



## Three-Year Site Plan Approval Sought for Hamilton Green

By Neal Rentz

An attorney representing the developer of the Hamilton Green mixed use development asked the White Plains Common Council last week to provide a three-year site plan approval, rather than one year as previously considered.

William Null, an attorney representing the developer, discussed the site plan application with the Council at a meeting on Feb. 24. The Common Council and city staff have been reviewing the application for two years and an Environmental Impact Statement was prepared, Null said.

The ordinance to create a new zoning district in White Plains called TD-1 (Transit Development-1) and rezoning property

including 200 Hamilton Avenue, the former 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.

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.

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

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## Student Essay Contest: Why a Free Press Matters in Democracy

Examiner Media joins news outlets across the United States in supporting the National Student Essay Competition designed to deepen a recognition of the First Amendment, strengthen freedom of the press and bolster trust between readers and the organizations who serve them.

We believe there is no more important time than now to focus conversation and critical reflection on understanding the crucial relationship between the First Amendment, a free press and the foundations of democracy.

Students in grades 6-8, 9-12 and those at universities and colleges are invited to submit essays to their participating local newspaper examining the state of freedom of the press in the U.S. today and the

importance of the First Amendment to our Constitution.

Examiner Publisher Adam Stone noted how critical it is for young Americans to understand the unique and critical role independent media plays in a democratic society.

"It's vital for the next generation to have not just general knowledge but also a deep understanding and appreciation for the inseparable connection between a free press and the ability to maintain a healthy democracy," Stone said. "From the local and state level and all the way to national news reporting, our country can only function as a free society when we have a robust free press and citizens and leaders who believe in

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## Everyone Can Jump In And Swim



The White Plains Swimming and Diving Team, together with the Lifeguarding and Aquatics Class, has completed two of the three afterschool "Jump In & Swim" lessons in the White Plains High School pool. This learn-to-swim initiative with the City of White Plains Recreation Department and Youth Bureau fosters swim experiences for all. The student/teachers are all volunteers, wanting to share their knowledge, and are supervised by Patricia Gilmartin, White Plains High School Teacher and Swim Coach.

## White Plains Council Mulling Five-Cent Paper Bag Fee

By Neal Rentz

The White Plains Common Council is considering legislation to charge five cents for paper bags provided by stores.

Mayor Tom Roach explained at the Feb. 24 Common Council meeting why he thought the paper bag fee is needed. "Paper bags have a bigger carbon footprint than plastic bags," Roach said. "The goal is to have shoppers use reusable bags."

Karen Pasquale, senior advisor to Roach, said in 2019 the state Legislature passed the Bag Waste Reduction Act with the goal of reducing the use of plastic in the waste stream, including the encouragement of the usage of reusable bags. "It was pretty significant legislation," she said.

Beginning on March 1, with some exceptions including vegetable, dry cleaning and newspaper bags, plastic bags cannot be provided to shoppers, Pasquale said. Plastic bags are "detrimental to the environment and wildlife," she said. "These bags, as we know, don't biodegrade." Petroleum used to create plastic bags creates greenhouse gas emissions, she said.

Pasquale said the state under the legislation allows counties and cities to impose a five cent fee on carry out paper bags. Paper bags produce toxic chemicals during their creation and are not reused as much as plastic bags, she said. Cities and counties that charge five cents per paper bag can keep 40 percent of the fees with the rest

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## Three-Year Site Plan Approval Sought for Hamilton Green

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buildings at 14 stories on 3.7 acres. There would be 956 parking spaces provided.

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.

The public space would be managed by Bederman Redevelopment Ventures and include programming such as music, yoga and theater-like presentations. The public space would be similar to that found at Rockefeller Center in Manhattan, according to the developer.

Another 20,000 square feet of open space will be constructed for Hamilton Green residents at an upper level of the project.

Construction would likely take place in phases.

Null said last week it will be five years before any revenue would be generated by the site and therefore, a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) would be needed by the developer. Terms of the PILOT are still being negotiated, Null said. The PILOT would have property taxes frozen at the current rate being charged to the mall and would not rise until new buildings would be occupied, Null said.



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

A diagram of the proposed Hamilton Green mixed use development, which was discussed at the Feb. 24 White Plains Common Council meeting.

Null further explained that once the existing mall is vacated it would be taken down and a brownfield on the site would be cleaned up. In an effort to obtain construction financing for the project, Null said the project needs a three-year site plan approval rather than one year, which is the usual schedule

for White Plains projects. Null also said the requirement that all parking spaces be constructed in the first phase needed to be removed to ease financial constraints.

Separate financing would be obtained for each phase, Null said. "We're having major issues with financing institutions."

Councilman Justin Brasch said, "I'm always nervous" about providing multi-year site plan approvals. "If we give people a lot of time people often do a lot in that time." Brasch suggested that a two-year approval be given. Demolition of the current mall could begin this fall and it would take more than one year after the demolition and brownfield cleanup before new construction could start, Null said. His clients are "strongly motivated to get this up and running," Null said.

Mayor Tom Roach said if the Common Council decides to provide a site plan approval of less than three years it would still have the option to provide extensions. "This has been to me a very sluggish process to get to this point," Roach said. "It was a very complicated site plan," Null replied. Roach said there have been problems with the maintenance of the current mall.

Councilwoman Jennifer Puja said PILOTs are "helping the developer not the taxpayer."

"That's not fair," Null told Puja. The project would generate significantly more tax revenues than the current mall is providing and the project could not go forward without a PILOT, Null said. The PILOT is not part of the proposed site plan, he noted.

No date for when discussion of the project would continue was announced.

## White Plains Mulling Five-Cent Paper Bag Fee

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going to the state, she said. The 40 percent that would be given to the city would be used to purchase and distribute reusable bags

per paper bag fee was enacted it would hurt low income communities, which use plastic bags for more than carrying items



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Karen Pasquale, senior advisor to White Plains Mayor Tom Roach, addressed the Common Council on Feb. 24 about a proposed five-cent fee for paper bags used by local retailers.

with priority given to low and fixed income communities, she said.

If Westchester County chooses to impose a five cent fee on paper bags the law would not affect cities that enact the paper bag fee, meaning those shopping in White Plains would pay no more than five cents per paper bag, Pasquale said.

If the Common Council chooses to impose the paper bag fee it would go into effect on June 1, Pasquale said.

Council President Nadine Hunt-Robinson said she was concerned that if the five cent

out of a store such as packing lunch or for use in garbage pails. "I'm always concerned about a working people's tax," if bags are not provided for free to residents with low incomes, she said. Pasquale said the new state law prohibits the distribution of most plastic bags. Individuals can bring plastic bags to stores to carry out the items they purchase, but stores cannot provide free plastic bags as of March 1, she said. The state law has provisions to protect residents who receive nutrition benefits from paying the five-cent fee, she said.



Reusable shopping bags are available in an assortment of sizes and can be customized.

Councilman Justin Brasch suggested that some of the money collected by the city if it imposes the paper bag fee be used to purchase reusable bags for low-income persons who do not qualify for nutrition programs. Pasquale said the city would consider his idea.

Roach said work on the legislation would continue.

## SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

## Student Essay Contest: Why a Free Press Matters in Democracy

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and defend our cherished First Amendment rights."

Students served by the Examiner group of newspapers in Westchester and Putnam counties may submit essays now through Friday, Apr. 17. E-mail submissions to [astone@theexaminernews.com](mailto:astone@theexaminernews.com). Winners in each category selected by Examiner Media will then be submitted to a national jury who will select the semifinalists and then the finalists by early September 2020. Examiner Media will announce local winners during the first week of June.

The national winner in each category (grades 6-8, grades 9-12 and university/college) will each receive a \$5,000 check from the Boston Globe Foundation. The winning essayist with the highest ranking among the three categories will also receive a full four-year scholarship, currently valued at \$38,000 a year, to Westminster College in Salt Lake City. Prizes will be awarded in late

fall at the 15th annual McCarthy Family Foundation Lecture Series: In Praise of Independent Journalism.

"The competition is designed to engage the important voices of our students, voices that are vital to the future of a robust democracy and to expand national dialogue about press freedom by encouraging discussion at home and in school," National Student Essay Competition Director Mary Kay Lazarus said.

More information can be found at <https://mk1pr.com/national-student-essay-competition>

*Examiner Media publishes four weekly print community newspapers, The Examiner, The White Plains Examiner, The Northern Westchester Examiner and The Putnam Examiner. Our corresponding news website, TheExaminerNews.com, publishes daily and powers a five day per week free e-mail blast.*



# County Launches Airport Master Plan Review, Unveils Consultants

By Martin Wilbur

Two firms that will help officials develop a supplemental master plan for Westchester County Airport were introduced last Thursday, in a process that will include public discussion to help determine the future direction and operation of the facility.

Merchant Aviation, an aviation consulting firm that has studied more than 50 airports around the world, will assess the infrastructure and the economic and environmental impact of Westchester County Airport. Arch Street Communications will be in charge of messaging through social media, outreach and communications, public involvement plans, the scheduling of press conferences and the coordination of materials to keep the public informed, County Executive George Latimer said.

