick of Edison, NJ. Andrew is also survived by his three sons (and spouses), Steven Schon (Helene) of Pennington, NJ, Richard Schon (Michele) of Plainview, NY and David Schon (Bonnie) of Hauppauge, NY. His grandchildren include Brian Schon, Jillian Schon (fiancé Gregg), Alec Schon, Marissa Schon and Tyler Schon. Andrew is also survived by two stepdaughters Lisa Bissell of Ft. Lauderdale, FL and her children Helyna and Gerald, and Stephanie Solomon and her fiancé Chris Saitta of Seattle, WA. He leaves behind many nieces, nephews and lifelong friends.

Lester A. Petretti

Lester A. Petretti, 88, of White Plains, passed away on March 9, seven days shy of his 89th birthday, after a hard fought battle with Cancer.

He was born on March 16, 1931 in the Bronx, the son of Pietro and Maria (Bertini) Petretti. Growing up on Jackson Avenue in the Bronx, Lester loved racing and tending to his pigeons from the rooftop. He was a Korean War Veteran. Lester retired after a long career with Chase Manhattan Bank.

Lester married his wife Carmela (nee Genazzi) on Jan. 26, 1957.

He is predeceased by his brother Charles and sister Adriana (Maicus) Petretti. He is survived and will be deeply missed by his wife Carmela of 63 years, his loving sons Andrew (wife Carole) and David and his beloved grandchildren Cory, Kelly and Cassie Petretti, many nieces, nephews, friends and his best friend, his dog Sammie.

Lester and Carmela loved living at The Surrey Strathmore for the past 36 years, where they made many wonderful friends. He was an active member of St. Bernard's Church and remained a devoted follower of Christ.

Victoria Y. Acampora

Victoria Y. Acampora, passed away March 8.

She was born July 10, 1925 to the late Nicholas and Angelina Mauro Galasso. She graduated from White Plains High School in June 1942.

Victoria worked for NY Telephone Co. during WWII, AT&T for which she was a

continued on page 16

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Crossword Solution from page 9

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8	C	O	N	M	9	A	N	
12	R	I	S	E	T	O		13
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34	B	L	A	H		35	M	36
37	E	I	R	E		38	T	U
39	R	O	A	D				40





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Obituaries

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telephone operator at St. Agnes Hospital,
and then was hired as telephone supervisor
by United Hospital in Port Chester being
referred by NY Telephone Company and
retiring in 1996.

Victoria was an avid member of the W.
Harrison Senior Citizens. She enjoyed the
many activities and trips the program offered
including the Knifty Knitters Club and
Bingo on Thursdays and Fridays. Victoria
was a member of the Ave Maria Guild at St.
Anthony of Padua Church, and did volunteer
work at area hospitals. She was also a
talented piano player. Her many years as a
homemaker, excellent cook and baker, and
raising her family were her pleasure, pride
and joy. She was a very caring friend to many
and will be greatly missed.

Victoria is survived by her four sons
John, Thomas, Nicholas, and David; six
grandchildren John (Melissa), Matthew
(Bree), Jared, Rachel, Victoria, and Julia
Rose; and two great granddaughters Noelle
and Makayla.

Born in Mount Vernon, NY on December
20, 1942

Peter Stone

Peter Stone, of White Plains, passed on
peacefully in the presence of his family on
March 3.

Peter was born in Mount Vernon on Dec.

20, 1942. Peter moved to White Plains from
Manhattan when he was 10 years old and
graduated from White Plains High School
in 1960. He earned a Bachelors degree from
Principia College and a graduate degree from
Washington University. Peter then served as
an officer in the US Navy during the Viet
Nam War, aboard helicopter carrier USS
Valley Forge.

After the Navy, Peter returned to White
Plains and settled in the Highlands. His
business career included five years with
Procter and Gamble and 35 years with
Reebie Associates/Global Insight doing
management consulting in the field of freight
transportation.

His community involvement included an
active role in the Christian Science Church,
serving as First Reader, Trustee, and
representative to the White Plains Religious
Leaders Association. He served for 12 years
as the Chairman of the WP Commission on
Human Rights; starting member of the WP
Coalition for Cultural and Racial Harmony;
member of the Mosaic Chorus. He was a
trustee of the WP Historical Society and a
member of the Veterans Writing Workshop.
Several of his stories have been published in
their anthologies.

Peter is survived by his wife, Kitty,
son, Kevin, and daughter, Vivian, three
grandchildren and many other family
members who loved him dearly.

