Fatal Wrong-Way Crash Renews Traffic Safety Patrol Concerns

By Pat Casey

The winter of 2014/15 will be remembered not only for intense cold and snow, but also for highway accidents that resulted in fatalities in one form or another.

Friday’s wrong-way accident on the Sprain Brook Parkway in which Hartsdale resident Paul Duncan, 46, was killed was not necessarily the result of weather-related conditions. Efren Moreano, the 20-year-old driver that struck him going northbound on the southbound side of the parkway just before 4 a.m. may have been driving while intoxicated. The results of blood tests have not yet been released by NYS Police investigating the crash. Moreano has been in a medically induced coma upon his arrival at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla after the crash. Marijuana was allegedly found in Moreano’s car.

Duncan was killed at the scene. Later that same day, at about 10 p.m., there was a second wrong-way crash on Route 9A near Briarcliff where the offending driver was charged with DWI.

On November 3, 2014 a woman lost her life and her husband was severely injured during another early morning wrong-way crash in downtown White Plains that was the result of the offending driver operating his SUV while intoxicated.

And, while not alcohol-related it was an accident on the Taconic Parkway that pushed stop-and-go traffic onto side streets that resulted in the fatal train/car crash at a rail crossing in Valhalla only two weeks ago.

Highway safety is of paramount concern. The Sprain Brook Parkway has been the scene of many fatal crashes, some caused by wrong-way drivers in recent years.

On Friday morning Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner commented in an email that New York State had to improve signage especially access to highways.

White Plains Looking for Developer for Contiguous Residential Sites

The City of White Plains has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the sale of two contiguous lots totaling approximately 48 acres of vacant land.

The contiguous properties will be sold together and not individually.

The parcels consist of one irregular-shaped lot of approximately .24 acres and one rectangular (100-ft. x 105-ft.) parcel of approximately .24 acres, located at 5 Woodale Place and 9 Woodale Place between Hall and Woodcrest avenues in a quiet residential neighborhood in White Plains.

The properties are located in the R1-5 (Residential One-Family) District with minimum lot size of 5,000 square feet, and have access to municipal water, sanitary sewer, electricity, natural gas. There is an abandoned in-ground swimming pool and pool shed on one of the sites.

There is one known easement that allows a small portion of a driveway located on the property located at 137 Woodcrest Avenue to cross a small portion of the northeast corner of 9 Woodale Place.

The property will be sold “as is.” No broker's commissions will be paid.

Initial proposals are due 9:30 a.m. March 9, 2015; Final proposals due 9:30

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Developer Eyes Greenburgh Acreage for High Quality Residential Development

It’s only in the beginning stages, but Greenburgh officials have already begun to express concerns about a proposed multifamily residential development at One Lawrence Street in the unincorporated section of Ardsley (also known as the Azko Nobel property).

The proposal, called Jefferson at Saw Mill River, was first presented by the developer, JPI, to the Greenburgh Town Board at last week’s work session.

The project would be located near the Saw Mill River Parkway and on the other side of the Rivertowns Square development approved by the Village of Dobbs Ferry. It includes 296 rental units in four and five story buildings on five acres of the 11-acre property. Ten percent of the units would be affordable. Many of the units would be studios and one-bedroom apartments.

According to a conceptual plan, there would be two access points to the site, each located on Lawrence Street.

Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner and Councilwoman Dianna Juettner expressed concerns about the added traffic in the immediate area. However, JPI representatives said they

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Fatal Wrong-Way Crash Renews Traffic Safety Patrol Concerns

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and assign more officers so that parkways, especially the Sprain Brook could be adequately patrolled.

Feiner said he had received a call from an unnamed police officer, informing him that the State Police had only one car assigned to patrol the entire 20-mile stretch of the Sprain Brook Parkway on Thursday. The officer had attributed the lack of adequate patrol coverage to staffing that had been cut in half in recent years.

"I have written to state lawmakers suggesting that the state budget allocate more funds for police patrols on state parkways, thruways and highways. The Sprain Parkway has become a speedway with many cars speeding, going 70, 80 miles an hour," Feiner said.

Duncan, an off-duty NYPD officer was killed when his SUV was struck by a 2013 Honda Civic. His car went over a guardrail and into a snow bank.

The ensuing traffic jam as commuters headed south on the Sprain during the morning rush hours ironically included Duncan's wife Rechelle, who was stuck in the traffic while driving her 13-year-old daughter to school in NYC that morning.

Speaking to TV reporters on Friday, Mrs. Duncan said her husband was thoughtful, disciplined, funny, a sharp dresser, and a really good dad.

A wake for Paul Duncan, 46, is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Wednesday at Abyssinian Baptist Church, 132 Odell Clark Place, New York. A service will follow at 10 a.m.

White Plains Looking for Developer for Contiguous Residential Sites

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a.m. March 16, 2015 and addressed to: Mr. Michael A. Genito Commissioner of Finance City of White Plains 255 Main Street Room 102 White Plains, NY 10601-2409.

The full RFP can be viewed on the city's website at www.cityofwhiteplains.com.
Harrison Community Shows Strong Support for Mother and Sibling of Slain Sisters

By Pat Casey

The funeral mass for Alissa Marie and Deanna Nicole Hochman was held at St. Gregory the Great Roman Catholic Church Friday morning where family, friends and members of the extended Harrison community came together to mourn, stand in solidarity with the girls’ mother Anamarie and older sister Samantha, and celebrate the lives of the teens whose lives were abruptly ended on February 21.

Alissa Marie Hochman was born December 20, 1996 to Glen and Anamarie (DiPietro) Hochman. Alissa was a student at Harrison High School. She was an active and dedicated volunteer with Harrison EMS and Harrison Fire Explorer’s Post. She also volunteered with the Larchmont Fire Dept. Alissa was also a cheerleader as well as a Rangers Fan. She loved country music and ice-skating.

Deanna Nicole Hochman was born August 13, 2001, to Glen and Anamarie (DiPietro) Hochman. She was a student at the Windward School in White Plains. Deanna was a lover of sports; baseball, softball and also was a Cheerleading Captain. She was an avid wrestling fan and enjoyed playing her Xbox.

Alissa and Deanna are survived by her beloved and devoted mother, Anamarie, their cherished sister, Samantha, dear grandmother, Barbara DiPietro, and aunt, Sandra Bessels. They are also survived by grandparents, Stephen and Judy Hochman, aunts and uncles, Susan Hochman and Bob Bratskeir, Lisa Hochman and Kevin Worth, cousins, Eric and Daniel Bessels, Jae and Sarah Bratskeir, and Eli and Simon Worth.

