Good Counsel Property Sold to Developer, Building Plans Undisclosed

By Pat Casey

After about a year and a half of controversy over the closing of Our Lady of Good Counsel Academy High School, the fate of RDC Sisters living in the convent at 52 North Broadway, and the historic nature of the entire campus, especially The Chapel of the Divine Compassion, the sale of the White Plains Good Counsel campus was announced in a press release on the evening of November 25.

The purchaser, WP Development NB LLC, is listed as a corporation formed on November 13, 2015 in Delaware, with a CO street address at 80 State Street, Albany.

Attempts to identify the principals of the new corporation for comment on development plans for the site were unsuccessful, and agents involved in the sale are not commenting. The media release said: “The purchaser is evaluating potential future uses. The property was sold unconditionally.”

The purchase price for the 16-acre campus also was not disclosed. The property is comprised of open space and 12 buildings including the Chapel encompassing 162,000 square feet of space.

According to the press release, a key element of the sale is the preservation and enhancement of the church on the property, the Chapel of the Divine Compassion. “The Sisters will continue to use the Chapel, where religious services, community celebrations and spirituality programs will continue to be held. In addition, the purchaser is working closely with the Sisters to create a heritage space in the chapel,” the continued on page 4

Greenburgh Board to Vote on Sale of Town Property to Hastings Resident

Hallie Anderson of Hastings on Hudson is a role model for our community, said Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner in an email over the weekend. “Earlier this year she contacted me expressing interest in purchasing a small parcel of land (lot 4.140-151-81) for the sole purpose of creating and maintaining a foot path for the children of Marianna Drive in Hastings to use as safe passage to and from school. Without a path through these woods, the children are either forced to walk along Tompkins Avenue (blind curve and no sidewalks) and James Street (no sidewalks and heavy morning traffic as commuters cut through Hastings on their way to work in Yonkers), which is four-tenths of a mile longer and infinitely more dangerous.”

“The children of Marianna Drive have used these woods as a way to school for 60 years,” continued Feiner, and she just wants to enable them to safely do so in the future.

The Town Board was expected to sell Anderson the property for $2000 at its meeting on Monday night.

Pedestrian safety on Greenburgh roadways has been a priority over past weeks as efforts to increase funding for sidewalk construction in the town continued on page 4

Local Diaper Bank Celebrates 1st Anniversary with Push to Serve More

November 24 marked the first anniversary of the Westchester County Diaper Bank, established through a partnership between the Junior League of Central Westchester (JLCW) and the Westchester Department of Social Services (DSS).

The first anniversary was celebrated on Thursday, Nov.19, with a volunteer diaper packaging event at the JLCW headquarters at Wayside Cottage in Scarsdale.

The partnership between the county and JLCW is motivated by the mission of “Changing Babies... Changing Lives.” Diapers are a basic need for children - as essential as food and shelter,” County Executive Rob Astorino said at the Nov. 17 event.

Through the program, the Diaper Bank gives families an opportunity to apply for a package containing a week’s supply of diapers and wipes up to three times a year per child. Intended to help get families through the tough times, the Diaper Bank serves families through the DSS. A family does not have to be an existing client of DSS to apply for diapers, although proof of Westchester County residency and a child’s birth certificate are required for eligibility. continued on page 4
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Non-Profits Blast Proposed Cuts in $1.8B County Budget

By Arthur Cusano

Speakers at the first two public hearings on the proposed 2016 Westchester County overwhelmingly opposed planned cuts in nonprofit funding in County Executive Rob Astorino’s $1.8 billion budget.

Next year’s spending plan contains no tax increase for the sixth straight year but eliminates 25 positions in various departments. Those cuts follow a buyout of 158 employees over the summer. Another 60 vacant county positions will be eliminated.

At the second hearing on Nov. 24 at Horace Greeley High School in Chappaqua, more than 100 speakers turned out to support an assortment of nonprofit organizations that face funding cuts. Speakers included a large contingent from My Sisters Place in White Plains, which helps domestic abuse victims and their families. My Sisters Place has been slated to lose $179,000 in county funding next year.

CEO Karen Cheeks-Lomax told attending legislators that the organization assists thousands of Westchester families from every district in the county. Over 1,000 clients come from Yonkers and 600 from Mount Vernon and White Plains. They also serve close to 300 clients in New Rochelle and Pelham combined, more than 200 clients in Peekskill and another 130 clients in Ossining and Mount Kisco. In the area that encompasses the more upscale communities of Armonk, Bedford Hills, Chappaqua and Pleasantville, 50 clients are served.

“Just tells us what we already know – domestic violence impacts people from all walks of life,” Cheeks-Lomax said. “It transcends geography, race, ethnicity and economic income.”

The Pace Women’s Justice Center, which also helps abuse victims, is targeted for cuts as well. Executive Director Cindy Kanusher said the proposed budget eliminates funding for the center’s elder abuse program. Kanusher said an estimated 200,000 county residents are over 60 years old, and statistics show about 15 percent of those will be elder abuse victims.

“The Pace Women’s Justice Center is the only legal service provider specifically dedicated to providing legal services to elder abuse victims,” Kanusher said. “So if you think about that number, there’s not a lot of us doing this work to meet the demand.”

Community Capital NY Executive Director Kim Jacobs asked legislators to raise the tax levy to help fund the targeted programs. She said reinstatement of funds would be a negligible increase for taxpayers since the majority of taxes paid go toward school districts.

“The estimated $5 per person it would take to restore so many of these important programs to the county budget is a solid investment in creating the kind of community that we want to be in,” Jacobs said.

The organization received $106,000 for 2015, which helped provide 300 affordable homes that allowed seniors, young adults and county employees live in local communities they otherwise could not afford, she said. It also helped to provide loans to 300 small business owners.

In 2015, the housing developments that Community Capital NY helped complete generated $38 million in revenue, $6.6 million in tax revenues and 485 jobs, Jacobs said.

The Cornell Cooperative Extension faces a 75 percent cut that would slash its county funding from $800,000 to $200,000 next year. Executive Director Barbara Sacks said such a move would be detrimental since the organization does not receive state funding or an endowment from Cornell University, which it is not affiliated with. State and federal funding are based on county funding, she said, and county funding leverages three times as much additional funding.

“When county dollars are reduced, all the other resources are also reduced,” Sacks said. “Westchester ends up getting fewer federal and state dollars, and we lose many of the hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of in-kind services, not cash resources, that Cornell University does provide to the county and charges us nothing.”

Muscoot Farm in Katonah is among six county-owned farms that will lose a curator and at least one caretaker. Former farm manager Sue Mocha said the curator not only oversees the farm’s budget and 100 programs with 50,000 participants, but also fills in for the farm manager and farmers.

The proposed budget replaces the curator with a $6,000 increase in the hourly budget line; another $6,000 will pay for other labor needs. Hiring part-time labor would not be simple, Mocha explained.