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The WHITE PLAINS Examiner Sports

Stepinac Season Ends as Coronavirus Impacts CHSAA Playoffs

By Albert Coqueran

Of course, concern over the Coronavirus Pandemic is more important than any athletic event. It is a serious world health crisis, which has killed and inflected many people. However, as I wish for all people to remain safe at this critical time in society, as a sports journalist, I will report on the immediate impact the Coronavirus Pandemic is having on the local sports communities.

On Thursday, March 12, CHSAA President Kevin Pigott announced the suspension of all CHSAA events, which included the suspension of the Intersectional Basketball Playoffs. "We have been instructed by the Superintendent of Schools of the Archdiocese of New York to suspend all CHSAA events effective immediately. As of now this suspension includes, games, scrimmages, meets and practices," declared Pigott.

Stepinac was the NY number one-seed

in the CHSAA Intersectional Playoffs, after beating St. Raymond to capture the NYCHSAA Archdiocesan Championship, on Saturday, Feb. 29. But the Crusaders were not aware that this would be their last game played this season.

The Crusaders (18-9) received a bye to the Quarterfinals and were waiting to play rival Iona Prep at Fordham University, on March 8. But Fordham cancelled the CHSAA Intersectional Tournament and closed its doors to all athletic events due to concerns regarding the spread of the Coronavirus, on Saturday, March 7.

Nonetheless, as the Crusaders diligently practiced in the Stepinac gym while the coronavirus pandemic worsened, the writing on the wall became apparent that beating St. Raymond to win the Archdiocesan Championship could be their last game of 2020.

Initially, the CHSAA AA Intersectional



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTO

Crusaders Head Coach Pat Massaroni (right) jokes with seniors Luke Fizulich (left) and R. J. Davis (center), at practice, on Monday, March 9, while awaiting their game with Iona Prep in the Intersectional Quarterfinals. Nobody on the Crusaders thought they had played their last game of the season at that time.

Playoffs were to resume at Christ the King High School, on Wednesday, March 11 and Thursday, March 12. But again the games were moved to play the first two games Monsignor Scanlan vs. St. Francis Prep followed by Archbishop Molloy vs. St. Raymond to Stepinac High School, on March 11.

The other two Quarterfinals games Stepinac vs. Iona Prep and Cardinal Hayes vs. Xaverian were to be played at Mount St. Michael on Friday, March 13.

NY CHSAA number four-seed Scanlan beat Brooklyn/Queens number one-seed St. Francis Prep, 73-68 in overtime. Then the NY two-seed St. Raymond defeated BQ number three-seed Molloy 82-54, at Stepinac, on Wednesday, March 11.

Therefore, with the first two games of the AA Intersectional Quarterfinals completed, Stepinac had to feel good about their

chances of playing arch rival Iona Prep in the Quarterfinals, on Friday, March 13, at Mount St. Michael.

However, Stepinac would never play Iona and the last two games of the CHSAA AA Intersectional Quarterfinals would not come to pass. The day prior on March 12, CHSAA President Pigott would deliver his announcement of the suspension of all sporting activities over concerns of the spreading of the Coronavirus.

If there was any chance of the Intersectional Playoffs continuing at some point those hopes were doused when NYS Federation Tournament announced they were also cancelling the tournament this year. The NYS Federation Tournament was scheduled to be held at Fordham University from March 27-29. It would have been the first time in history the Federation Basketball

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PHOTO BY HECTOR MARTINEZ/MOVINGPICTURES

Stepinac Associate Head Coach Rodney Swain (left) and Head Coach Pat Massaroni (right) never imagined they would have to say goodbye to their four seniors (l-r) Justin Morety, R.J. Davis, Luke Fizulich and Matt Brand before ever playing a game in the CHSAA Intersectional Playoffs. But concerns over the Coronavirus abruptly ended the CHSAA basketball season.

..... EXAMINER SPORTS

Stepinac's Baseball Season Suspended Due to COVID-19

By Rob DiAntonio

A cloud of uncertainty is surrounding sports in the area with COVID-19 impacting many athletic seasons.

Stepinac's baseball team is one of them as the Crusaders have had their practices and games suspended indefinitely and a start date for the season is unknown at this time.

"Crazy scenario here right now," Stepinac coach Keith Richardson said. "We are hoping to get back after it as soon as possible."

