The Grief Still Palpable 14 Years Later at The Rising 9-11 Ceremony

Ester Dinardo of White Plains laid a memorial wreath with County Executive Rob Astorino during Westchester’s annual 9-11 remembrance ceremony at The Rising memorial, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla, Friday evening. Ester’s daughter Marisa died during the 9-11 attacks at the World Trade Center in 2001. Hundreds of area residents joined government officials to pay tribute to the lives lost. Several relatives of victims killed in the attacks were in attendance. Always in our thoughts, the White Plains residents who died on September 11, 2001 are: Sharon Balkcom, Marisa Dinardo, Hemanth Kumar Puttur, Joseph R. Rivero, Gregory E. Rodriguez and Linda Sheehan.

The Time Has Come – WPBF Adds Another Clock

By Beth Wallach

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of its incorporation as an all-volunteer organization, the White Plains Beautification Foundation has donated a 14-foot high two-faced street clock to the City of White Plains.

The clock has been installed at the intersection of Bloomingdale Road and Mamaroneck Avenue amidst a triangular garden filled with brightly colored flowers. The clock will be dedicated to the founders of the foundation during a ceremony on Thursday, Sept. 24 at 1:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

The first clock, similar to the new one, was provided by the White Plains Beautification Foundation in honor of long-time City Historian Renoda Hoffman, who was also a board member of the foundation. That clock is located in Tibbits Park at the intersection of Main Street and North Broadway.

A second clock stands prominently in front of the Library and close to Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard. It was dedicated in memory of the late Mayor Richard Hender.

In its 50 years, and its years before incorporation, the White Plains Beautification Foundation has lined downtown streets (Mamaroneck continued on page 4

Referendum to Increase County Budget Review Time on Ballot

By Martin Wilbur

The Board of Legislators last week approved a resolution placing a countywide referendum on this year’s general election ballot, November 3, that would require the county executive provide lawmakers more time to review the following year’s budget.

Approval of the proposition would amend the County Charter mandating that the capital projects portion of the annual budget be released no later than Oct. 15 and the operating budget be given to the Board of Legislators by Nov. 10. Currently, the deadline for submission is Nov. 15 for the entire budget.

Board Chairman Michael Kaplowitz (D-Somers) said a referendum is needed because the charter states that if any elected official’s powers are diminished it requires voter approval. Giving the county executive less time is considered a reduction in power.

However, Kaplowitz said the measure that was unanimously approved on Sept. 8 received bipartisan support because all officials recognized that more time was needed for budget review. Although the capital budget typically accounts for $150 million to $200 million of a $1.8 billion budget, it is one of the budget’s most critical elements, Kaplowitz said.

continued on page 4
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New York State ranked 9th nationwide for total solar power capacity and 15th for per capita solar generation through 2014, according to a new report by Environment New York Research & Policy Center released earlier this month at a press conference attended by White Plains Mayor Thomas Roach, a member of the Board of Directors for Sustainable Westchester.

Lighting the Way III: The Top States That Helped Drive America’s Solar Energy Boom in 2014 says that while New York has enough sunshine to meet its annual electricity needs many times over, it’s not its solar potential that has made the difference. Instead, the state has outpaced sunnier locales like Florida because of policies that allow increasing numbers of homeowners, businesses, communities and utilities to “go solar.”

“With a little bit sunshine and a lot of good clean energy policies on the books, New York State is lighting the way for solar energy,” said Priya Mulgaonkar, Campaign Organizer with Environment New York. Mulgaonkar further said she hoped to commit New York State to 20 percent solar energy by 2025.

New York maintains its 9th-place cumulative solar ranking from last year, but, because of its large population, missed the Top 10 for per-capita solar capacity. However, the state did improve slightly, moving up from 16th to 15th in the group’s annual ranking of per-capita solar power.

Of the top 10 states in the report – Hawaii, Arizona, Nevada, California, New Jersey, New Mexico, Vermont, Massachusetts, and North Carolina — all have renewable energy requirements, and nine, including New York, have strong laws to allow solar customers to connect to the electricity grid and sell back their excess power.

Environment America reports that much of solar’s growth has been due to policies like Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s NY-Sun Initiative, a public-private partnership launched in 2012 to expand the state’s solar energy market and drive down the cost of solar power for New Yorkers.