Alissa is also survived by her loving boyfriend, John Moore and the extended family of Harrison EMS.

The teens were shot in their beds by their father, retired White Plains Police Officer Glen Hochman, during the early morning hours of Saturday, Feb. 21. Glen Hochman, according to police reports, then penned a several page suicide letter to Mrs. Hochman and according to Harrison Police Chief Anthony Marraccini offered her advice on what she should do next to get her family’s financial business in order. He then killed the family’s three dogs before shooting himself in the head.

Marraccini would not share what else the suicide note said, nor would he indicate if Mr. Hochman acted because of a marital dispute. However, several media reports have suggested that Mr. Hochman left his surviving family members without adequate means to support themselves.

A GoFundMe page established as a memorial to Alissa and Deanna has already raised over $118,000.

Established by Harrison EMS, the text on the page reads: “Alissa and Deanna were young sisters who lived in the community. They were both very special girls not only to the family but also to many people around the community. A few days ago they were tragically taken from us. This has made a tremendous impact not only in the community but to all of us at Harrison EMS. Harrison EMS is putting a fund together to help the family with expenses. ALL donations will be given directly to the mother Anamarie and sibling Samantha. Harrison EMS will not keep any of the proceeds. So please dig deep in the time of need and give the family one less thing to be concerned about.”
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Tech Savvy Students to Apply Knowledge in App Development Bowl

By Janine Bowen

A marching band and cheerleaders stormed the court at the Westchester County Center on Friday afternoon, but not for a basketball game -- the fanfare was celebrating the launch of a new academic challenge.

Friday marked the kickoff of the first-ever Westchester Smart Mobile App Development Bowl, which challenges students across the county and throughout the metropolitan area to use technology to find solutions for problems facing today's society.

"What's so encouraging is that standing here, surrounded by this group [of students], you see how much human potential we have to address all our needs and challenges, and all of you have the power to change the world with technology or change the technology that exists today," said County Executive Rob Astorino.

The goal of the inaugural event is to develop an Android or iPhone application that will help people suffering from Alzheimer's disease or dementia manage their symptoms.

Fifty teams from high schools and colleges across Westchester, Rockland, New York City, Connecticut and Long Island have signed up to compete. Winners receive cash prizes and opportunities for paid internships. Local high schools involved in the competition include Scarsdale High School, Solomon Schechter School of Westchester, Soundview Preparatory School and YWCA White Plains and Central Westchester.

"The fact that we have 50 schools from three states is phenomenal," Astorino said. "We've got so many different minds now working on developing an app, which could literally change a life and a family's life in regards to Alzheimer's or dementia, so this is a wonderful thing." The Mobile App Development Bowl is sponsored by the county and Pace University's Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems.

Bill McGrath, senior vice president and COO of Pace University's Westchester campus, said the focus was chosen because most people know someone who suffers from Alzheimer's or dementia.

People suffering from those ailments represent an underserved population, McGrath said, leaving a gap in the market for tools and technology that can be addressed by the work of these students.

McGrath noted that the competition would provide local students with a practical and more hands-on approach to technology than they would ever be able to experience in a classroom, where lessons are often based on theoretical problems.

"They're going to be able to see the outcome of their work truly help people who are a vulnerable population, so it's gratifying, but it's like having a real job instead of being in a classroom," he said.

Virginia Nalbandian, an AP computer science teacher at Pleasantville High School and coach of the school's Mobile App Development Bowl team, said while all of the students on her team already have a love of technology, this experience will show them how they can apply their classroom knowledge outside school.

"I think being part of this contest gives them an opportunity to actually see how they can use Java or any programming language in the real world, so it's a great application and it's a great cause," she said.

Nalbandian noted that members of her team, Hot Cup of Java, have not settled on an idea for the app they will ultimately submit, but said that she and the students will be working hard over the next few weeks on the project.

The winners of the Westchester Smart Mobile App Development Bowl will be announced by a panel of judges April 17.
Family Services of Westchester Lanza Family Center Opens in White Plains

On Tuesday, Feb. 24, Family Services of Westchester (FSW), along with more than 100 local dignitaries, supporters and guests celebrated the culmination of a goal set years ago – to bring a state-of-the-art intergenerational facility to White Plains – with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Lanza Family Center for All Ages. Nick Wolff, FSW’s Chairman of the Board and longtime White Plains resident, expressed his gratitude to all those who worked so hard to bring this multigenerational center to White Plains. “There are so many people responsible for helping us get to this point including my colleagues on the Board, FSW staff and most importantly our generous donors.” He also thanked the City of White Plains government officials as well the North Broadway Neighborhood Association for welcoming the Center to their community. The 18,000 square-foot Center, modeled after My Second Home, FSW’s award-winning intergenerational program in Mt. Kisco, will bring children, teens and seniors together at one site to participate in programs, share experiences and benefit from one another, just as they would in a family setting. Together, children, teens and older adults will enjoy gardening, sharing meals, singing songs, cooking side-by-side, and participating in special events that allow them to break down age barriers and form lasting impressions and enrich each other’s lives. Pat Lanza, whose $1 million challenge grant enabled FSW to embark on this project, did not live to see her vision become reality. Mrs. Lanza passed away in March 2014. Visit www.fsw.org for more information.

Local Reps Push for Passage of Federal Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act

Congresswoman Nita Lowey’s (D-Harrison) and Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney’s (D-Cold Spring) proposed legislation H.R. 705, the Rail Crossings Safety Improvement Act, is in front of the House of Representatives this week as part of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act (PRRIA).

At a press conference Monday, the two legislators were joined by local government officials at a railway crossing in Chappaqua to advocate for passage of the bill. In addition, Lowey announced she proposed an amendment to PRRIA that would set aside $10 million to build upon existing efforts like Operation Lifesaver for a national high-visibility enforcement and education campaign about the dangers of railway crossings.

Referring to the train crash incident just two weeks ago, Lowey said: “The Valhalla Metro-North collision never should have occurred, but incidents at grade crossings are all too common.”

