Battle of the Bravest Scores for Ronald McDonald House

Taylor McCarthy (front left) came onto the ice to drop the Ceremonial Puck for the start of the 20th Annual “Battle of the Bravest.” Taylor was accompanied for the Ceremonial Puck Drop by her brother Dylan (front right) and [l-r] City of White Plains Mayor Tom Roach, Westchester Firefighter James Schroeder, mother Kristi McCarthy, Ronald McDonald, White Plains Firefighter Clark Douglas and father Duncan McCarthy. See Page 15 for the full story.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parishioners Don’t Want to Merge

By Pat Casey

Faced with the prospect of the imminent merging of their historic Roman Catholic parish with two others located within a few mile radius, members of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church have taken to grassroots efforts to try to save their historic worshipping community.

Hesitant to come on the record with their concerns that the New York Archdiocese is playing favorites in their decision-making process, some parishioners have told The White Plains Examiner that they want a more transparent process and they know to want exactly what criteria have been used in making the decisions to keep one community open while closing the doors on another community’s sanctuary.

What parishioners at Our Lady of Mount Carmel find particularly hard to believe is that their church may be shuttered even though the congregation is in the midst of a building renovation campaign that raised over $500,000 to fix its historic bell tower. Scaffolding now covers the outside of the edifice.

As part of the Archdiocesan program “Making All Things New,” Cardinal Dolan has sent a proposal to member parishes of

AWAH Unveils Spirit of Women Archives

By Pat Casey

American Women of African Heritage, Inc. (AWAH) in collaboration with Westchester Community College and Westchester Community College Foundation unveiled the AWAH Spirit of Women Archives at a special ceremony at the WCC Harold L. Drimmer Library, March 26.

The first inductees to be recognized by the archive – which became live on Thursday – include Honorable Lois Taplin Bronz, Dr. Mary Lane Cobb, Dr. Olivia Hooker, and Mary R. Williams.

The creation of AWAH Spirit of Women Archives was an outgrowth of the AWAH mission to celebrate and preserve the legacy and accomplishments of outstanding women of African heritage in Westchester County.

In June 2008, several representatives from AWAH including then president and founder, Toni Cox-Burns, Delores Scott Brathwaite and Sandra Ross met with Westchester Community College President Dr. Joseph Hankin to discuss establishment of an archive that would be housed at the college.

Formal negotiations between the parties were completed in 2013 and

NOW Reboots Westchester Chapter

The press release announcing the first meeting of the relaunched Westchester Chapter of NOW (National Organization for Women) held a powerful message:

“The last 12 months saw iconic moments in feminism – Malala Yousafzai accepted her Nobel Peace Prize and became a symbol of hope for equality and opportunity for women of all ages; Emma Watson spoke at the UN and sparked an international #hashtag movement; Emma Sulkowicz raised awareness about college campus sexual assault by carrying around a mattress everywhere she went; even Time Magazine brought attention to feminism when it included – and later backtracked – the word on a list of terms to be banned. And who can forget how loudly people cheered as Patricia Arquette sounded the call for equal pay at the Academy Awards?”

continued on page 6
the process of interviewing prospective inductees began. According to Francine Shorts, current AWAH president, there are a total of 13 living women and four deceased who have been selected as inductees for the archives, including the four women whose profiles went live last week and others such as Ruby Dee, Judge Delores Scott Brathwaite and Vanessa Williams. “They come from diverse experiences,” she explained.

The four women celebrated during the unveiling completed production of their profiles with two featuring informative videos.

At this time Shorts explained that AWAH is moving forward to establish a process for future nominations. “We welcome suggestions,” Shorts said. “All of the women we have selected so far share the common thread of being highly visible and instrumental in making positive change in their communities. They have all given back in very significant ways.”

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parishioners Don't Want to Merge

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parishioners Don't Want to Merge

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a Cluster group of 46, which outlines the following possible changes.

The parishes of St. John the Evangelist (148 Hamilton Ave.), St. Bernard (51 Prospect St.), and Our Lady of Mount Carmel (92 S. Lexington) will merge. The Church of St. John the Evangelist will be designated as the parish church. Masses and sacraments will continue to be celebrated at St. Bernard Church. At the present time, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, although remaining a church, which may be used on special occasions, Masses and sacraments will not be celebrated.

Responses were requested back by March 1. A final decision is expected by mid-April.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel congregation’s initial response has been to pray to keep their doors open, establish a grassroots marketing campaign and a petition to try to gain public attention and demand a presence in the decision-making process.

One parishioner said that with all financial control possibly going to St. John’s, many members of Mount Carmel parish might seek out other places to go. “This is the community we have chosen,” he said.

The New York Archdiocese has plans to merge 31 parishes. There is much speculation about the Archdiocese’s plan to raise funds with sales of the closed properties.

Parishioners at Mount Carmel have expressed concerns that because of their location, the property has been identified as “valuable” but they feel violated by administrators who have not allowed them to have any say about the future of

AWAH Spirit of Women Archives Inductees (l to r) Dr. Olivia Hooker (Greenburgh), Dr. Mary Lane Cobb (Tarrytown), Mary R. Williams (Elmsford), and Honorable Lois Taplin Bronz (Greenburgh).

AWAH Unveils Spirit of Women Archives

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Mary Ann Balco Berry Photos

AWAH Spirit of Women Archives Inductees (l to r) Dr. Olivia Hooker (Greenburgh), Dr. Mary Lane Cobb (Tarrytown), Mary R. Williams (Elmsford), and Honorable Lois Taplin Bronz (Greenburgh).

The archives can be accessed online at: http://libraryspecialcollections.sunywcc.edu/.

“The reason we are doing this reflects back to the AWAH vision,” Shorts said. “Ultimately we want to acquire and establish the AWAH Mansion, a place where we can provide the best employment and education services and community resources for our focus group, women and girls of African ancestry,” – although Shorts acknowledged that services would be open and available to the Westchester community at large.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in White Plains has a campanile, 200-feet high with a gold-leaf dome designed after the tower of the Church of San Lorenzo, the Cathedral of Lugano, Switzerland.

Over $500,000 was raised to renovate the tower at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. It is now covered in scaffolding, as the renovation is ongoing.

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under the auspices of the Sisters of the Divine Compassion, (based at 52 North Broadway, White Plains), and later in the clubrooms of the Society of the Stella D’Italia and in Saint John’s Hall.

In 1902, the trustees of this pioneering group, bought a house and grounds at number 5 Smith Street, near the Harlem railroad station, the first property the church was to own. They built a small wooden chapel next to it and for 13 years services were conducted there. Father Joseph Marinaro (1902-1915) was the first Pastor.

In 1916, the Westchester Highway Commission announced that all buildings in the area were to be razed to make way for the Bronx River Parkway. The parish was able to secure a building at 27 Brookfield Street, then the heart of the business section, covered over today by the new County Court House complex. Mass was celebrated in the basement of a four story building but, soon it became imperative to find larger quarters.