Solar energy has surged across the country in recent years, with capacity tripling since 2012. The industry is adding jobs much faster than the overall economy, employing 7,280 people in New York last year and ranking fourth overall in solar jobs, according to The Solar Foundation.

While New York has several strong clean energy policies on the books, state leaders are poised to take support for clean energy up another notch. In July, Governor Cuomo announced that the growth of solar in New York State has increased more than 300 percent from 2011 to 2014, twice the rate of U.S. solar growth overall.

“During the times power is most needed, on bright sunny days, solar is at its best, producing the most renewable clean energy without negatively impacting the environment,” said Mayor Roach during the press conference announcing the new report. “I am proud to see New York as leader in policies supporting clean, renewable energy.”
Referendum to Increase County Budget Review Time on Ballot ———— continued from page 1

He added that getting five extra days to review the remainder of the spending plan would help.

“Five days doesn’t sound like much but in the context of a month and a half, getting an extra business week makes this an important change,” he said.

Last week’s resolution to schedule the referendum was one of a series of recommendations proposed by the Charter Revision Committee, although it had suggested giving the board even more time.

The Westchester County Association, a leading business group, applauded the lawmakers’ willingness to entertain the change.

“The Westchester County Association has long advocated for additional review time for the county budget and feels providing additional time is in the best interest of the businesses and citizens of Westchester County,” President Marissa Brett said in a statement.

The Time Has Come – WPBF Adds Another Clock ———— continued from page 1

Avenue and East Post Road) with trees, built a gazebo, two fountains, and a summerhouse in Tibbits Park, as well as providing flowering cherry trees, flower gardens, shrubs and trees, and dozens of teak benches within the park.

Tibbits Park extends from The Westchester Mall on Westchester Avenue to Barker Avenue, separating the north- and south-bound roads. Previously a common with grazing sheep, it also became a dumping ground until the late 1800’s when a resident named Charles Tibbits decided to clean it up. After his death, the park was neglected, and years later it was time for restoration.

In addition to the foundation’s contributions to Tibbits Park, its gardens can be seen throughout the city. In 1970 the cherry trees within the median of Mamaroneck Avenue as it leaves the shopping area were planted as memorials and in honor of 185 people and one dog – Brian Wallach’s first Seeing Eye dog, Fax. Brian Wallach was the founder and first president of the WPBF. A plaque with all the names can be seen in Gillie Park near the children’s playground.

Funds for all projects come from donors. No government funding is provided. The foundation’s website is www.wpbf.org

Commemorating 50 years of incorporation as an all-volunteer foundation, White Plains beautification Foundation has installed another clock at the intersection of Bloomingdale Road and Mamaroneck Avenue. A dedication ceremony will be held on September 24 at 1:30p.m.

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DID YOU KNOW?

ArtsWestchester’s gallery is free and open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays in downtown White Plains.

artsw.org

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September 15 - September 21, 2015
The White Plains Examiner
Volunteers Sought for National Voter Registration Day Program

Tuesday, Sept. 22 is National Voter Registration Day. On this one day volunteers across the country will engage in an all-out effort to register new voters, including 18 year olds, new citizens and those who have moved since the last election.

The League of Women Voters of White Plains (LWVWP) and its partners the NAACP of White Plains - Greenburgh, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc - Pi Omega, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Urban League of Westchester and the Head Count organization are participating and they are seeking volunteers.

On Sept. 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. there will be tables in downtown White Plains, the Greenburgh Public Library and during the morning rush hour at the White Plains Metro-North train station, where LWVWP will be registering new voters.

Volunteers are needed for two-hour shifts.

Interested persons can go to the volunteer sign-up Web site at http://bit.ly/1Wj9Gg. Enter your name and email address and select the time slot that is most convenient for you. As National Voter Registration Day approaches LWVWP will contact you to let you know at which site you are needed. (And if you want to sign-up for more than one slot that's even better).

Voting is one of our most basic and precious of American rights. This year's elections and the 2016 primaries underscore the importance of exercising that right. The LWVWP is looking forward to having you part of this great effort to register new voters and get the word out about voting rights.

