GCA Students Stand Firm to Save their School

By Pat Casey

Our Lady of Good Counsel Academy, lovingly known by its students and supporters as GCA, is standing on the brink of a decision by the leadership team of the Sisters of the Divine Compassion, founders of the school.

Located at 52 North Broadway, White Plains, the school campus including the historic buildings Chapel of the Divine Compassion, the Mapleton House, and the convent and Mother House of the Catholic religious order Sisters of the Divine Compassion, are up for sale and possible redevelopment.

Students, school staff, members of the religious order, parents, and community neighbors are seeking an answer to one very big question: What is the future of Members of the GCA Class of 2013 returned to their Alma Mater on January 6 to support and join members of the 2015 graduating class in their fight to keep Good Counsel Academy in White Plains. Inset: Students and others gathered at the rally spoke briefly with Sister Carol Wagner, president of the Sisters of the Congregation, as she drove off the property in her car.

Greenburgh Town Board Adopts Aggressive 2015 Agenda

By Pat Casey

Members of the Greenburgh Town Board are calling them “Major Matters to be Brought to Conclusion in 2015.” They are somewhat aggressive projects on lists that are either already in process or to be initiated and closed if possible by the end of this year.

On the list for improvement and change is a complete environmental review of Frank’s Nursery with the intention to ease concerns of potential purchasers. The Board then intends to schedule and hold an auction to sell the site.

Also near the top of the list is the abandoned WestHELP property. The Greenburgh Board wants to obtain county approvals for rental of the complex and convert units into affordable senior housing.

To make future land use decision-making easier, community outreach meetings will be scheduled for development of a Draft Comprehensive Plan for the unincorporated area of Greenburgh. Once the draft is complete, public hearings will be scheduled and the plan adopted by a vote of the Board.

On a lesser scale, installation of a new GCA? Will the school remain on the property with the chapel and other historic buildings, or will it be relocated and the property abandoned to a developer’s vision.

Students of the high school have held periodic rallies, trying to get the attention of the congregation’s leadership in the hopes of engaging in discussion about possible alternatives to vacating the property on July 1, 2015, the date when everyone has been told they must be off the premises.

At the most recent rally, January 6, students endured snow and bitter cold temperatures at 23 degrees, but they held firm and were

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Missing Edgemont Teen, Christine (Ji Woo) Kang, Found and Safe

By Pat Casey

On Sunday evening as continuing efforts were being made in the search for Edgemont 16-year-old Christine Kang, Greenburgh Police Chief Chris McNerney received a call that the teen had been located in Manhattan at Saint Agnes Church on East 43rd Street.

Missing for over a week, she was in the custody of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Greenburgh Police were on their way to bring her back to Westchester.

Christine was recognized by someone at St. Agnes Church who had seen the

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Missing Edgemont Teen, Christine (Ji Woo) Kang, Found and Safe continued from page 1

missing person flyers distributed in NYC on Saturday.

In an email, Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner said over 200 people from the Edgemont community responded to calls for help in Manhattan Saturday to post Missing Flyers. “Their efforts worked,” he said.

“This initiative was organized by Edgemont Cares community leader Aubrey Graf-Daniels, one of the real heroes in the effort to find Christine and bring her back to safety. Edgemont high school students also participated in the effort to locate Christine. The parents, Min Jong Kang and Hyeeun Rose Kwon, were overjoyed. Lots of hugging and tears of joy,” Feiner said.

Christine went missing from her Edgemont home on the evening of Friday, Jan 2. Video of her standing on the platform at the Scarsdale train station indicated she might have taken a train heading south. On Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 6, police were able to confirm that Christine had made it to Manhattan. They located video of her in Grand Central Terminal near the Lexington Avenue entrance on Friday night at about 11 p.m.

Known to have run away in the past, concerns were that Christine, who was wearing a pajama top and sweatpants, was not adequately dressed for the extreme cold weather of the past week. Nor was it known if she had any friends who might help her.

After minor arguments with her parents, Christine had run off in the past, but usually returned home after a brief period. According to her parents, this is the longest she has stayed away.

In a Sunday report, News 12 indicated that a monetary reward for information about Christine’s location had been offered.

GCA Students Stand Firm to Save their School continued from page 1

rewarded with a brief encounter with Sister Carol Wagner, the president of the congregation, who up to this rally had been successful in avoiding any face to face discussion about their school’s future with the students under her care at GCA.

Sister Carol said she would not talk with them, that the students could read what she had written and posted on the congregation’s website regarding the property sale. She did, however, note that she and Sister Laura Donovan, GCA HS principal were doing everything they could to save the school.

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White Plains High School’s Owen Receives Phys. Ed Teacher of the Year Award

By Pat Casey

Laura Owen, a resident of Scarsdale and a physical education teacher in the White Plains School District, was honored with the Secondary Physical Education Teacher of the Year Award by New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (NYS AHPERD).

Owen has been a physical education teacher at White Plains High School for the past 13 years. She was actively involved in recreating the physical education program at White Plains to meet the needs of the diverse population of students. She teaches fitness, Bigger, Faster, Stronger, Yoga and Pilate’s classes, all aligned to the NYS Learning Standards. She teaches her students how to care for their bodies, how to eat right and how to communicate with others. She teaches them how to be good sports, how to positively resolve conflicts and to have empathy and understanding for others.

Owen received both her Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education and her Master of Science Degree in Exercise Physiology from Queens College. Participation in sport and physical activity has given joy and peace to Owen and giving that gift to her students is the most rewarding aspect of her job, she says.

In service to NYS AHPERD, Owen is the Southeastern Zone President, a member of the Get Moving NY committee, the Zone membership committee and Co-Coordinator of the Election Day Conference. She has presented at local, Zone and NYS AHPERD Conferences. The Coordinator of Athletics and Physical Education at White Plains said, “Laura’s commitment, dedication and passion for her students, athletes, the school community and her profession, is unmatched. She is dedicated to creating a curriculum that teaches her students not only the benefits of living a healthy and active lifestyle, but also the importance of being ‘physically educated.’

Owen’s plaque was presented at the Jay B. Nash award dinner during the Association’s 77th Annual Conference held at the Turning Stone Convention Center in November.
Kaplowitz Proud of Budget, Bipartisanship in First Year at Helm

By Martin Wilbur
For a while the biggest news from the eighth floor of the county office building where the Board of Legislators does its business had been the incessant infighting and threat of lawsuits.

Last year when County Legislator Michael Kaplowitz (D-Somers) took over as the board’s chairman he pledged to put an end to the destructive bickering and confine the arguments to the issues. In that spirit, each one of the 17 legislators was appointed either to chair a committee or to board leadership role.

While disagreements and philosophical differences will often surface between Republicans and Democrats, Kaplowitz said county government last year functioned properly, with a healthy dose of debate in a year where there was no shortage of challenging issues.