According to a media statement released during the press conference, PRRIA reauthorizes a program that expired in 2009, the Rail Line Relocation and Improvement Capital Grant Program (RLR). As part of an annual $300 million reauthorization with the Intercity Passenger Rail Service Program, the RLR program allows state and local communities to invest in local rail line relocation and improvement projects at grade crossings. In the President’s Fiscal Year 2016 budget request, the Department of Transportation listed railroad intersections as one of the “three most pressing rail safety issues.” In the past, the RLR program allowed states and local governments to make lateral and vertical relocation of rail lines in order to improve the safety of grade crossings for train passengers, motorists and pedestrians.

Lowey’s amendment to PRRIA would set aside funding for a national high-visibility enforcement and education campaign. The amendment is modeled after the successful “Click it or Ticket” campaign for seatbelts and the “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign for impaired driving.

Ninety-five percent of deaths involving trains happen at highway-rail crossings. While deaths and accidents have declined steadily nationwide, accidents continue to happen in New York, the home of 5,304 grade crossings. From 2012-2014, there were 81 accidents, 15 deaths and 23 injuries at grade crossings, according to the Federal Railroad Administration.
Greenburgh Police Department

Larceny. On the afternoon of February 16 officers responded to a call at Jabliko Construction in Scarsdale, where the bookkeeper reported that the business had been defrauded of $2,850 dollars. According to the bookkeeper a check had been cashed, which she first noticed on Jan. 22 when she was reconciling the business’s books. The bookkeeper said that the check was not a check from the business and showed police a voided official check from the business for comparison. The officer observed clear differences. The bookkeeper said that since the check had been dated on 10/27/2014 the bank, J. P. Morgan Chase, was unable to stop the check due a 60-day fraud protection policy. When confronted on why it took her so long to report the theft, the bookkeeper explained that she was very busy with other business and had not had a chance to handle the issue until now. The bookkeeper not know where the check was cashed because the Routing # of the Bank ID was 000000000. She however, did say that the check was possibly cashed at a check cashing business, since many of her employees use them to cash their checks. This report is for documentation purposes only at this time.

Grand Larceny. On February 17, police responded to a call about a possible larceny. On scene they met with the victim who said $19,000 had been stolen from his security and stock account at Fulcom Securites and wired to another person through a Wells Fargo account in Huntsville, Al. The victim did not know the person in Huntsville. According to the victim the Letter of Authorization was e-mailed to his brokerage firm, Fulcom Securites, from his e-mail account. The victim further states that the signature on the authorization form is his signature, however, he never authorized the transfer and no further confirmation was requested from his brokerage firm. The victim also said that another attempt to access $11,000 was requested but denied by the brokerage firm. At this point in time the victim does not know if the security breach was with Fulcom Securites or the victim’s private e-mail account. The victim spoke with his bank and has a hold on all personal accounts until they can be changed. The victim was advised to change his e-mail account information as well as file a report with the Federal Trade Commission. It was also suggested that the victim look into credit fraud protection with companies such as Experian, Equifax and TransUnion.

Harassment. On February 18 officers responded on a complaint of a male harassing a female employee at a bank. Upon arrival officers spoke with the victim who reports that an elderly black male described as wearing black clothing and missing his front teeth has been inside the branch four different times. The victim reported that the first time the male entered was on 1/2/15 in the morning. The victim reports that the male wanted to open an account but had no identification and no social security number. The victim said the male left the branch, but then returned on 2/11/15 at which time he told the victim she was beautiful. The male then reached into his pocket and gave the victim a chocolate saying “Bye beautiful.” The victim told police that she does not want the male in the bank branch again. There is a video of the male entering the branch on 2/11/15. The victim was advised to call police if the suspect returned to the bank and that she should tell him not to come in again. The report was made for documentation purposes only at this time.

Driving Without a License. On the morning of February 21, officers were on routine patrol on Central Ave, when a 2014 Black Honda Civic was observed failing to come to a stop at a steady red light prior to making a right turn onto Battle Ave. from N. Central Ave. A traffic stop was conducted at which time contact was made with the driver. A NCIC check of the driver’s license revealed it to be suspended for failure to answer a summons out of the Town of Greenburgh on 02/14/15. The driver was issued a ticket and summons. The Vehicle was released on scene to the passenger without further incident.

Suspicious Incident. On the afternoon of February 21, the victim of an alleged Internet scam walked into police headquarters. He reported that on 2/11/2015 he received an e-mail offering employment involving reviewing store services as a secret shopper. The victim said he was interested in the position and responded with his name, address, and phone number. He then received an envelope on 2/20/2015 containing a check for $3,850 from Safe Federal Credit Union with a letter of instructions on how to distribute the funds. The letter instructed the victim to cash the check at his bank then spend up to $50 in Staples or Office Depot. After shopping, it instructed the victim to write a review of their services for which he would be paid $400. The letter then told the victim to wire the remaining balance of $3,400 through Money Gram and Western Union to an address in the Philippines. The victim reported that he did not cash the check or any other checks and is not without any money at this time. The victim was instructed not to open any other emails if he is not familiar with the sender and to contact police if any further assistance is needed.
Thank you for the Apology and Moving Forward With the Reporting

For the past 10 years I have been reading local news in the ‘old’ White Plains Times and since 2007 The Examiner. I would pick it up at the YMCA every Tuesday and now every Sunday at Domino's Deli on my way home from church. I always found your paper to be personal, positive, and precise.

The Feb. 17-23 edition was far from that. It was erroneously reported that my nephew/godson Christian Donahoe a Mahopac High School student athlete was suspended from his varsity basketball team for unsportsmanlike behavior and using racial slurs during a game against one of their rivals.

A 2007 The New York Times profile remarked that your publisher Adam Stone had “Jimmy Stewart Earnestness.” The Examiner’s journalism was anything but that week.

The following week on Feb. 24, a front-page apology was printed. ‘Thank you. The New York Times has NEVER done that.

The author of the article was Mr. Albert Coqueran. I have known Al for almost 20 years. His reporting and photos of White Plains student athletes has always been outstanding. In this one instance, his information was incorrect. On behalf of my brother, nephew/godson, and the entire Donahoe family, we look forward to Al’s continued dedicated reporting.

—John Donahoe, White Plains

SPCA to Offer Free Surgeries for Feral Cats

February was Spay and Neuter Awareness Month and in honor of its importance, the SPCA of Westchester announced that it will offer free spay and neuter surgeries for feral cats, on March 23, 25, 27, 30 and April 1, and 3. The cost of the surgeries will be underwritten by a grant from the Bernice Barbour Foundation. Anyone interested in taking advantage of this free program is urged to contact the Simpson Clinic at 914-941-2896 x 20 to make an appointment and receive further instructions. All feral cats must be transported in a trap. In addition to the surgery, the cats will receive a rabies vaccination. The SPCA altered 683 feral cats in 2014; www.spcap914.org.