White Plains Stepinac Senior to Take Part in Welcoming Pope Francis to NYC

A Peace Pole dedication ceremony and a student fundraiser to support children with cancer are two meaningful ways in which Archbishop Stepinac High School, White Plains, will celebrate Pope Francis' much anticipated and historic visit to the United States.

On the day of the pontiff’s arrival in New York City, Sept. 25, Brandon Cabaleiro (Class of 2016) a White Plains resident, has the honor of representing Stepinac in welcoming the Pope in New York City. He is one of a select a group of students from throughout the Archdiocese of New York who was chosen to share in the excitement of greeting the Holy Father.

Stepinac Principal Paul Carty said that the school wanted to mark the special occasion in ways that would “resonate with the Pope’s mission and would be in keeping with our tradition as one of nation’s 50 top ranked Catholic High Schools. We decided that focusing on world peace and having our students dedicate their generosity toward supporting a worthy but timely cause perfectly fit the bill,” Carty explained.

As it turns out, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month is being observed at the same time as the Pope’s visit. Carty noted that the goal of the students is to raise $2,000 or more by September 24 when a check will be presented to representatives from Go4theGoal, the non-profit organization committed to helping children with cancer.

The check presentation will follow the Peace Pole dedication ceremony, which will be held on the school grounds. The pole, which is a handcrafted monument about six feet high, displays the message and prayer, May Peace Prevail on Earth. Carty said that Stepinac’s Peace Pole has that message translated in eight languages: English, French, Spanish, Italian, Albanian, Chinese, Korean and Croatian. Several thousands of Peace Poles can be found in 180 countries around the world as a reminder of the need to visualize and pray for world peace.

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County Honors Sept. 11 Victims with a Day to Serve + Remember

By Martin Wilbur

Four Westchester residents who now dedicate themselves to helping save lives were recognized last week as part of the county’s annual effort to increase volunteerism.

Westchester’s annual 9/11 Serve + Remember effort, organized by Volunteer New York!, allowed residents to choose from a variety of projects last weekend in memory of the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks 14 years ago.

“Each year our efforts are getting bigger and bigger, and yet the goal remains the same: we come together each year as a community to honor the memory of those lost on that horrific day 14 years ago,” County Executive Rob Astorino said at the effort’s White Plains kickoff.

“We do so by replacing grief with giving, by letting go of our anger and taking action, by restoring love where there was once loss. The volunteers that join us each year speak to the strength that is Westchester County.”

The four honorees told their stories outside the County Center to emphasize how giving back can improve quality of life in communities throughout Westchester and save lives.

Speaking at the event were Theresa Tippin of Cortlandt, a 10-year member of the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association; Howard Romanoff of Armonk, an organ transplant recipient and donor advocate; and White Plains residents Michael Welling, a bone marrow donor advocate, and Arthur Bonagura, one of the county’s most prolific blood donors.

Tippin, who has answered well over 2,000 fire calls during the past decade and as many as 280 in one year, said no matter how a person chooses to help, someone will be positively impacted.

In addition to serving as a firefighter, Tippin volunteers at Yorktown’s Love in Action, a nonprofit organization that assists families who have been stricken by unforeseen tragedies.

“I think it’s just the humanitarian act of helping others in what might be the worst times in their lives,” Tippin said. “To be a support system to them in any way is very fulfilling for me.”

Two of the volunteers were moved into action because their life or the life of a loved one was saved because of anonymous donors.

In 2007, Romanoff was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, a disease that required a double-lung transplant. He waited four years, hoping that a match would be found before he died. Today, he is healthy and active and has become an ardent donor advocate, working to educate the public of the need to sign up.

New York ranks last among the 50 states in percentage of its population that have signed up, he said. One donor can save up to eight lives.

“Being on the organ donor list is not knowing whether you’re waiting for a live-saving organ or waiting to die,” Romanoff said. “It’s very clear to me all the pain, suffering, frustration and anxiety of waiting is unnecessary. The medical science to eliminate the time and cost of waiting is there, the organs are not.”

White Plains resident Michael Welling and his wife, Susie, were told that their son Matthew at six months old would need a bone marrow transplant in order to survive cancer. A donor was quickly found, but doctors told the Wellings that their child needed a second transplant. A second donor was found. Today, Matthew is a healthy nine-year-old who just started the fourth grade.