“Finding hourly staff willing to commit to the physical demands of farm work is extremely difficult,” she said. “Being a farm laborer is not a dream of most young people in Westchester County.”

Prior to the first hearing on Nov. 29 in Yonkers, the organization Nonprofit Westchester (NPW) and a coalition that represents hundreds of nonprofit groups held a press conference to urge officials to reconsider the proposed cuts. They launched an online advocacy campaign, #KeepWestchesterThriving.

Joanna Straub, NPW’s executive director, said the currently proposed budget would negatively “impact the fabric of our community.”

“The proposed budget calls for major cuts to funding for many services that are essential for Westchester to thrive,” Straub said. “It is our job as citizens to advocate for our community so that everyone can reach their full potential and fully contribute to the community.”

ArtsWestchester CEO Janet Langsam said cultural events attract tourism and drive business to local stores and restaurants, which generate sales tax. Funding for the arts also creates jobs for small businesses such as photographers, designers, film crew and dance schools, she said.

“Every dollar the county allocates to ArtsWestchester triggers another $40 in other funds,” Langsam said. “Put another way, the $330,000 cut to ArtsWestchester could cost the arts in this county some $13.2 million. I say could because I hope the Board of Legislators will do the math and turn this around.”

The final budget hearing will be held next Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. at the county office building located at 148 Martine Ave. in White Plains.

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Greenburg Board to Vote on Sale of Town Property to Hastings Resident

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has reached a high pitch. Of particular concern has been the lack of sidewalks on New York state roadways, a fact highlighted by a pedestrian death on Grasslands Road November 17.

Local Diaper Bank Celebrates 1st Anniversary with Push to Serve More —

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Applications can be obtained and submitted at any of the county's district offices – located in Mount Vernon, Peekskill, White Plains and Yonkers – or can be downloaded from the JLW’s website at jlcentralwestchester.org/diaperbank. Diapers are distributed on a monthly basis from the district offices. Applications are due approximately three weeks before the distribution dates.

In its first year of operations, the Westchester County Diaper Bank distributed 150,600 diapers (or 3,012 packages), an average of 274 packages monthly, to local families in need. The Westchester County Diaper Bank relies on donations, community drives and corporate sponsorships.

Celebrating one year of service, the Westchester County Diaper Bank serves many Westchester parents and their children.

For more information about receiving or donating diapers, contact the Junior League of Central Westchester at 914-723-6442, jlcwdiaperbank@gmail.com or www.jlcentralwestchester.org.

Good Counsel Property Sold to Developer, Building Plans Undisclosed —

continued from page 1

release said.

The Sisters of the Divine Compassion will also continue to maintain congregational leadership and operational offices in the building next to the Chapel.

Our Lady of Good Counsel Elementary School moved from its 52 North Broadway address this summer, opening in September at its new location in Valhalla.

According to RDC leadership, funds from the transaction will provide for the living and healthcare expenses of the Sisters over the next 30-plus years, and enable the continuation of their mission locally and globally, including ongoing education, spiritual development, compassionate care and human services in Westchester, the Hudson Valley and the Bronx.

The Sisters have owned the White Plains property for 125 years.

The reasons for selling the property, according to the congregation’s leadership, are that the members have aged, the financial burden of maintaining the campus, and the need for sufficient funding for ongoing and future retirement and healthcare needs.

The release indicated that the real estate firm hired to sell the property, Stamford-based CBRE, conducted a two-year marketing and disposition campaign.

Of the Order’s current 80 members, the 20 Sisters living on the White Plains campus have relocated to a variety of residences throughout the New York archdiocese, including homes owned by the Order as well as to Sacred Heart Convent in Yonkers. Those with ongoing healthcare needs have moved to assisted and skilled care facilities in the area.

Before announcement of the sale, the newly formed White Plains Historic Preservation Commission, made the entire 16-acre campus and its 12 buildings a priority at its first meeting in October and began discussion about the historic reasons for protecting the site at its November meeting where many members of the White Plains community came forward to express support for protection of the historic and green nature of the site. The site and buildings have been listed on the national and state historic preservation lists.

The property is located in a White Plains residential zone with building height limits at six stories and generous setbacks.

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Former White Plains Mayor Joseph M. Delfino will be the top honoree at the 33rd annual Westchester Senior Citizens Hall of Fame on Friday, Dec. 4. Delfino is one of 34 seniors from 18 municipalities who will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at a luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Westchester Marriott Hotel in Tarrytown.

In a press release announcing the honorees Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino said: “The Senior Hall of Fame is a Westchester tradition that recognizes seniors who have generously given their time and talent to improve their home communities and the county at large. This is especially true for this year’s top honoree, former White Plains Mayor, Joe Delfino. As a public servant for more than 30 years, he accomplished much for the people of Westchester County – including the revitalization of downtown White Plains. But more than that, he would never shy away from personally helping anyone. He showed respect and concern for all, and we are so pleased to recognize him with this award.”

Four seniors will also receive Special Recognition this year: Thomas Bashor, Tarrytown; Jo Falcone, White Plains; John Howard, Mount Vernon; and Pearl Quares, New Rochelle. Three seniors in the "Class of 2015" are 90 years old or older, and their ranks also include one married couple.

Tickets to the luncheon are $60 each. The Gerard Carelli Orchestra will play music for dancing. To sign up or for more information, contact Rose Cappa at rose.cappa@cappacrucy.com or 914-747-0219.

The Senior Hall of Fame is sponsored and presented by the Westchester County Department of Seniors Programs and Services (DSPS); the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation; and the Westchester Public/Private Partnership for Aging Services. United Hebrew of New Rochelle has also joined as sponsor.

"The honorees show that age is never a deterrent to being a vital member of our society," DSPS Commissioner Mae Carpenter said. "In fact, it’s an advantage because of the life experiences they bring with them. Their generous contributions have helped to make Westchester one of the most senior-friendly places in the world."

The Senior Hall of Fame began in 1983, which was also the 300th anniversary of Westchester County’s founding. Its purpose was to showcase how seniors contributed to building the county, and more than 1,100 seniors have since been inducted.

To be nominated, seniors must have made significant and enduring contributions to enhance Westchester’s quality of life through their professional work, volunteer achievements or both. Nominations are made by members of the community, and the honorees are selected by a panel of judges and past Hall of Fame members. The names of past honorees are engraved on plaques that are permanently displayed at the DSPS office in Mount Vernon.
Will the New Owner at 52 North Broadway, White Plains, Please Step Forward

On Wednesday evening, just as everyone was heading out for the Thanksgiving weekend, a press release was released announcing the sale of the Good Counsel property at 52 North Broadway, White Plains. The press release names a company, WP Development NB LLC, without any indication of who the principals might be or their intended plans for development of the 16-acre site. Attempts to get this information have been unsuccessful, leaving the question: “Why the secrecy?” Since the property at 52 North Broadway was put up for sale in June 2014, the White Plains community has been concerned about the future of this mostly green and open site. The property also contains buildings that are on the national and state historic preservation lists. In fact, the new White Plains Historic Preservation Commission has made this property a priority as the number two area to be considered for protection under a local White Plains law.