An online survey is being conducted at [www.onthehorizon914.com](http://www.onthehorizon914.com) now through Apr. 30 and public comments may be left as well. A print version of the survey can also be found at the county's public libraries.

At a briefing at the airport, Latimer announced that the first step will include the 11-question survey that the public is encouraged to complete followed by an open house to engage the community in discussion on Thursday, Mar. 19 at the County Center from 4 to 7 p.m.

Latimer said all aspects of the airport's operations will be reviewed by organizations independent of the county.

"Our view is that these two organizations are professional, they will help guide the



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

County Executive George Latimer, left, speaks with Nora Madonick of Arch Street Communications and Merchant Aviation CEO Kieran Merchant following Thursday's announcement of the start of the Westchester County Airport review and public engagement process.

dialogue ahead with a professional eye along with the stakeholders in this process, that we'll have a viable master plan," Latimer said.

During Thursday's briefing, Latimer noted that the airport's impact on the nearby New York City watershed and Long Island Sound will be included in the consultants' work along with the noise impacts on neighboring communities. The county will also continue to work with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on noise concerns, he said.

In the past few years there has been an intense outcry from residents in portions of Chappaqua, Pleasantville and Mount Pleasant as well as areas south of the airport about an increase in noise generated by aircraft landing and taking off.

"We have to strike an intelligent, responsive balance," Latimer said. "That intelligent, responsive balance means everybody has to be at the table, everybody's voices have to be heard and we have to make accommodations so we do not pollute the watershed, so we reduce as

much as possible the noise and make sure this administration is committed to what we have been committed to, which is not expanding the airport."

The restrictions on the number of gates and commercial passengers per hour will not change, Latimer added.

Kieran Merchant, CEO of Merchant Aviation, said his firm will approach the task objectively.

"We do not come with a preconceived idea of something we have done at other airports," Merchant said. "We have worked on airports around the world. But we look at every single airport as an original airport because we understand the unique nature of every community, every region and every airport."

The public input process and review, will be independent, inclusive, transparent and robust, said Nora Madonick, founder and CEO of Arch Street Communications.

Latimer said he anticipated the entire process to update the master plan will take about a year-and-a-half. The consultants will likely take the rest of the year to gather and analyze data before presenting a first draft to the Board of Legislators. County legislators will then review the document and will have to approve the master plan. Latimer will then have to sign off on it.

County Legislator Vedat Gashi (D-Yorktown), who attended the Thursday announcement, said he is optimistic the process will yield fair results. Residents in portions of Gashi's district in New Castle

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# White Plains Common Council Considers LED Lighting Plan

By Neal Rentz

The White Plains Common Council is considering a proposal to place LED lighting fixtures at several city owned properties.

At the Feb. 24 meeting, White Plains Commissioner of Public Works Rick Hope discussed the proposed contract between the city and Brightcore Energy LLC. If the seven-year lease is approved by the Common Council the city would save \$614,000 over 10 years, Hope said. "The new fixtures will last 10, 15 years as opposed to two years" for regular light fixtures, he said.

The LED fixtures would be installed at



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

White Plains Commissioner of Public Works Rick Hope addressed the Common Council on Feb. 24 about a proposal to place LED lighting fixtures at several city-owned properties.

the Delfino Park ballfields, the sanitation department garage, the city vehicle maintenance facility, the Ebersole Ice Rink and fire stations one, two, three, four, six and seven. If LED fixtures are installed at the city facilities it would save money, be more energy efficient and make the facilities more livable, Pope told the Common Council.

A main reason for seeking to go forward with the project is because the lights need to be replaced at the Delfino Park fields this year, Pope said.

The company would replace the lights and the city would pay the bill through savings from the program, Pope said. There

would be no initial cash outlay by the city.

Some Common Council members expressed concern over the financial terms of the lease. Councilman Justin Brasch said he was concerned about how much Brightcore Energy would make from the lease, even though he supports the concept of installing LEDs. Pope said Brightcore Energy is part of a purchasing cooperative and has extensive experience in installing LEDs. Brasch said the city should receive a greater cost savings than is being proposed.

Mayor Tom Roach asked what the fee structure for the deal would be. Pope said he would provide the information to the Council.

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## County Launches Airport Master Plan Review, Unveils Consultants

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and Yorktown have been among the most affected of anyone in the county by the noise generated by incoming flights.

He also is pleased that there is an understandable and finite timeline to get the work done.

"I think all we can do is make sure it's going to be an open process, that we're going to ask questions of as many people as possible," Gashi said.

Peter Schlactus, a member of the Coalition to Prevent Westchester Airport Expansion, said he is happy with the county's decision and intention to review the facility's operations. Schlactus said he hopes that issues relating to private and corporate aviation, which comprise about 85 percent of the flights at the airport, are adequately addressed.

"This is a great next step for the airport master plan and we look forward very much to being engaged with the county and having the county finally take into account the perspective and concerns of impacted communities around the region," Schlactus said.

The master plan supplement, which is essentially a new plan that builds on an update from several years ago, is being paid for through funds in the county's airport budget, Latimer said.



# County Starts Making Contingency Plans to Tackle Coronavirus

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester officials announced last week they are making plans for the county to combat the deadly coronavirus should there be a local outbreak.

County Executive George Latimer and Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler held a Feb. 26 briefing in White Plains where they said there is no reason for residents to be alarmed but officials don't want to be caught off-guard. There have been no cases of the coronavirus, referred to as COVID-19, reported in Westchester as of Monday, although on Sunday a New York City woman tested positive, the first case in the state.

"We are making contingency plans should circumstances become worse and if they become worse, we will not be sitting around (saying) 'Oh, what is next?'" Latimer said. "We will be prepared for what comes next. We are not going to frighten the public coming up with a worst-case scenario because we're not near the worst-case scenario, but be advised we are planning for the worst-case scenario."

On Monday, there were 12 people in Westchester under voluntary quarantine after either having returned from a location that is considered a COVID-19 hotspot or were exposed to someone who had traveled, the county's Department of Health reported.

On Feb. 18, 26 people in the county were voluntarily quarantined after returning from China or were exposed to someone who had traveled there, the county reported. None of the quarantined individuals showed symptoms or got sick. The number of individuals under quarantine was reduced to



County Executive George Latimer receives his flu shot Wednesday from Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler. While there is no vaccine for the coronavirus, Amler outlined steps people should take to stay healthy, including getting a flu shot for anyone who hadn't received one for the fall-winter season.

as few as four by last Tuesday, but has ticked up again, Amler said.

Nearly all of those under quarantine wait out the 14-day incubation period at home, she said.

She expects that number to fluctuate on an almost daily basis as people return from countries that have had a large number of cases or were potentially exposed to someone who had traveled to those countries.

Isolation would be used for anyone returning in the last 14 days who shows various symptoms of coughs, sneezing or fever.

Part of Westchester's contingency plans include the county Health Department being

in close contact with hospitals and other healthcare facilities to make sure there is an ample supply of protective equipment for personnel and to assist any facility that needs to obtain or bolster its supplies, Amler said.

Each county department is also making preparations, particularly those that deal with the public on a large scale, Latimer said. For example, some of the most extensive preparations have to be made by the Parks Department because it oversees large public facilities such as parks, the County Center and Playland, he said.

Last Wednesday's announcement comes as fear of the virus gripped much of the world with cases and deaths spreading, particularly in South Korea, Italy and Iran. There has been at least one case reported in at least 65 countries, as of Monday, and just over 89,000 cases reported worldwide with 3,046 deaths.

Of those, China has had 2,912 deaths and 80,026 cases and South Korea has had 22 deaths from 4,212 cases, according to worldwide statistics from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Iran and Italy had had 54 and 35 deaths, respectively, as of Monday.

The Centers for Disease Control has advised the public to avoid all non-essential travel to China, South Korea, Iran and Italy. Japan has been placed on a Level 2 travel alert, which suggests that anyone over 50 or with underlying health issues not to visit.

Amler said residents should be washing their hands regularly with soap or hand sanitizer, which is the best way to stay healthy. She also cautioned to stay calm and stay informed. Also, remain at home if you're

not feeling well, cough or sneeze into your arm and get a flu shot if you haven't had one.

While there is no vaccine for the coronavirus, currently influenza is more likely to negatively affect Americans, Amler said. This fall-winter season, more than 14,000 people in the United States have died from the flu. The first two deaths in the U.S. from coronavirus occurred over the weekend in Washington state.

"So your chances of dying right now in the U.S. is much greater from influenza," Amler said. "(That's) not to say coronavirus is not a problem, not to say we shouldn't be concerned about it but I don't have a vaccine for coronavirus. We have a vaccine for influenza."

Several local school districts have also corresponded with families explaining that officials are in contact with the county and state health departments.

**For more information, visit these websites:**

Center for Disease Control 2019 nCoV website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>

NYS Department of Health Novel Coronavirus Hotline: 1-888-364-3065

NYS Department of Health Novel Coronavirus Website: <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus>

NYS Department of Health Local Health Departments: <https://health.ny.gov/contact/contact-information/>

NYS Center for School Health: [www.schoolhealthny.com](http://www.schoolhealthny.com)

Westchester County Health Department: <https://health.westchestergov.com/2019-novel-coronavirus>

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# It Just Might Be White Plains City Hall You See in that Crime Drama Series

By Pat Casey

According to Jill Iannetta, Director of Special Projects, in the mayor's office, White Plains has become a key location for film shoots with the city getting inquiries every week.