"It was a good year for the Board of Legislators," Kaplowitz confidently stated in an interview last Friday. "Bipartisanship and legislative cooperation worked and we demonstrated that, and it's a pretty neat contrast, a pretty stark contrast to other legislative bodies, particularly Albany and Washington, where squabbles seem to be the order of the day."

The chairman pointed to the 2015 county budget as one of the prime examples of effective bipartisanship. Although most of the Democratic caucus opposed the $1.76 billion spending plan, mainly on the grounds that it authorizes the county to borrow up to $5 million, it did attract the support of three Democrat, Legislator MaryJane Shimsky (D-Hastings-on-Hudson) to join all seven Republicans in support.

In December 2013, Kaplowitz and Legislator Virginia Perez (D-Yonkers) were the only Democrats to side with the Republicans to narrowly pass last year's budget 9-8.

Kaplowitz said this year, there was plenty of compromise, including the addition of $680,000 toward Title XX, which will help subsidize day care for up to an additional 151 families, and the reduction in the borrowing ceiling from $8 million to $5 million.

Revenues from the sales and mortgage taxes are trending up, which could make the borrowing argument moot, he said. Kaplowitz stressed that he was proud of the board's fiscal restraint and responsibility.

"The budget was a success, a good bipartisan vote, 10-7, a good group of Democrats and Republicans and we didn't balance it using any phantom revenues, which is always the result of a 'borrow and spend' budget that loads the responsibility for today's spending on to tomorrow's taxpayers."

But Minority Leader John Testa (R-Peekskill) said while the vote authorizes the county to borrow, that doesn't mean it will. The other options were to raise taxes, order significant layoffs or to reduce the social safety net, he said.

Testa agreed that 2014 marked a breakthrough for board bipartisanship, where all legislators had a chance for input.

"It was a collegial atmosphere, it was very open and everybody had a chance to contribute on all the issues," he said. "I voted against it because of that borrowing in the budget," Harckham said. "I'm not going to support on the hope that revenues will increase."

In a press statement released during the budget process Legislator Benjamin Boykin (D-White Plains) outlined how he thought there was too much borrowing in the budget.

Majority Leader Catherin Borgia (D-Ossining) stated in an op-ed piece last month that it wasn't only the county's potential to bond for operating expenses but also taking money from the E-911 fund and failing to set aside funds for the settlement of labor contracts that made the budget "bad for the people of Westchester."

"These types of gimmicks and short-sighted actions defy the principles of good budgeting," Borgia wrote. "Yet they are the result of a 'borrow and spend' budget that loads the responsibility for today's spending on to tomorrow's taxpayers."

But Minority Leader John Testa (R-Peekskill) said while the vote authorizes the county to borrow, that doesn't mean it will. The other options were to raise taxes, order significant layoffs or to reduce the social safety net, he said.

"This is really not acceptable, and the county executive assured me that he is working with Harrison and the developers to engage them to do the right thing," Kaplowitz said.

There is also the possibility that unless the proposed 28-unit Conifer Realty project in Chappaqua receives its variances from the state Board of Review, the county will lose credit for those units. Late last year the board hastily approved funding for the project on the condition the developer receives all necessary local and state approvals in order to reach its milestone for the end of 2014.

Kaplowitz is optimistic that there will be a resolution this year to the ongoing struggle to have a private operator assume control of Playland, which drained more than $3 million in county funds last year.

He said while that may not happen in time for the popular park's May opening, there is likely to be a gradual phase-in of the new owners. Astorino is expected to provide a recommendation to the lawmakers in the coming weeks regarding the two remaining candidates for the bid.

"I think we're much closer to the end," Kaplowitz said. "I think we all recognize that you need to do legislative and executive cooperation on this. It's not a unilateral decision."
Jacob Burns’ Sports on Film Series Has Plenty of Game

By Neal Rentz

Don’t expect to view traditional Hollywood depictions of sports if you’re planning to attend the Jacob Burns Film Center’s "We Got Game: Sports on Film" series that begins Thursday evening.

There are no movies depicting the star player or the hopelessly overwhelmed underdog rising up to lead his team to victory.

Instead, all eight features, along with a night of short films, are documentaries covering a wide range of sports and sports issues.

A common goal is for the films to show viewers "what it’s like playing the sport," said Andrew Jupin, the Burns’ administrative director of programming who collaborated with center programmer Gina Duncan to select the works to be screened.

Duncan said the series not only provides a venue for sports documentaries that have limited theatrical releases, it is also a way to attract patrons who might not ordinarily come to the Burns.

This year’s series begins with a screening of "Althea," directed by Rex Miller about tennis champion Althea Gibson, the daughter of a sharecropper, who was not only the first African-American woman to win the U.S. Open and Wimbledon, but the first to play in both Grand Slam tournaments.

“Back on Board: Greg Louganis,” a documentary directed by Cheryl Furjanic about the Olympic champion diver, is the closing night feature on Feb. 25 in the second annual “We Got Game: Sports on Film” at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville.

Following the opening night screening, there will be a panel discussion featuring former New York City Mayor David Dinkins, veteran New York Times sportswriter William C. Rhoden, United States Tennis Association Chairman/CEO/President Katrina Adams and Jacob Burns Board Chairman Hugh B. Price. A reception will follow the discussion.

On Jan. 26, the Burns will host “The 12th Man: Football, Film and Fandom,” a program that will that include a screening of "America’s Game,” a documentary about the 1968 Super Bowl champion New York Jets.

The documentary is produced by NFL Films, which holds a special place in Duncan’s heart. At one time she was a producer for NFL Films despite knowing little about the game when she starting working there. She said the entity changed the way the public viewed football, using copious amounts of slow motion action combined with music that became its trademark.

After the screening, author Nicholas Dawidoff, NFL Films senior producer Paul Camrala and writer Sam Tanehaus will be part of a question-and-answer session.

“Why Sports?: A Shorts Program,” scheduled for Feb. 12, will feature sports-related short films including “I Beat Mike Tyson, "Every Runner Has a Reason” and “Follow Your Fears.” Jupin said since the market for shorts is limited, the Burns seeks to screen them when it can throughout the year.

The series will conclude on Feb. 25 with "Back on Board: Greg Louganis," directed by Croton-on-Hudson native Cheryl Furjanic. It will be followed by a Q&A with the director.

Greenburgh Town Board Adopts Aggressive 2015 Agenda

continued from page 1

boiler at the indoor pool at Theodore Young Community Center and a supplemental boiler at the Library made the “to do” list.

Expanding one-arm garbage sanitation trucks to additional neighborhoods and making traffic safety improvements in Ardsley and on Jackson Avenue using funds from a settlement regarding the Ridge Hill development are also on the list.