White Plains Ebersole Ice Rink Ribbon Cutting Saturday

After a summer of renovation the Ebersole Ice Rink at Delfino Park has opened to the public and is ready for a winter of fun on the ice. On Saturday, Dec. 5 at 1:15 p.m. there will be a ribbon cutting followed by a public session of skating with Frosty, Rudolph and Free Hot Chocolate. Upgrades include new compressors, dasher boards, and protective tempered-glass around the entire rink. In the warming room patrons will find new rubberized-matted flooring, new furniture, including high-top tables and chairs. Ebersole Ice Rink is located in Delfino Park at 110 Lake Street. It is open for public skating on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 12 to 2 p.m., Fridays, 3 to 5 p.m. and 8 to 10 p.m., Saturdays, 1:15 to 4:30 p.m. and Sundays 8:30 to 10:15 a.m. (adults only) and 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is $8/Youth, $10/Adult and $5/Seniors. Skate rentals are $5. For additional information call the Ebersole Ice Rink at 914-422-1390.

Obituaries

Mildred Brauch

Mildred A. Brauch passed away on Nov. 27, at the age of 91. Mildred was born on October 22, 1924 in New York to John and Margaret (Connors) Lyons. She married Raymond Lewis Brauch. He predeceased her in 1954. Mildred worked as the production manager for CEE Publications, Sutton Publications and White Plains for 32 years, retiring in 1988. She is survived by two loving daughters, Margaret Kolb of White Plains, and Roseann Randazzo of Fishkill. She is also survived by five grandchildren, Jacqueline Kolb, Jennifer Kolb, Jeffrey Kolb, Raymond Randazzo and Susan Girard and husband Christian. Also surviving are four great-grandchildren, Lilly Rose Kolb, Nicholas Kolb, Noah Girard. Mildred was predeceased by one great-granddaughter Sarah Rose Girard on October 5, 2010, and one brother John J. Lyons. Mass of Christian burial Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 10:30 a.m. at the Chapel of Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Interment will follow at Ferncliff Cemetery.

Elaine Bizzoco

Elaine Marie Bizzoco, a West Harrison Resident since 1952, passed away on Nov. 25. She is survived by her beloved husband, Michael F. Bizzoco and son, Michael D. Bizzoco, former Marine. She is the loving grandmother of two: Mikey D. Bizzoco and Gracie Elaine Bizzoco. She is also survived by her parents; Ralph and Domenica Lanni, as well as sisters Laura and Maureen, and brothers, David and Michael.

Rose Zumbo

Rose M. Zumbo a resident of West Harrison passed away on Nov. 27 at the age of 88. Rose was born in the Bronx on March 30, 1927 to John & Adele Buzzuro. On July 25, 1948 she married the love of her life, Frank Zumbo at St. Anthony's Church in Mt. Vernon. Together they had three sons, (Anthony, Frank, and John), Six grandchildren, (Rachael, Nicole, Michael, Johnny, Brittany and Zachary), and three great grandchildren, (Rose, Ripley and Thomas). Rose worked at many different places throughout her life, but her true talent was as a seamstress with a passion for dressmaking. Faith was very important to Rose and she was an active member of her parish St. Anthony's of Padua in West Harrison. Rose enjoyed baking, cooking and above all, spending time with her family. She is survived by her loving husband of 68 years Frank Zumbo, her sons Anthony Zumbo, Frank Zumbo Jr. and wife Patti Zumbo. She is also survived by her daughter in law Susan Gordon, all six grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Rose is predeceased by her son John Zumbo and brother Salvatore Buzzuro. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 10 a.m. at St. Anthony's of Padua, West Harrison, NY. Entombment will follow at Ferncliff Cemetery.

Marco Fragale

Marco Fragale, 88, of West Harrison, passed away Nov. 23. Marco was born July 8, 1927 in Sciara, Sicily, Italy, to the late Giuseppe and Nicolina Pisello Fragale. He was a member of the West Harrison Senior Center and Local 79. For many years he worked as a mason, landscaper and gardener. On May 7, 1995, Marco married Susan Latella. Besides his wife Susan, Marco is survived by his three children, Nicolina (Larry) Tumminia of White Plains, Donna (Ken) Vanacoro of West Harrison, and Roseanna (Tom) Neu of West Harrison, granddaughter Carrie Triziozi, and stepsons Louie Triziozi, as well as 5 grandchildren, Emily and Sara Tumminia, Jason, Sean and Alessandra Neu.

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.
**Police Blotter**

Westchester County District Attorney

Grand Larceny/Fraud. Westchester County District Attorney Janet DiFiore and Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino announced that Christopher C. Leggio (DOB 5/17/59) of Brewster, Christopher E. Leggio (DOB 1/31/95) of Brewster, Stephen DiSalvo (DOB 12/13/56) of Ormond Beach, Florida and the A.T.N.M. Corporation of Briarcliff Manor, were arraigned on Nov. 24 on a Felony Complaint charging them with Grand Larceny and Fraud by allegedly altering dump payment tickets, a scheme that had financial implications for companies doing business in Westchester County and their customers, who ultimately paid higher prices because of the theft.

A.T.N.M Corporation of Briarcliff Manor is a company licensed to haul solid waste in Westchester County and other adjoining areas. A.T.N.M. is owned and operated by defendant Christopher C. Leggio, along with the assistance of co-defendants Christopher E. Leggio and Stephen DiSalvo. Over a more than a two and a half year period, from Jan. 1, 2013 to Nov. 24 2015 the defendants systematically and falsely altered several hundreds of dump tickets so as to fraudulently reflect a higher tonnage of solid waste being transported.

These false dump tickets were then submitted to a solid waste hauling broker who contracted with A.T.N.M. As a result of this scam, the broker paid several hundreds of thousands of dollars to the defendants for work never performed based on these false tonnage entries on the fraudulently altered dump tickets.

The broker negotiated garbage-hauling contracts with several different commercial establishments including the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company (A&P). The broker unknowingly passed along these falsely inflated invoices to A&P and other commercial customers, who then paid the false invoices. Larger customers like A&P used defendant A.T.N.M. to haul solid waste for 27 A&P stores, 24 of which were in Westchester County. Over $500,000 was overcharged and stolen by the defendants as a result of this scheme. A six-month investigation was carried out by investigators from the D.A.'s office, the Westchester County Police and the Westchester County Solid Waste Commission.

Westchester County Executive Robert P. Astorino praised the investigative work done by the Department of Public Safety, the District Attorney's Office and the Solid Waste Commission under the leadership of its Executive Director, the Hon. Daniel Angiolillo. Astorino appointed Angiolillo, a retired state Supreme Court justice, to head the commission in 2014 and also directed the county police to assign a detective to the commission full-time. This investigation is ongoing. The defendants were arrested by the Westchester County Police Nov. 24.