"You just never know what will actually film here because it really depends on if the director likes the look of the location. I would also say that the proliferation of content and how people are entertained has afforded us more opportunities to host productions. We have seen filming from NBC, ABC, Netflix, HBO, Amazon Prime, Apple TV and everything in between," Iannetta said.

In the last fiscal year we had about 50 days of film shoots in White Plains, and we have had 28 in the last six months, she added.

Just last week, Showtime was in town shooting scenes for the second season of *City on a Hill*, starring Kevin Bacon, Aldis Hodge, Amanda Clayton, Cathy Moriarty, Kevin Dunn, and Jill Hennessy. They filmed at Calvary Baptist Church, City Hall, and the Michaelian Building (Westchester County offices).

"They are in their second season; they filmed in White Plains a handful of times last season, and did an exterior shoot on the steps of City Hall last year," Iannetta said.

"We are lucky that we get a lot of repeat business like *City on a Hill*. The Politician the Flight Attendant, Billions, and others fall into this category. The Irishman had multiple film days in White Plains. They filmed in



Showtime was recently in White Plains filming the second season of *City on a Hill*.

Battle Hill, The Highlands, Westmoreland and downtown," Iannetta said. "Depending on where you are in the city, the eclectic buildings can play as different places. White Plains has played as Los Angeles, Washington DC, Maine, and upstate New York to name a few."

Regarding the positive impact of all this filming in White Plains, Iannetta said, "I know that when a production does a tech scout, they can have 20-30 people visiting a location and usually they go to lunch and get coffee. When a crew is on set, they are provided food, but often the crew would

rather go to a local place as they want something different than what craft services is preparing. Anecdotally, from last week's shot here in City Hall, there was a lot of talk about Five Guys, and who was going to pick up lunch. I also know that crews have taken hotel rooms in the city when they have worked longer than expected. But, as you can imagine, we try to be very discreet about what is filming until the work is finished."

If you need to catch up with Season 1, *City on a Hill* is an American crime drama series created by Charlie MacLean, based on an original idea by Ben Affleck and MacLean. It

is a Showtime original production.

The storyline: In the early 1990s, Boston was rife with violent criminals emboldened by local law enforcement agencies in which corruption and racism was the norm – and then it all changed in what was called the "Boston Miracle." In this fictional account, Assistant District Attorney Decourcy Ward comes from Brooklyn and forms an unlikely alliance with a corrupt yet venerated FBI veteran, Jackie Rohr. Together, they take on a family of armored car robbers in a case that grows to involve, and ultimately subvert, the entire criminal justice system of Boston.

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# CITY WIDE OF WESTCHESTER

By Neal Rentz

New York City resident Michael Binz had worked on Wall Street for many years and decided in 2019 to change careers but continue to live in the area.

Binz said last week he took the summer of 2019 off to decide what to do for his new career. He was introduced to representatives of City Wide, a building management and maintenance franchise organization. "Because of the uniqueness of the business model, I was sold," Benz recalled. "I think it's a great business."

Binz said he was interested in having independence by owning his own business. Binz said he worked with City Wide for several months to prepare before opening his City Wide of Westchester franchise in White Plains on Feb. 3.

Owning his own business has been a "really unique and fun experience," Binz said.

City Wide has 60 franchises located throughout the United States. "We're a management company," Binz said. "We provide a wide range of services to commercial building owners and managers." City Wide has a 90 percent client retention rate nationally "which is really unheard of within the maintenance industry," Binz noted.

Some of the services managed by City Wide include janitorial work, window washing, carpet cleaning and outdoor lawn maintenance, Binz said. "The building owner



New York City resident Michael Binz is president of City Wide of Westchester, which he opened on Feb. 3 in White Plains.

hires us," he said. "They have one point of contact, because of that we represent the client."

Binz said his company determines which independent contractors its clients should choose. "We vet them. We take care of the payment," he said. "We're available 24-7."

"We provide a lot of customer service,

which is not something that's prolific in these industries," Binz said. "We get out to the client quite often."

"I'm constantly recruiting and looking for new independent contractors," Binz said. The companies he hires are local. "I feel like we're helping to grow the local economy," he said.

City Wide provides services, which means its clients do not have to deal with multiple vendors and invoices, Binz said. "It's really kind of a transformational type of business model in this industry," he said.

So far most of his clients are from the White Plains area, Binz said, adding his coverage area includes Westchester and Rockland Counties and the Bronx.

"By the end of the year I expect to have enough buildings, enough facilities" to be able to hire additional staff, Binz said.

"Our mission actually is to save our clients and solve their problems," Binz said. "We do that through this great business model."

City Wide of Westchester is located at 280 Dobbs Ferry Rd. in White Plains, Suite 209. For more information call 315-889-3272 or visit. The business is also on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube.

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# Westchester Democratic Party on the Politicizing of District Attorney Candidates

By David A. Alpert

Mimi Rocah's campaign recently alleged that stating she worked under the Bush and Trump Justice Departments politicizes the service of a prosecutor. They made this charge even though their campaign materials and the candidate herself constantly remind people that she worked for the Obama administration. This baseless attack is the latest example of a pattern in which Rocah rejects facts and either viciously lashes out at the messenger or spreads outright lies in an attempt to refute them. This behavior is the mark of a dangerous prosecutor and the people of Westchester deserve better.

Westchester voters do not know who Mimi Rocah actually is. She has never served in elected office so has never undergone the scrutiny that candidates must necessarily go through so voters can make informed decisions. The only real information people

have about her is that which she provides in her campaign materials, which conveniently overstate and propagandize her ties to President Obama. What these materials fail to say is that Mimi Rocah began serving the Southern District of New York at the beginning of President Bush's first term, and she served there dutifully throughout the disastrous Bush presidency, according to her biography on the Pace University website. She also worked under President Trump for most of his first year in office. She had ample opportunities to leave the Trump Justice Department throughout that year. She could have left after the Muslim ban, but she decided to stay. She could have resigned after her boss Preet Bharara was unfairly fired, but she decided to stay. She could have left after Trump declined to reject white supremacy and neo-nazis after Charlottesville, but she did not. At any point during that year, she could have rejected Trump's hateful

rhetoric and stopped enabling his outrageous politicization of the Justice Department by resigning, but she stayed. Democratic voters deserve to know this.

I understand telling people about her service in the Bush and Trump Presidencies may not be beneficial to Ms. Rocah, but facts are facts. Intimidating and smearing people who report them is gravely concerning. Temperament is one of the most important characteristics that voters must consider when choosing a District Attorney, as an overzealous prosecutor can destroy lives, break up families and ruin communities. Throughout this campaign, Mimi Rocah has shown her true colors, and they don't match the values of Westchester Democrats at all.

*David Alpert is Vice Chair of the New York State Democratic Committee and Former Chair of Westchester County Democratic Committee*

## Should NYS Change the Open Meetings Law to Allow Skype Attendance

The recent fears that many residents have about the coronavirus highlights the need for lawmakers to set an example when we have colds, the flu or any virus. We should not infect others during meetings. We need

to be considerate of those sitting next to us (other officials) and residents who attend meetings to observe their government in action or to speak out on issues of concern to them. They do not want to get sick

because an inconsiderate lawmaker showed up at the meeting. We should stay home and not contaminate others. At the same time many lawmakers take our jobs seriously and we want to participate in the legislative processes.

I believe that the NYS Legislature should amend the open meetings law to allow members of Town, Village Boards, Planning and Zoning Boards, School Boards, Fire District Boards, and County Legislatures to participate in all meetings by Skype or videoconferencing. State Legislators should also vote by Skype. If we cast our vote at home and it takes place at an open public meeting that can be watched by the community (on TV) the vote should count. I also believe that citizens should be able to participate at public hearings via Skype.

--Paul Feiner,  
Greenburgh Town Supervisor

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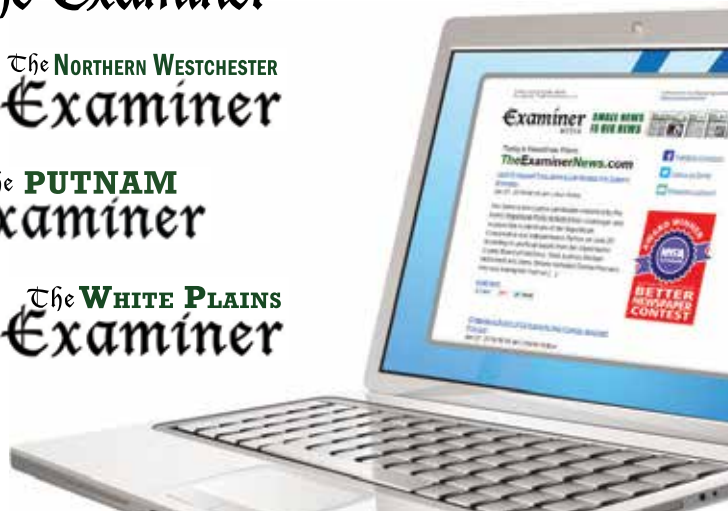
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# Venus Provides a Stunning Sight for Our Night Skies



By Scott Levine

A couple of years ago I had the great pleasure of writing a monthly astronomy column here at The Examiner. It was fun, and I always appreciated the comments some of you sent. I loved knowing there were other people who shared the excitement and derived enjoyment from those articles.