In 1922, the spiritual care of the Italian colony was given over to the Stigmatine Fathers Congregation. The first Stigmatine Pastor in White Plains was Father Leo Sella, C.S.S. (1922-1932). Early in his tenure he obtained approval from Patrick Cardinal Hayes for the Italians to build their own church. He was able to obtain the Elks Club on South Lexington Avenue, which at one time had been the City Hospital. This three-story building was used for the rectory. Behind this was another building with two big halls. These were later the rectory and the classroom building. The property was purchased on May 1, 1924 and the Brookfield Street building was sold. On July 1, 1924, the first Mass was celebrated.

In 1927 designs for a new Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church were drawn up with the approval of Cardinal Hayes. The foundation of the church was laid and a campaign initiated, partly in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the parish.

The facade of the Church is a reproduction of the Church of Santa Maria Della Pietà in Venice, Italy and the interior modeled after Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome, Italy. The campanile, 200-feet high with a gold-leaf dome is designed after the tower of the Church of San Lorenzo, the Cathedral of Lugano, Switzerland.
White Plains Youth and Government Teen Leaders Win Awards in Albany

The White Plains YMCA Youth and Government program took top awards at the annual State Conference held for area Youth and Government groups during early March. The team of 12 teenagers, under the leadership of White Plains Associate Executive Director Heather Bell Pellegrino won the award for Top New York State Premier District (White Plains) and Best Debator, Youth and Government member Rizza Estacio.

This particular team was comprised of students from White Plains High School, although the YMCA Youth and Government program is open to all students in the Y’s service area from grades 9-12. Current group president is high school senior Kristin Sutton and vice president is high school junior Rose Reiken.

The Youth and Government team presented four “bills” at a mock state legislature program, where students from other student government programs across New York State gathered in the state Senate building for a real-life experience presenting legislative bills.

Through their participation in a weekly free program run by the White Plains YMCA and sponsored by Strauss Paper, these students learned how to draft a bill in the proper New York State format, and also benefit from service learning projects in their community such as a recent visit to The Vet Center in White Plains.

The White Plains YMCA team was coached by White Plains Mayor Tom Roach and Congresswoman Nita Lowey’s local representative Patricia Keegan. All of their bills were reviewed by White Plains YMCA Advisory Board Chair Gregg Baker, Esq.

A bill the team presented on mandatory domestic violence education programs in schools passed by a large majority.

Youth and Government White Plains Y program members Kristin Sutton, Rose Reiken and Rizza Estacio were selected for the YMCA’s Youth Conference on National Affairs from hundreds of other student delegates, an honor bestowed on a choice few.
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2015 Equal Access to Justice Dinner Raises Funds for LSHV

Last week in White Plains, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley held its annual fund-raising dinner. Pictured here is Courtney Rockett, Partner at Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP and a member of Legal Services of the Hudson Valley’s Board of Directors who chair the event’s Fund-a-Need program, with Lawrence Otis Graham (on the right), Special Counsel at Cuddy & Feder LLP; News 12 Contributor, and 2015 Master of Ceremonies. Receiving awards were the Westchester Community Foundation and its Executive Director, Catherine Marsh, honored as an Advocate for Justice. The Hon. Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr., of Delbello Donnellan Weingarten Wise & Wiederkehr, LLP, and Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP were honored with Access to Justice Awards.

WPHS Art Honor Society Students Teach Preschoolers

White Plains High School students who are members of the National Art Honor Society visited the Head Start preschool program near the school last week to mentor students there. They developed and taught age-appropriate art lessons for two- and three-year old children. The Art Honor Society inspires and recognizes students who have shown an outstanding ability and interest in art. It strives to aid members in attaining the highest standards in art scholarship, character and service and to bring art education to the attention of the school and community. There are approximately 50 members. Other community service projects of the group this year were the creation of two murals in the High School’s Media Center in memory of Guidance Counselor Guy Mathews, and the development of bookmarks to raise money for literacy around the world. Advisor to the group is Art Teacher Michael Chiariello.
After a more than five-year hiatus, the Westchester Chapter of NOW held its first meeting in Dobbs Ferry last week under the direction of Chapter President Lisa Hofflich.

Hofflich’s intent is to use the platform to get women and men re-involved in what she calls the fourth wave—or more rightly a tsunami—of new feminism.

The goal of the Chapter is to talk through the issues and strategize.

“Each generation winds up reinventing feminism for itself,” says Hofflich. “But while some things got better for some women over time, other related problems and concerns popped up that echo many of the same inequities we heard 40 years ago. We need new voices – male and female, older and younger– to counter these issues and shift the discussion from just a battle for ‘women’s equality’ to instead a fight for genuine ‘gender equality’. Women's empowerment can’t come without involving men in the conversation and implementation of policies and programs that support us as true equals.”

Legislative actions Hofflich has proposed the Chapter support, include the Boss Bill a law proposed by Assemblymember Deborah Glick and Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins that codifies the alignment of State law with existing federal law in Roe v. Wade.

Other important issues include pay equity, pregnancy discrimination in the workplace, social security caregiver credit, paid family leave insurance, domestic violence survivors justice, stopping funding cuts to rape crisis programs and domestic violence service providers, shining a light on campus sexual assault, gender expression and nondiscrimination, gender conversion therapy ban, and protecting the relationship between children and their parents, especially when parents are not biologically related to the child, and human trafficking.

Hofflich sees women of different generations coming together to fight for women’s lives. "The public is ready for change," she said. "Members of the Baby Boom generation are keeping an eye on the status of rights they already fought for. The Millennials are out there blogging about body objectification and the right of women to take back their own sexuality."

“We are mothers, daughters, sisters,” Hofflich adds, noting strongly that NOW is also involved in lesbian rights and transgender issues. “Feminism is evolving,” she says.

By relaunching, the Westchester Chapter has access to an existing database of about 650 members that is in the process of being activated.

One of the first public events may be a protest rally in White Plains to support Equal Pay.

The current leadership of Westchester NOW includes: Lisa Hofflich, President (Mount Vernon); Raquelle Frenchman, Vice President (Rye); Trina Ward Fontaine, Treasurer (Armonk); Susan Hawkins, Secretary (Bronxville); and Elizabeth Nutig, High School Chair, Young Activists Alliance (Irvington). www.westchester-now.org.

Kathleen Bonistall Honored in NYC During Women’s History Month

PEACE OUTside Campus, The Lindsey M. Bonistall Foundation Founder and Vice-chair, Kathleen Cooney Bonistall, was honored at a celebration for Women’s History Month hosted by the Greater New York Chamber of Commerce on Friday, March 27. The event was held at the Hard Rock Cafe in Times Square. Bonistall and her husband, Mark, started the Foundation in 2005 after the violent murder of their daughter, Lindsey Marie Bonistall (a graduate of Good Counsel High School in Westchester). The Foundation, whose mission is to promote peaceful and safe living environments in college communities, seeks to empower students and their families to be proactive in safeguarding themselves against crime. Through outreach programs including Teens ‘N Transition and Identify the Risk, PEACE OUTside Campus has reached over 10,000 students and families with their message of safety. Bonistall was honored alongside Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President; Mwisa Chisunka, Ombuswomen NYS Tax & Finance; Ruthie Davis, President and Founder of Ruthie Davis; Susan Lee, Founder of Camp Broadway and Karen Magee, President of NYSUT. Each of these women serve as role models for the significant impact they have had on their greater New York community.
Bowlmor, White Plains

By Pat Casey

Bowlmor AMF opened its first location in Westchester at the site of the former AMF White Plains Lanes, 47 Tarrytown Road, March 26, with a grand opening party that attracted over 300 guests.