“We are lucky to stand up here today to tell Matthew’s story to inspire others to get up, volunteer, get involved and make a difference of their own,” Welling said.

A wide variety of service projects were available for people who wanted to help on Sept. 11, said Alisa Kesten, executive director of Volunteer New York! Many of the projects were to assist veterans, first responders and the needy, she said.

“With the way these people and the way they took time to volunteer together, each of us stands up once again to terrorism, we stand up stronger and more resolute,” Kesten said. “It’s just this spirit of volunteerism that presented itself in the days following 9/11 and that helps us restore our faith in humanity to each other, and it allows us to begin the healing process.”

Astorino stressed that the public doesn’t need to wait until the anniversary of Sept. 11 to volunteer. Help is needed by innumerable organizations throughout the year.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, call 914-948-4452 or visit www.volunteernewyork.org/service.
Westchester County District Attorney’s Office

Child Pornography. Michael Eisenberg (DOB 5/7/86) of Eastchester, was sentenced to an indeterminate term of three to six years in state prison after pleading guilty to one count of Promoting an Obscene Sexual Performance by a Child, and one count of Possessing an Obscene Sexual Performance by a Child, both felonies.

On February 4, 2015 investigators from the District Attorney’s office received a Cyber Tip Report from the New York State Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force. They traced the computer’s IP Address to a location in Westchester County where images containing child pornography had been downloaded. Among the images downloaded were prepubescent girls in various stages of undress with adult males also not wearing any clothing.

On February 12, 2015 investigators from the Westchester County DA’s office along with members of the Eastchester Police Department executed a search warrant on the defendant’s apartment.

The following items were recovered: 17 thumb drives containing child pornography, the defendant’s current cellphone containing child pornography, two laptops containing child pornography, and three external hard drives of which two contained child pornography.

In total over seven thousand images were discovered.

Eisenberg was placed under arrest by investigators from the District Attorney’s Office.

As the defendant has a previous felony conviction, his sentence was enhanced because of his previous felon status.

Upon completion of his sentence, Eisenberg will have to register as a sex offender.

Greenburgh Police Department

Fraud over the Internet. On August 31 the complainant came into the police station to report that he was a victim of fraud over the Internet. The victim had listed a new pair of Adidas Yeezy sneakers on eBay and accepted the highest bid of $1800 from a person calling themselves Tony Smith from Miami, Florida. The method of payment was set up for PayPal and the victim received an email of a fake screen showing that the $1800 had been posted and the purchaser was waiting for confirmation of the shipment. The victim sent the sneakers via UPS and tracked the package, which was received and signed for. Nothing further at this time.

Aggravated Harassment. On August 31, the complainant went to police headquarters to report that she was being harassed by a former friend. The friend had fallen on hard times and was getting evicted from his apartment and had no choice but to drop off his cat at the Yonkers Animal Shelter. The shelter reported that they would house the cat for a maxim of 10 days, after that the cat would be put up for adoption. The animal shelter made several attempts to contact the pet owner, but were unable to. The cat was therefore, put up for adoption and adopted by an unknown family. The former friend/pet owner has made several phone calls to the complainant demanding his cat back. The reason the pet owner is under the impression that she has the cat is because the animal shelter mistakenly informed him that she had the cat. The former friend/pet owner has shown up at the complainant’s place of work and spoke to the head of security in reference to his cat. The complainant told him several times she does not have his cat and requested he not contact her anymore, but he has persisted, causing annoyance and alarm. A message was left on the former friend/pet owner’s cell phone to immediately cease any form of communication with the complainant in the future.

Stolen Vehicle. On September 2, police responded to Scarsdale Ford for a report of a stolen motor vehicle. The complainant reported he was notified by an employee that there was glass on the ground in the back of the parking lot and the chain for the lot was cut and put back on the fence. Upon checking inventory, the complainant noticed a pickup truck was missing. There are no working video cameras in the area of the incident.