After a break, I'm glad I can bring the column back and start things again.

Like lots of us, I'm not a scientist, just someone who loves the sky. My hope for this column is to bring the night sky to everyone, young or old, whether you look up every night or have never looked up before. There's enough to see any night of the year that we usually won't need telescopes here; just that love for and curiosity about the sky.

A great place to start, even if you have the fanciest of lenses, is with one of our closest neighbors. If you've looked toward the skies in the west over the last few weeks, you might have noticed a single bright and icy white light staring back at you.

Clouds like angry blankets of acid and fire cover the planet Venus, and hide the absolutely horrible truth about what's happening there: a runaway greenhouse has made temperatures hot enough to melt lead, poisonous air and an atmosphere so heavy that it crushed the spacecraft we've

sent to the surface.

From here, however, where we're safely sequestered 75 million miles away, the second rock from the sun is a truly gorgeous sight. As all that mayhem happens there, we get to sit back and just enjoy those clouds kicking enough sunlight back toward us that it's dazzling whenever we see it – evening or morning. It's so stunning, that it carries the name of the Romans' goddess of beauty and love.

As it happens, this March is a particularly good time to see Venus. It's the third brightest object in the entire sky, after the sun and moon, and at times like these, it's not uncommon for people to call the police, worried it's a UFO or something else from space!

If you can, treat yourself and take time to watch night fall around both you and it. Watch it appear to brighten as our skies change from pink and orange to a deep, starry black as afternoon becomes evening, and then deep night.

As March progresses, keep an eye on that patch of sky. At dark, Venus will be a little higher, and it'll set a little later each night. On Mar. 24, it will reach greatest eastern elongation – the place where, from our point of view, it's farthest from the sun in the evening before it starts to move back toward it again. That night, Venus won't set until after 11 p.m. As this happens, the stars of the constellations Orion and Taurus will seem to march toward it. We'll talk about those

more next month.

Remember to set your clocks ahead before you turn in on Saturday night, Mar. 7. That's also a great time to check your smoke detectors' batteries and grab a new toothbrush, too.

As we come into the last couple of weeks of winter, the sky is already changing, with Venus leading the way. I hope you'll take a look.

Scott Levine ([astroscott@yahoo.com](mailto:astroscott@yahoo.com)) is a lifelong astronomy lover and a member of the Westchester Amateur Astronomers, dedicated to astronomy outreach around our area. For information about the club including membership, newsletters, upcoming meetings, lectures at Pace University and star parties at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, visit [www.westchesterastronomers.org](http://www.westchesterastronomers.org). Events are free and open to the public.

## Guest Column



First Quarter  
March 2



Full Moon  
March 9



Last Quarter  
March 16



New Moon  
March 24

Watch for these phases of the moon during the upcoming month.

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Obituaries

Grigor Hovakimyan

Grigor Hovakimyan, 89, of White Plains, passed away on Feb. 26.

Grigor was born on Oct. 24, 1930 in Dobrich, Bulgaria.

His family (father Garnik, mother Yepraksia, and older brothers Mkrtich and Kazaros) repatriated to their ancestral homeland Armenia in 1946. He graduated from Yerevan Polytech with a degree in electrical engineering and worked in a research and development organization. For many years and up to his retirement he led a group responsible for design and supervision of manufacturing of portable/mobile electric substations for various, including military, applications.

He lived in Westchester County since 2001.

He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Donara Hovakimyan, brother Kazaros Hovakimyan, daughter Marina Hovakimyan and son-in-law Ruben Karapetyan, son and daughter in law Armen and Gayane Hovakimyan, and grandchildren Tigran and David Karapetyan, and Aram and Sophia Hovakimyan.

In lieu of flowers donations to Armenian General Benevolent Union at <https://agbu.org/> are appreciated.

Dennis Dov Burger

Dennis Dov Burger, of Scarsdale, courageously fought the battle against the complications of advanced Multiple Sclerosis for over 40 years from which he finally

succumbed on Feb. 26.  
Dennis was born on Feb. 22, 1947. He grew up in Yonkers. He was the son of Germaine and Joseph Burger, beloved younger brother of Paula Dym, Neil Burger and Louise Morris.

Dennis graduated from Kansas Wesleyan University and pursued a career in Employee Benefits and Human Resource Management having last worked for the American Standard Company and The Dime Savings Bank of NY.

Prior to moving permanently into Sky View Rehabilitation and Health Care Center in Croton-on-Hudson, he lived in New York City for over 20 years, surrounded by many devoted and loving friends.

Frances Graessle

Frances Ann Graessle (Amthor), of White Plains, died Feb. 25.

She was born in White Plains on Dec. 15, 1923 to the late Leo and Frances (Dittrich) Amthor.

She was a member of Our Lady of Sorrows Seniors, White Plains Seniors, The Good Council Guild, and the Women’s Club of White Plains.

She was predeceased by her husband James in 2006 and her son James, Jr. of Denver, CO in 2009. Her three sisters, Leonora Davis of White Plains, Viola Erickson of Largo, FL and Marion Lee of Treasure Island, FL.

Surviving is her daughter, Patricia of Mt. Kisco and her son Gary and wife Julianne of San Diego, CA. Three grandchildren, Katie

(Ryan) Brown of Amherst, NY, Jennifer of Brooklyn, and James of San Diego, CA.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to your favorite charity or The Women’s Club of White Plains, Scholarship Fund, 305 Ridgeway White Plains, NY 10605.

Loretta Dubose Wiley

Loretta Wiley, of White Plains, was called to eternal rest at White Plains Hospital on Feb. 23.

Loretta was born on May 5, 1945 to Martha Hull and Charles Saunders in Darlington, South Carolina.

Loretta’s mother and stepfather Jake Hull moved to White Plains, into the White Plains Housing Authority in the 1950s. Loretta graduated from White Plains High School and soon after married Julius DuBose and they had five children. They later separated and she later met John Woodbury and they had two children.

Loretta met her future husband Clifford Wiley, whom she affectionately loved and eventually married and spent wonder years fishing, dancing, traveling and just enjoying life until his passing in 2003.

Loretta was known in her community for the volunteer services she provided at Resource Center, and resident council. She worked for years at The Bank of New York and later at the White Plains Library after completing some college credits at WCC and taking the City Civil Service test. After 10 years of employment with the City she retired to enjoy the fruits of her labor.

Loretta leaves behind to cherish her

memories, her siblings Edward J. (Shirl) Hull, Robert (Lorraine), Sandra, Denise and Michael. Six of her seven children, Julius (Karen) of New Rochelle, Edward, RaMona and John of White Plains, Norman of Tampa FL and Martha of Norwalk, CT; 20 grandchildren and a host of great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews that she held and loved dearly. Loretta raised many others children in the 225 apartment building who called her “Ma-Dukes” as well.

A Memorial Service will be held at Thomas H. Slater Center, Sunday March 8, at 2 p.m.



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  
**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.

**NOTICE:** PLACEMENT OF 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 PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO COMMIT GUARDIAN-

SHIP 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.

UPON GOOD CAUSE, THE COURT MAY ORDER AN INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE NON-RESPONDENT PARENT(S) SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A RESPONDENT; IF THE COURT DETERMINES THE CHILD(REN) SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM HIS/HER HOME, THE COURT MAY ORDER AN INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE NON-RESPONDENT PARENT(S) SHOULD BE SUITABLE CUSTODIANS FOR THE CHILD(REN); IF THE

CHILD(REN) IS PLACED AND REMAINS IN FOSTER CARE FOR FIFTEEN OF THE MOST RECENT TWENTY-TWO MONTHS, THE AGENCY MAY BE REQUIRED TO FILE A PETITION(S) FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THE PARENT(S) AND COMMITMENT OF GUARDIANSHIP AND CUSTODY OF THE CHILD(REN) FOR THE PURPOSES OF ADOPTION, EVEN IF THE PARENT(S) WERE NOT NAMED AS RESPONDENTS IN THE CHILD NEGLECT OR ABUSE PROCEEDING.

A NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT HAS THE RIGHT TO REQUEST TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT CUSTODY OF THE CHILD(REN) AND TO SEEK ENFORCEMENT OF VISITATION RIGHTS WITH THE CHILD(REN).

**BY ORDER OF THE FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT WHO RESIDES OR IS FOUND AT:**

70 Hawthorne Ave. C314, Yonkers, New York 10701

Petitions 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 131 Warburton Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10701, on March 27, 2020, at 10:30 A.M., and on any adjourned date thereafter, to answer the petitions and be dealt with in accordance with Article 10 of the Family Court Act.