The new 56-lane venue is one of 18 new locations opened recently across the country and is the creation of Tom Shannon, Bowlmor AMF, CEO and founder who says he modeled his growing bowling empire after the original built in Union Square in 1997. The concept treats bowling more as entertainment than as a sport.

Unlike the bowling alleys of 15 to 17 years ago, Shannon said he saw a market desire for a better product. His concept is based on creating a good aesthetic with a service intensive atmosphere and good food.

Studio Lemonade was hired to do the design work.

Bowlmor White Plains has 56 lanes divided between two separate floors. The venue’s lower level evokes a posh nightclub feel with black light lanes, a deluxe bar area and an adjacent DJ booth. Mood lighting sets the tone with chrome Sputnik fixtures and 20-foot-long, neon signs that call out to guests with irreverent aphorisms. The lower level is designed for party rentals, both large and small and features a fireside lounge with Mad Men-style sofas, Cero coffee tables and a 7-foot-wide gas fireplace.

The second of three bars greets patrons on the top floor, serving up a selection of original signature cocktails. With 28 lanes, brighter lights and professional equipment, this third floor will cater especially to leagues and recreational bowlers.

About the new location in White Plains, Shannon, who was host on opening night said: “We are delighted to bring the Bowlmor experience to White Plains and Westchester County. It is an exciting time for this community and we are thrilled to be a part of the growing entertainment landscape of this area.”

B下列 familiar with the original White Plains AMF will be surprised. There is an expanded interactive gaming arcade featuring nearly 50 titles. Traditional favorites include air hockey and NBA Hoops. Advanced games include Star Wars Battle Pod, with a surround-sound dome and 180-degree curved screen – apparently one of a kind in Westchester County.

On the lanes, glow-in-the-dark lighting features banquette seating and lane-side servers who will deliver your order VIP style, right to your lane.

The new facility also boasts an upgraded and expanded full-service kitchen serving innovative cuisine designed by Executive Chef Ed Porter—winner of Food Network’s Guy’s Grocery Games. Signature menu items include the five-pound Behemoth Burger, The Ultimate Grilled Cheese, Dolce Pollo Barbeque Flatbread, and Monster Cookie Melt.

Bowlmor, White Plains is located in the White Plains Shopping Center at 47 Tarrytown Road. Walk-in bowling guests are welcome. Information about organizing a special event can be found by visiting bowmor.com.
When Silence Acts In Opposition to Understanding and Peace

There is a practice in Roman Catholic seminaries called the Magnum Silencium – or great silence, meant to encourage inner peace and preparation before prayer.

It seems that in the institution of the Catholic Church today, in particular in the New York Archdiocese the same Magnum Silencium is being practiced, but in a different way.

The struggle of the parish community at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in White Plains is made quite painful according to some of its parishioners because of the silence of the hierarchy making the decisions about its future.

Making All Things New is the name of the program by which the Archdiocese is addressing the closure of about 31 parishes under its administration. It is true that surveys have been submitted to parishes and that there have been cluster groups formed with both religious and lay members. But, despite the meetings and paperwork, claims are that there has been no transparency about how decisions are being made and some communities feel left out, forgotten and alone.

The thing is, in Westchester we have our communities, formed by our neighborhoods, religious beliefs and interests.

According to dictionary.com a community is a group sharing common characteristics or interests and perceived or perceiving itself as distinct in some respect from the larger society within which it exists.

For those once immigrant churches that grew up in White Plains and around the county, rich historic and cultural traditions exist. These parishes to this day may not feel like part of the larger religious society that is making decisions for them.

The result, though not the intention, will likely be communities dissolved to be recreated elsewhere or absorbed where they feel most comfortable.

These decisions also have impact on the greater community, the public, residents of the city where dissolutions are taking place and other religious organizations. They are losing culture and traditions often taken for granted, expected to remain forever.

There is a public stake here, and an interfaith one as well.

The Archdiocese has not been known to be particularly involved in the Westchester Interfaith community, which has become a growing force. This group is making things new through interaction, shared services and communication.

Maybe it’s time to find a way to break the Great Silence.

Obituaries

**John Bottjer**
John H. Bottjer died peacefully at home on March 28. He was born on April 27, 1926, in Brooklyn to John and Dorothy Bottjer. Growing up in Brooklyn, he attended Erasmus Hall High School and Columbia College, graduating with a degree in economics in 1948. He went on to Haverford College, receiving a master’s degree in economics. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Marilyn, three sons, David (Sarah), Paul and John (Lauri) and beloved granddaughter Kendall. He was a 62-year resident of Eastchester and enjoyed a successful career with his own company in mortgage financing and real estate investments, retiring only recently.

His avocation, growing through his life, was nature photography, for which he won many prizes. The viewing was at the Ballard-Durand Funeral Home Monday, March 30. His funeral service will be at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church on Carhart Avenue at Mamaroneck Avenue in White Plains at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, March 31. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the NY Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York.

**Josephine Tortorici**
Josephine E. Tortorici, a Philmont, NY, resident and former White Plains resident, died March 25 at the age of 86. She was born June 14, 1928 in White Plains to the late Nicholas and Charlotte (Gigliotto) Amendola.

Jo worked for over 30 years as an Account Executive for Service Dynamics Corp. in Nutley, NJ, before retiring. She was a member of the White Plains Woman’s Club, a Past President and Board Member of the Purchase Community House and an Honorary Member of the Purchase Fire Department. She was also a member of (RSPV) Retired Seniors Volunteer Program in Hudson, NY, and Past President and Board Member of the Columbia Memorial Hospital Women’s Auxiliary. She was an avid reader and loved to bake and cook.

She is survived by her children, Donna, Diane, Steven and Jody and her grandchildren, Gregg, Sydney, Nicholas, Julia and Kelly. She is predeceased by her husband Dominick.

**June Colantuono**
June Mary Colantuono, a White Plains resident, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on March 23 at the age of 82. She was born March 16, 1933 in White Plains to the late Clara and Dominick (Mimi) Borelli.

On June 14, 1959 she married John Colantuono at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in White Plains. June worked as a Teacher’s Assistant and Clerk Typist for the White Plains School District for over 20 years before her retirement. June was a volunteer at Westchester Medical Center. She was active with The Sons of Italy and the Woman’s Club of White Plains. She loved knitting, cooking and spending time with her grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband John and her children, John (Theresa) Colantuono of Valhalla, Karen Fischer of Thornwood and Sharon (Joseph) Marino of North Salem. Also surviving are her grandchildren, John and Alyssa Colantuono, Daniel, Nicole and Michael Fischer and Christopher, Olivia and Gabrielle Marino. She is predeceased by her sisters, Emanuella (Ella) DeSalvo, Sarah (Sadie) Actisdano and Diane Tremarzo.