Suspicious Incidents. On September 3 the complainant told police that she believes an unknown party has been entering her apartment when she is not home and using her vehicle during the overnights. She also reports that someone has been using her coffee maker, and she is missing her contacts and glasses from her apartment. The complainant states that she has been keeping track of her mileage on her vehicle and there is additional mileage when she returns to her vehicle in the mornings. The reporting officer spoke with the super of the buildings who said the complainant did request to change the lock on her door but that he had no reason to because he doesn’t believe the claims. The super further said that the complainant becomes “paranoid” after she receives chemotherapy for her cancer. The reporting officer has asked the complainant’s daughter to contact headquarters. Nothing further at this time.
**Obituaries**

**Esther Labra**

Esther Yolanda Labra, of White Plains, died September 13 at the age of 87. She was born December 24, 1927 in Cuba to the late Francisco and Felina Alvarez. Yolanda is survived by her children Yolanda (Peter) Picaretta of White Plains and Ed (Denise) Labra of Atlanta, Ga., her brother Orlando Alvarez and sister Amparo Saiz, both of Houston, Texas. Also surviving are her grandchildren; Amanda and Robert Labra, Anthony Sanchez, Andrea Rosa and Gabriella Picaretta and their great-grandchildren; Daria, Kiara, Leo and Logan Rosa and Joe and Kyle Washburn. Yolanda was predeceased by her husband Raimundo Labra in 1966 and her brother Francisco Alvarez in 2014.

**Theodora Muratore**

Theodora D. Muratore, of White Plains, passed away on September 6. She was 94. Theodora was born on December 15, 1920 to Pasquale and Raffaella (Cornacchio) Visconti. She was one of nine children. She married her wonderful husband Nicholas P Muratore on June 6, 1948. She predeceased her November 1985. She gave so freely of herself, whatever the need or task in a most loving and humble spirit. She was a loving daughter, wife, mother, sister, mother-in-law, grandmother, aunt, and friend, and caretaker. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Theodora is survived by one daughter, Patrice Michel and her husband Russell of Patrice and one sister Alice Russolese, a daughter-in-law Catherine Muratore, and one sister Alice Russolese, a daughter-in-law Catherine Muratore, and one sister Alice Russolese, a daughter-in-law Catherine Muratore. There are four cherished grandchildren, Russell Michel, Rachel Hopkins and husband Andrew, Steven Muratore and wife Marisa, and Michael Muratore. Also surviving are two great-grandchildren, Samantha Muratore, and Nicole Muratore. Theodora was predeceased by two children Anthony and Barbara Muratore, three brothers, Rocco, Joseph, and Pasquale Visconti, and three sisters Mary Visconti, Ann Caperna, and Elizabeth Marsalisi.

**News Briefs**

**The Ethical Culture Society of Westchester** has hired Alexandra (Ali) Weisman McDowell as director of Ethical Education. Ms. McDowell is an educator with a master’s degree from Bard Street College of Education. The Ethical Society is located at 7 Saxon Wood Road in White Plains, adjacent to the Saxon Woods Pool and just north of Hutch Exit 23N. Its website is www.ethicalsocietywestchester.org.

**ArtsWestchester** has appointed Susan Abbott as its Associate Director of Programs. Abbott comes to ArtsWestchester with extensive experience in nonprofit management. Her role will include overseeing all activities related to grants management, as well as cultural affiliate relations, including collaborative and professional development projects.

Most recently, Abbott served as Business Manager for the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy at Columbia University, where she assisted faculty and students with government and private foundation grant applications and oversaw issues related to budgets, contracts and grants. Abbott served six years as Managing Director of Boomerang Theatre Company; she worked closely with the Juilliard School’s Drama, Dance and Opera divisions; and she holds an MFA in Performing Arts Management from Brooklyn College. ArtsWestchester is located at 31 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains; www.artswestchester.org.

**Archbishop Stepinac High School** has named Rev. Timothy Wiggins as Chaplain. A native of Port Chester, Father Tim’s journey to the Catholic priesthood began several years after he graduated from Port Chester High School in 1982. First, he obtained a Business Administration Bachelor’s Degree in Hotel Restaurant Management from Denver University and then for nearly the next 10 years, he worked for several food service companies including the Marriott Corporation. During this period, he also worked as a cook for the priests who resided at Our Lady of Mercy to help pay off his college debt. It was at this parish that he answered “the Call” to the priesthood. A former Methodist who converted to Catholicism, he began his pre-theological studies at the Newman Residence in Riverdale. Four years later, he received a Master’s Degree in Divinity from St. Joseph’s Seminary, Yonkers and was ordained on May 18, 2002 at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City. His first pastorial assignment was Associate Pastor at St. Peter’s, Monticello, followed by a 10-year tenure as Associate Pastor at St. John the Evangelist, White Plains. More recently, Father Tim served as Administrator of Our Lady of Mercy. Archbishop Stepinac High School is located at 950 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains; www.stepinac.org.