Obituaries

Judith Harrington

Judith Harrington, a White Plains resident, died March 1, at the age of 76. She was born December 13, 1938 in White Plains to the late Roger and Mildred Briggs.

On February 17, 1961 she married Michael Harrington in White Plains. He predeceases her.

Judith was a Police Dispatcher for the City of White Plains for 25 years, retiring in 2002.

She is survived by her four children; Patricia Feeney of Valhalla, James Harrington of Torrance, CA, Judy Lynn McClain of Rockaway, NJ and Michael Harrington Jr. of White Plains. Also surviving are her eight grandchildren: Molly Feeney, Danny Feeney, C.J. Harrington, Eddie McClain III, Veronica McClain, Conor McClain, Michael Harrington III and Ryan Harrington and by her sister Linda Marsico of Sagamore, MA.

Rita Poux

Rita Beaudoin Poux of White Plains passed away peacefully at White Plains Hospital on February 23, surrounded by loving members of her extended family. She was 84.

At 5’11”, with a full head of silvery hair and sparkly green eyes, Rita had a graceful, memorable presence. But it was her compassion and concern for family, friends and strangers alike that left an indelible impression on those fortunate enough to know her. From her early days as an occupational therapist and her work with polio patients, to her many volunteer activities with SHORE and the Open Arms Men’s Shelter later in life, Rita cared deeply for people, and always endeavored to make their lives a little more peaceful.

Rita’s true life’s work was the family she raised with her loving husband of 58 years, Pierre Demaison Poux. As an only child growing up in the small town of Stephenson in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, Rita probably never imagined that one day she would be the mother of seven, the mother-in-law of seven more, and the grandmother of 13 children, all of whom adored her. She was indefatigable as she worked to create a comfortable, nurturing home filled with the aromas of her cooking, the fruits of her passion for gardening, and the touch of her artful hand. It was a home that would host many celebratory gatherings over the years, a home to which her children returned again and again. In recent years, Rita had begun writing and sharing memoirs of her interesting family life and upbringing.

Her own childhood was more difficult. Her own childhood was more difficult. Rita lost her mother when she was just three, and was raised by her father, the town baker, and her loving aunts and grandmother who served as her role models. After graduating from Stephenson High School, she received a degree in occupational therapy from Western Michigan College. Soon after, she served in a polio clinic in Ann Arbor during the polio crisis of the 1950’s, helping disabled patients return to their lives and careers.

It was around this time that she and Pierre found each other and married, living in Ann Arbor before relocating to New York. After living in Poughkeepsie a short time, Pierre and Rita moved their family to White Plains, where they remained residents for 48 years. They were active members of St. Bernard’s Church of White Plains for 44 years before joining the Church of the Magdalene of Pocantico Hills and Suzanne Poux Newhouse (Corey) of Austin, Texas. She has been blessed with 13 grandchildren: Matthew, Emily, Casey, Hayley, Sabine, Sophie, Tucker, twins Jules & Sydney, Trudy, Reede, Chloé and Jack.

In lieu of flowers, and to further Rita’s commitment to the homeless, please consider making a contribution in her name to: SHORE, Inc., P.O. Box 814, White Plains, NY 10602; www.shelteringthehomeless.org/
Changing the Policy and Process of Prosecuting Sexual Assault on College Campuses

It’s been more than 40 years since I was sexually assaulted and the image of my attacker remains with me.

I can still see his face and the details of that horrendous experience are etched in my mind. I am adult now and logically I know this man can no longer hurt me. Yet the idea of having to face the predator who assaulted me continues to terrify me in ways that most people can never imagine.

So it was as if my heart stopped beating when I saw the headline, “SUNY grad says school made her prosecute her own sex attacker” on the front page of The Journal News. Sarah Tubbs, a Montrose resident, attended the State University at Stony Brook on Long island. She was allegedly sexually assaulted on campus then required to prosecute the alleged attacker herself at a university disciplinary hearing. She had initiated a disciplinary action because campus police had advised her that she did not have a case. Sarah is now suing Stony Brook to have its practice of having sexual assault victims “prosecute their own cases and cross-examine and be cross-examined by their assailants” abolished and for damages.

The thought of Sarah having not only to confront her alleged assailant but also to act as both prosecutor and defendant is disconcerting as well as infuriating. It flies in the face of everything we have learned and know about sexual assault and helping survivors of sexual assault.

Whether Stony Brook has abolished or will abolish this abhorrent practice remains to be seen. The Journal News reported that the university declined to comment on the issue.

I am calling on Stony Brook and every other college and university in New York State to strike down this policy and remove it from their respective student handbooks. Such a policy has no place in any code of conduct.

Although the State Universities of New York adopted, at Governor Cuomo’s urging, a stricter sexual assault policy last December, Sarah’s alleged attack occurred in January 2014. Sarah wants to make sure the SUNY policy expressly prohibits victims being forced to prosecute their attackers at student disciplinary hearings.

My heart goes out to this young woman and to every other woman or man who has been forced to confront the predator who has forever changed their lives. We must remember, whether it’s in society or on campus, to protect the one who has been attacked, not just the alleged attacker.

I have introduced legislation (A.5400) that requires college campuses to adopt policies and procedures concerning sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, involving on and off campus students. The policies must include a definition of affirmative consent (note a person cannot consent if incapacitated due to alcohol or drugs), and victim-centered protocols that cover the initial response by the school to a report of an incident and investigating and adjudicating the report. Colleges would also be required to implement comprehensive prevention and outreach programs addressing sexual violence and, where feasible, enter into agreements or collaborative partnerships with existing on-campus and community-based organizations, including rape crisis centers, to refer students for assistance or make services available to students.

Stories of sexual assault on college campuses have become all too familiar and the statistics often cited are chilling. According to the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault, at least 1 in 4 college women will be the victim of a sexual assault during her academic career.

The Department of Justice reported in 2007 that 1 in 5 women are targets of attempted or completed sexual assault while they are college students, compared to about 1 in 16 college men. A 2014 White House Task Force reported that many victims report they are sexually abused while drugged, drunk, passed out, or otherwise incapacitated.

Yet less than five percent of rapes and attempted rapes of college students are reported to campus authorities or law enforcement according to the National Institute of Justice.