Bail for Christopher C. Leggio was set at $50,000 cash or $500,000 bond. The bail for Stephen DiSalvo was set at $50,000 cash or $500,000 bond. The bail for Christopher E. Leggio was set at $10,000 cash or bond.

The defendants face a maximum sentence of 15 years in state prison.

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Walt Disney to Woodstock to the New World Order

By Richard Cirulli

The Baby Boomer’s defining moment in history was the short-lived decade of the sixties. This rebellious decade now forever a part of our national consciousness and history is ripe with stories and commentary, both in the negative and affirmative depending on one’s point of view in the telling of these transforming years.

From a politico/socio view, this era was a watershed on multiple levels that divided child against parent, young versus old, traditionalist versus libertine, and most importantly divided many of the Baby Boomers’ own souls and consciousness against each other. To establish a better understanding of this contradictory era that simultaneously espoused love and rebellion with equal commitment, we need to view the genesis of this movement from its formative years. The Baby Boomers were fortunate to have grown up in the post WW II years of economic prosperity and peace – except for the Korean War in the latter. The parents of the Baby Boomers, many of them returning veterans, benefited from the G.I. Bill that successfully promoted home ownership and a college education. In hindsight, this was America’s Halcyon Days of our innocence. The Baby Boomers grew up with new technologies, such as TV that afforded them the luxury and security of watching Walt Disney’s Magic Kingdom, while they whistled along with the Andy of Mayberry theme song. While growing up with a repertoire of toys such as the hobby horse, Erector Set, Slinky, and the Duncan Yo-Yo’s - to name a few, many Baby Boomers also found their complacency and security scattered as they viewed on TV the launch of Sputnik, Civil Rights Marches, The Berlin Wall Crisis, Cuban Missile Crisis, and the downing of Gary Power’s spy plane over Russia. The Baby Boomers’ formative years were spent in this contradictory world that helped forge their maturing social conscience. It was amidst this inner turmoil that Baby Boomers believed in earnest they could build a Utopian World.

Many Baby Boomers, who were unable to successfully navigate life’s adversities and realities found themselves developing a bi-polar social conscience that promoted rebellion to ensure their “peaceful” agenda. Does the end truly justify the means? Many of the era’s demonstrations turned violent, as they denounced America’s intervention in Viet Nam -- deemed necessary by our government to secure “peace.” Sadly and regretfully, America’s youth were sent to war warrying the Andy of Mayberry theme as they engaged in brutal firefightings in the jungles of Viet Nam. As many as 57,000 American youths never returned home to the Magic Kingdom. Baby Boomers were now further divided, as some were forced to kill an enemy in a distant foreign land, while others elected to bring peace to fellow Americans with violent demonstrations and bombings. In all instances only violence and death prevailed, absent of any true peace. Baby Boomers soon realized the Magic Kingdom could not protect them against nuclear annihilation. And, the Andy of Mayberry theme song was the taps played for the death of America’s lost innocence.

History has recorded the Woodstock Concert as an event of music, peace, and love. A closer examination usurps this myth, now elevated to American historical fact. In truth, the Woodstock Concert was never intended to be a free concert – rock bands need to get paid – and proceeds were needed to finance the show. As the throngs of youth descended upon the concert, most without tickets, and started to crash the gates, the promoters were forced to turn the show into a free concert out of fear of violence. The peace at Woodstock was achieved in part not by ideology, but rather by placating a hostile “peace” movement. It seems as if contradiction was bred into the conscience of many Baby Boomers.

The sixties ethos ebbed as Baby Boomers matured, returing their faded bellbottoms and long hair for well-coiffed short hair and pin stripes. Many Baby Boomers headed for the glories of Wall Street and public office, in hope of finding their materialistic Utopia. Now, nearly 40 years post Woodstock, Wall Street is more powerful, abusive and corrupt. America has ever since been engaged in endless wars and interventions. There is a greater divide between the rich and poor, more wealth is concentrated at the top 2 percent and the nation and the world has become more violent. As for our elected officials, the daily news is also ripe with an increase in political scandals and corruption. Just recently New York Sate was given the grade of ‘D’ for its ethics, amidst the scandals currently plugging Albany – truly our “New World Order.”

In closing, the Duncan YO-YO’s still bob up and down with our ever vacillating political currents and our rusty Slinkies descend further down the dark steps of a humanity in distress as we seek to build our new Utopia. As Sir Thomas Moore most eloquently stated in his writings: “Utopia means nowhere to be found.”

Dr. Richard Cirulli is a retired professor, business consultant, lecturer, and writer. He is an Innocent Bystander, and critic at large. He can be reached at profcirulli@optonline.net.
Preparing for Winter, Whether Staying at Home or Going Away

Every year, just as wintry weather arrives, I receive a call or e-mail from the first supplier I ever used when moving to Westchester, Dave Goldberg of Dave Goldberg Plumbing and Heating, making sure to prepare for the frigid months ahead.

This year, he expanded his e-mail with tips for those snowbirds who are going away for the winter. It particularly resonated with me because of a terrible mishap a good friend had last winter.

For the past few years our friend Anne has taken two months off for a stay in Florida. There was never a problem because she felt she had the luxury of locking the door of her attached townhouse-style condo in Mahopac and not worrying about maintenance issues. Her daughter and son-in-law would check the unit every week, just to be on the safe side.

But last year, she was not so lucky. One day she received a phone call saying that water from her unit was leaking into the condo next door. When help arrived, it was discovered that a water pipe had burst, on an interior wall at that, and totally flooded the first floor and walkout basement level of her home. Everything was destroyed, from flooring to wallboard to all appliances.

“There had never been a problem in past years, but the severity of last winter was the cause of it,” Anne said. “The pipe was in the ceiling of my kitchen, and although it was not on an exterior wall, it shared a wall with my garage, which is unheated.”

The cleanup was a major project. Basically, the unit had to be stripped to its studs and rebuilt.

“You can be sure of one thing,” Anne said, “this year, I’m having my water pipes drained before I leave.”

Dave Goldberg’s list of precautions for those going away includes the following:

–For those whose systems are on oil, be sure to get a delivery before leaving. When the oil gets low, the sludge on the bottom of the tank might clog up the filter and cause the boiler to shut down.

–If you have hot water heat, it is a good idea to install non-toxic antifreeze in the system. It works just like a car radiator and, of course, because it is a closed system it does not affect drinking water.

–Toilets should be drained and just one or two cups of antifreeze added. The inside of the tank should be drained but don’t put any antifreeze in the tank because it can damage the flapper and gaskets.

–The water lines should be blown out with air.

If you don’t have a security system which alerts you of a drop in temperature, Goldberg has a simple non-tech solution: He attaches a thermostat plugged into a lamp with a red light bulb, which is positioned at his front window. If the temperature drops, the red light comes on and a neighbor could see that there is a problem in the house.

For those who are staying home, Goldberg’s basic tips for winter safety are:

–Have your furnace inspected and cleaned annually by a qualified technician.