Regarding important initiatives already under way, complying with the state tax cap in 2016 and looking for new sources of revenue and efficiencies including shared services opportunities made number one. Hiring a firm to conduct a comprehensive review of the Town’s Public Works Department was up next. And, continuing oversight of the reassessment process, including informational meetings was a close third.

Other items on the “already in process” list include applying for federal and/or state funds for sidewalk construction, especially near schools, to address pedestrian safety concerns; finalizing plans and funding for Veterans Memorial at DeSanti Plaza, East Hartsdale Avenue; establishing a mentoring program for architects/engineers in cooperation with Greenburgh Central School District; resolving heating/air-conditioning issues at Town Hall; an electric car for the Department of Public Works; securing funding for building a new playground at the Lee F. Jackson Elementary School on surplus school property; Demolition of the old kiddie pool at Massaro and replacing it with a new spray pad; working with the Greenburgh Nature Center on a town-wide initiative to introduce and develop conservation/sustainable practices, including food waste management; lobbying New York State to approve a 9A bypass; finalizing and approving a plan for implementation of infrastructure improvements for the Greenburgh Consolidated Water District.

The Board also developed a comprehensive list of new initiatives that include the increased use of social media, environmental and efficiency initiatives and other programs to cut expenses and upgrade existing services.

At its meeting this Wednesday, the Board is expected to bring up sidewalk construction to improve safety for children walking to local schools.

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Small News is Big News
Man Charged in White Plains Federal Court With Threatening to Shoot Police

Jeremy Mott, 24, of Mount Vernon, was arrested Tuesday, Jan. 6 on charges of threatening to shoot members of the Mount Vernon Police Department.

The complaint issued by Preet Bharara, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and George Venizelos, the Assistant Director-in-Charge of the New York Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), alleges that Mott posted messages on Internet social media sites in which he threatened to shoot Mount Vernon police officers and included a digital image depicting the shooting of a police officer.

Mott was taken into federal custody Tuesday. He was presented in White Plains federal court before U.S. Magistrate Judge Lisa Margaret Smith and was released on bond.

U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara stated: “We will not tolerate threats of violence against police officers. Period. Here, as alleged, social media were used for the threat. Law enforcement should not have to wait to see whether a threat will be acted on, so now the defendant will have to answer for his threatening intentions, as charged.”

FBI Assistant Director-in-Charge George Venizelos stated: “As we see all too often, social media is used as a platform for posting threats against members of the law enforcement community. As alleged, Mott made significant online threats in which he threatened to shoot Mount Vernon police officers. Those who threaten the lives of law enforcement officers through interstate communications will be fully investigated by the FBI and our partners.”

According to allegations Mott posted messages on Facebook and Instagram, both of which included digital images of an individual discharging a firearm into a police vehicle through the driver’s side window. The Facebook message included the threat, “I swear if cops in Mount Vernon think they can follow this madness this is how they going to end up.” The Instagram message included the threat, “They better keep that crazy shyt away from Mount Vernon cause me & my [n*****s] not playing no games with them ppl!!”

Mott is charged with one count of making interstate threats, which upon conviction carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison. The maximum potential sentence in this case is prescribed by Congress and is provided here for informational purposes only, as any sentencing of the defendant will be determined by a judge.

Bharara said the investigation is continuing.

The prosecution is being handled by the Office’s White Plains Division. Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas Zolkind is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Harrison Girl Scouts Meet Scouting Icon at Bristol Holiday Event

On a recent wintry December afternoon, Harrison Girl Scouts Troop 1885 brought warmth and holiday cheer to The Bristol, an assisted living facility in White Plains. The troop members, 4th and 5th graders at Purchase School, sang classic and current holiday songs. The girls were joined by volunteer Julianne Sanscarter, a junior at Harrison High School, for piano accompaniment and angelic singing voice. Dozens of The Bristol’s residents were on hand to enjoy the music and holiday spirit.

A highlight of the day was the attendance of one of The Bristol’s residents, Arlene Perazzini. Arlene, a legend among Harrison Girl Scout leadership, holds the distinction of having received her 30-year Girl Scout patch for her years of service. Arlene was thrilled to meet the girls and join them for a photo.

Upon learning of Arlene’s attendance at the event, Harrison Mayor Ron Belmont commented, “Girl Scouts is an exceptional organization and has thrived because of the continued dedication of its volunteer leaders. Arlene Perazzini, a former Harrison resident and long time Girl Scout leader, helped to create an environment in which girls learned about leadership and civic responsibility. Her legacy is still felt today and I appreciate her many years of service to the Town/Village of Harrison.”

After singing, the Girl Scouts led a project, with the enthusiastic assistance of several of The Bristol’s residents, to assemble activity kits for donation to the Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital at Westchester Medical Center.

Patti Rube and Morela Paris (Girl Scout leaders, Harrison Girl Scouts Troop 1885) submitted this story.

Police Officer Struck by Car Seconds After Saving Teen

A Westchester County police officer, who was hit by a car on the southbound Saw Mill River Parkway Friday morning, was able to get a teenager out of harm’s way just seconds before he was struck.

Quick action by Police Officer Paul DeSousa prevented a 15-year-old boy from being hit by the same vehicle that struck DeSousa on the shoulder of the parkway just north of McLean Avenue in Yonkers, Commissioner George N. Longworth said in a county media statement after the accident.

As the out-of-control vehicle careened toward the officer and teen, DeSousa was able to grab the boy and hoist him onto the hood of the patrol car. DeSousa was then struck and flipped into the air by the impact.

Several motorists who witnessed the incident stopped to assist DeSousa, who was able to radio for help. He was taken by ambulance to Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx where he was treated for multiple, non-life-threatening injuries and later released.

“Today’s incident is a reminder that police work is dangerous in many different ways,” said County Executive Robert P. Astorino who went to the scene and later spoke with DeSousa. “I want to commend Officer DeSousa for the decisive action he took to protect the safety of this young man. I am grateful that the officer was not more seriously hurt.”

The incident occurred just before 10 a.m. when DeSousa observed the teenager walking north on the shoulder adjacent to the southbound lanes of the parkway. Fearing that a car could hit the youth, he pulled over and got out to speak with the boy.

As DeSousa was preparing to give the boy a ride back to local streets, a 2014 Infinity coming southbound in the center lane lost control, crossed the right lane of travel and the shoulder, and struck an embankment. The car then came directly at the officer and teen as they stood near the rear passenger-door of the patrol car.

DeSousa was able to get the boy on to the hood before he and his patrol car were hit. The teen was not injured.

DeSousa, 27, joined the Department of Public Safety a year ago after serving in the military in Iraq and Afghanistan.
Police Blotter

Westchester County Police

Police Officer Struck by Car. An off duty Elmsford police officer is in critical condition after being struck by a car Sunday night on Bradhurst Avenue near Chateau Lane about 8:20 p.m., when he appeared to be trying to cross the road. He was taken by ambulance to Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla with internal and head injuries.