Rather than accept these statistics as the norm, we must compel colleges to establish clearer policies and procedures regarding the handling of reports of sexual assault and the treatment of sexual assault victims while safeguarding the rights and privacy of both accused and accuser.

It takes a tremendous amount of courage to pursue any action, whether through the courts or through an academic disciplinary process, against the person who has sexually assaulted you. We, collectively, have an obligation to ensure that when that decision is made, the report of sexual assault is properly investigated, a fair adjudication process is maintained, and the victim is treated with sensitivity and respect.

I was a victim and time, according to some, heals all wounds. Some wounds, though, don’t go away. And if four decades haven’t changed how I feel about confronting my attacker, how must Sarah Tubbs have felt just months removed from her alleged assault.

NYS Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, Scarsdale, NY
Qualifying for a Mortgage: What Next, Blood and Urine Samples?

With the purchase of four homes under my belt, I've applied for that many traditional mortgages. There have been many more times when I've taken mortgages to either lower my interest rate or tackle major renovations or new business ventures.

I've lost count of how many times, but never have I been put through the wringer quite like the last time when I bought my new home at Trump Park Residences in Shrub Oak.

During the first round, I went through the humiliation of being turned down flat because, I am told, I am self-employed and was holding on to my primary residence, which already holds a hefty mortgage. The residence has served throughout my career as a piggy bank to finance one new business venture after another.

The first mortgage lender, recommended by my selling agent, wasn't as resourceful as he might have been. But the second one, Richie Vicinanza of Homestead Funding Corp., was my lucky charm and got me qualified. Still, the paperwork was astounding. Each time Vicinanza would ask me for more documentation, I would joke with him and eventually asked, “What next, a blood and urine sample?”

But Vicinanza never lost patience with my insolence and saw me through the mortgage commitment and happy purchase of my new home.

What is it that keeps the mortgage industry so distanced from its homeowners and so difficult to deal with? I asked my two closest buddies in the business to comment about it. Besides Vicinanza, I asked that question of Paul M. Menga, who heads up the mortgage division of the agency where I hang my hat, William Raveis Mortgage.

“I have been in the business for about 10 years now and the only significant differences I have noticed in qualification is with self-employed borrowers,” Menga said. “They tend to have the most difficulty qualifying for a mortgage but it’s still not impossible if you know what you are doing, have the right lenders at your disposal and do your up-front homework to try and address all possible hurdles that you might face down the road.”

“There has definitely been an increase in documentation required to secure a mortgage these days, but that is actually a good thing for the industry and helps solidify a safe and stable market for the future. Lack of documentation and due diligence were major contributors to the housing industry collapse.”

Basic qualification standards haven’t changed much over the years, Menga said. Prospective borrowers may mistakenly associate increased paperwork with increased difficulty in qualifying, which is not the case.

Menga said there are still low down payment options available, even 0 percent in some cases, so it remains a great time for first-time homebuyers or people who saw their credit suffer during the housing market collapse.

“Regulation standards for mortgage lenders have changed and will continue to change, especially since the financial crisis of 2008,” Vicinanza said. “The industry has been required to conform to new guidelines brought on by the Dodd-Frank Act, which promotes financial institutions’ accountability and consumer protection.”

The most recent implementation, he said, was the Qualified Mortgage guidelines in January 2014, regulated by the Financial Protection Bureau. As a result, mortgages may have pre-closing audits by outside sources and that can delay closings.

Working with a licensed loan originator who is experienced and a lending institution that knows what the requirements are from the beginning of a home financing search can save time. Loans can still be closed within 30 days.

There is talk throughout the industry about loosening lending standards, but lenders are being cautious, Vicinanza said. Recent changes include Fannie Mae reducing the cash-out refinance limit from 85 percent loan-to-value to 80 percent. Meanwhile, Fannie Mae has brought back 97 percent conventional mortgage financing for purchase transactions for first-time homebuyers.

“What people really need to know is that mortgage financing is still readily available and that rates are still at all-time lows,” Vicinanza said. “But we are never sure how long rates will stay at this level. Bottom line; there is no time like the present to purchase a new home or refinance your current mortgage.”

To know more, call either Paul M. Menga of William Raveis at 914-837-9889 or Richie Vicinanza of Homestead Funding Corp. at 914-447-6158.

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis 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 The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call Bill at 914-522-2076.
Sam’s of Gedney Way Will Host “Bon Appétit” Photography Show

By Jerry Eimbinder

An opening-day reception for a food color-photography show has been set for Sam’s of Gedney Way in White Plains on Saturday, March 7. On display will be the work of local photographers Linda Austrian, Michael Friedman, Sharon Kaufman, Susie Slosberg and Joseph Sasso (the restaurant’s Executive Chef).

Complimentary food and soft beverages will be served at the gathering which takes place from 3 to 5:30 p.m. at the Michael Friedman Gallery, a private room at the restaurant. The new show, called “Bon Appétit,” runs through June.

Many print purchasers will receive a free organic vegetable-seed starter kit (for selected prints only) and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to charity for designated photos.

The photos will hang until the conclusion of the show in June but duplicates can be obtained by contacting the artists directly and ordering for earlier (typically within one week) delivery.

“The art gallery was named after Michael Friedman in recognition of his ongoing guidance as unofficial curator in helping us choose artists and artwork to exhibit,” said restaurant owner Peter Friedman.

Build Your Own Burger, Customizing Possibilities Plentiful at “little b’s”

By Jerry Eimbinder

Chef David Thomas at “little b’s” in Tarrytown pays homage to the BYOB (Build Your Own Burger) concept by offering customers the opportunity to custom design their burgers to their heart’s content.

Customers fill out an order form to ensure that the kitchen adds exactly the right fixings out of a wide array of choices and options. Twenty different toppings and 21 different sauces are available.

Patty choices include beef, bison (an extra $2), turkey, chicken, veggie, black bean, Portobello and tuna (an extra $2).

But even if you are a burger traditionalist, you can’t go wrong by ordering a basic $12 burger with cheese, lettuce, tomato, red onion, and hand-cut French fries. Simply delicious and the fries are perfect.

On the other hand should you be adventurous, try a $14 “Tony Soprano” beef burger with hot and sweet Italian sausage, fried mozzarella, marinara, hot and sweet peppers, basil, mayo and balsamic glaze.

Mac and cheese can be ordered in $6 or $9 portions, a half-dozen wings costs $5, wine is available beginning at $7 by the glass, cocktails cost $9 and the beer selection list almost approaches infinity in length.