–Caulk doors and windows where needed.

–Tape up the boiler switch going to the basement. Many times visitors might mistake the boiler switch for the light switch and turn the system off.

–In the attic, louver vents should be blocked.

–If you have two separate units in the house – one for hot water and the other for air conditioning – you should close the dampers on the air conditioning because hot air rises and the heat will go up through the vents.

–Outside spigots should be drained and left open. The shut-off valve inside the house has a bleeder that should be opened. That breaks the vacuum so the water will drain out.

–A good trick to prevent pipes freezing under kitchen sinks is to install a light bulb in the cabinet that will create just enough heat to prevent freezing.

–Have the phone numbers of the plumber and oil company handy, best kept on a tag on the boiler.

–Everyone in the house should know where the shut-off valves are for the main water line coming in, or with well water, know where the electrical switch is.

–In the event of a power failure, the least expensive way to install a generator is to buy a small gas generator of about 6,000 watts that will take care of the boiler and refrigerator and some outlets. Have an electrician install a transfer switch.

–Keep a multipurpose fire extinguisher accessible, filled and ready for operation.

Goldberg is now retired, but his son-in-law Doug Marr is running Dave Goldberg Plumbing and Heating in Somers. He can be reached for consultation or emergency help at 914-962-3498.

Enjoying a Holiday Celebration in the City With Cocktails

We’re officially in the holiday season. With Thanksgiving under our belt (hopefully with no additional notches), the Christmas, Hanukkah and New Year’s celebratory gatherings are in full swing.

Holiday festivities are typically focused on traditional gatherings in the homes of family and friends, sharing the religious spirit of our individual faiths. Many of us also participate in restaurant celebrations with family, friends or business associates.

Invariably, these plans evolve around an outing into New York City. What better way to enjoy the holiday spirit than to be immersed in an atmosphere charged with merriment and conviviality? And what better locale than “The City?”

Finding a dining venue in the city is never a challenge. The breadth of restaurants will satisfy a broad range of tastes and budgets. But a dilemma some face is where to continue the festivities after enjoying a great meal and conversation. Having made the trek from Westchester, visitors invariably seek out a post-dining venue to continue socializing. Sitting at a table as a restaurant is winding down its dinner service is not always a comfortable way to continue a group’s conviviality.

My choice for sustaining an evening of camaraderie is to head to a wine bar or a hotel bar, depending on one’s preferences. While these venues can be primary destinations for sharing good times and good spirits, I find them equally enjoyable as late night venues.

My wife and I and a group of friends have continued a tradition of a holiday trip into the city for a number of years. We typically focus on midtown for dinner, preceded and followed by a cocktail at a nearby wine or hotel bar.

Here are several of my recommendations for destinations we’ve enjoyed over the years. The list is not meant to be all-inclusive, or even near inclusive. Rather it is an eclectic list meant to accommodate those enjoying holiday outings in the city. There are many more establishments in the city, both downtown and in the burgeoning gentrified areas in Brooklyn. (If you’re interested in my recommendations, please e-mail me.)

Wine Bars

1. Aldo Sohm Wine Bar, 151 W. 51 St. Managed by the highly regarded sommelier at Le Bernadin restaurant, the elegant space is matched by the well-chosen wines.

2. Bar Boulud, 1900 Broadway (at West 64th Street). Across from Lincoln Center, come for an amazing array of predominantly French wines and a selection of charcuterie.

3. 2 Trulli, 122 E. 27 St. A broad and deep selection of Italian wines in an intimate bar, next door to a fine Apulian restaurant.

4. Flute Bar & Lounge, 205 W. 54 St. Nearly 20 sparkling wines by the glass set the mood; relaxing in cushioned chairs and couches enhances the intimate vibe.

5. Campbell Apartment, 15 Vanderbilt Ave. High above Grand Central Terminal, the former offices of a Wall Street maven beckon you to relax and enjoy wines and spirits in a clubby setting. Just missed your late night train home? Plop into a lounge chair and sip a favorite beverage while waiting for the next one.

Hotel Bars

(Do forewarned; the drink prices at hotel bars are exorbitant.)

1. Baccarat Hotel, 28 W. 53 St. Yes, the crystal company’s showcase; dazzling, swank and expensive drinks served in crystal glasses.

2. NoMad Bar at the NoMad Hotel, 1170 Broadway. The lush woods and elegant fixtures create a warm ambience.

Try the more relaxing balcony area.

3. King Cole Bar at the St. Regis Hotel, 2 E. 55 St. Whether in the outer lounge or the bar area, you’ll feel at home in royal elegance.

4. Mandarin Oriental, Columbus Circle at West 60th Street in the Time Warner Building. Come for the cocktails and stay for the breathtaking views of Central Park from the 35th floor.

5. Salon de Ning at the Peninsula Hotel, 700 Fifth Ave. An outdoor (heated) rooftop bar beckons with lounge chairs, overlooking the glitter of Fifth Avenue.

Tis the season of joy and merriment. Enjoy your holiday, but remember to drink and eat responsibly.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick’s credo: continuous experimenting in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@thexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.
The Holiday Season is upon us, so whether you’ve been naughty or nice, it’s time to make plans with friends and family. If you are going out, here are some festive venues for every palate, each offering a good dose of Holiday Cheer.

**Mulinò’s Holiday Fest Underway.** It is over-the-top during the holidays and it begins with the bright lights and smell of chestnuts roasting at the entranceway. Take home a bag of them. The annual Christmas Holiday Fest at Mulinò’s lasts right through the season and it’s a sight to behold. The fountain garden is beautiful as is the lavish dining room and bar/lounge. General Manager Jimmy Cavagna days through the Holiday Fest. Bring the whole family. The place sparkles. Valet parking. Reservations advised. Mulinò’s of Westchester, 99 Court Street, White Plains 914-761-1818 www.mulinosny.com.

**Celebrate South of the Border Style.** The artsy red statue guarding the Palmer Ave. entrance to the new Rio Bravo Tacos & Tequila in Larchmont is just a hint of the south-of-the-border pleasures waiting inside. It is a sprawling 200-seat restaurant strewn with colorful Mexican art and artifacts, multiple seating areas in the front, side and rear, along with a big galloping bar for socializing. Personal hosts and owners are brothers Edgar and Hector Brambila who also operate a Rio Bravo in Fairfield and Westport. General manager Omar Topete and his staff will give you a tasty tour through the menu. An adorable guacamole cart will come whizzing by to test your palate. And the menu: we have come to describe it as Mexican/Tex-Mex, and it will surprise you. The signature tacos are overloaded and delicious. Rio offers Happy Hours Monday thru Friday from 3 to 6 p.m. featuring half price house drinks and appetizers. There is a large selection of Tequilas at the bar, and you can also create your own Margaritas.