The Westchester County police accident reconstruction team is assisting the investigation. Bradhurst Avenue, which is Route 100, was closed for several hours as police investigated. Police reports indicate the driver of the car stopped at the scene and was cooperative. The investigation is continuing.

Greenburgh Police Department

Lost Property. On December 29 police officers were dispatched to First Street in White Plains where a lost cell phone was reported to be located. Upon arrival, police spoke to the victim, who said she had lost her iPhone at K-Mart on the 28th of December around 10 p.m. She later obtained another phone and with GPS tracked her lost phone to the residence on First Street. Police advised her that they could not make entry to search the home for the phone. Officers made contact with the resident who was told that a missing iPhone had been traced to his residence and was asked if he or anyone else had knowledge of such property. The resident said he knew nothing about the phone. He was thanked for his cooperation and closed the door. The victim was advised nothing further could be done except for her to cancel the cell phone service.

Driving Without License. On December 29 at about 3:20 a.m. at the intersection of Knollwood and Tarrytown roads police pulled over a vehicle with unauthorized lights. During the stop, officers discovered that the driver had a suspended license and was on probation for burglaries in Greenburgh, and had a warrant out of White Plains. White Plains was contacted but declined to extradite the driver of the car stopped at the scene. The driver was contacted but declined to extradite the warrant out of White Plains. White Plains for burglaries in Greenburgh, and had a suspended license and was on probation for burglaries in Greenburgh, and had a warrant out of White Plains. White Plains was contacted but declined to extradite the driver of the car stopped at the scene. The driver was contacted but declined to extradite the warrant out of White Plains. White Plains was contacted but declined to extradite the driver of the car stopped at the scene.

Greenburgh Police Department

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Will We Always Allow Developers to Make Our Most Important Land Decisions

As the early days of 2015 unfold across Westchester and within the local readership of The White Plains Examiner, decisions about land development in communities concerned about historic preservation and green open space are anticipated.

Financial news says the economy is in an upswing and industrial development agencies tout the boost for the construction industry across the region.

The assumption is that once the money begins to flow again, in the same way it did before, then everyone will be happy.

On the front page of this issue is a story about the impending fate of Good Counsel Academy High School in White Plains. It is most likely the last story before a final decision is announced about who has bought the property and what they intend to do with it.

The zone is RM-1.5, residential with height restrictions similar to the apartment buildings in the school’s immediate area and setbacks designed to keep as much open space as possible.

Several of the buildings on the property are landmarked as historic sites. Up to this point the owners have been good stewards of the property. In leaving they have put their most valued asset into the hands of the real estate agents.

As has been seen in other areas around White Plains, real estate brokers have made some very good commissions on controversial property sales and have walked away unscathed as the debates about land use continue at the great expense of the new owners and their neighbors.

Why is this allowed to continue? And why, when in advance of the sale of a piece of property that practically defines an area of White Plains has the community been so silent?

These high school students, teenagers, are to be applauded for their bravery in standing up to make their voices heard. Still young, they believe people have an opinion in the face of decisions that have a monetary base, but a fuller value when it comes to the betterment of a whole community.

As it stands, in a land sale, the buyer and the seller are the only ones represented. A community without adequate preservation laws is left unprotected. Once the deal is done, it is done.

As regards GCA, why so much secrecy and lack of communication beforehand? The community has a right to know what is going on. Who are the bidders? What is their intention? And, what is the sale price of the property?

The students are demanding answers and so should everyone else.

Obituaries

Sister Margaret Cannon

Sister Margaret Cannon, (formerly Sr. Mary Pierre), a Sister of the Divine Compassion died peacefully at Cabrini Nursing Home on January 10.

Sr. Margaret was born in Tuckahoe on June 5, 1930, the daughter of George J. and Margaret Dempsey Cannon. She entered the Sisters of the Divine Compassion in 1952. Sister Margaret attended Immaculate Conception Elementary School and Good Counsel High School. She continued her education at Good Counsel College in White Plains where she obtained the Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and then an MS in Physiology from Catholic University. Sr. Margaret also earned an MS in Guidance and Counseling from Long Island University.

For many years Sister was a beloved teacher and guidance counselor at Good Counsel High School. In addition to teaching she involved the students in outreach to those in need in the Orange County town of Warwick.

After Sr. Margaret’s retirement she devoted her time and energy to advocating for social justice issues. She and her dear friend, Marie Bradshaw, began Compassion Outreach, Inc. to help the Little Sisters of Sainte Therese and the impoverished people of Haiti.

Sister Margaret is survived by her cousin George Ross and his family as well as the family of her cousin the late Jeanne Dobbin. She was predeceased by her brother, Michael Cannon.

Phyllis O’Connor

Phyllis O’Connor, a White Plains resident, died January 6 at the age of 80. She was born in Dublin, Ireland on July 19, 1934 to the late Albert and Susan Foster.

Phyllis worked as a sales clerk for Sears Department Store in White Plains for 25 years, retiring in 2004.

She is survived by her children; Christopher O’Connor of Eastchester, Anne (Ralph) Pacifico of Ossining and Margaret O’Connor of Harrison. Also surviving are her sisters; Isabelle Foster, Susan (John) Maguire, Breda (Walter) Liske and Betty Foster. She is predeceased by her brother Michael O’Connor and her brother Patrick Foster and sister Bernadette Flynn.

Ruth Sanossian

Ruth H. Sanossian passed away on January 6. “Ruthie” was born in Manhattan to Arevag (Derbian) and Osmar M. Boyajian on February 5, 1921. She was their only daughter (having lost two brothers at very young ages) and she was raised in Manhattan and the Bronx.

She graduated from Roosevelt HS on Fordham Road in the Bronx and upon graduation worked for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and became an active parishioner and Sunday School teacher at Holy Cross Church of Armenia (Washington Heights). She and George H. Sanossian were married at Holy Cross on November 6, 1949 and together they served as active and integral members of that Parish for many years during which they made many life-long friends and developed a long-standing friendship with the Very Reverend Elisha Simonian.

Ruth, George and their two sons moved to Westchester in 1963. They continued to be active in their Parish and became active in other organizations as well, including numerous positions in the Knights and Daughters of Vartan. When George became ill in the late 1960’s, Ruth went back to work and held clerical positions at Korvettes and Loral Electronic Systems while continuing to care for George. George passed away in 1994. Thereafter until 2013, Ruth worked at the CPA firm of Sanossian, Saris & Co, LLP. Ruth and George were part of a small, but very dedicated group of Holy Cross parishioners who, having moved to Westchester, began St. Gregory’s Armenian Church of White Plains. Ruth was a survivor of two bouts with cancer. Ruth was a devout parishioner of St. Gregory’s, serving on its Parish Council in and in many other capacities including as the first and long time co-chair of the facilities rental committee. She was a founding member of the Women’s Guild serving on its executive committee and as an advisor to her beloved ladies right to the end. Surviving Ruth are her sons George (Carolyn) and Ron (Laura) and grandchildren – Christopher (Kasey Martini), Cynthia, Cassandra, Natalie and Julia.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to the St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, 150 Stratton Road New Rochelle, NY 10804.