David Thomas didn’t set out to be a 40-year career as a social worker and public policy advocate. His work is on permanent display in a number of schools and offices of not-for-profit and governmental organizations.

The walls of the restaurant’s catering offices are decorated with Friedman’s food photos — some of which have been digitally enhanced. His digital images from a series called Sun and Moon hang in the main dining room.

Friedman said his entries for the new exhibit typically measure 13 by 19 inches matted or 18 by 24 inches framed. Prices of the photographs on display range from $155 for Austrian’s images to $275 for Friedman’s work.

Some versions of the exhibit’s prints are also available in smaller sizes with prices typically ranging from $50 to $100.

Build your own burger at little b’s, Tarrytown.
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LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING MOUNT PLEASANT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District (the “District”) that a special meeting of the qualified voters of said District be and the same is hereby called to be held in said District in the Westlake High School Gymnasium, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. for the purpose of voting on the following propositions:

PROPOSITION #1
Shall the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District be authorized to (1) construct additions to and reconstruct various District buildings and facilities, including infrastructure and site work improvements, and acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus, at a maximum cost of $34,920,000, (2) expend such sum for such purpose, (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed $4,996,000, and the levy of a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

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Tuesday, March 3

Tuesdays at Dorry’s Jennifer Nirenbergis Marketing Director with Upper Cervical Chiropractic of New York, NY. She will bring important information which will unfold what she says is the biggest secret in healthcare. The premise for this discussion is that the body is a self-healing, self-regulating machine perfectly designed for health. She will show how Upper Cervical Chiropractic uses the most advanced methods to detect and remove interference from the nervous system and ensure proper communication of all instructions for optimal health and function. Conversation partners gather weekly for informal talk table. 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. Presentation is 6 to 7 p.m. Food ordering starts at 5:30 p.m. Dorry’s Diner, 468 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains; 914-682-0005.

The Fourth Annual “Harlem Fine Arts Show.” The premier showcase for modern and contemporary art from the African Diaspora comes to White Plains and will be held at 6 p.m. at the White Plains Public Library, 100 Martine Avenue. This year’s theme is Artists and Authors and attendees will have an opportunity to view and purchase works by emerging and professional artists and renowned authors. In addition to featuring artists and authors, the show will pay tribute to White Plains’ own Ms. Mary Frances Perkins, an artist and arts educator serving Westchester County for over 40 years, and Mr. Max Rodriguez, renowned author, publisher and critic of African American literature. Tickets are $25 and an be purchased at the City of White Plains Youth Bureau, 11 Amherst Place, White Plains.

Craig Ferguson’s Hot & Grumpy Tour: Walking the Earth. The star of TV’s “The Late Late Show” and “Celebrity Name Game” brings his comedy standup tour to Westchester. Paramount Hudson Valley, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill. 8 p.m. $55, $66 and $76. Info and tickets: 914-739-0039 or visit www.paramounthudsonvalley.com.

Wednesday, March 4

Noontime Getaway Concert. Violinist Jeehwa Lee has been a member of the MET Orchestra since 2008. She has served as Concertmaster of the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival Orchestra, and has made music at the Aspen Festival, Alice Tully Hall, and Carnegie Hall. We welcome her return to Downtown Music; 12:10 p.m. Free Admission. Grace Episcopal Church at the intersection of Main and Church streets in White Plains.


Civil War Series. Our monthly Civil War series, commemorating the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, continues this evening, with a look at overwhelming evidence that not everyone from the South favored secession, any more than everyone in the North favored abolition. The program will take place 7:30 p.m. at the Historic Purdy House, 60 Park Ave., White Plains, home of the White Plains Historical Society. In addition to our guest speaker Civil War Scholar and Educator John Jorgensen there will be a drawing for a door prize and light refreshments. Anyone with a few extra Civil War books lying around (it’s the most written about topic on the planet) is encouraged to donate one or two to our door prize collection.

Saturday, March 7

“Unlocking the Puzzle of Reading and the Brain,” a symposium for parents, educators, administrators and psychologists, will be held on Saturday, March 7 at 10 a.m. at the Pace Graduate Center in White Plains. Co-sponsored by The Center for Literacy Enrichment–Pace University, The Center for Continuing Legal Education–Pace University, Burke Medical Research Institute and Sleepy Hollow School District, the symposium will examine brain-behavior dynamics underlying reading development and difficulties. Presenters include Joanna A. Christodoulou, EdD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston, and Tracy M Centanni, PhD, a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston and the McGovern Institute for Brain Research at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge. The cost is $35. Space is limited. To register online to go www.thecenterforliteracy.com. For more info, contact 914-422-4135 or mdelayn@pace.edu.

NYC Unclaimed Funds Event. Find out if you are eligible for unclaimed funds from NYC during a special event at White Plains Public Library Auditorium, 100 Martine Avenue; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is free.

Opening Reception for “The Evolution of Color and Texture.” Scarsdale resident, Jill S. Krutick will display her works that were inspired by great impressionists Claude Monet and Vincent van Gogh as well as abstract expressionist Mark Rothko. The works included in this exhibition bridge together Krutick’s lifelong fascination with color and texture and her observations of the nature that surrounds her. Typically using a palette knife to layer and scrape, she reworks her oil paintings until a sense of harmony and balance is achieved. Mamaroneck Artists Guild, 126 Larchmont Ave., Larchmont. 3 to 5 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through March 28. Gallery open Tuesday through Saturday 12 to 5 p.m. Info: 914-834-1117 or visit www.mamaroneckartistsguild.org.

Sunday, March 8


Coping With Deer. The League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns and the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County, Hudson River Audubon Society and Teatown Lake Reservation will address deer overpopulation in Westchester. Topics will include the environmental impacts, the political and practical impacts of the deer immuno-contraception program in Hastings. Mercy College’s lecture hall, 555 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-478-3695 or visit www.watpta.org/lmv/rivertowns.

Wednesday, March 11

School Budget Forum. The White Plains Board of Education has announced the district’s 2015-16 budget planning schedule. The district is seeking broad input on the budget from the community, at two Budget Forums: on Wednesday, January 21st, and Wednesday, March 11th. Both are in the B-1 Room at White Plains High School, at 7:30 p.m. Additional meetings will take place in the community and any group or organization wishing to host such a meeting may contact the Superintendent’s Office at 422-2033. All residents are invited to attend these sessions, to participate in focused dialogue on spending efficiencies, areas of concern, budget priorities and creative ways to increase revenues. A review of the district’s financial situation, the state’s and city’s financial constraints, and other issues relating to development of the budget will be presented. The district will also hold two Public Hearings: the first on March 9, on the Preliminary Proposed Budget, and the second on May 11 on the Board of Education’s Adopted Proposed Budget.