**A Rhythmic Christmas.** Host-owner J R Morales and his team brought Sofrito, 175 Main Street, White Plains (914-428-4740), up from Manhattan in 2011 and the place has become a must-stop on the Latin-themed dining and nightlife crawl. Enjoy such Puerto Rican specialties as: Seafood Sancocho, Lobster & Corn Quesadilla, Grilled Rib Eye Taquitos, or Wild Mushroom & Spanish Manchego Potato Cheese Croquette; traditional Mofongo with choice of meat or seafood; Pernil; Shrimp or Vegetable Paella; Cornish Hen a la Plancha; Ropa Vieja, or Crispy Malanga Crusted Filet of Basa Fish. There is a decadent dessert sampler for two. Also, check out the Happy Hours all afternoon to 9 p.m., specialty cocktails at the bar and Latin Sushi, too. Open 7 days a week for lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch. Dancing and live entertainment schedule. Municipal and valet parking. www.sofritowhiteplains.com.

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

**Celebrate on the Sound.** When Nick DiCostanzo was growing up on the Island of Ischia on the Coast of Naples in Italy, his earliest memories where of the simple seaside meals he would enjoy with his family, farm-to-table and of course sea-to-table. As proprietor of Mamma Francesca Italian Restaurant in New Rochelle for over 30 years, located on the banks of Long Island Sound with six-story views of the Queen size toy soldiers, the bursting colorful floral displays and handsome multilevel seating area. The Cold Seafood Platter is a wonder and fine to share as is their decadent version of Linguine Carbonara; plump tender Rack of Lamb served on the long bone; delicate Dover Sole finished off in the dining room; and perhaps for dessert have the wait staff whip up warm Zabaglione with fresh berries. And, oh that smooth Italian cheesecake. Open 7

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Port Chester’s Saltaire Oyster Bar Launches Lunch Service

By Jerry Einbinder

Saltaire Oyster Bar and Fish House in Port Chester, which opened in August with dinner service only, has introduced a lunch menu. A new menu is printed daily for both meals.

Owner Leslie (Les) Barnes said the dinner menu is posted online every day at 3 p.m. and printed at 3:30 p.m. The lunch menu must be finalized and posted by 11 a.m. and printed by 11:30 a.m.

A seafood buyer for the restaurant arrives at the Fulton Fish Market in Hunts Point around 1 a.m. to check on the new catch, Barnes said. By 4 a.m., the restaurant’s needs have been handpicked and packed for delivery and a text message describing the selection has been sent to the kitchen crew.

The selection of oysters changes daily at Saltaire and market availability can change just as quickly for other seafood as well, Barnes noted.

“We brief the wait staff every day about the menu prior to the beginning of their shifts,” he pointed out.

Ten to 12 varieties of oysters from Canada to Chesapeake Bay are shucked daily.

Tower seafood combinations are a signature specialty of Executive Chef Bobby Will and are likely to be a permanent fixture on his lunch menu. They are served in three sizes – called hook, line and sinker.

Hook is suggested for two or three people and has a one-half chick lobster, four shrimp, three clams, three chef’s choice oysters, six mussels and three crab claws ($45).

Line, intended for three or four people, has a one-pound lobster, eight shrimp, six clams, six chef’s choice oysters, 12 mussels and six crab claws ($90). Sinker, for five or six people, features a one-and-a-half-pound lobster, 12 shrimp, 10 clams, 10 chef’s choice oysters, 15 mussels and 10 crab claws ($135).

A variety of lobster dishes are available at lunchtime and include lobster pot pie ($19), lobster salad ($21), lobster roll ($26) and a pound of chilled lobster from the raw bar ($23). A New England lobster bake, served as a Sunday special, comes with fingerling potatoes, corn, chorizo-fennel salad and drawn butter.

A Typical Lunch Menu

On Nov. 25, the lunch menu at Saltaire offered seafood from near and far, including jumbo Florida stone crab, New England king salmon, Rhode Island fluke crudo, Florida red snapper poke, fried Point Judith calamari, Maine steamer and gulf shrimp Cobb salad.

That day’s menu also included “Mussels in the Pot,” seafood sausage Bolognese, Spanish octopus, Yellowfin tuna (in a sandwich or as sliders), bay scallops and New England clam chowder. The raw bar’s offerings were oysters from Fisher Island (Long Island), Prince Edward Island, Wallace Bay (Nova Scotia), Westport, Mass., Onset (Mass.), Beloin’s, Me. and Kumamoto oysters from Washington, plus king crab legs and Maine Jonah crab claws.

Three salads were available: greens ($8), pear-walnut-cheese ($11) and pickled beets ($12) Add-ons available at extra cost included chicken and seafood.

Non-seafood lovers were able to choose from pork belly, cider braised cabbage and pickled cauliflower ($14); hanger steak tartare with slow cooked egg and Tarragon mustard ($14); chicken sandwich, whipped goat cheese and fries or salad ($14); burger with cheese, bacon, French onion jam and fries or salad ($15); and hanger steak with potato-parsnip gratin and roasted Brussel sprouts ($24).

Barnes, 59, a Rye resident, began running London Lennie’s when he was 22, a seafood institution in Rego Park, Queens that was founded by his father Leonard in 1959.

Will, a Port Chester resident, graduated from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park. Before joining Saltaire, he was the executive chef at Fathom Restaurant in Bar Harbor, Me.

Dinosaur Bar-B-Que Features Happy Hours All Week

By Jerry Einbinder

In one of his early films, actor W.C. Fields asked “Why limit happy to an hour?”

Restaurateur John Stage, owner of Dinosaur Bar-B-Que in Stamford, Conn., apparently feels the same way. His restaurant offers four-hour Happy Hour discounts Monday through Friday beginning at 3 p.m.

But Happy Hour isn’t limited to after work on weekdays; on Saturday and Sunday, it begins at noon and runs until 5 p.m.

All seven days the prices at the bar and grill finish and served with blue cheese dressing, celery sticks and a sauce with a spiciness of the customer’s preference.

Other appetizers include a sampler plate with a chicken wing, deviled egg, fried green tomato and spicy boiled shrimp; a pair of sliders (choose two from pork, chopped brisket or cheeseburger); and chili with crispy tortillas.

The red wines offered are Pinot Noir, Shiraz, cabernet sauvignon and Merlot. White wines available are Pinot Grigio, sauvignon blanc, Chardonnay and Zinfandel.

For a $6 cocktail, a customer can order a margarita, a Bloody Mary, an old fashioned, a martini, a White Lightning Lemonade (includes Junior Johnson Midnight Moonshine, brandied berry mix and fresh squeezed lemonade) or a rum and tropical juice combination.

Dinosaur Bar-B-Que is open daily and is located at 845 Canal St. in Stamford. For more information, call 203-517-3273 or visit www.dinosaurbarbque.com, 203-517-3272. There are also locations elsewhere in the metropolitan area in Harlem, Brooklyn and Newark, N.J.
ADPTION
My greatest wish is to adopt a baby. A loving home awaits with secure, educated woman. Expenses paid. Call Anne-Michelle 1-877-246-1447. Text 516-305-0144 or www.amadopit.info

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LEGALS
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF KEVIN KENNEDY PLLC filed with the Secretary of State of NY on September 9, 2015. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the PLLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 200 Maple Hill Street #1113, Yorktown Heights, New York 10598 Purpose: any lawful activity.