Letters Policy

We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. We will do our best to print all letters, but are limited by space constraints. Letters are subject to editing and may be withheld from publication on the discretion of the editor. Please refrain from personal attacks. Email letters to pcasey@theexaminernews.com.

The White Plains Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.
More than 25 years ago, my friend John Carr was the first person I knew who built his own home. He was also the first who taught me that installing hardwood floors cost pretty much the same as installing subflooring and wall-to-wall carpeting.

Naturally, I thought, who ever want carpeting when they could have hardwood flooring at the same price?

It seems that for the past three decades, everyone else has had the same reference and is with the addition of an area rug here and there--or so I thought--until I visited my seller client. Redi-Cut Carpets of Port Chester, the largest floor surfacing store in Westchester, offers wall-to-wall carpeting, hardwood flooring and area rugs.

"Yes, actually, wall-to-wall carpeting is very much back," said Michael Feldman, second generation owner of Redi-Cut, which is ensconced in a 5,500-square-foot space on Main Street next door to Tarry Market and Tarry Wine operated by Mario Batali and Joe Bastianich of television fame.

After having ripped out all of my wall-to-wall in two rooms, remembering that I had beautiful hardwood flooring underneath, now suddenly I'm ordering new carpeting because who knew it's back?

"Yes, people have been into hardwood floors as a preference agreement they found them cleaner and anti-allergenic and didn't collect dust, and certainly we sell wood floors and refinish them, but the carpet industry realized what was happening and responded to it," Feldman said. "Now they make carpeting that is non-allergenic and guaranteed for life not to stain. It's actually coated with Teflon."

"Teflon? You, mean, like the stuff on frying pans?" I asked?

"Yes, like on frying pans," Feldman responded.

"Son of a gun, that's some protection," I exclaimed.

It seems that this kind of technology has been available for three years. Feldman, who goes every year to a surface flooring convention in Las Vegas to keep abreast with what's trending in carpeting, estimates that as much as 70 percent of his market prefers wall-to-wall carpeting over hardwood flooring. That came as a real surprise to me, that the long-term trend toward hardwood flooring has suddenly reversed itself.

Further, Feldman noted that the preference in neutral shades toward the warmer beiges had cooled markedly toward the greys.

"Grey is definitely the big choice today in both lighter and darker shades," he said.

That pronouncement did not surprise me because I can see many benefits for choosing grey as cooler shade that tends to make a room look larger and provides a better neutral background to allow other colors to "pop."

When asked about the choice between wool and artificial fiber, Feldman said that those who seek the more expensive options will go for wool, which is the more luxurious, but is more difficult to keep clean and doesn't last as long. "Tremendous improvements have been made with nylon, which can look very much like wool, doesn't stain, is virtually indestructible, and yet look how soft the texture can feel," he said while demonstrating with the soft pile from one of his samples.

The price range for purchasing wall-to-wall carpeting is as broad as the income range of the marketplace. Feldman's more upscale clientele might spend $22 a square foot while the average purchaser, i.e., me, would spend from $6 to $8 per square foot.

Other technology advances include production plants having the capability of customizing carpeting colors to the customers' specifications to match colors of upholstery or draperies.

So, now that I've stripped my floors bare to reveal the hardwood beneath, I've just ordered wall-to-wall to recover them and, you've got it, the color I've selected is a subtly patterned blue grey.

If you want to update your wall-to-wall carpeting, the pro to guide you is Michael Feldman of Redi-Cut Flooring. He can be reached at his store, located at 173 N. Main St. in Port Chester, at 914-873-0811. The website is www.redicutny.com.

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Reeves Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester www.PrimaveraPR.com, specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. His real estate site is www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com and his blog is www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of Bill Primavera and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.
A Playful Pizza Cucina Premiers in White Plains

Ernesto Capalbo, a veteran of the restaurant and pizza business, has premiered Pizza Cucina on W. Post Road, White Plains, down the corner from his namesake establishment Ernesto’s Ristorante. In the process of contemplating Ernesto’s, which is nearing its 25th year on this strip, Capalbo moved the attached pizza shop to its new location at 102 West Post Road. Locals will recall this spot had operated as Anthony’s location at 102 West Post Road. Locals will recall this spot had operated as Anthony’s Triangle Deli for many years.

Pizza Cucina is a playful redesigned space with a jazzy red logo offering fresh made Neapolitan pizza varieties galore, focaccia, garlicky rolls and stuffed calzones, finger foods, soups and entrée size salads, and overstuffed paninis and wedges. Juicy 8 oz. specialty beef and turkey burgers are on hand. You can also order pastas, entrees and desserts, all from the open kitchen. There are booths and standup communal tables for up to 50 guests. Everything is available for take-out and catered events.

Pizzas run the gamut from classic Margherita to Nonna’s, a square thin crust pizza with house made tomato sauce, fresh mozzarella, sliced tomatoes and basil. The Tri Fornaggi White Pizza includes mozzarella, parmigiana and ricotta, while the decadent Chicken Bacon Ranch is topped with chicken cutlet, crispy bacon and ranch dressing. Meat lovers will enjoy the meatball, sausage, bacon and pepperoni pizza, while the Whole Wheat Primavera includes grilled eggplant, zucchini & peppers over pesto. You can create your own pizza or focaccia combination with a variety of toppings, and gluten free pizza is also available.

Check out such playful Paninis as the Cuban Reuben, ham, turkey, Swiss cheese, provolone, pickles and mustard; Caprese, with fresh mozzarella, tomato, basil, touch of pesto; or such wedges as the Frittata, peppers, onions, potatoes and eggs; or the Cold Combo, ham, salami, mortadella, provolone, lettuce, tomato and house dressing.

Broccoli rabe lovers can hunker down on such specialty sandwiches as: Grilled Sausage with broccoli rabe and hot peppers, or the Grilled Chicken with broccoli rabe, sundried tomatoes and roasted red peppers.

Generously served Italian American entrees include: Spaghetti & Meatballs house made Lasagna; choice of chicken, eggplant, veal or shrimp Parmigiana style; and Chicken Scarpariello, grilled breast of chicken sauteed in a garlic, lemon, white wine and rosemary sauce.

Special Hint: There are Party Buffet packages available for home or office.