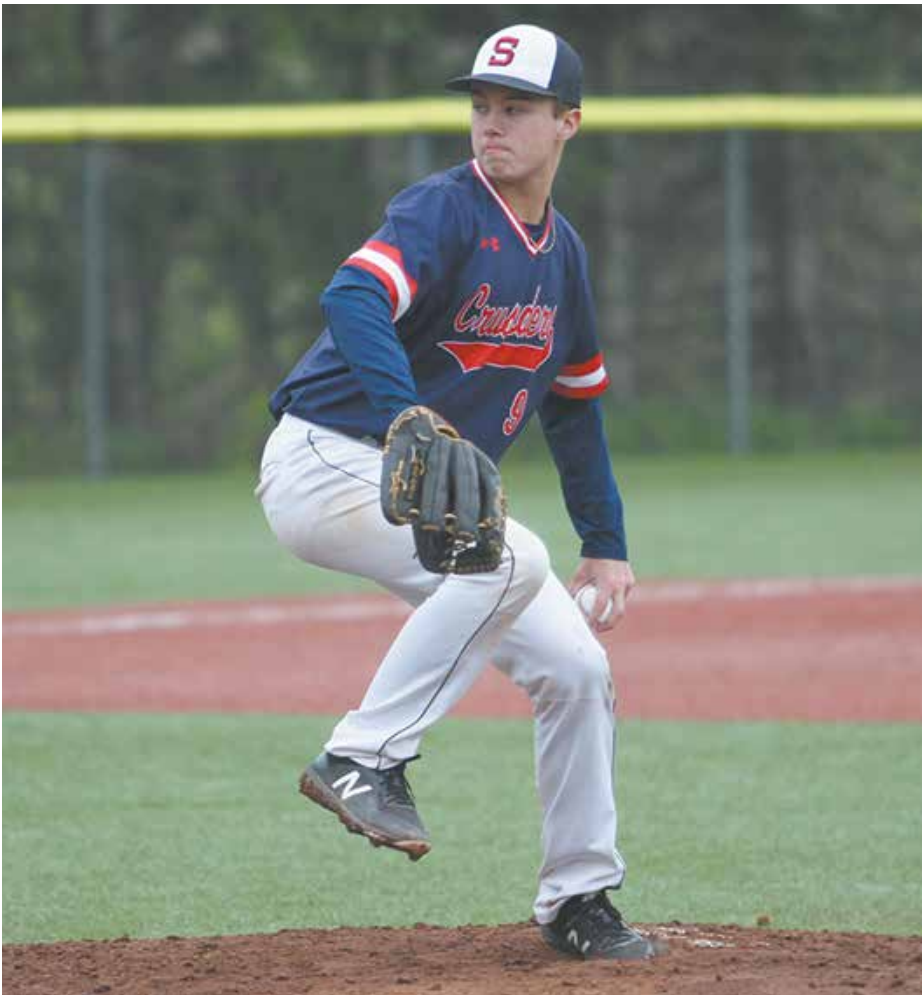
The Crusaders will look to vie for a AA City Championship with a nucleus of key players returning. Key returners for Stepinac include a group of seven seniors: Chris Antonelli (RHP/IF), Anthony Saputo (1B/3B), Colin D'Arcy (RHP), Aidan McDonough (LHP/OF), Anthony Pressimone (C), Matthew Kahn (RHP) and Jackson Branigan (RHP/OF).

The experienced Crusaders have 16 seniors on a 28-man roster.

"We are a very senior heavy team and will be relying heavily on them in all areas," Richardson noted. "Our juniors are certainly capable and will be fighting for contributing roles."

Antonelli, D'Arcy, McDonough, Kahn and Branigan will lead the pitching staff. Richardson said that each of them "is capable of starting or relieving and have a mix of great stuff." They will likely all be used in various roles.

"We feel pitching is the strength of our team this year," Richardson said. "The quality and depth in our staff is the best



Aidan McDonough will be one of the leaders of Stepinac's pitching staff.



Anthony Pressimone heads for first base during a game at Kennedy Catholic last season.

we've had since I've been here." Saputo and Antonelli are coming off impressive junior seasons and will be counted on to lead the offense in the middle of the lineup.