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

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Court



# Is Your Ceiling Height a Trip for Alice in Wonderland?

Many years ago, when my wife and I discovered our dream home in the country, we were delighted that we could figure out a way to turn a one-and-a-half-story saltbox wing with all original 18th century details into a separate apartment. It was the most charming rental unit, we were convinced, in all of Westchester.

However, it came with one caveat. Whenever it was available for rent and we received inquiries from prospective tenants, the first thing my wife would ask was, "Do you mind telling me how tall you are?"

There was always a questioning pause on the other end of the line, but if the answer was 6-foot-2 or over, her response was, "Sorry, I don't think this apartment would be for you."

The reason was simple to explain. The structure was built in 1734 when people were shorter, and the ceilings on both floors would barely accommodate anyone taller than 6-foot-2. We didn't want to waste a very tall person's time in considering a home where they might feel like Gulliver visiting Lilliput or Alice in Wonderland inside the rabbit's house.

In those early days, most houses were simple utilitarian structures and homebuilders knew that lesser heights meant less space to heat in the winter; therefore, there was less wood chopping to fit into a day already bursting with physical activity.

My house belonged to a tenant farmer on the Van Cortlandt land grant and his needs were quite simple, but down the road a way at the landlord's Van Cortlandt Manor,

greater affluence afforded ceilings with greater height. The same holds true today.

While ceiling heights in Victorian times had reached an average of 13 feet, based on English city houses, heights moderated down to eight feet with the advent of mass housing developments after World War II. That height, based on the standardized length of an eight-foot stud, stayed in place until the term McMansion was coined in the early 1980s where center halls and family rooms could soar two stories high.

By the end of the 20th century, increased fuel costs put a damper on ceiling heights. Today the average ceiling for new construction is nine feet on the first floor and eight feet on the second. That extra foot on the first floor, it is estimated, can increase the cost of building a home from \$20,000 to \$30,000 for a 4,000-square-foot house, depending on the area of the country in which it is built.

To keep everything in proper scale, a higher ceiling means that furniture might have to be larger, windows have to be taller, crown molding has to be thicker, a fireplace mantel must be taller, light fixtures bigger and even artwork has to be larger to cover more wall space.

What mitigates the extra expense of

taller ceilings is the cost savings that come from better insulation and other energy-saving improvements to windows and doors.

In the past, homes were built with what we call a balloon frame, where studs go from grade level to roof, as opposed to the platform frame we use today where each floor's studs make their own separate box and one box is placed upon the other. With a balloon frame, ceilings could be any height, but as the milling of studs was standardized to eight feet in the early 20th century, ceiling heights were almost universally that same measurement.

A comfortable ceiling height today depends on who you talk to. Affluent buyers of new home construction are asking for a nine-foot minimum ceiling height, but prefer 10- or even 12-foot ceilings. Anything less than that is unacceptable to the people who do not have to be concerned with utility costs.

Interestingly, new zoning regulations keep even the wealthiest clients from going overboard in that the overall building height is limited in our communities, which in turn limits the height that architects can build ceilings.

Beyond cost, another factor to consider

is the psychology of it all. Pulte Homes, one of the nation's largest homebuilders, recently conducted research demonstrating that while consumers like higher ceilings to have a room feel more expansive because they feel it gives a greater sense of formality to the space, it can also render it cold and austere.

But today, besides an open floor plan, we want homes that are more inviting, casual and warm. Part of achieving that is with ceilings that are more humanly scaled.

So, if you're a house-hunter, consider carefully the space between your head and the ceiling, because it can't be changed easily, unless you partake of Alice's magic mushroom!

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



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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 OF 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 PARENTAL 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.

UPON GOOD CAUSE, THE COURT MAY ORDER AN INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE NON-RESPONDENT PARENT(S) SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A RESPONDENT; IF THE COURT DETERMINES THE CHILD(REN) SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM HIS/HER HOME, THE COURT MAY ORDER AN INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE NON-RESPONDENT PARENT(S) SHOULD BE SUITABLE CUSTODIANS FOR THE CHILD(REN); IF THE CHILD(REN) IS PLACED AND REMAINS IN FOSTER CARE FOR FIFTEEN OF THE MOST RECENT TWENTY-TWO MONTHS, THE

AGENCY MAY BE REQUIRED TO FILE A PETITION(S) FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THE PARENT(S) AND COMMITMENT OF GUARDIANSHIP AND CUSTODY OF THE CHILD(REN) FOR THE PURPOSES OF ADOPTION, EVEN IF THE PARENT(S) WERE NOT NAMED AS RESPONDENTS IN THE CHILD NEGLECT OR ABUSE PROCEEDING.

A NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT HAS THE RIGHT TO REQUEST TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT CUSTODY OF THE CHILD(REN) AND TO SEEK ENFORCEMENT OF VISITATION RIGHTS WITH THE CHILD(REN).

BY ORDER OF THE FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO THE ABOVE-NAMED 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.

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

Dated: January \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.  
\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Court



Embracing the Popularity of Today's Plant-Based Diets in Wine



By Nick Antonaccio

Are you, as I am, inundated by the growing change in the dietary landscape? Have you been lured into the Millennial and Generation Z dietary habits?

Are you, as I am, engaging in these changing diets, which are slowly evolving into social mores?

This shift is evident each time I visit my local marketplace. A growing allocation of floor space is dedicated to organic products. Dedicated sections of shelf space, even aisles, have been converted to organic products, from fresh fruits and vegetables to prepared foods to household goods.

This shift is also evident as I peruse the menus at an increasing number of restaurants and fast food establishments. Vegetarian and vegan dishes are spread across menu offerings.

This inexorable shift in dietary preferences in the New York metropolitan area engenders a proliferation of menu explanations and legends. At the macro levels are farm-to-table, sustainability, natural and organic labels. At the micro levels are a cornucopia of symbols beyond V and VG, including GF, DF, SF and NF. (Did you decode them all?)

With these headwinds of dietary choices and restrictions swirling in culinary circles,

the American diet is moving from its ages-old carnivore centrality to a more focused and healthy perspective, rooted in our physiological heritage.

At the risk of sounding like a baby boomer fading into the malaise of an omnivore's languidness, I offer below a brief backdrop to the imbedded popularity, across all generations and socioeconomic demographics, of vegetarian and vegan diets and lifestyles. (Plant-based protein diets, as I prefer to refer to them.)

The human body has evolved very little over the last 40,000 years. It was "designed" for a specific diet, one that was readily available at the time. Think about the diet of early Homo sapiens: berries, root vegetables, nuts – and fermented juices. This diet prevailed for millennia but as the population grew, along came cities and the need to feed the masses. And our diets changed with the times.

Fast forward to the 21st century. The nearly eight million vegetarians in the United States have sworn off meat, fowl and fish, but not eggs or dairy products. The approximately one million vegans have taken vegetarianism several steps further. Theirs is not only a dietary difference but also a lifestyle choice. They have sworn off all animal products as well as animal byproducts. For them, slaughtering animals is interrupting our symbiotic relationship and peaceful coexistence with nature. You will not see a vegan consuming eggs or

wearing leather, drinking milk or eating honey.

A balanced vegan diet consists of four food groups: legumes, nuts and seeds; grains; vegetables; and fruits. Sound familiar? Check the Food and Drug Administration's dietary guidelines, which are focused increasingly on these foods. Simply because it is based on plant-based products, a vegan diet helps reduce the risk of heart disease, cancer, obesity and diabetes.

How do vegans feel about a glass of wine? The same as any environmentally conscientious omnivore might feel about organic wine. An organic wine is a sustainable product, one produced in a manner to perpetuate the environment, not deplete or corrupt it. Organic vineyards exist in harmony with nature – no chemical additives in the soil, vines or wines – and no scientific meddling with genetics.

However, vegans must be diligent in their quest for vegan wines. A number of organic vineyards fertilize with animal products (bone meal and dried blood) and organic wines may be processed with animal byproducts (egg whites and dried blood) to filter or "fine" any sediment that may be suspended in a wine barrel during the aging process. Check the Internet for clarification on specific wines.

Vegans are vegetarians, but not necessarily vice versa. Vegan wines are organic wines but not vice versa. Confused? Just leave your decisions in the hands of

committed chefs and sommeliers.

My diet continues to evolve. Plant-based is better for me. I raise my glass of organic (vegan?) wine to my longevity.

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



Launch Party Held at Hastings Tea and Coffee in White Plains



A launch party, including a ribbon-cutting ceremony and the serving of free wine, was held on Feb. 27 at Hastings Tea and Coffee in White Plains. The restaurant recently expanded its menu to include the serving of wine and beer.