Ernesto Capalbo, a consummate host, founded Ernesto’s Ristorante, 130 W. Post Road, White Plains, 914-421-1414, in 1990, while launching pizza shops throughout Westchester. Ernesto’s is currently co-hosted by Charlie Gambino and his veteran staff. They will make you feel most welcome.

Pizza Cucina is located at 102 West Post Road, White Plains. The restaurant is open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Price range all day: $5.25 for a basic slice to $25. Beverages. Major credit cards. Casual dress.

Handicapped accessible. Free and municipal parking. Phone: 914-752-4611. Local Farmers’ Markets Move Indoors for Winter

Westchester residents can follow their local farmer’s markets indoors at the following locations: Westchester County Center in White Plains hosts a farmer’s market on diverse Sundays through March. Dates are: Jan. 18th, Feb. 8th, and March 22nd. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There are always a wide variety of purveyors and artisanal makers along with live entertainment provided by local musicians from the Hudson Valley. Admission is free though there is a $5 parking charge at the Center. If you look around nearby you may find free parking; www.countycenter.biz.

Pleasantville holds its indoor farmers’ market at Pleasantville Middle School on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The market is operated by Foodchester Inc., a non-profit organization; www.pleasantvilletfarmersmarket.org.

The Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester, 351 Main St., Mt. Kisco, hosts an indoor farmers’ market year round on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In Mamaroneck there is a popular market held at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 168 W. Boston Post Road; Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 .m. There is an operating snack bar.

And in Croton-On-Hudson the Winter Farmers’ Market is held in the Van Wyck Shopping Plaza at 44 Maple Street, Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Chinese Lunar New Year Coming Up in February

In coming weeks I will be reporting on the upcoming Lunar New Year, Carnival and Fat Tuesday celebrations in the area and venues that will be serving the foods that mark those events. As sort of a precursor, I found myself in lower Manhattan’s Chinatown recently with a destination in mind. It had been quite a while since I indulged in the legendary Soup Dumplings as prepared and served at venerable Joe’s Shanghai on 9 Pell Street, 212-233-8888. Joe’s was originally founded in Flushing, Queens in 1995 and achieved an immediate cult-like following for their Xiao Long Bao (‘little dumplings in a basket’), fresh, made-to-order pagoda-shaped pouches filled with a heavenly combination of crabmeat or pork infused with beef broth. Eating them properly takes a little effort along with some slurping, but the result will leave your palate swooning.

The ambiance here, patrons bustling all day and night at the tight communal tables, is part of the excitement. We rounded off our meal with a delicious platter of classic Kung Pao Chicken, too. My accolades to the staff, which despite the crowd and the continuous din, managed to make our visit memorable; www.joesshanghairestaurant.com.

Morris Gut is a restaurant consultant and former restaurant trade magazine editor. He has been tracking and writing about the food and dining scene in greater Westchester for over 25 years. He may be reached at: 914-235-6591. E-mail: gutreactions@optonline.net.
What’s Popular at Amore in Armonk?

By Jerry Eimbinder

When visiting a restaurant for the first time, the options for advice on what to order are limited. Reviews can be found on foodie sites, but how reliable are they? Fake reviews abound on dining and social media sites, many created by companies or individuals in Asia or Eastern Europe that charge modest fees for their handiwork. A term even exists for writing fake reviews; the practice is known in the trade as “astroturfing.”

There are also establishments that reward customers with gift certificates for writing favorable reviews. Another unethical practice (without a name as far as I know) is removing the negative comments on a site in exchange for advertising.

Guests sometimes ask waiters for recommendations. But the chances are good that the server is a college student, more familiar with the meals at the school cafeteria than the restaurant’s signature dish.

With the need for more informed dining on the part of our readers in mind, we started the “What’s Popular” series — where restaurant owners are asked to tell us what items on their menus are the most popular, and if possible, why.

To learn about the dishes that are bestsellers at Amore, we talked to Mark Mazzotta, co-proprietor of the Armonk restaurant with his brother, Joe. Mark Mazzotta describes the food at Amore as authentic “real boot Italian,” with the emphasis on serving “varied regional dishes with premium ingredients that are peaking in season.”

The Mazzotta brothers are celebrating 20 years of operating restaurants in the area and the first anniversary at the Kent Place location. “We tore the old building down and reincarnated it into a cozy Italian trattoria resembling a Tuscan-style farmhouse,” Mark Mazzotta said.

He said one of the most popular starters is the pasta salad Pomodoro, which includes Roma tomato, gorgonzola cheese and red onion. The most popular entrée on the menu is Veal bel Paese — veal scallopini layered with eggplant, prosciutto and fresh mozzarella in a portobello-sherry demi-glacé.

Pizzas that the public have gravitated to are the Margherita, whose ingredients include San Marzano plum tomatoes, fresh mozzarella and fresh basil, and the Queen Regina, made from crushed San Marzano tomatoes, buffalo mozzarella, fresh basil and parmigiano reggiano.

Although Amore is an Italian restaurant, a highly popular item is the half-pound, flame-broiled Amore Pub Burger, Mark Mazzotta revealed. Contributing to its appeal is its blend of 100 percent, Grade A American chuck and short rib. It is served with caramelized onions and heirloom tomato on a toasted roll.

The Zuppa di Pesce gets my vote. It’s a magnificent medley of calamari, little neck clams, mussels and shrimp — and I loved the accompanying spaghetti’s delightful tomato sauce.

Specials augment the menu dishes, Mazzotta said.

“Our innovative specials are fresh, earthy and savory with the emphasis on using the best each season has to offer, not to mention some culinary adventurism,” he said.

The restaurant’s best-selling specials are:

•Wild Boar Ragu Pappardelle. Slowly braised wild boar ragu, gently simmered in cabernet. “It is perfectly married with house-made wide ribbons of pasta with a daub of ricotta fresca,” Mazzotta said.

•Zucca e Ricotta. Slow-roasted butternut squash, crispy sage and toasted pignoli nuts, with sheep’s milk ricotta fresca and crostino.

•Winter Salad. Market arugula laced in harvest/winter vinaigrette, on thinly sliced orchard pears with toasted walnuts and pecorino Toscano.

•Salmon and Lentil. Pan-seared Atlantic salmon filet over lentil, carrot and pancetta ragout, with cognac/madeira porcini mushroom glacé, including a potato tort.

•Risotto. Creamy arborio rice with roasted cubed butternut squash and smoked Italian bacon, along with roasted sweet bay scallops.

•Tre Amici (The Three Wise Men). Lavender-infused vodka, quince purée fresca, just-squeezed lemon and pomegranate juice.

•Pizzetta Zucca. Personal thin-crust pizza, with blistered garlic, slow-roasted butternut squash, crispy sopressata forte Calabresi and Hudson Valley goat cheese/shaved reggiano parmigiano.