**Greenburgh Nature Center** has announced the recent hires of Michelle Brier as Director of Strategic Development and Rachel Becker as Sustainability Coordinator and Educator.

Rachel Becker has extensive experience in sustainable practices such as waste reduction, composting, recycling, green infrastructure and local agriculture. Becker will focus on the facilitation of eco-friendly operations, programs, parties, events, and sustainability partnerships in the local community. She will also provide training and technical assistance on environmental best practices to Westchester residents, schools, community organizations, municipalities and corporations.

Prior to her role at the Nature Center, Becker was a Farm Educator with The Queens County Farm Museum and a Compost Coordinator with GrowNYC. Greenburgh Nature Center is located at 99 Dromore Road, Scarsdale; www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.
Are Women Treated Differently By Home Contractors?

When it came time for my friend Abby to have a tankless water heater installed, she got the distinct feeling that it made a difference that she was a woman when dealing with both the manufacturer and the installer.

“I felt that I was being treated differently in both cases because I was asking questions, and the men I was dealing with were wondering why I should have to know,” she said.

In the first instance, dealing with the system’s manufacturer, Abby said “I wanted to learn about the system because it was a gas unit that was going to be installed in my attic and I had concerns about how the flame would be protected from that environment. I had to go through three people to get answers to a simple question.”

Then, when it came time to have the system installed, I had to deal with a gas company that wanted to plant a big 60-gallon propane tank right at my front door, which aesthetically would have been a disaster, an affront to my sensibilities,” she said.

“I had to stand my ground and insist that they come up with another solution. They just had to know that they were not dealing with a hysterical female, but rather someone who has been a homeowner for 20 years, who knows how things work and wasn’t going to take ‘Don’t worry about it’ for an answer.”

Are women treated differently as a rule? As in all things, it would seem to depend on the individuals involved. Others argue that it’s an advantage to be a woman when it comes to contracting for home improvements, but from a different perspective, that of the contractor.

Mary and Robert Sniffen, proprietors of Miracle Home Improvements in Croton-on-Hudson, contend that it’s women who are typically the decision makers on these matters.

“It’s Mary who goes out to discuss the jobs and sign the contracts because we have found that it’s the woman who makes the final decisions, and she relates better to another woman,” Robert Sniffen said.

Then again, it may be easier dealing with contractors as a single woman than as a woman who is part of a couple. Interestingly, there have been complaints lodged on Angie’s List from women who say that contractors have refused to come to give estimates on jobs unless their husbands are also present.

An Angie’s List subscriber from Tucson, Ariz. took offense when she called a contractor for an estimate to get work done on a house she and her husband had recently purchased. She said that the company called the day before the appointment to make sure both she and her husband would be at the estimate, and then canceled the appointment when she indicated that only she would be present.

“They were more than happy to talk to me over the phone, but refused to come and do a detailed estimate without my husband present,” she said.

The company’s office manager responded that this indeed reflects the company’s policy. However, it is not discriminatory toward women, but helps avoid future problems.

“We find it’s more time efficient and fuel efficient to get everybody at the presentation the first time,” the manager said. “We ask for both homeowners to be present because we have to have permission from anybody listed on the deed to make changes to the home. We run into a lot of different questions during the presentation, and we’ve found that most people want their spouse to be involved in those decisions.”

Scott Siegal, president of Certified Contractors Network, which provides sales and management training to 350 contractors nationwide, said he advises service providers to meet one or both homeowners at the initial estimate, then asks that both homeowners be present for the second meeting where specifics will be discussed.

“That way everyone is clear about what will take place and when,” he said. “We found that the most dissatisfaction comes from a missed communication or an unrealized expectation on the job, and that’s usually a result of not everybody being involved in the buying process. It’s a whole lot easier if everybody’s on the same page.”

Interestingly, statistics show that contractors will be dealing more with single female homeowners than male homeowners. Today, more women (15.5 million) than men (11.8 million) live alone. Among these, women were more likely than men to own their own homes (56 percent to 47 percent).