**Salvatore Ronda**
Salvatore Ronda of White Plains passed away peacefully on March 23 surrounded by his loving family. He was 88 years old.

Sam, as he was known, was a retired White Plains Police Sergeant. Sam was proud to serve as the Secretary of the White Plains Police Departments PBA.

He served in the army during WWII. Sam is survived by his loving wife Marie, nee Fusco, his son Sam, his wife Connie and their children, Samuel, Thomas and Emily, as well as his daughter, Christine Amendola, her husband Anthony and their daughter Elisa, and many loving nieces and nephews. Sam was very active in his community and was a member of the Roma AC and the American Italian Club.

**Blondzetta Austin**
Blondzetta C. Austin, a Concord, NC, resident, died March 20 at the age of 75.

She was born July 29, 1939 in Glen White, W. Virginia to the late James and Ruby Price.

She is survived by her children, Darrell Austin and his wife Belinda of White Plains, Larry Stith and his wife Beverly of White Plains, Aaron Austin and his wife Shanda of White Plains and Sherri Austin of Los Angeles. She is also survived by a brother James Price, sisters Barbara Harris, Jean (Samuel) Taylor and Gladys Hopkins and 10 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. She is predeceased by her husband Harry and two children, Mark Austin and Celeste Austin.

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.
Westchester County District Attorney’s Office

Manslaughter Plea. Eric Hines (DOB 05/02/81) of 34 Kensico Avenue, White Plains, pled guilty to first degree Manslaughter in the death of a victim he beat up a year ago. On February 4, 2014, at approximately 12:52 a.m. in the vicinity of School and Harmon Streets, the defendant, hit the victim on the head with a glass vodka bottle causing the victim to fall to the ground. The suspect then repeatedly punched and kicked the victim in the head.

Two witnesses called 911, police responded quickly and the defendant was seen walking away from the location of the incident.

The victim was transported to Westchester Medical Center and admitted for traumatic brain injury. He remained in a medically induced coma, on a ventilator, throughout his nearly six week stay, during which time he underwent several procedures.

The victim was then transported to a long-term care facility in the Bronx and on March 19, 2014, he was noted to be in respiratory distress and was transported to Montefiore Medical Center where he was pronounced dead.

The cause of death was certified as complications of blunt impacts of the head.

Sentencing will be on April 28th, 2015. Hines faces a maximum sentence of 25 years in state prison.

Assistant District Attorney Shameika Mathurin of the Career Criminal Bureau prosecuted the case.

Greenburgh Police Department

Illegal Dumping. On the morning of March 16 police responded to a call from Mount. Calvary Cemetery. On arrival the grounds keeper led police to the northwest corner of the property, where they observed a large pile of broken concrete, and what appeared to be a old wooden fence in pieces. Tire tracks were observed which appeared to have been left by a dump truck. There is no video surveillance on the property. Nothing further at this time.

Larceny. On the afternoon of March 16, members of the Greenburgh Street Crimes Unit arrested Carlos Jessamy for alleged Grand Larceny and shoplifting at the Marshalls store on Central Avenue. The suspect was identified on video footage that Marshalls had placed into evidence. The larceny took place on March 2 when the store manager reports he observed a black male, who is a known shoplifter, wearing a blue hooded jacket, dark colored pants and NY Yankee baseball cap enter the store. The suspect was then observed entering the Men’s Department, where he walked over to the suit section and picked up 12 suits from the rack. He continued to browse over different clothing in different sections of the department after placing the 12 suits into a large pile on the floor. The suspect then picked up the suits and proceeded to exit the store, passing all points of purchase. The store manager did not notify police at the time of the incident due to conflicting protocols with loss prevention. However, Marshalls’ corporate said they wanted to pursue the matter and press charges if this individual is apprehended.

Premise Check. On March 12 officers responded to a report of a missing juvenile. While conducting an investigation into the missing child, officers ascertained that 172 Warren Avenue is an abandoned house that kids have been entering in and out of. The Building Department was notified and officers are further looking into the matter.

Identity Theft. On March 16 Police took a walk-in report at headquarters regarding an identity theft involving fraudulent credit card charges. The victim reported that earlier the same day he had received notifications by email and phone from Discover Card notifying him of fraudulent charges on his card. The victim further said the charges were made in Queens, Brooklyn, and Long Island, totaling $311.39. The victim did not know who could have made the charges because he was still in possession of his Discover Card. The victim cancelled the card and alerted the credit unions immediately after learning of the fraudulent charges. He was advised to deliver the police report to Discover Card to show that the charges were reported as fraudulent and to contact Police headquarters if any further assistance was needed.

Harassment. On March 16 Police were called to 156 Central Ave., in Hartsdale where the victim reported an assault. The victim said she was in an altercation over missing tip money with a co-worker. Officers were able to watch surveillance video of the incident in which the victim was observed cursing at the offender. The offender then threw a class of water in the face of the victim and the victim subsequently threw a bucket of water in the face of the offender and then threw the bucket at her. The offender then tackled the victim to the ground at which point other employees stepped in and pulled the offender off of the victim. The offender was fired on the spot and left prior to police arrival. The victim refused medical attention and decided not to pursue any further investigation or charges. Attempts to contact the offender at the time of the report were unsuccessful.

Identity Theft. On March 18 a victim of identity theft entered Police Headquarters to report that she had received a letter from her vehicle insurance company stating that her insurance payment was going to increase due to six past vehicle accidents she was involved in. It was later discovered that an unknown party had used the victim’s name and Social Security number for an insurance policy with an address different from the victim’s. The victim had also just discovered that her paycheck from work was being garnished 10 percent from a bank for reasons unknown to her and she believes it is connected to the same offending party. The victim also said she had applied for a line-of-credit loan with H&R Block in December and was denied the loan due to delinquent activity on loans in the past six months, which she does not have. The victim is following up with the credit bureaus, social security, credit card companies, and her bank.

Driving While Intoxicated. During the early morning hours of March 18, while on routine patrol, officers observed a motor vehicle accident in front of 330 Tarrytown Rd. The vehicle was facing westbound with heavy damage on the front right side from the vehicle driving over the curb and into a Con Ed pole causing downed wires. The driver told the officers that after drinking rum and Coke for several hours at Cooper’s Mill, a bar inside the Westchester Marriott, he had decided to drive around when he lost control of his vehicle. Sobriety tests were issued and the driver said he was too drunk to take them. He was placed under arrest and transported to Police Headquarters for processing. The vehicle was towed to S&J’s Towing.

Altered Check. On March 18, officers responded on a report of a fraudulently cashed check. The victim said an unknown person cashed an altered check on 03/10/2015 that was originally made out to Hartsdale Fire Department for the amount of $25 but was altered, and changed to $3,941.39, and cashed at an unknown location. The victim also reported another incident where she wrote a check to AARP Membership for the amount of $59 that was altered to read $700, and attempted to be cashed at a Citibank in the Bronx by an unknown person. In that incident the teller denied the transaction for reasons unknown. The original checks never made it to their intended destinations. No further information could be obtained at this time.