"They provide extra-base pop and will be

continued on next page



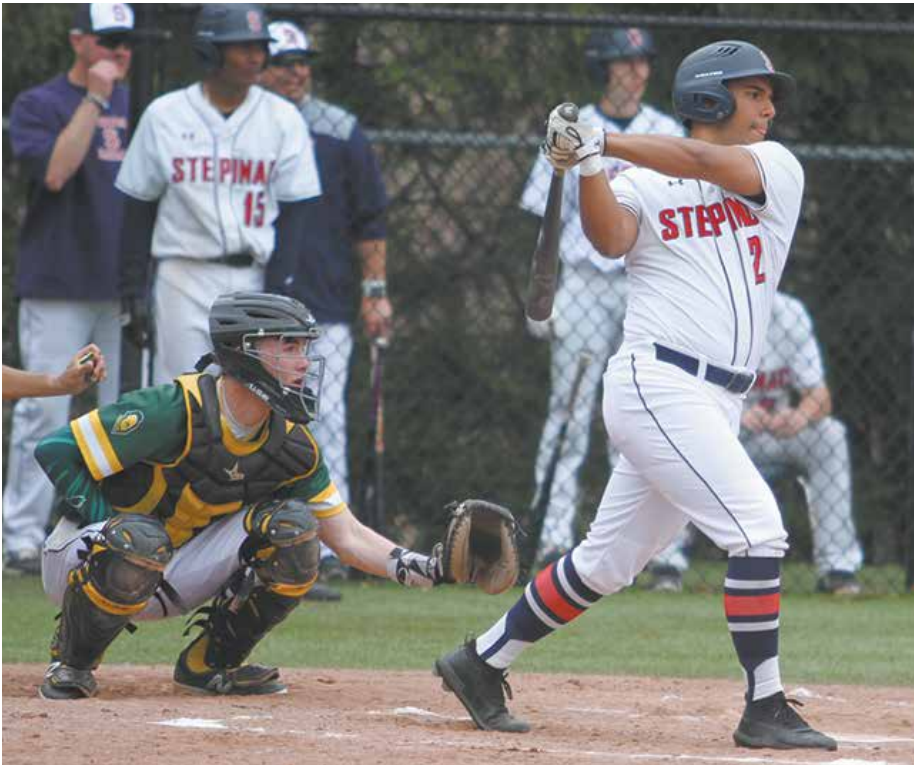
Eli Rosenshine is congratulated by Jackson Branigan after scoring a run last year.



Anthony Saputo is a big bat in the middle of the lineup and plays both first and third base.

EXAMINER SPORTS

Stepinac's Baseball Season Suspended Due to COVID-19 continued from previous page



Matt Soto follows through on a swing last season.

key RBI guys for us," Richardson said. "We feel we have several guys that can get on base, be aggressive in the running game and help us score runs."

Stepinac graduated a number of starters who made big impacts the past few seasons, including shortstop Mike Becchetti, pitcher/first baseman Izaiah Walker and center fielder Dom Nicolo.

"We lost three First Team All-League players in Mike Becchetti, Izaiah Walker and Dom Nicolo," Richardson said. "They made up the top of our lineup, middle of our defense and a key pitcher. They will be extremely difficult to replace. We will be looking to find the right mix at the top of the lineup to get us going offensively. We do have a big group of returning players that have talent and experience from our playoff run last year. We are excited about the returning guys and them stepping into

some more prominent roles."

The trio played a big part in helping Stepinac reach the city championship game last year, where they fell to Fordham Prep 4-0.

"After an amazing run all the way to the championship game last year and coming so close, the guys are really excited about the season and the chance to hopefully make another deep playoff run," Richardson said. "We will work very hard to put ourselves in position to do so."

Stepinac currently has five players who are committed to play at the next level and Richardson expects that number to increase soon. Kahn (Siena College), Antonelli (Felician University), Matthew Halas (Wesleyan University), Branigan (College of Mt. St. Vincent) and Matthew Soto (Cabrini University) are all committed.

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Stepinac Season Ends as Coronavirus Impacts CHSAA Playoffs

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Championships was held in New York City.

"When you win 18 games and the Archdiocesan Championship while playing a national schedule and being ranked 25th in the country by BlueStar Media that is great," commented Stepinac Head Coach Pat Massaroni.

"But I think the hardest thing was that this was a special group with four great seniors. The staff and the players just loved being

around each other and to look back and not have the normalness of knowing you played your last game win or lose when ending your season is the hardest thing. Nobody thought beating St. Raymond on Feb. 29 would be our last game," said Massaroni, by telephone on Sunday, March 13.

One of those "four great" seniors that Massaroni acknowledged is University of North Carolina commit and four-year varsity

starter R.J. Davis, who was on target to end his high school basketball career a two-time CHSAA City Champion. "I gave this League everything I had for four years and you are trying to tell me, I cannot finish my senior year? Love my brothers! It was fun while it lasted," exclaimed a frustrated Davis, subsequent to the cancellation of the CHSAA Intersectional Playoffs.

Davis even has more reason to feel

deprived. As the first McDonald's All-American from Stepinac, the McDonald's All American Games set to tip off on April 1, at the Toyota Center, in Houston, Texas were also cancelled.

"Playing my last high school game, not knowing it was my last high school game, is something that'll never sit right with me," stated Stepinac senior guard Matt Brand, a resident of White Plains.

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