Notice of Formation of dovetail db lLc. Arts of Org, filed with Secy. of State of NY(SSNY) on 9/15/2015. Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail process to: 55 East 76th St., 1D, NY, NY 10021. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Frawley Coaching, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 9/4/15. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful activity.

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Happenings

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, Dec. 1
Tuesdays at Dorry’s. Gathers “conversation partners” weekly for informal table talk. This week – rescheduled - Sally Dunne, Co-member of the Loretto Community and its UN representative, will lead a discussion of the Doctrine of Discovery, its historical implications, and calls from faith-based groups for the Holy See to finally deal with this history and to demonstrate authentic moral leadership on the issues of human solidarity and environmental protection. There is no charge. Just come and order your food from Sylvia and enjoy the discussion and the company. Please join us. No reservations are needed. 6 to 7 p.m. Food ordering starts at 5:30 p.m. Dorry’s Diner, 468 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains; 914-682-0005.

Wednesday, Dec. 2
Noonday Concert. Presented by Downtown Music at Grace. Cambiata Trio: Pamela Sklar, flute; Suzanne Mueller, cello; Mark McCarron, guitar. Cambiata performs classical, jazz standards, original music (by McCarron and Sklar) and arrangements of music by other composers ranging from Handel to Villa-Lobos to Ian Anderson. A Downtown Music debut. Free Admission. 30-minute concert begins at 12:10 p.m. Grace Episcopal Church, at the corner of Mamaroneck Avenue and Main Street in Downtown White Plains.

Sci-Fi Trivia Night. Geek out to celebrate the release of “Star Wars: The Force Awakens.” Covering science fiction in film and television from its earliest manifestations through today in a multimedia competition hosted by Jacob Burns Film Center Programmer Andrew Jupin. Teams of four people will enjoy a fun night of friendly, intergalactic rivalry, sci-fi-themed prizes and popcorn. Jacob Burns Film Center, 405 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Tickets per team: Members—$40. Non-members—$60. (includes two drinks.) Info and registration: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Thursday, Dec. 3
AIPWP Holiday Party. Aging in Place in White Plains (AIPWP) invites you and your friends to be our guests at the AIPWP Holiday Party Thursday, Dec. 3; 12:30 to 4 p.m. at Burke Rehabilitation Center, Billings Building, 2nd floor. Buffet lunch, Live music from AIPWP member, Michael Friedman’s Jazz Band. Burke Rehabilitation Center, 783 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, Billings Building (Building 4), 2nd Floor, The Rosedale Room.

Great Books Forum Series. “Doctor Zhivago” by Boris Pasternak will be discussed. An opportunity to encounter extraordinary works of classic and modern literature with other interested readers. Discussion led by Professor Eugenia Amidis. Westchester Community College’s Gateway Center, Room 131, 75 Grandands Rd., Valhalla. 6 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Professor Jim Werner at 914-606-6840 or e-mail james.werner@sunywcc.edu.

Wine and Wolves. Toast to 16 years of success at the Wolf Conservation Center’s festive holiday party. Dozens of the community’s finest restaurants, liquor stores and merchants will supply wonderful food, wine and holiday gifts for auction via silent bid. Music will be provided. Waccabuc Country Club Carriage House, 90 Mead St. Waccabuc. 7 p.m. $100. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

David Benoit’s Christmas Tribute to Charlie Brown. Kick off your family’s holiday season with a special return by legendary jazz musician David Benoit as he performs a mix of “A Charlie Brown Christmas” classics and original compositions. He will be joined by American jazz vocalist Jane Monheit and an all-star chorus featuring talented young singers from throughout the Hudson Valley. Paramount Hudson Valley, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill. 7:30 p.m. $40, $55 and $105. Info and tickets: 914-739-0039 ext. 2 or visit www.paramounthudsonvalley.com.

Saturday, Dec. 5
Fair Trade Crafts Fair. 17th Annual Margaret Eberle Fair Trade Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Memorial United Methodist Church, Asbury Hall, 250 Bryant Avenue, White Plains. Thirty-plus international and local fair trade arts and crafts vendors, hot lunch and homemade baked goods for sale. Suggested admission $2-$5 (a portion of your admission will be donated to My Sisters’ Place Human Trafficking Initiative). Live music throughout the day. Fair trade seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions and securing the rights of marginalized producers and workers both locally and globally. www.memorialall.org.


Family Saturdays at the Lab. Learn about green screening, explore an augmented reality sandbox and make your own claymation stop-motion film! Jacob Burns Film Center educators will be on hand to guide visitors through an experience like no other. Jacob Burns Film Center’s Media Arts Lab, 405 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Meets the first Saturday of the month. Info: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Pack Chat for Kids. Children will learn about the mythology surrounding wolves and the important role they play in the natural world. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Atka, Alava, Nikai and Zephyr and the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Bring a camera. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem, 2 p.m. Adults: $13. Children (under 12): $11. Also Dec. 13 and 29 at 11 a.m. and Dec. 27 at 10 a.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.
Stepinac Wins CHSAA NYS Championship, Undefeated at 12-0

By Albert Coqueran

Crusaders quarterback Tyquell Fields limped his way through three quarters of play and then hobbled through the fourth quarter. Nonetheless, the senior Team Captain for the Crusaders displayed a courageous performance, as he led Stepinac High School to the 2015 Catholic High School Athletic Association (CHSAA) New York State Football Title.

Stepinac missed going undefeated last year when they lost to Canisius High School in the inaugural CHSAA NYS Championship. But this year, while once again going undefeated at 11-0 and being crowned CHSFL Champs, they were not going to be denied the ultimate crown.

On Saturday, Nov. 28, at Grand Island High School, in Grand Island, NY, Stepinac beat St. Francis High School, 42-28, to capture their first ever CHSAA New York State Football Championship, while completing an undefeated season at 12-0.

"It is an unbelievable feeling for our school and players; we wanted to finish the job, after losing last year in the State Championship to Canisius," said Crusaders Head Coach Mike O’Donnell.

St. Francis, the Champions of the upstate Monsignor Martin Conference, is the Number 10 ranked team in the New York State. The Red Raiders beat overwhelming favorite Canisius in the MMC Champions Game, 42-7.

Stepinac, despite being ranked Number One in NYS, was quite aware that beating St. Francis from Athol Springs, NY, was not going to be an easy task. The Red Raiders were playing close to home and they convincingly dethroned Canisius, the MMC Champions the past three years.

However, for the initial two and a half quarters, Stepinac did make the task at hand appear quite easy, while leading 28-0, midway through the third quarter.