•Short Rib Lasagna. Hand-made pasta layered with slow-roasted Angus short ribs, bolognese/sangiovese essence, sheep’s milk ricotta fresco, smoked mozzarella and light San Marzano ragu.

“We assemble ingredients with love and passion to make your mouth happy,” Mazzotta said.

The restaurant has a bar, brick pizza oven, event space and a large private outdoor terrace. The one-acre property includes an extensive vegetable garden, herb gardens, grapevines and a freshwater brook. A bocce courtyard is also planned.

Amore Pizzeria & Italian Kitchen/Caterers is located at 1 Kent Place in Armonk. Call 914-273-3535 or visit www.amorearmonk.com.

Rodney and Lillian Reynolds to Headline MLK Breakfast in White Plains

Rodney and Lillian Reynolds will double team as the keynote speakers at the Thomas H. Slater Center’s 22nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Breakfast to be held on Monday, Jan. 19, 8 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza, White Plains.

Lillian F. Reynolds is a Social Worker and Minister with extensive experience in planning, implementing and overseeing programs that meet the spiritual, emotional, intellectual, academic and social needs of youth, young adults and families. She is the founding Project Director and now serves as the Executive Director of Grace CDF Freedom Schools, a Ujamaa Community Development Corporation program. Lillian is employed by the Mt. Vernon City School District as the District Homeless Student Liaison.


Rodney and Lillian are the proud parents of two sons, Rodney Jeremiah, and Richard Joshua.

The family attends Grace Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon.

With a mission To Reach and To Serve, The Thomas H. Slater Center, a community center located in White Plains, provides an array of services and programs to the residents of White Plains.

Tickets for the breakfast are $50 general, $45 seniors and $30 youth. To make reservations, email anita@slatercenter.net or call 914-948-6211.
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We're happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event and include the words “Happenings Calendar Submission” in your email subject line. Entries should be sent to Pat Casey at pcasey@theexaminernews.com.

Tuesday, Jan. 13
WPCNA Meeting. The January meeting of the White Plains Council of Neighborhood Associations will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Education House, 5 Homeside Lane, White Plains. The evening’s guest speaker is State Assemblywoman Amy Paulin. Light refreshments served.

Wednesday, Jan. 14

Moving Beyond the Automobile. A set of short films show how cities around the world are rethinking transportation and restructuring roads and transit systems to reduce how much time we spend in cars. Discussion to follow the films. Presented in partnership with the Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. Refreshments at 7 p.m. Program at 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Thursday, Jan. 15
Interfaith MLK Service. Ministers' Fellowship Council of White Plains and Vicinity in Conjunction with the White Plains Religious Leaders inaugurate the First Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Interfaith Celebration at 7:30 p.m. at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 82 Prospect St., White Plains. Joint Message to be delivered by Rev. Dr. Gawin F DeLeeuw President of White Plains Religious Leaders and Rev. Erwin L. Trollingler, Jr. President Ministers' Fellowship Council. Music Ministry conducted by combined choirs of Calvary Baptist Church, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church Choir and “White Plains Interfaith Choir.”

Friday, Jan. 16
Photography Competition. Mentoring: “Show us What You've Got” Westchester Photographic Society presents a Mentoring Session which will surely be enjoyed by both club members and its guests. WPS welcomes all photographers, whether budding or professional, to become members. Mutual support for the enhancement of our craft is our specialty. Westchester Photographic Society, WCC, Tech. Bldg., Rm. 107, 8pm. No charge. Guests are welcome 914-827-5353 www.WPSphoto.org

“The Wizard of Oz.” Directed by Melodie Wolford, Antonia Arts presents this adaptation of this classic starring Gabrielle Sansone as Dorothy and a cast of talented area actors. Paramount Hudson Valley, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill. 7 p.m. Adults: $29. Seniors and students: $19. Also Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. and Jan. 18 at 3 p.m. Info and tickets: 914-739-0039 ext. 2 or visit www.paramounthudsonvalley.com.

Saturday, Jan. 17
Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service. Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 17 and 18, 2015. Register for available projects at volunteernewyork.org/MLKWhere or call 914-948-4452.

Main Street Market. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Local foods, artisan crafts and handmade merchandise; Free admission; parking fees may apply. Westchester County Center, White Plains; 914-995-4050.

Nature Spies. Learn the basics of animal tracking and explore animal tracks, pellets, bones and teeth. Along the way we try to figure out what animals visit our trails. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale, 2 p.m. Members: $5 per person. Non-members: $8 per person. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Sunday, Jan. 18
Meet the Animals. Meet and learn about the animals while you get a look up close. Cranberry Lake Preserve, Old Orchard Street, North White Plains. 1 p.m. Free. Info: 914- 428-1005.

Finding and Feeding Winter Birds. Go on a winter walk to learn what birds in our area like to eat and where they find shelter. The walk includes a visit to the Bird of Prey Aviary and busy bird feeders as well as a search for our more elusive feathered friends. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members: Free. Non-members: $8 per person. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Monday, Jan. 19
MLK Freedom Library Fundraiser. On Monday, Jan. 19, Linda Tarrant-Reid, author of Discovering Black America: From the Age of Exploration to the Twenty-First Century, autographs her book and discusses discoveries she made while researching this book and her upcoming book, Harlem: From Dutch Suburb to Black Metropolis at Barnes & Noble City Center, 230 Main Street, White Plains. Events are planned throughout the day from 1 to 8 p.m. and are part of a fundraiser: for everyone who makes a purchase at any Barnes & Noble on Jan. 19 and gives the Library Bookfair ID, 12527711, Barnes & Noble will make a donation to the Freedom Library. The Library will also get a donation if you visit bn.com/bookfares from Jan. 19 to 24 by entering Bookfair ID 12527711 at checkout. For further information, call the library at 914-949-6555 or go to www.mlkwestchester.org. This fundraiser will raise money to buy books and films for the White Plains-based Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Library, free and open to the public.

Square Dances. Friendly Squares Dance Club announces two free square dancing fun nights on Monday, Jan. 19 and Monday, Jan. 26; 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Katonah Methodist Church Parish Hall, 44 Edgemont Rd, Katonah. Square dancing is a lot of fun and great exercise for both the body and mind. It is a great activity for all ages and also an opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. This event is open to singles, couples and families. The attire is casual and no experience is necessary. For more information, contact Tee at 914-433-2919.

Universal Dances of Peace. Hakim Dan Gallagher, a Sufi Initiate within the Sufi Ruhaniat International, will lead this event. The Dances of Universal Peace set scriptures and sacred phrases from the world's spiritual traditions to music and movement. No musical or dance experience is required. Everyone is welcome. Mianariade Retreat and Conference Center, 299 N. Highland Ave., Ossining, 7 to 8:30 p.m. $10 donation suggested. Reservations required. Info and reservations: Contact Sister Janet Marchesani at 914-941-4455 ext. 108 or e-mail janetmarchesani@gmail.com or Hakim Dan Gallagher at 608-438-3732 or e-mail danwithplan@gmail.com.