If you happen to be a woman home owner, single or otherwise, looking for a woman contractor to discuss a job at hand, you can call Mary Sniffen of Miracle Home Improvements at 914-271-9119.

Celebrate a Legacy Occasion With a Legacy Wine

By Nick Antonaccio

Many of us have helped mark a special occasion with fine wine. What better way to celebrate and honor a spouse, child, family relative or friend than a gift that can be shared by all.

The clinking of glasses filled with the libations of a painstakingly selected bottle of wine symbolizes the comradery, the close bond, the emotional connection we feel as we congregate around the dinner table in the midst of a group of like-minded revelers.

I've always felt that this aspect of enjoying wine with family and friends is more fully enjoyed with planning and forethought. I typically purchase a special bottle of wine for these occasions.

One aspect of celebrating special occasions never entered my mind until recently. Why not commemorate a milestone with a bottle of wine from the birth-year of a child or the marriage-milestone with a bottle of wine from the year of a relative? It wasn't until our first grandchild was born that I began purchasing at, or soon after, release and then stored away (by the bestower or the recipient) until that date in the future when the recipient attains a landmark. It might be the future commemoration of the 21st birthday of a family member, a 25th or 50th wedding anniversary of close ones or an auspicious occasion that has a special connotation.

But which wine will symbolize the importance of attaining a life-status, will memorialize the generosity and forethought of a relative, decades hence? Here are my thoughts from my extensive research and ultimate purchases for my grandchildren.

1. Select age-worthy wines. Most wines are produced to be consumed within a few years of harvest. I sought out wines that were built to last; wines produced in such a manner to improve in taste and character as they aged over a 20- to 30-year continuum. A number of wines are noteworthy for their ability to age: French Bordeaux and Burgundy wines are considered the premier aging wines, along with select Napa Valley Cabernets and Italian Barolos. As one might expect, these wines command a premium price. While it is not critical to invest several hundred dollars in a single bottle of First Growth Bordeaux or Grand Cru Burgundy (which translates into a significant investment for a case), most age-worthy wines are priced in excess of $75.

2. Consider the quality of the vintage year. In highly rated years, prices rise; you may have to seek out a lesser – but excellent – wine to match your price affordability range. In less regarded years, you can invest in the highly desirable labels at a lesser cost.

3. How many bottles? It's difficult to celebrate with a single bottle. If your budget permits, a six-pack or a case is preferable. A case will guarantee your legacy with family and friends.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick’s credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.
By Jerry Eimbinder

Billy Michialis and longtime friend Spiros Argyros opened the Ardsley Diner last month with a strong representation of international dishes on the menu. Most of the listed items are homemade, including the tiramisu, and many dishes are versions of Mexican, Mediterranean, Greek, Spanish and Italian fare.

Michialis said he and Argyros were motivated to open a diner because Ardsley didn’t have one; otherwise, they probably would have opted to start a different type of restaurant.

Some of the dishes that are available now or coming soon do not represent traditional diner offerings. For example, there is sautéed calf’s liver topped with bacon and onions and drizzled with balsamic reduction ($15.95), rack of lamb and old-fashioned beef stew.

All paninis are priced at $10.95 and come with French fries or a fresh mixed green salad. Chicken kabob ($18.95), beef kabob ($21.95) and shrimp kabob ($21.95) are served with rice and a choice of soup or salad. Mexican dishes include quesadillas, burritos and tacos.

Michialis and Argyros first met when both were young waiters beginning careers in the restaurant business. In designing the interior of the Ardsley Diner, the two owners employed lots of color, bright attractive tiles and wall art with a 1950’s motif. The renovation took three months and nearly everything was replaced except for a gleaming wood-slat floor, which was new.

As is common with diners, a strategically placed pastry showcase catches the attention of customers in the entrance area. “Two very popular items on the menu are lamb and beef gyro and spinach pie; both are homemade,” Michialis said.

He said the chef, Dino Katchis, uses a 50-year-old recipe for the gyro. Branzino is also quite popular but is offered only as a special at lunch and dinner.

The Valisis gyro platter with a Greek salad and French fries and the spinach pie with a Greek salad are priced at $12.95.