Fraud. On March 18 Police were informed of an alleged IRS phone scam. The victim reported that she had received a call on her home phone from an unknown male calling from Virginia telephone number 703-828-0411. The victim said the unknown male did not give his name, but asked to speak to the victim’s husband stating he was with the IRS and needed to speak to him about an urgent matter. The victim asked why the unknown male was calling her house, explaining that her number was unlisted. They started yelling at each other and then hung up the phone. At Police Headquarters officers followed up by calling the Virginia number. On the first call, an unknown male answered stating he was with the IRS. He gave his name and badge number. The Police Officer identified himself and asked if anyone had called a Greenburgh resident. The unknown male hung up the phone immediately. When the officer called the same phone number a second time the unknown male answered and immediately started cursing, using obscene and vulgar language and then proceeded to hang up the phone. The number was again called with no answer. No further information at this time.

Criminal Mischief. On March 18, police responded to a call from a White Plains resident that her front door had been broken. The responding officer observed the middle glass portion of the front door detached from the door and located on the floor inside the home. The victim said she had left the home for about seven hours. When she returned the front door was still locked and no items were missing. She also reported that during the day she had received approx. 10 phone calls to her home answering machine from her son stating that he was desperate for money and that he was coming over.

An interior premise check revealed negative results for an intruder. Further investigation revealed that no entry was made into the home and that just the window was damaged. The officer observed a clay flowerpot that was used to damage the window located outside the front door. The victim was unable to contact her son regarding the window and at this time does not want to pursue charges. Report filed for documentation purposes only.
Why Do You Want Your Child to Play Tennis?

The results of a recent survey, answered by parents of junior tennis players might give us some idea. Parents want their kids to play tennis for the physical activity to help keep them fit and develop a healthy lifestyle. They want to see them challenged and build self-confidence. The social aspect of learning and playing with friends and making new ones is also appealing. Finally it’s the one sport that families can learn and play all together.

We then asked the kids: “Why do you play tennis or other sports?” Number one was to have fun, to improve their skills, to stay in shape and get exercise, for the excitement of competition and to be part of a team.

To provide your child with a summer of fun fitness and social activity, Solaris offers a summer junior tennis camp program. There are weekly tennis camps and they take place on indoor air-conditioned tennis courts and start the week of Monday, June 29.

For more information about days, dates, times, pricing etc. call Geoff Jagdfeld at the Yorktown club at 914-962-4094 or call Nic Sabatini at the Hawthorne club at 914-592-3737 or visit www.solarisclubs.com.

Enroll for Summer Camp Fun in White Plains

The White Plains Recreation and Parks Department Summer 2015 Camp Season will run June 29 to August 7. Campers can expect a day of exciting activities, including art, sports, dance, swimming, trips, special events and more.

Registration and deposit for each camper must be received by April 15. A payment plan is available with an initial deposit. Camp Registration is a la carte, so if you have vacation plans that make it difficult to commit to a two-week session, you will have the flexibility to register for one week at a time for Camp Panawok and Camp Quarropas. White Plains camps will also accept new ages and new grades this year.

Panawok campers age four (must turn four year’s old by June 29), will join other campers up to those entering 2nd grade. Quarropas campers will be entering grades 3 to 5, and Teen campers will be entering grades 6 to 9.

New Camp Hours: Half day and full day flexible hours give parents more time and your child more fun.

Camp Panawok will now offer a half-day camp option. Early Bird and extended programs will still be offered as an option. Full day programs will be a 7-hour day.

To view the hourly schedules visit cityofwhiteplais.com or call Sia Tofano at 914-422-1424.
When Man Made Rules Over Mother Nature Underfoot

When it was time to replace the surface of our kitchen floor and we had to decide which material to choose, we found that it was as though there had been an explosion of options since the last time we had visited a flooring store more than 15 years ago.

The new varieties of materials, both natural and especially man-made, were dizzying.

But from the outset we knew that we wouldn’t be able to use a hard material like stone or ceramic because our kitchen was in an historic home and, with too much “give,” needed the forgiveness of a soft man-made material. The floor had been further challenged twice from leaks, one from the refrigerator and the other from a burst pipe that had somehow frozen under the sink because some animal--of what species I’m not sure--had eaten away the insulation from the pipes in the crawl space.

We visited Absolute Flooring in Yorktown Heights where store manager Diane Darby helped us narrow our choices over a period of some weeks, showing infinite patience as we veered wildly from one possibility to another. She understood endless choices in its expansive showroom.

“Yess, you’d be looking at either a vinyl or a linoleum,” she told us.

“Linoleum?” I asked naïvely and in surprise, as though I had heard a naughty word from the past. “Isn’t that the stuff that has all the asbestos that we always have to worry about when we see old flooring tiles that have to be removed from homes?”

“So, what’s the difference between linoleum and vinyl, I inquired, knowing that I was totally uninformed.

“While linoleum is all natural and what you see is the product itself, vinyl is a plastic that utilizes a photo process to achieve the look of the material you want,” Darby said. “There’s a base layer, and above that, an image layer or what we call a ‘view’, and above that is the ‘wear’ layer or clear plastic that covers and protects the image. It’s amazing how realistic the photo images can be of either wood, tile or marble. The difference, however, is that with vinyl or linoleum, the material is softer and warmer than the natural material.

“Also, there is a far greater variety in terms of quality and price,” Darby continued. “The more ‘wear’ layers you have, the more longevity and the better quality you’ll have and, along with that, the higher the price.”

After much consideration, my wife and I decided we wanted a white and black checkerboard effect and that dictated that we go with vinyl rather than linoleum because we could get a whiter white in that product.

There are other reasons and situations for choosing “fake” over “real” in flooring. For instance, if you want the look of wood flooring in your kitchen or bath, Darby told us that “water and wood don’t mix, and a ‘view’ vinyl is definitely more durable for such locations.”

Finger Pointing At California Wines: You Get What You Pay For

At which end of the wine budget spectrum do you find yourself in discussions with friends or family?

“Why do you spend so much on a bottle of wine? My $8 bottle of wine is just as good as your $25 bottle – and it’s much more consistent every year than your higher-priced wine that seems to fluctuate in taste and quality each year.”

“How can anyone expect a quality wine to cost as little as $5 or $8 – or do the Twee Bucks at Trader Joe’s? Don’t you know how expensive it is to produce a quality wine?”

The debate seems endless. I often find myself dispensing advice to both sides.

This subjective issue came to the forefront of national news last week. At first glance it seemed to cross over the lines of price and quality. Rather than a debate on the merits of being frugal or a spendthrift, it touched on a topic rarely heard in wine circles.

News headlines blared “Claims of arsenic in wine cause health worries.”

A class action lawsuit claims that high levels of inorganic arsenic were found in 38 of 1,300 bottles tested by an independent laboratory. Controversy over the claim immediately arose, from blind acceptance to out-of-hand rejection. Wine consumers lined up on both sides of the lawsuit to offer their opinions.