Fields, in all respects, was the only quarterback the Crusaders depended on all season. He injured his ankle in the CHSFL Championship Game the previous week, and despite not being fully recovered, Fields was quite aware his team needed him and gutted it out the entire game.

The Crusaders duel-threat quarterback’s running game was eliminated, as it was all he could do to limp on and off the field when the team transitioned from offense to defense. Nevertheless, Fields completed 17 of 28 passes for 243 yards and four touchdowns to lead the Crusaders to victory.

“I just had to keep my composure while dealing with this injury. I just had to stay strong and my teammates helped me out with that,” commented Fields.

Field’s hit his wide receiver T.J. Morrison with all four of his touchdowns passes. Morrison, one of the top high school recruits in the nation, caught 10 passes for 209 yards and four TDs in the Championship game. Three of Morrison touchdown-receptions came in the first half, which included one on a halfback pass play from Antonio Giannico.

Stepinac’s defense was relentless into the third quarter causing five Red Raiders turnovers midway through the quarter in the game. Linebacker Daniel Negron had an interception and linebacker Louis Blackwell recovered a fumble in the second quarter, while defensive end Malcolm Blackwell intercepted Fields on the first play.

Stepinac’s defense had one more stop midway through the third quarter causing five Red Raiders turnovers midway through the quarter in the game. Linebacker Daniel Negron had an interception and linebacker Louis Blackwell recovered a fumble in the second quarter, while defensive end Malcolm Blackwell intercepted Fields on the first play.

Stepinac Associated Head Coach/Offensive Coordinator Joe Spagnolo (left) and Defensive Coordinator Jonathan Demarco share a moment with the CHSAA NYS Championship Plaque, after the Crusaders beat St. Francis, 48-28, to win the Catholic High School State Championship in Grand Island, NY.

Hickson hit Davis with a 38-yard pass to the two-yard line of the Crusaders and Metz did the honors running one-yard for the score. The Red Raiders had sensed the decision was over at 17-0.

But as the Red Raiders started to charge again, after Metz intercepted Fields on the St. Francis 15-yard line, the Stepinac defense stepped-up and held.

The Crusaders defense got the ball back to Fields who hobbled out to the huddle on one leg and threw a 28-yard touchdown pass to Morrison, putting Stepinac back in control of the game, 35-14, at 1:05 of the third quarter.

Well, at least Stepinac thought they were back in control of the game, that is until Red Raiders Garth Pinnock ran the ensuing kickoff back 89 yards for a touchdown, to make the score 35-21.

"I think we got down a little, we thought we had the game (won), but this is just football, you cannot sleep on anybody," revealed the Crusaders defensive end Koonce.

And the fourth quarter began as unpredictable as the third quarter ended.

Marr intercepted Fields on the first play and ran 60 yards to pay turf, which brought the Red Raiders within seven points, at 35-28, when they were losing by as much as 28-0, in the third quarter.

But then, Crusaders running back Malik Crawford donned his “Superman cap” and ran 11 yards and flipped over a Red Raiders defender into the end zone to make the score, 48-28, with 7:31 remaining in the game.

Nonetheless, this is a State Championship game and the Red Raiders had sensed victory in the second half. Hickson hit Davis again on a 33-yard pass play to the Crusaders two-yard line at 6:05 of the fourth quarter.

But as bad hikes from center plagued the Red Raiders throughout the game, their third such mishap came at the worst time. With third down on the Stepinac one-yard line the ball was hiked to Hickson, who recovered on the Stepinac 14-yard line and the Crusaders defense had one more stop in them.

Fields’ performance was incredible on one leg. But surely his ankle felt much better on the bus ride home, as he and his Crusaders teammates coveted the 2015 CHSAA NYS Championship Plaque. That is the one that got away last season.

“It feels great, knowing that last year’s team, did not get it done, but we got another chance at it and we did it. This really feels great,” said Fields.

Stepinac quarterback and Team Captain Tyquell Fields displayed a performance in the CHSAA NYS Championship that college scouts will take notice. He demonstrated quite well that he understands the philosophies of team play and team-first by leading the Crusaders to the CHSAA State Title, while limping on an injured ankle throughout the game.
By Martin Wilbur

For the past two months singer-songwriter Dar Williams has crisscrossed North America promoting her album "Emerald." But no matter how busy her schedule may be, Williams makes sure to find time to entertain her fans back home.

This Saturday night Williams will be performing at the Irvington Town Hall Theater, a one-night engagement that is part of her 2015 tour that followed Emerald's unveiling last May, her ninth studio release.

"I find myself playing Westchester once a year because somewhere along the line it's convenient to go home for a rest either before or after," said Williams, who was raised in Chappaqua and is a 1985 Horace Greeley High School graduate.

Certainly, her schedule has been hectic this fall. The Irvington performance comes during a month where she has included other dates in the metropolitan area: this Friday at the Town Crier in Beacon; the South Orange Performing Arts Center in New Jersey on Dec. 17; the Landmark at Main Street in Port Washington, L.I. on Dec. 26; and Dec. 26 and 30 at the Bell House in Brooklyn.

The tour has also taken her from Londonberry, N.H., to Phoenix and Vancouver and back.

The 11 songs on "Emerald" represent a combination of new material, collaborations with friends in the music industry and covers. Included on the album are artists such as Richard Thompson, Jill Sobule, Jim Lauderdale, the Milk Carton Kids, Lucy Wainwright Roche and Suzzy Roche and others.

Williams said what made this experience so unique was "Emerald" was completed piecemeal over an extended period in between her travel dates and other obligations. Studios in Maine, New York City, Nashville and Los Angeles and elsewhere all played a role in the finished product, which is not the preferred way to record an album. The reviews have been strong.

"Dar Williams is a songwriter of immense talent and her new album, 'Emerald,' is a work of real depth," wrote The Telegraph in the United Kingdom. "From the powerful opening song about staying strong in adversity ("Something to Get Through") to the mordant "Mad River," this is a work of mature and thoughtful songwriting.

It is also a testament to her longevity and ability to adapt. Williams has impressed fans and music industry insiders with her staying power – now more than 25 years later– and heartfelt lyrics and music.

While playing Westchester has special meaning for Williams, she's also mindful not to turn Saturday's concert into old home week. She said audiences today are too savvy for that, whether you're on stage in Manhattan, in Westchester or anywhere else.

Home these days for Williams is not far away in Cold Spring. For part of the time that she's there, Williams conducts a five-day songwriting retreat called "Writing a Song That Matters." She had two separate sessions last summer held at the Garrison Institute in Putnam County.

What's special is that each participant, most of whom are not professional musicians, meet with Williams individually and she is also one of the instructors. Williams said many people have the tools to express themselves through their own music and lyrics.

"It in your brain," Williams said of songwriting. "No matter what your background or your training, you have to use your creativity and it's there in your brain at some point."

For tickets to this Saturday's show, visit the Irvington Town Hall Theater at www.irvingtontheater.com.
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