Winter Sports in County Parks
With the arrival of cold winter weather, Westchester residents can look forward to ice skating, cross-country skiing and sledding at many county parks.

At all locations participants must bring their own equipment; no rentals are available. All sports are permitted seven days a week during daylight hours only, and admission and parking are free unless otherwise noted.

Ice-skating. When weather permits, there is ice-skating at numerous locations, listed here. Ice is checked daily. Look for a “Skating Today” sign posted, which indicates safe conditions for that day. Blue Mountain Reservation, Welcher Avenue, Peekskill; Wampus Pond, Route 128, Armonk; Mountain Lakes Park, Hawley Road, North Salem; Willson’s Woods Park, East Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon; Tibbetts Brook Park, Midland Avenue, Yonkers.

Sledding. Weather permitting, sledding is allowed at Croton Gorge, Lasdon Park (8 a.m. to 4 p.m. only); Tibbetts Brook Park in Yonkers, Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, White Plains, and Dunwoodie, Sprain Lake, Saxon Woods, Mohansic and Maple Moor golf courses. Visit westchestergov.com/parks for directions and more information.

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WPHS Lady Tigers Could Not Solve Huguenots but Future Looks Bright

By Albert Coqueran

On Saturday, Jan. 10, the White Plains High School Girls Basketball Team boosted their record to 7-3 this season with a win over Putnam Valley High School, 37-27, in a defensive battle in Putnam.

The Lady Tigers are in the midst of their best season since 2011-12, when they went 14-5 in the last year of the 11-year reign of legendary Head Coach Sue Adams.

The Lady Tigers presently under the leadership of second-year Head Coach Tara Flaherty were crowned Champions of the Hastings Tournament, which was played at Hastings High School, on December 27 and 28.


The Lady Tigers faced Yorktown High School the next day, on Sunday, Dec. 13, and got a statement-game for White Plains this season with a 6-1 record and their performances in these two key games against two of the Tigers’ staunch rivals Mt. Vernon and New Rochelle High Schools.

The Lady Tigers competitive this season. Although the Lady Tigers lost the game, 54-49, they have “roared” to an overachieving, 7-3, start to our girls to prove it. We can play with anybody,” emphasized Flaherty.

The Tigers were tied with the Huguenots at halftime 25-25 and were in the game to until the final seconds. The Tigers defense kept them in the game even creating two turnovers in the final 20 seconds of the game, which turned into four points. If not for a few miscues under the basket on open shots in the last two minutes of the game, the Tigers might have won both statement-games against league rivals.

“Our play shows that we can beat any team, we just have to do it,” commented Lacarbonara. “Coming off this loss we will be a lot better while learning from our mistakes and just hopefully we can win the next league games,” said the Tigers center, who scored 11 points in the game.

The Lady Tigers led by Flaherty and assistant coaches Amy Ferraro and Spencer Smith have developed a well-balanced team this year. Even with the obvious absence of senior guard Shannon Lynch, who decided not to play basketball this season; the Tigers have “roared” to an overachieving, 7-3, start with playoff hopes a reality for the first time in three seasons.

Flaherty took four freshmen and gave them varsity credentials and never looked back. Two of the freshman guards Madison Povemba and Tayana Mitchell have made an immediate impact on the team. Also, in the past couple of weeks freshman forward Vanessa Chica has stepped-up, while scoring eight points against Hastings and displaying her defense can help the team.

“We have a lot of young girls on our team and it is really nice to see them start to play and get confident. And ‘Izzy’ (Lacarbonara) is really working hard and making the baskets we really need now,” said D’Arcy.

The Lady Tigers are in the midst of their best season since 2011-12, when they went 14-5 in the last year of the 11-year reign of legendary Head Coach Sue Adams.

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Langston Galloway is First Westchester Knick to Join the New York Knicks

By Albert Coqueran

On Wednesday, Jan. 7, the Westchester Knicks made history once again. Langston Galloway, who played 19 games for the Westchester Knicks this season, became the first player in the franchise history to be called-up by the NY Knicks.

Galloway, a St. Joseph’s University alumnus, went undrafted in 2014 but was signed by the NY Knicks, after playing with their NBA Summer League Team in 2014. Galloway appeared in two preseason games before being waived by the Knicks in October and joined the Westchester Knicks as an affiliate player.

Galloway averaged 16.5 points, six rebounds and 2.4 assists for the Westchester Knicks, before being called-up for duty by the NY Knicks. In his first game at Madison Square Garden, Galloway shined scoring 19 points, gabbing four rebounds and dishing three assists against the Houston Rockets, on Thursday, Jan. 8. His Garden debut was highlighted by a put-back slam dunk in the first quarter that energized the crowd.

Langston Galloway (left) surrounded by media is interviewed by Mad Sports Media reporter Anthony Carlo (right), at halftime of the Westchester Knicks vs. Fort Wayne Mad Ants game, a day after Galloway scored 19 points for the NY Knicks, as the Westchester Knicks first call-up in franchise history.

Galloway’s dunk was listed as number three on the NY Knicks top five plays of the week last week. The aspiring first call-up from the Westchester Knicks made 6-of-9 shots from the field and shot 3-of-4 from the three-point line in his Garden debut.

Galloway sat courtside at the Westchester County Center, the day after his eventful Madison Square Garden debut, cheering for the Westchester Knicks, who were playing the Fort Wayne Mad Ants. “It was a great process being here developing my game and that was the big purpose of me coming to the Westchester Knicks was to develop my game,” said Galloway. “I have been telling the rest of the guys now that I am gone, it is somebody else’s opportunity to try and make their mark and move up like I did,” said Galloway.

“Langston has a great attitude and has worked hard to develop his game. I am very excited for him. I’m sure he will take advantage of this time and it will be a great experience for him,” said Westchester Knicks General Manager Allan Houston.

Alexis Nunez Named SUNY Cobleskill Fighting Tiger Athlete

The SUNY Cobleskill Department of Sport & Exercise announced Monday that senior Alexis Nunez, a graduate of WPHS, and member of the men’s basketball team has been named the athletic program’s Fighting Tiger Athlete-of-the-Week. The senior point guard led the Fighting Tigers to 79-75 non-conference road victory on Sunday afternoon over the Eagles of Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vt. Nunez scored a team-high of 16 points to go with five assists and three rebounds as Cobleskill improved to 2-8 overall on the season with the victory. On the season the White Plains High School alumnus is averaging 13.4 points, 3.6 assists, 3.1 rebounds and 1.2 steals per game while shooting 36.7 percent from the field and 82.0 percent from the free throw line in 10 starts this season.
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