The very nature of the argument is loaded with questions. Is the lawsuit well vetted and grounded in scientific research and medical consequences? Or is the motivation of the plaintiffs spurred by greedy attorneys.

Is there a financial gain via sensationalism and public pressure – and the deep pockets of the defendants?

I’ve decided to weigh-in with my personal thoughts.

Point: Arsenic can be a dangerous chemical. At sufficient levels of ingestion it can bring on numerous illnesses, even death.

Counterpoint: Arsenic is widely found in nature in trace amounts. It has been found in the soil and atmosphere in various plant and animal species. Absorbed through the roots and leaves of grapesvines. Residual amounts exist in a number of products beyond wine, including water and apples.

Point: The levels reported by the independent laboratory were at sufficiently high levels to conclude a health hazard exists. The plaintiffs called for an undisclosed monetary award and warning labels on bottle labels.

Counterpoint: The independent laboratory offered its testing services to any winery seeking analysis of its wines, even though its report did not conclude the arsenic levels were dangerous. The plaintiffs/attorneys took a major leap from the test results to a self-proclaimed conclusion that “there are no government regulations that ban or set a standard for arsenic levels in wine.”

However, there are standards set in other countries, all at substantially higher levels than those found in the American testing.

Ironically, federal law permits the use in winemaking of a number of chemicals, including pesticides, herbicides, equipment cleaning chemicals and sulphite preservatives.

Point: Wine should be a natural, unadulterated product, free of any additives. Counterpoint: Such wines exist, but are typically artisanal wines that command higher prices. This brings me to the core of my position.

It’s not solely arsenic in wine that should cause concern to consumers. The winemaking practices of the many wine companies are cause for alarm. In order to sell a bottle of wine for $8, bottlers are typically employed to cut costs. At these mega wine factories, massive quantities of grapes are harvested by industrial-size machines that suck in rotten grapes, leaves, twigs and unlucky insects. These can cause chemical reactions in wines that may cause a number of adverse reactions, such as headaches and digestive problems, not to mention the stress placed on kidneys and the heart. As one wine critic put it, these wines, including sugar, acetaldehyde, Dimethyl dicarbonate and ethyl acetate.

Until ingredient labels are required, consumers are at the mercy of winemakers for the quality and safety of their wines. In the end, you get what you pay for.

Nick Antonaccio is a 35-year Pleasantville resident. For over 15 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick’s credits: co-creator of the results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him atantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.
West Side Story Opens at Westchester Broadway Theatre

By Jerry Eimbinder

When West Side Story opens at the Westchester Broadway Theatre on April 9, Chef Alexandra “Alex” Sampaio’s kitchen will prepare two show specials, a traditional Puerto Rican dish called “pernil” for adults and chicken parmesan with French fries for kids (adults can order it too). For each attraction at the theater, Sampaio chooses a “show special” related to the theme or plot of the show.

West Side Story will run at the Elmsford theater until July 5, to be followed by Godspell beginning on July 9, and Backwards in High Heels (a musical based on the true-life story of Ginger Rogers) starting on August 26.

West Side Story was a collaboration effort by show business greats Leonard Bernstein (music), Stephen Sondheim (lyrics), Jerome Robbins (choreography), and Arthur Laurents (book). Its songs include “Somethin’s Coming,” “Maria,” “America,” “Somewhere, Tonight” and “I Feel Pretty.” It opened on Broadway in 1957 and a 1961 film version won ten Academy Awards.

At all shows at the Westchester Broadway Theatre (matinees and evening performances) meals are included in the price. A three-course dinner has (1) a lettuce, tomato, shaved carrot, and cucumber salad with a creamy house dressing, (2) a main course, and (3) a dessert. Bakery rolls, corn muffins, and coffee or tea are also provided. Appetizers can be added at extra cost such as the newly introduced beef empanada and shrimp cocktail.

Seven entrées are offered for each show. For West Side Story, the show special “pernil” (roasted pork shoulder) is served with Spanish rice and peas. Entrées also include fish (two choices), chicken (an adult’s chicken dish), a vegetarian selection, and a boneless prime rib.

Peach melba with vanilla ice cream is served for dessert. At extra cost, apple crisp with vanilla ice cream, chocolate lava cake, turtle cheesecake, lemon sorbet, or a brownie sundae can be substituted. Luxury boxes, accommodating six to 20 people, have a special menu. The luxury-box entrées include broiled lamb chop loin with mint sauce, roasted potato and vegetables; seared scallops topped with a creamy dill sauce, rice pilaf and vegetable; lamb shank; veal osso buco; and salmon Wellington. Luxury-box appetizers include hot and cold hors d’oeuvres such as chicken kabob and coconut shrimp, fresh fruit, and cheese.

Chef Sampaio has always been fond of fishing. Before entering her teens, she would go fishing for bluefish. When she was 16, she worked as a busgirl at the Westchester Broadway Theatre where her uncle Tony Dinis was the Executive Chef. She also determined that food was the highlight of her life, they became her mentors and influenced me tremendously.

She enrolled at the New York Restaurant School in Tribeca (now The Art Institute of New York City) in 2003 and after graduation joined the Greens at Greenwich, an upscale assisted-living facility in Greenwich, CT, as sous chef. Two-and-a-half years later, she opened B4, a 40-seat bistro in Valhalla where she ran the kitchen and her partner handled the front of the house.

After serving as Head District Chef for The Bedford School District, she joined the Westchester Broadway Theatre as Executive Chef on March 1, 2012. Her duties include hiring, training and managing the kitchen crew and food service staff (about 50 employees for sold-out performances); she also determines the dishes that appear on the menu.

Ticket prices range from $54 to $84 per person depending on the performance attended. Beverage service and tax are additional. The theater can accommodate 500 people including up to 80 in the luxury boxes.

Starbucks is Coming to Tarrytown in April

By Jerry Eimbinder

A full-service Starbucks is under construction for opening in late April at the Sheraton Tarrytown adjacent to the New American Cuisine restaurant “Toasted Barrel.” Special offers are planned for the opening.

The new Starbucks will begin service very early in the morning and stay open until 11 p.m.

Breakfast dishes will include hot items such as made-to-order eggs, and muffins, scones and other baked goods; at lunchtime, quick-service (already prepared) sandwiches will be available along with salads, fruit and pastries. Accessibility to Starbucks is from both the hotel lobby and the restaurant’s bar/lounge area; special spaces will be reserved in the parking lot for customers picking up orders.

A new area with tables and chairs at the front of the hotel is planned for use by the Starbucks customers, weather permitting. During the daytime, Starbucks patrons can also drink espresso and eat lunch or pastries at tables with umbrellas on the brick patio behind the restaurant.