Crossword by Myles Mellor

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Across

1. L.A. clock setting  
4. Sediment  
8. Propel a boat, manually  
9. "8 Mile" Rapper  
11. Different from many  
12. Optician's product  
13. Upscale retail shop in Chappaqua, \_\_\_\_\_ Finds  
15. Costumes  
16. Gun an engine  
19. Those opposed  
20. Microwave, slangily

Down

1. Blasphemous  
2. Recital numbers  
3. Zee's place  
4. No-no's opposite?  
5. Mystic  
6. "Men in Black" costar Tommy \_\_\_\_\_ Jones  
7. Trademarks, abbr.  
9. "Or \_\_\_\_!"  
10. Floor protectors  
12. Predatory fish  
14. It is, old way  
17. Manages  
18. Italian fashion designer  
20. Naught

21. The letter "s"  
22. Restraint  
25. Mica in thin sheets  
27. The experts to see before the Ides of April, Taconic \_\_\_\_\_  
29. Snake pet  
30. Passed up  
31. Director Jean-\_\_\_\_ Godard  
32. Looking pale  
33. Summer, in Cannes

22. Capri coin, once  
23. Appraised about  
24. Some old Brit. sports cars  
26. Limber  
27. \_\_\_\_ fault  
28. Hung. neighbor

Solution on page 14



# Where to Dine After the Spring Orchid Show 2020 at NYBG



By Morris Gut

A beautiful Technicolor harbinger of spring, the 18th annual Orchid Show at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx runs through Sunday, April 18. I look forward to visiting NYBG, walking through the beautifully restored Enid Haupt Conservatory and beholding the seductive floral arrangements and dramatic plantings. This year's theme: 'Jeff Leatham's Kaleidoscope.' (For additional info: [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org)) After taking in all that beauty, we do get hungry. So, where do we dine? Here are a few suggestions...

**Orchid Evenings.** This year visitors can also enjoy cocktails at several bar areas, as well as take in special 'Orchid Evenings' filled with entertainment and snacks from the popular Bronx Night Market pop-up. [www.thebronxnightmarket.com](http://www.thebronxnightmarket.com). These unique evening events will take place March 14, 20, 24, 27, 28, and April 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18. Evening hours: 7 to 10 p.m. Reservations are suggested.

**Constellation Culinary Group at NYBG.** Ever since restaurant rock star Stephen Starr of Starr Catering took over the food service concessions at NYBG, now known as Constellation Culinary Group, hungry visitors have been taking note. Starr made a big name for himself in Philadelphia where he owns several powerhouse restaurants including his retro: Continental. They have premiered themed Dining Pavilions throughout the park and near the Enid Haupt Pavilion is the casual Pine Tree Café and a more formal dining room with



Cold Seafood Platter for Two at Artie's, City Island.

waiter service called Hudson Garden Grill serving an eclectic American menu with locally sourced ingredients. Open daily. Check it out online: [www.nybg.org/visit/dining/the-hudson-garden-grill/](http://www.nybg.org/visit/dining/the-hudson-garden-grill/).

**Mario's** (2342 Arthur Ave., Bronx, 718-584-1188). A venerable Little Italy institution, Mario's is marking 100 years of operation. Amiable Joe Migliucci, the current patriarch, is there with his wife Barbara, daughter Regina and sons Michael and Mario. To many, the flavorful sauces and gravies produced in this kitchen are the stuff of Italian 'foodie heaven'. And for those in the know, the old-world menu also holds many surprises. For starters enjoy the palate pleasing lagnappe of marinated carrots, hot peppers and good crusty Arthur

Ave. bread as you survey the menu. [www.mariosarthurave.com](http://www.mariosarthurave.com).

**Bronx Beer Hall** (2344 Arthur Ave., Bronx, 1-347-396-0555). Located inside the historic Arthur Ave. Retail Market, the Bronx Beer Hall is a good place to hang for good locally sourced sandwiches and craft beers. Mike's Deli just down the aisle coordinates some of the food service with the bar and it is good, hearty Italian fare. The beers are from all over the map. Good spot for mingling and networking. Entertainment schedule. Open 7 days. [www.bronxbeerhall.com](http://www.bronxbeerhall.com).

**Artie's Steak & Seafood** (394 City Island Ave, Bronx, 718-885-9885). Owner Spiro Chagares and his staff offer patrons an inspired melding of traditional and contemporary dishes served with flair. Sit back in one of several refurbished dining areas and enjoy such changing specialties as: hearty Seafood Chowders; Asian Sticky Buns; Smoked Salmon Roll-Ups; Wood Grilled Jumbo Shrimp and Scallops; hunks of tender Short Rib; a massive Zuppa Di Pesce; tender Oven Roasted Rack of Lamb; Chardonnay Poached Salmon with seafood; and fresh Lobster prepared in a variety of styles. There's a loaded Lobster Salad Roll at lunch and their Mediterranean style Pizzas are good to share, too. Check out the bar/lounge most evenings for good networking. Craft beer selection. Private party facilities. Off premise catering. Open 7 days. Free parking. [www.artiescityisland.com](http://www.artiescityisland.com).

**The 808 Bistro** (808 Scarsdale Ave., Scarsdale, 914-722-0808). Approaching their 10th year, this eclectic Italian and American eatery in Scarsdale, glows nightly in a rainbow of alternating colors. Glistening ceramic and metal tiles highlight the 50-seat dining room and ceiling. It's a Manhattan vibe and it's all kept properly casual. Chef/owner Sal Cucullo Jr. is a C.I.A. graduate who practically

grew up in restaurants, working kitchens owned by his Italian family as well as venues of every stripe. He knows how to cook Italian, but for as long as I have known him, his creativity has never been bound by culinary borders. He can knock out a delicious version of Grandma's Gnocchi in a basil-pomodoro sauce one moment, and in another prepare a decadent Baked Macaroni and Cheese with chunks of lobster and shrimp, infused with truffle oil, that will propel you to foodie heaven. [www.the808bistro.com](http://www.the808bistro.com).

**The Quarry** (106 Main St., Tuckahoe, 914-337-0311). Owner Dominic Cesarini's handsomely renovated bi-level 70-seat dining room and bustling bar/lounge is always engaged in spirited networking.

There are artsy exposed pipes and vents on the ceiling. Handsome brown wood and clay tone walls, warm lighting fixtures and modern sturdy deep brown butcher block chairs and tables highlight the floor with large picture windows and seating spilling out onto Main. The staff here is most friendly, efficient and eager to please. Cesarini, a 'local grill man' himself, whose family owned and operated several cafes and grills in the Bronx-Tuckahoe-Eastchester area, has kicked it up a notch with a good mix of reasonably priced American tavern comfort fare with a good dose of broccoli rabe to go around. Check out the Fresh Salads and Tacos, Flatbreads, Short Ribs with garlic mashed, Filet Mignon Sliders, Pork Flatiron Scarpariello and Lamb Shank. Good burgers, too. Open 7 days

for lunch, dinner. [www.thequarryrestaurant.net](http://www.thequarryrestaurant.net).

**Ernie's Wine Bar** (7 Pondfield Road, Bronxville, 914-652-7859). Out of this tiny kitchen come laudatory renditions of American/Global dishes bursting with flavor. Oenophiles, take note. The carefully selected wines served here, many from small-batch independent producers, can be heavenly. It is a wonderful place to unwind, take in some music on special nights, and indulge. The small bar is great for networking, too. Recent food tastings here have included Luisanna's amazing Veal Meatballs, Cheese and Charcuterie Platter, Duck Wontons, Duck Confit, a wonderful Fettuccine Carbonara; Mushroom and Pea Risotto, and Baked Cod with Vierge Sauce. There is live entertainment. Check ahead for updates. Open Monday through Saturday for happy hour and dinner starting at 4:30 p.m.

## Westchester Beer Fest, March 14

Coinciding with the coming of St. Patrick's Day, The County Center in White Plains will be the site of Westchester Beer Fest on Saturday, March 14, 4 to 8 p.m. Producers of the event say there will be 200 craft brews represented. Now that's a lot of beer. This year there will also be a special performance by Shilelagh Law Band out of Yonkers. For additional info and tickets: [www.countycenter.biz/event/beer-fest/](http://www.countycenter.biz/event/beer-fest/).

*Morris Gut is a restaurant marketing consultant and former restaurant trade*



Mario's marinated carrots and Arthur Avenue bread.



Duck wontons at Ernie's Wine Bar.

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



Fresh apple strudel at the 808 Bistro, Scarsdale.



# Happenings

Tuesday, Mar. 3

**Tuesdays@Dorrry's.** Westchester County District Attorney Anthony J. Scarpino, Jr. brings 37 years of combined experience as a Special Agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and as a Judge in and around Westchester County for 30 years. He now oversees a staff of 118 assistant district attorneys, 34 criminal investigators and 85 support staff personnel. This June the DA will be opposed in a primary race for re-election. He will speak with us about how he believes his vast experience has uniquely prepared him to continue to lead as Westchester County's chief law enforcement officer. Weekly table talkers. All are welcome. Food ordering begins at 5:15 p.m. Presentation 6 to 7 p.m. Dorrry's Diner, 468 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains.

**Durst Distinguished Lectures Series:** Francisco Goldman. Internationally acclaimed writer Francisco Goldman, the author of four novels and two nonfiction books has been the recipient of many prestigious literary awards. His novel, "Say Her Name," won the Prix Femina étranger, while his non-fiction book, "The Interior Circuit: A Mexico City Chronicle," won the Premio Metropolis Azul. He has been a Guggenheim fellow, a Radcliffe Institute fellow and a Cullman Center fellow at the New York Public Library. Purchase College's in the Humanities Theatre, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 4:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-251-6550 or visit <https://www.purchase.edu/academics/school-of-humanities/lectures/durst-distinguished-lectures>.