Thursday, March 12

Mah Jong & Martinis. White Plains Hospital invites friends and supporters to its Second Annual Mah Jong & Martinis Fundraiser, featuring Canasta. This year’s event will be held at 42 The Restaurant at the Ritz Carlton, Westchester. It is co-sponsored by the Auxiliary of White Plains Hospital. The event begins with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres at 6 p.m., followed by brief remarks and play at 7 p.m. Individuals and players of all levels are welcome, but advance registration is required due to limited seating. Tickets are $100 per person and all proceeds will benefit White Plains Hospital. Attendees are also invited to bring donations of new, unused items for the White Plains Hospital Pediatric Department; including coloring books and crayons, sticker books, children’s DVDs, stuffed animals and puzzles. To register, please contact Katie Hughes at 914-681-2329 or khughes@wphospital.org.
Westchester’s Mr. Basketball Eric Paschall Making Good at Fordham

By Albert Coqueran

If there were any Westchester County high school basketball player that graduated to the college ranks and deserves notoriety, it would be Dobbs Ferry resident Eric Paschall who attends Fordham University. Paschall attended Dobbs Ferry High School for three years and departed after leading the Eagles to the Section 1 Class B Championship game in 2013. The Eagles lost to Our Lady of Lourdes in the Title game that year. However, as a junior, Paschall garnished every accolade that could be bestowed upon a Westchester County student/athlete, including NYS Class B Player of the Year and Mr. Westchester County Basketball.

Paschall, while being selected Mr. Basketball in Westchester County as a junior, aligned himself with Elton Brand, Ben Gordon and Jabarie Hinds, as the only four juniors to achieve the distinction. Paschall transferred to St. Thomas More Prep School, in Oakdale, Connecticut, where he was groomed by Head Coach Jere Quinn. Although, Paschall acknowledges that he learned a lot under Head Coach Scott Patrillo, at Dobbs Ferry, it was while attending St. Thomas More that he fine-tuned his skills.

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Paschall is presently a freshman at Fordham University and assisting to make Rams Men’s basketball relative in the Atlantic 10 Conference. Paschall is not only helping Fordham become an A-10 competitor, he is the leading scorer on the team.

Paschall is averaging 16.5 points per game this season and has played in 26 of Fordham’s 27 games for the Rams, while starting all 26 games. The only game Paschall missed was due to a health caution when he was discovered with an irregular heartbeat earlier this season. He underwent a battery of tests, all of which were normal, and resumed playing after he was cleared by doctors.

On November 14, in his initial game for the Rams, Paschall scored 31 points against NYIT, which set a school-record for most points scored by a freshman in a debut at Fordham. Paschall has since been named Atlantic 10 Rookie of the Week twice and is ranked fourth in scoring among freshmen in NCAA Division 1.

"It has all come together at Fordham for Eric. He is doing wonderful academically with over 3.0 GPA and he is averaging nearly 17 points per game,” said Fordham Head Coach Tom Pecora.

Paschall could have attended many colleges but he chose Fordham University for a particular set of reasons. "I like to be close to home. I love my family and my family can come to the games. Also, Fordham offered a great education and that had a lot to do with me coming here,” stated Paschall.

Rams Assistant Coach Tom Parrotta had much influence on Paschall’s decision to attend Fordham. Parrotta is a Fordham alumus and Yonkers native who graduated from Stepinac High School in 1984. "Number one, Eric comes from an unbelievable family. They were very in tune regarding what Fordham could do for their son after he plays basketball,” said Parrotta, who was inducted into the Stepinac Basketball Hardwood Club in 2010.

However, Paschall is only one of the young players on the very young and inspired Rams basketball team. In fact, the only senior in the starting line-up for the Rams is guard Bryan Smith. Paschall and Smith are complemented on the court by freshman forward Chris Sengfelder, who is averaging 11.4 points per game. Sengfelder was named A-10 Rookie of the Week three times this season. Notably, Paschall and Sengfelder are presently the only freshmen teammates in the nation to be averaging more than 10 ppg. and five rebounds per game this season.

The Rams also have two juniors in their starting line-up, including guard Mandell Thomas, who is second on team in scoring with 13 ppg. and leads the team in assists with 99, this season. Also junior forward Ryan Rhoomes is the leading rebounder on the team with 8.7 rebounds per game. Furthermore, the Rams sixth man is young sophomore scoring threat Jon Severe.

Fordham has a record of 9-18 overall and 4-12 in the A-10 this season. To understand the impact these young recruits are having at Fordham; consider after they beat LaSalle University, on February 25, it was only the first time since 2008 that the Rams had four A-10 wins in a season.

"I came here to win. It is not fun losing, it is fun winning,” expressed Paschall, "I have been winning my whole life. It is going to take time but we will turn this program around,” Paschall said.

Paschall’s mother Cecelia and father Juan still reside in Dobbs Ferry and attend every Fordham home game with an accompaniment of other members of Eric’s family, along with friends and loyal supporters from Dobbs Ferry.
Woodlands Boys Basketball Wins Second Straight Gold Ball

By Albert Coqueran

The Woodlands High School Boys Basketball Team captured their second Gold Ball in as many years, by repeating as the Section 1 Class B Boys Basketball Champions. Woodlands (19-3), the number one seed in the tournament defeated the number two-seeded Briarcliff High School, 56-50, on Saturday, at the Westchester County Center to win the Title.

Falcons senior Jamil Gambari scored 19 points and grabbed seven rebounds in the Championship game. Gambari was selected as the Most Valuable Player of the Class B Tournament for the second consecutive year. Falcons senior Pierre Lys contributed 13 points, four rebounds and five assists, while senior Ross Joseph added nine points and six rebounds.

Briarcliff was led by Sean Crowley with 15 points and six rebounds and Alquan Phillip, who had 13 points and 10 rebounds.

With the Section 1 Class B Championship secured, Woodlands advances to play in the Class B State Regional Semifinals, on Wednesday, March 11, at 3 p.m. at Purchase College.