As of December, 2014, there were 21,878 Starbucks stores in 66 countries. The company is named after the first mate in Herman Melville’s novel Moby Dick. Its logo depicts a twin-tailed siren from Greek mythology. Starbucks will be located in the lobby of the Sheraton Tarrytown Hotel at 600 White Plains Road (Route 119) in Tarrytown. Call 914-332-7900 for more information.
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, March 31
Tuesdays at Dorry’s. Sheila Dauer, Adjunct Professor, New School for Public Engagement, and advocate for women’s human rights EPES, Popular Education for Health (Educación Popular en Salud), will discuss EPES’ popular education model, describe some of the stories of women who became health promoters, and talk about EPES’ exciting International School for training health promoters from Latin America and, most recently, East Africa. 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.

Wednesday, April 1
Noontime Getaway Concert. Violinist Brian Krinke and pianist Anna Vinnitsky will perform a Fantasy based on themes from the Magic Flute of W.A. Mozart and Fantasy on Themes from Der Rosenkavalier; 12:10 p.m. Free Admission. Grace Episcopal Church at the intersection of Main and Church streets in White Plains.

Mother Nature’s Story Time. Enjoy spring days at the center with nature-themed stories, nature walks, live animals and crafts during this six-week session that meets on consecutive Wednesdays. Dress for outdoor activity. Except in extreme weather conditions, a portion of each class is spent outdoors. For children two to four years old; with parent or caregiver. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 10 to 11 a.m. Members: $50 per child. Non-members: $90 per child. Pre-registration and pre-payment required. Info and pre-registration: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

History of Occupational Therapy. Burke Rehabilitation Center’s Legacy Lecture series at Wood Pavilion Lobby (Building #7), 785 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains; 4:30 p.m. Burke was a pioneer in implementing occupational therapies from the onset, and continues to offer cutting-edge treatments today. The lecture will be given by Claudine Bogosian, MHA, OTR/L, assistant director of neurorehabilitation programs at Burke Rehabilitation Hospital. A question and answer session will follow the 30-minute talk. Light refreshments will be served; visit www.burke.org/100years.

County Golf Season Begins. Mohanic in Yorktown Heights, Maple Moor in White Plains, Saxon Woods in Scarsdale, Hudson Hills in Ossining, and Dunwoodie and Sprain Lake, both in Yonkers, open for golf today. Westchester County Park Pass holders can make reservations seven days in advance starting at 9 a.m. Green fees without a park pass are six days in advance prior to play. Greens fees for 18 holes with the park pass will increase by $1. The new fees are as follows: weekends and holidays, $36; weekdays, $32; seniors and juniors (weekdays only) $25. Greens fees without the park pass are: weekends and holidays, $46; weekdays, $42. Twilight, super twilight and nine-hole discounts are available. Golf cart fees are separate. Fee structure for Hudson Hills is available online at hudsonhillsgolf.com. Any remaining available E-Z Reserve spots will be sold at the courses. E-Z Reserve enables golfers with the park pass to block out a regular Saturday or Sunday tee time for a period of 25 weeks. Reserve a tee time by calling 914-995-GOLF (4653) or online at golf. westchestergov.com. Golfers are advised to check course status on the day of play.

Civil War Program. Lincoln’s Last Speech: Wartime Reconstructions and The Crisis of Reunion. In this presentation, Prof. Louis Masur will discuss Lincoln’s last speech, delivered April 11, 1865, and the evolution of the President’s thinking about Reconstruction. Key moments, such as the Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction on December 8, 1863, and Lincoln’s pocket veto of the Wade-Davis Bill in July 1864, came to define Lincoln’s position. Questions of social reconstruction, the plight of the freedmen and the debate over their place in society, were as important as the political. Hearing the President endorse limited black suffrage, John Wilkes Booth declared, “That is the last speech he will ever make.” Lincoln’s approach to Reconstruction is critical not only for understanding what took place during the war, but also for what would follow; 7:30 p.m. at the Historic Purdy House, 60 Park Ave., White Plains.

Thursday, April 2
“New York State’s New Invasive Plant Species Regulations: Impacts and How to Adapt.” This half-day workshop offered by Westchester County’s Department of Planning and Soil and Water Conservation District will address the portion of the state’s new regulations intended to help control invasive plants by reducing the introduction or spread of new and existing populations of these species. GEared toward landscape architects and professionals but homeowners and gardeners may also attend. County Center, 198 Central Ave., White Plains. 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. $10 (includes continental breakfast and program materials), plus $7 for parking. Registration and payment required by March 31. Info and registration: Download the event flyer at www.westchestergov.com/solidwater or contact Robert Doscher at 914-995-4423 or rrd1@westchestergov.com.

Shock, Surprise & Delight Event. The new Cambria Hotel & Suites White Plains has planned a display of surprises in an effort to turn an everyday Thursday into an extraordinary event designed to surprise and mesmerize the local White Plains community. It will be highly visual, highly entertaining. A little curious? Show up at the Panera Bread Courtyard, 1 North Broadway, White Plains at 12:30 p.m. and find out what this is all about.

Sex Trafficking Forum. Some members of the Human Rights Commission and Greenburgh Town Clerk Judith Beville are sponsoring a forum at 7 p.m. at Greenburgh Town Hall on sex trafficking. The speaker is Ken Picard, an award-winning journalist with Seven Days, an independent newswswesly based in Burlington, Vermont, where he’s written news, features and investigative stories since October 2002. Greenburgh Town Hall is located at 177 Hillside Ave, White Plains.

Saturday, April 4
Remembering M.L.K. Jr. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated one year after he delivered a speech at Riverside Church against the Giant Triplet: Racism, Materialism and Militarism. Gather to remember this day at Bethel Baptist Church on Fisher Court, White Plains for a short program followed by a silent procession to Dr. King’s statue by the Westchester County Courthouse; 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Teaching Trails: A Community Path for Environmental Education. Join guided trail experience through the woodland forest. Discover who left that track, which tree makes the best animal home or which plant makes its own heat to help melt through the late winter ice. Program runs about 30 minutes. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Saturday and Sunday. (except Apr. 5) Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Meet the Animals. Join the herd as a naturalist presents an informative program that allows you to get up close and hands on with some of the center’s live animals. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 p.m. Members: Free; Non-members: $8 per person. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Sunday, April 5
Easter Sunday Service. The Taconic Christian Church cordially invites the community to celebrate Resurrection Sunday with them at 9:30 a.m. There will be uplifting music, a challenging Easter message, friendly faces, a laid back atmosphere and a relaxed time of refreshments. Taconic Christian Church is meeting at the Church of the Nazarene sanctuary located at: 1243 White Hill Rd., Yonkton. For more information call 914-358-1793 or visit taconichristian.org.

New WSRO Opera Reading. Come Play Opera Overtures With A New Reading Orchestra. New Westchester Symphony Reading Orchestra is a new ensemble meeting once per month on Saturdays in White Plains. This month NewWSRO will read through Rossini’s Barber of Seville Overture, William Tell Overture, and Bellini’s Norma Overture. This opportunity is for anyone who wants to play in an orchestra once in a while. No auditions, open to all ages and abilities. Pre-registration through our website is highly recommended, though walk-ins are welcome; 2:30 to 5 p.m.; $20 Participation Fee; $10 Students/Seniors; St. Bartholomew’s Church, 82 Prospect St, White Plains; 914-623-8075; www.newsymphony.org.