Wednesday, Mar. 4

**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](mailto:mbryant@greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**Downtown Music at Grace.** The musicians of the Westchester Philharmonic return for one of their exciting chamber music concerts. Stephen Hart, clarinet, Roberta Cooper, cello, and Christopher Oldfather, piano, play Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns: "The Swan" (from Carnival of the Animals), J.S. Bach: Ariosio (from Cantata 156), arranged by Sam Franko, Ludwig van Beethoven: Trio in B flat major, op. 11, and Paquito D'Rivera: Three Pieces for clarinet and piano. A 30-minute concert, 12:10 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church in downtown White Plains. Admission is free, donations accepted. This concert is made possible with the generous support of the Brian Wallach Agency, White Plains.

**Lunchtime Meditation.** A weekly meditation program. Brief beginning instruction will be followed by meditation. No experience or special equipment needed.

A guest instructor will lead the program the first Wednesday of each month. 12:15 p.m. For more information, please contact Christiane Deschamps at 914-422-1496 or [cdeschamps@whiteplainsny.gov](mailto:cdeschamps@whiteplainsny.gov), White Plains Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains.

**A Selling Clinic.** Capitalize on your current sales opportunities and plan next steps to achieve greater success. In this workshop, Paul Katzenstein, MBA in marketing and finance with more than 35 years of experience in sales management, will discuss the sales process, how to identify and overcome obstacles with your sales opportunities, how to be more comfortable and effective selling and more. SCORE Headquarters at White Plains Public Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: Visit [www.westchester.score.org](http://www.westchester.score.org).

Thursday, Mar. 5

**Hoff-Barthelson Music School Master Class Series.** Featuring renowned violinist Colin Jacobsen. Master classes are an enlightening experience for students and audiences. After months of careful preparation, students perform for and then receive feedback and guidance from a master teacher who challenges the student to think in new and critical ways about the piece they have prepared. Hoff-Barthelson Music School, 25 School Lane, Scarsdale. 7 p.m. Free. Space limited; reservations strong encouraged. Info and reservations: 914-723-1169, visit [www.hbms.org](http://www.hbms.org) or e-mail [hb@hbms.org](mailto:hb@hbms.org).

**An Intimate Evening of Songs and Stories with Graham Nash.** This legendary artist is a two-time Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame inductee – with Crosby, Stills and Nash and with The Hollies. Nash was also inducted twice into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, as a solo artist and with CSN, and is a Grammy Award winner. Fifteen of his songs are celebrated in a collection of some of his best-known works from the past 50 years and more than a dozen unreleased demos and mixes in his 2018 release "Over the Years..." Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$49 to \$96. VIP access: \$175, \$295 and \$395. Info and tickets: 914-233-3586 or visit [www.tarrytownmusichall.org](http://www.tarrytownmusichall.org).

Friday, Mar. 6

**New York State Legislators Forum.** The Westchester County Association (WCA) has invited the entire Westchester/Putnam delegation of the state legislature to this interactive dialogue with WCA members and friends. Issues to be discussed will include prevailing wage, Medicaid, SALT property tax deduction, rent regulations, population flight out of Westchester and New York State and investment in workforce and talent development. Moderated by Sen. Nick Spano, Empire Strategic Planning. 1133 Westchester Ave., lobby atrium, White Plains. 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. WCA members: \$35. Non-members: \$45. Info and tickets: Visit [www.westchester.org](http://www.westchester.org).

**It Gets Better.** Brings the experience and message of the online It Gets Better Project to communities and audiences by blending music, theater and multimedia into a work for the stage and produced by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. Since its 2011 inception, It Gets Better has been an ever-evolving work. Now, it's responding to troubling but hopeful changes in the American conversation about LGBTQ++ people and issues. In collaboration with Speak Theater Arts. PepsiCo Theatre at Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 8 p.m. \$25 to \$50. Info and tickets: 914-251-6200 or visit [www.artscenter.org](http://www.artscenter.org).

Saturday, Mar. 7

**Meet the Animals.** Meet and learn about the animals who live at the nature center. Cranberry Lake Preserve, 1609 Old Orchard St., North White Plains. 1 to 2 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-428-1005.

**Purim Celebration.** The Westchester Community for Humanistic Judaism will hold its annual Purim celebration. Everyone is invited to come in masks and/or costume as Rabbi Tamburello leads a humanist-style Megillah reading accompanied by fun public noisemaking. Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 468 Rosedale Ave., White Plains. 2 p.m. Free. (Donations of canned or nonperishable food is welcomed. Info: Visit [www.wchj.org](http://www.wchj.org) or on Facebook.

**Opening Reception for "Her Story/His Story: A Celebration of Women's History Month."** Art is a journey full of surprises and detours. Looking at your personal journey

from the beginning to the present, what best expresses where you are now and where you want to go next? Mamaroneck Artists Guild, 126 Larchmont Ave., Larchmont. 3 to 5 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through Mar. 21. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 12 to 5 p.m. Info: 914-834-1117 or visit [www.mamaroneckartistsguild.org](http://www.mamaroneckartistsguild.org).

Sunday, Mar. 8

**Purim Family Activities and Carnival.** A celebration of one of the most enjoyable Jewish holidays. Activities kick off with activities for families with young children, including Purim songs, a megillah story and costume parade followed by the carnival featuring game booths and events for all ages. Joshy K will also put on a magic show. Everyone is encouraged to dress in costume. Greenburgh Hebrew Center, 515 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry. 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Only cash and checks are accepted for ticket and food purchases. Info: 914-693-4260 or visit <http://www.g-h-c.org>.

**Maple Sugaring Party.** Featured events include sap collection demonstrations, depictions of Native American and colonial-style sugaring sites, porridge making, maple crafts and treats. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Advance registration: Members--\$5. Non-members--\$10. Day of event: Members--\$8. Non-members-\$15. Info and pre-registration: Visit [www.greenburghnaturecenter.org](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org).

**"Shadow Patriots, Lady Spies of the Revolution."** Hear a firsthand account of how these remarkable brave patriots risked their lives to make America great and to create a better future for all of us. As told by "Ann Fisher Miller." Miller House, 140 Virginia Rd., North White Plains. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-428-1005.

**Sunday Night Jam.** Eclectic open event for all musicians and music lovers. Back-line 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](http://www.facebook.com/FreebirdSundayNightJam).



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Crossword Solution from page 12

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## LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING** The Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville will hold a Public Hearing on Monday March 23, 2020, 8:00pm, prevailing time, 80 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville, New York to hear comments as it pertains

to Introductory Local Law No. 2 of 2020 pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law Section 3-c which expressly authorizes a local government's governing body to override the property tax cap for the coming fiscal year by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent of said governing body. Eric Morrissey Village Administrator/Clerk, Village of Pleasantville

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** That A License, "Pending" For Poolside Café At The Cyc For Beer, Cider & Or Wine At Retail In A Seasonal Café/Restaurant Under The Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 238 Kingsferry Road Montrose Ny 10548 For On Premise Consumption. **Paul & Gina DiPaterio Little Sorrento Inc. DBA Pool Side Café at the Cortlandt Yacht Club**

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EXAMINER SPORTS

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The WHITE PLAINS

Examiner

Sports

Stepinac Survives Battle with St. Raymond to Win Archdiocesan Championship

By Albert Coqueran

Stepinac senior guard Justin Morety threw a backward no-look pass to star guard Adrian Griffin, Jr. who slammed the ball through the hoop to end the game. Griffin then enthusiastically turned to his teammates and celebrated as they gathered around him.

The dunk by Griffin was the exclamation point on a fierce battle that concluded with Stepinac winning the NYCHSAA AA

Archdiocesan Championship, 73-68, over St. Raymond High School, at Mount St. Michael Academy, on Saturday.

It is the second time in three years that Stepinac has won the Archdiocesan Championship. The Crusaders won the Title in 2017-18, while advancing to capture the CHSAA New York City and Federation Championships.

Number two-seeded Stepinac and number one-seeded St. Raymond battled to the bitter



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTO

University of North Carolina bound senior R.J. Davis led the Crusaders with a double-double of 18 points and 11 rebounds, as Stepinac defeated St. Raymond, 73-68, to win the NYCHSAA AA Archdiocesan Championship, at Mount St. Michael Academy.



PHOTO COURTESY NYC HOOPS

The Stepinac High School Crusaders celebrate at Mount St. Michael Academy, on Saturday, after beating St. Raymond, 73-68 and winning their second NYCHSAA AA Archdiocesan Championship in three years.

end in the Archdiocesan Championship game. The Ravens took the early lead at the end of the first quarter, 16-11. But the Crusaders came back to take the lead, 31-24, by the end of the first half, behind R.J. Davis's 11 points, four rebounds and five assists. Griffin added seven points, six rebounds and five blocks in the first half.