Furio to URI and Morrison Already Has Two D-1 College Offers

By Albert Coqueran

Stepinac senior wide receiver Giancarlo Furio has committed to attend the University of Rhode Island next season. Furio was selected to the All-CHSFL Team last season and is an Honor Student at Stepinac. Furio will join teammate Dwayne Scott, the 2014 Catholic High School Lineman of the Year, on the Division 1 Rams, who participate in the Colonial Athletic Association. Furio also entertained offers from Wagner College, Stetson University, Assumption College and St. Anselm College, before choosing to attend URI. Furio also attended offers from Wagner College, Stetson University, Assumption College and St. Anselm College, before choosing to attend URI.

Also in high school football recruiting news, Crusaders junior running back Terrell Morrison is already exciting recruiters this football offseason. Morrison has already been offered two full football-scholarships to NCAA Division 1 colleges. Morrison is considering offers from the University of Buffalo in Mid-American Conference and Bucknell University of the Patriot League. Furio, Scott and Morrison were all members of the Crusaders 2014 CHSFL AAA Championship Team.
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Huskies Roll Past Byram Hills, Fall to Yorktown in Championship Game

By Skip Pearlman

Jess Scazzero's 18-point, 10-rebound effort powered the Harrison High girls to a 53-46 victory over Byram Hills in the opening round of the Harrison Holiday Tournament last Friday.

But the Huskies came up on the short end of a 51-43 decision against Yorktown Saturday in the tournament championship game, and closed the week at 3-2.

Scazzero was named to the All-Tournament team, and Huskies coach Louis Kail said the team continues to make progress. “We won the tournament the last two years, so we wanted to win this one too, ” he said. “But we're young now, and we're still learning. But we are going in the right direction. ”

In Friday's win over Byram Hills, Gia Mancini had 13 points and six rebounds, and Avery LaBarbara came up with 10 points and four assists to complement Scazzero.

Lucy Bancone led the Bobcats with 22 points.

Harrison trailed 22-20 at halftime, but went up 37-27 by the end of the third. “I really liked our ability to come back in the second half, ” Kail said of the win. “We settled in and took control. We played the way we're capable of playing. When you come back from a halftime deficit it's always good. ”

Scazzero plays with an incredible motor, ” the coach added. “She plays hard all the time, and she changed the game with her energy in the second half. Gia also really locked in… she had some key steals for us late, and Gabby Morris was big for us. ”

LaBarbara led the way with 13 points, Morris had 11, Scazzero added eight points, 10 rebounds and two blocks, and Mancini had eight points, but it wasn't enough against a tough Yorktown squad in the championship game.

The Cornhuskers led 16-6 after one and 26-13 by halftime. “Yorktown is one of the bigger, stronger teams, ” Kail said of the Cornhuskers. “We didn't make our outside shots, and their physical play took us out of our game. Scazzero played well for us, and Morris played well – she gave us good senior leadership. And LaBarbara, a freshman, was good for us in her first starts. ”

Harrison also dropped a 46-31 decision at Pleasantville the prior Wednesday.

Mancini's eight points led Harrison. “Pleasantville is a big, physical team, ” Kail said. “They have some good players, and their experience showed up. That's a very good Pleasantville team. ”

The Huskies were set to play today (Tuesday), traveling to Mt. Vernon for a 6:15 p.m. tip-off. Harrison also faces Ardsley on December 30 at 1 p.m. at Rye Neck HS.
White Plains forward Brendan McDonough (white jersey) tries to intercept the puck, as his aggressive play helped the Tigers beat North Rockland High School.
Local Hockey Teams Start the New Year With Mixed Results

By Cutter Klein

As winter vacation came to a close, all four local high school hockey teams hit the ice yet again. It was quite the wild weekend, with everything from double-digit wins to tight, intense contests. Here's a look at how the Northern Westchester squads fared as of 2015 got underway at the Brewster Ice Arena:

Horace Greeley

It was a tale of two Quaker squads this weekend. Greeley (6-4) started off its weekend with a rough 5-3 defeat Friday afternoon at the hands of the Somers/North Salem Sabers. Trailing 4-1 going into the third period, the Quakers climbed back into it with goals from Garrett Katchis and Sam Whitehouse. However, they couldn't solve Sabers goaltender Tim Henning again, and Somers eventually tacked on an empty-net goal.

The Quakers applied the early pressure and held possession for most of the first period. But with 35 seconds remaining in the period, Somers captain Luigi Olinto was awarded a penalty shot and made the Quakers pay, giving the Sabers a 1-0 lead going into the second period.

The second frame was not too kind to Greeley, as Somers scored twice in the second period to take their lead to 3-1 on a tally by Greg Kramer. The Quakers did have a three-minute power play opportunity, but couldn't cash in. Greeley captain Sam Mishkind eventually put the Quakers on the board late in the second, but Somers struck back just 31 seconds later to regain its three-goal advantage.

That first goal early got in my head a little bit,“ said Solnick, admitting that the Quakers had no intention of embarrassing their opponent. “We never want to show anybody up,” he said. “We don't want to run up the score. However, I'm not going to tell my players to stop playing. What should we do, play keep-away?”

Mount Pleasant vs. Byram Hills

The Mount Pleasant IceCats (6-2) made the trek north to Brewster Ice Arena Saturday and took down the Byram Hills Bobcats (1-6) by a score of 3-2. The IceCats were coming off of a 5-1 victory against John Jay-Cross River 24 hours earlier, while the Bobcats were playing their first game following the winter break.

Matthew Behar got the scoring started early in the first period for Byram Hills, but Mount Pleasant struck back quickly with a goal from Oscar Marchi, his third in two games. IceCats head coach Josh Isenberg said Marchi has been a key player lately.

“Hey’s been great,” Isenberg said. “Not only has he been a great leader on the ice, but he’s been a great guy off the ice. He’s a big kid, and hard to knock off the puck.”

Byram Hills re-took the lead with less than a minute to go in the first period on a goal from Joe Rocco, only to have the IceCats knot it up again with six seconds left in the frame with a tally by Greg Kramer. The second period was scoreless, but Kramer beat Byram Hills goaltender Grace Lunder early in the third period, and that was all they needed. Despite the victory, though, Isenberg was not happy with his team's performance.

“I was a little disappointed,” he said. “Our kids were looking past this game. We had a little more talent than them, but we had to fight for everything we got.”

Byram Hills head coach Andrew Clougherty noted that his team had been undefeated when scoring the first goal until last
Night Owl Bonus

Monday - Thursday
12AM - 6AM

Earn 10 Empire Points playing any slot machine to receive $10 Free Play.

Empire City Casino