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A Custody case was filed against you by Suleidy Alegria. Hearing Date 4/22/15. The Court finds that all reasonable efforts to find you have failed; your last known address was 19 Main St. Apt. 3, Mount Kisco, NY 10549. The Court orders notice by this publication once a week for two weeks starting on or before 4/3/15. To respond or be informed of this case, you or your attorney must file an Appearance with the Court. Automatic Orders are in effect as required by P.B. §25-5 and are part of the Application on file with the Court. H. Valasis, Clerk. 3/11/15

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Car show and fundraiser April 5th, 2015!
By Albert Coqueran

The 20th Annual Battle of the Bravest Charity Cup Hockey Game was held at Ebersole Ice Rink, on Saturday, March 28. As the “Bravest” have done for the past 20 years, the White Plains Firefighters challenged the Westchester Firefighters, which is a hockey team assembled from fire companies across Westchester County.

The Battle of the Bravest is organized each year by the Professional Firefighters Association (PFFA) Local 274, whose mission is to contribute to the Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley.

All proceeds from the Battle of the Bravest Charity Cup Hockey Game are donated to Ronald McDonald House. Last year’s Charity Cup Hockey Game raised $19,300.

The Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley opened in 2011 and is located on the grounds of the Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital in Valhalla. It is a home-away-from-home for parents and children that helps to maintain family unity while the children are being treated for serious illnesses and injuries at nearby hospitals.

White Plains Firefighter Lieutenant Rich Servello has organized the Battle of the Bravest Charity Hockey Game, for the past 10 years. “This event is something that I and the entire Union Local 274 are very proud to be a part of each year,” said Servello. “We have seen the Battle of the Bravest grow over the years and we have been able to donate more and more money each year to the Ronald McDonald House.”

Servello also leads a team of White Plains firefighters, who volunteer to cook dinner for the families at the Ronald McDonald House each year.

Servello could not estimate during the event just how much money was raised this year. Sources included ticket sales, sales from Battle of the Bravest insignia T-shirts, raffle tickets for prizes, advertisement donations in this year’s program and other contributions. But he did have a charitable goal in mind.

“This is our 20th year and we are trying to break the $20,000 mark in donations,” revealed Servello. “But honestly the best part is when the family drops the puck in the beginning, so if it is $10,000, $20,000, or $30,000, it does not matter, as long as we are helping them,” emotionally Servello explained.

The Ceremonial Puck Drop this year was conducted by the McCarthy Family from Greenwood Lake, New York, whose daughter Taylor was born prematurely and spends time at the Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital for treatment. “It is a home-away-from-home because we live an hour away and Taylor is in and out of the hospital a lot,” said Taylor’s mother Kristi McCarthy.

The McCarthy Family was one of the first families that sought comfort at the Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley, when the doors opened in 2011. “While Taylor is in the hospital my husband can sleep at the Ronald McDonald House and still go to work and I can stay with her at the hospital. The House also gives us meals. It is just amazing,” said Taylor’s mother.

City of White Plains Mayor Tom Roach escorted the McCarthy Family onto the ice for the Ceremonial Puck Drop and stayed for the entire game. “I am very proud of our Fire Department for how professional they are but also for what they do in our community. I am also grateful and appreciative to the guest firefighters from Westchester County, who came out for this important cause and what they do every day,” said Mayor Roach.

Roach was not only on hand to demonstrate his support for the good deeds of the White Plains and Westchester Firefighters; he is a Cancer Survivor and understands the stress that encompasses a family when a family member has a serious illness.

“The greatest stress a family can have is a sick child. The Ronald McDonald House helps to relieve some of that worry and concern. I can remember thinking when I was sick and being treated, if this was happening to one of my children, I do not know if I could take it. Therefore, the parents that deal with it and deal with it so well, I am in awe of,” said Roach.

The Battle of the Bravest Charity Cup Hockey Game was a competitive event. The White Plains Firefighter skated to a 2-0 lead early in the first period. But Yonkers Firefighter Kevin Duffy scored two goals within a minute for Westchester, to tie the game. However, White Plains Firefighter Jake Douglas gave the local heroes the lead by scoring one of his two goals in the game before the first period ended.

The White Plains Firefighters were winning 6-5, with one minute and thirty seconds left in the game. Then Andy Culpepper decided that only the Ronald McDonald House of the Great Hudson Valley was going to be winners on this day. Culpepper skated through White Plains defenders and scored the final goal of the game to tie the score, 6-6.

Nonetheless, the 20th Annual Battle of the Bravest was a spirited event from start to finish and everyone had a great time. Furthermore, the real winners won, the families who desperately need the Ronald McDonald House of the Great Hudson Valley.

Individuals and organizations interested in donating, volunteering, or hosting a fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley can contact Clare Bucci at 914-493-6455 or cbucci@ronaldhouseghv.org. The Executive Director of the Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley is Marielena DiMatteo.

EXAMINER SPORTS

Ronald McDonald House Wins the 20th Annual “Battle of the Bravest”

Westchester County Firefighters and White Plains Firefighters Hockey Teams took a moment to pose for a photograph before they battled to a 6-6 tie and raised money for the Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley, at the 20th Annual “Battle of the Bravest” Charity Cup Hockey Game, at the Ebersole Ice Rink, White Plains on Saturday.

By Albert Coqueran

The 20th Annual Battle of the Bravest Charity Cup Hockey Game was held at Ebersole Ice Rink, on Saturday, March 28. As the “Bravest” have done for the past 20 years, the White Plains Firefighters challenged the Westchester Firefighters, which is a hockey team assembled from fire companies across Westchester County.

The Battle of the Bravest is organized each year by the Professional Firefighters Association (PFFA) Local 274, whose mission is to contribute to the Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley. All proceeds from the Battle of the Bravest Charity Cup Hockey Game are donated to Ronald McDonald House.

The Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley opened in 2011 and is located on the grounds of the Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital in Valhalla. It is a home-away-from-home for parents and children that helps to maintain family unity while the children are being treated for serious illnesses and injuries at nearby hospitals.

White Plains Firefighter Lieutenant Rich Servello has organized the Battle of the Bravest Charity Hockey Game, for the past 10 years. “This event is something that I and the entire Union Local 274 are very proud to be a part of each year,” said Servello. “We have seen the Battle of the Bravest grow over the years and we have been able to donate more and more money each year to the Ronald McDonald House.”

Servello also leads a team of White Plains firefighters, who volunteer to cook dinner for the families at the Ronald McDonald House each year.

Servello could not estimate during the event just how much money was raised this year. Sources included ticket sales, sales from Battle of the Bravest insignia T-shirts, raffle tickets for prizes, advertisement donations in this year’s program and other contributions. But he did have a charitable goal in mind.

“This is our 20th year and we are trying to break the $20,000 mark in donations,” revealed Servello. “But honestly the best part is when the family drops the puck in the beginning, so if it is $10,000, $20,000, or $30,000, it does not matter, as long as we are helping them,” emotionally Servello explained.

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