Nonetheless, the Ravens stormed back to regain the lead midway through the third quarter. Kedar Davis and Gary Grant scored consecutive buckets and Malachi Smith scored after a Crusaders turnover to make the score 40-38. The third quarter ended with the Ravens leading by five points, 51-46, with neither team in control of the Championship contest.

The fourth quarter was a true battle of wills with each team exchanging one-point advantages. Stepinac may have got the benefit of no-call on a three-point shot by the Ravens Smith with 18.0 seconds left on the clock. Crusaders Luke Fizulich got the rebound off Smith's air-ball and was immediately fouled with the score, 69-68, for Stepinac.

Fizulich converted two free throws, Griffin a slam dunk and Stepinac wins, 73-68, to capture the 2019-20 NYCHSAA AA Archdiocesan Championship. "I am very proud of our entire team, staff and players," acknowledged Head Coach Pat Massaroni. "The guys stayed together and battled to the end. A high level basketball game that saw ups and downs and we made gritty plays down the stretch as a team," stated Massaroni.

Davis finished with double-double of 18 points and 11 rebounds with eight assists. Griffin netted 17 points, grabbed eight rebounds, dished five assists with four steals and five blocks. Fizulich and Morety both contributed 13 points each and center Malcolm Chimezie added 12 points and three blocks in the paint.

Stepinac earns a number-one seed in the CHSAA AA Intersectional Playoffs. The Crusaders will play the winner of Iona Prep versus Bishop Loughlin, on Sunday, March 8, at Fordham University in the Intersectional Quarterfinals.



# EXAMINER SPORTS

## White Plains Looks Ahead to a Bright Future After Sectional Loss

By Rob DiAntonio

Following a difficult sectional quarterfinal loss to undefeated Ursuline, White Plains coach Benji Carter reflected on a strong season but also looked ahead to a bright future.

After all, the Tigers had three eighth-graders and a freshman playing prominent roles this season.

Eighth-seeded White Plains finished its season with a 15-7 record following the 79-37 loss to the top-seeded Koalas in the Class AA quarterfinals on the road last Friday night.

"We've been doubted and we turned the program around," Carter said. "At some point we're going to make it happen. To be over .500 and finish in the top 10 in AA for three years in a row, we're on the right path."

It was 15-2 less than four minutes into the game as Ursuline's pressure led to turnover after turnover for a tentative White Plains team.

"Nerves had a lot to do with it," Carter said of the slow start. "This is the big stage for certain girls and being on that big stage, you can kind of get lost. We were trying to really control that all week in practice and talk about the nerves. Take a deep breath, relax, move on and just try not to make the same mistake. The same mistake kept happening over and over. With a great team like Ursuline, you can only make one mistake. Not three, four or five. They capitalize and they do it very well."

Ursuline executed a backdoor pass to



The Tigers' Katie McAteer is closely defended along the sideline.

star Sonia Citron but senior Julia Reggio answered with a left wing 3-pointer to make it 25-10 Ursuline. The Koalas, however, extended their lead and were up 29-10 after one quarter.

Reggio, who paced the Tigers with 14 points, hit a foul-line jumper and then knocked down a jumper from the elbow. Adriana Moreno finished inside and India Newman scored on the fast break, but White Plains still trailed 44-18 late in the first half.

"We know they're solid and we had to be on our 'A' game," Carter said. "We knew we



White Plains' Savannah Williams makes a pass at half court.

couldn't make mistakes and we had to cut hard. We had to just do everything faster and harder and we felt if we could do that with patience, then we could control their tempo. Having Reggio do everything for us and the younger girls who help out, we knew that at



White Plains' Aliya McIver leads a fast break.



Sequoia Layne goes up for a contested shot in the paint against host Ursuline.

some point it could hurt us. And tonight, it hurt us; not moving and just relying on one girl."

Ursuline took a 44-19 lead into halftime. The Koalas extended their lead in the third quarter and were up 60-29 heading into the final eight minutes.

The size, pressure and athleticism that Ursuline throws at a team can be overwhelming. Citron finished with 33 points, 12 rebounds, seven assists and five steals.

"They can spread you because they can hit the open shot," Carter said to the Koalas. "They spread you and then they do back

*continued on next page*



Julia Reggio, seen here pulling up for a jumper, played her last game for the Tigers' girls basketball team.



Anneliese Reggio of the Tigers dribbles up the court.



# EXAMINER SPORTS

## Tigers Eliminated by Knights, 66-56, in Section 1 AA Quarterfinals

By Albert Coqueran

White Plains Boys Basketball season came to an end against the same team that ended their season last year. White Plains lost to Mt. Vernon High School in the Section 1 AA Semifinals last year at the Westchester County Center to end their 2018-19 season.

This season Mt. Vernon prevented White Plains from reaching the County Center by defeating the Tigers, 66-56, in the AA Quarterfinals, at Mt. Vernon High School on Friday.

Not many estimated that the Knights would even achieve County Center status this season. However, they completed the regular season at 11-9 overall, 5-1 Conference 1B to gain a number four seed in the AA Playoffs. Then they beat number 13-seed Mahopac High School in the Opening

Round, 57-44, and the number five-seed Tigers in the Quarterfinals to return to the County Center this season. It is the 26th consecutive time in the 26-year reign of legendary Head Coach Bobby Cimmino that he led Mt. Vernon to the Semifinals at the County Center.

The Tigers (16-6) had good reason to feel confident about this game having beaten the Knights, 67-66, during the regular season on January 24. Nonetheless, as Tigers Head Coach Spencer Mayfield noted, "You cannot win a game in the first quarter; but you can lose a game in the first quarter."

The Tigers scored only five points in the first quarter. After Knights Irvin Patrick hit a half-court shot at the first quarter buzzer, the Knights led 13-5. The Tigers still had not recovered from the slow start at halftime and were down, 32-21. Knights' superstar Troy Hupstead had a double-double in the first half with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

The Tigers closed the gap in the third quarter to four points but Patrick struck again with a buzzer beater to end the frame to put the Knights in the lead, 45-39. Nobody will ever accuse the Tigers of not fighting hard in the game. But lack of three-point production hurt White Plains.

Senior forward Quion Burns drove to the hoop for a three-point play and then scored his first three-pointer of the game to bring the Tigers within three points, 51-48, at 4:07 of the fourth quarter.

Tigers junior forward Joe Carrier stepped-up to score two consecutive field goals to bring the Tigers within one point, 51-50. But the



Senior forward Jayon Norwood also wrapped-up his Tigers career, while scoring 12 points and grabbing five rebounds in the playoff-elimination loss to Mt. Vernon, 66-56, in the Section 1 AA Quarterfinals.

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screens. They run their plays well, they're patient and they let everything develop."

White Plains was without eighth-grade point guard Ineivi Plata, who is a key ball handler and defender for White Plains. She was out with an illness.

Freshman Aliya McIver added seven points in the loss.

The Tigers will graduate three seniors led by Reggio, a 1,000-point scorer who is committed to St. Thomas Aquinas. Savannah Williams and Elma MrKulik also graduate.

"What they bring to the table athleticism wise, we're going to miss a lot with that," Carter said of his seniors. "Especially Reggio, because she's a scorer but she was so unselfish this year. She kind of put scoring to the side and scored when she needed to score. She got other people involved but in the big games and on the big stage she steps up."

Reggio got the chance to play with her sister Anneliese, a JV call-up who is a freshman, in the final minutes of the Tigers' quarterfinal contest.



India Newman goes up for a layup on a fast break in the first half of the Tigers' quarterfinal loss at Ursuline.



ALBERT COQUERAN PHOTOS

Senior forward Quion Burns (left), the leading scorer for the Tigers this season, concludes his WPHS basketball career under the guidance of Head Coach Spencer Mayfield (right), after scoring 20 points in the loss to Mt. Vernon, in the Quarterfinals of Section 1 AA Playoffs.

Knights responded with a three-point play and then went on a 9-0 run to put the game out of reach for White Plains, 60-50 with 1:13 left on the clock. "We never gave up. Down the stretch we were right there and cut the lead to one point. The three-point play seemed to take the starch out of us. But we fought hard the entire game," evaluated Mayfield, regarding the Tigers 66-56 loss to the Knights.

A strong performance by Carrier on defense held Hupstead to 18 points but the Knights center grabbed a remarkable 23 rebounds. "Joe (Carrier) battled so hard and made Hupstead work and earn everything he got," acknowledged Mayfield. Knights guard Patrick and forward Orlando Dawkins made up the deference on offense with 21 points and 14 points respectively.

Burns had 20 points and five rebounds and senior forward Jayon Norwood contributed 12 points and five rebounds for the Tigers

in the loss.

The Knights will face the number one-seed Suffern High School in the AA Semifinals, at the County Center, on Friday, at 7:45 p.m. The Mounties defeated the number nine-seed Spring Valley High School, 60-37, in the Quarterfinals.

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# Stepinac Wins Second Archdiocesan Championship in Three Years



PHOTO COURTESY NYC HOOPS

Stepinac High School Wins NYCHSAA AA Archdiocesan Basketball Championship for second time in three years after surviving a battle with St. Raymond High School, 73-68, at Mount St. Michael Academy, on Saturday. See page 17 for the full story.