More non-menu specials will be introduced about a month from now, Michialis added.

The breakfast menu is extensive and impressive; it offers almost endless choices of three-egg omelets that can be further customized by a multitude of additional ingredients. Bargain breakfast deals are available from 6 to 10 a.m. and include two eggs any style with home fries and coffee ($5.75) and buttermilk pancakes with two eggs any style with home fries and lemon sauce and coffee ($6.95).

The burger list is lengthy too. Nineteen different half-pounders range in price from $6.95 to $9.95 and come with cole slaw and pickle. Add $3 to include French fries, lettuce and tomato.

Twenty salads are on the menu, priced from $8.95 for a Caesar Salad to $19.95 for grilled shrimp wrapped with bacon over Romaine lettuce hearts and topped with avocado, corn, tomato and cucumbers.

From the selection of fish, Michialis said his favorites are filet of sole topped with white wine and lemon sauce and grilled salmon topped with lemon dill sauce (each priced at $21.95).

Beverages include lots of smoothies, fresh-squeezed orange juice and cappuccino.

All items on the kids menu cost $7.95 and the selections include chicken fingers, meatballs and spaghetti and macaroni and cheese. A beverage is included.

Michialis also owns Bellas in Tarrytown, which he purchased in May 2012. He is a third-generation restaurateur; his grandfather founded Roxy’s Coffee Shop in the Bronx and Michialis worked at his father’s Bagel Chateau at East 59th Street and Third Avenue in Manhattan.

The interior look is impressive, containing green-leatherback chairs, tangerine-leatherback counter stools, black marble-top tables, colorful tiled pillars and a large tile wall. There is plenty of space between tables. One of the murals offers likenesses of Marilyn Monroe, Humphrey Bogart, Elvis Presley and James Dean.

The Ardsley Diner is open seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. It has 70 seats and will have 20 more outside on the patio when weather permits next spring. It is located at 731 Saw Mill River Rd. in Ardsley (close to Heatherdell Road). Parking is free.

Westchester’s Most Delicious Dishes: Galletto Alla Griglia at Il Sorriso

By Jerry Eimbinder

The kitchen at William Winstanley’s Il Sorriso Ristorante Italiano in Irvington blends fresh flavors with extraordinary skill. A delectable example is Galletto Alla Griglia – grilled free-range chicken (deboned except for the leg).

This entrée is topped with a generous mound of caramelized onions over broccoli rabe and the chicken is surrounded by tasty Cannellini beans immersed in a port wine reduction ($24).

I’m not ordinarily a big fan of broccoli rabe but you will love its texture and taste in this classic Il Sorriso dish.

If planning to order Galletto Alla Griglia, come hungry; large portion of tender chicken with delightful accompaniments awaits you.

Another flavorful entrée to try, if pasta instead of chicken is one of your favorite foods, is a delicious linguine dish that comes with shrimp, clams, roasted red pepper and asparagus in a garlic and oil sauce ($19).

Also very popular, and deservedly so, is the Ossobuco D’Agnello, an impressive plateful of tender, braised lamb shank in a balsamic reduction ($9.50).

Il Sorriso has a Happy Hour called “Weekly Wine Down.” At the bar and lounge area, a glass of red or white wine costs $5 from 5 to 8 p.m. and a number of small plates are offered and priced at only $5. This is available Wednesday through Friday.

The restaurant seats more than 100 people in a windowed dining room and accommodates about 30 on a fully secluded patio, weather permitting.

Il Sorriso is located at 5 Buckhout St. in Irvington (at the corner of Main Street). Street parking is not metered. The restaurant is one short block from the town’s Metro-North train station. For more information, call 914-591-2525.
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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF JOURNEY SUPPORT PRACTICES LLC, ARTS OF ORG. filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/13/2015. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 513 7th Ave., Suite 132, New York, NY 10018. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STRONGTME LLC, Arts of Org, filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/15/2015. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 513 7th Ave., Suite 132, New York, NY 10018. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF KAI DESIGNS LLC, filed with Secretary of NY (SSNY) on 6/29/2015 Office of UNITED State Corporation,Inc. 7014 13th Ave.,STE.202,Brooklyn NY 11228, designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against may be served SSNY shall mail process to US Corp. Agents,Inc. 7014 13th Ave., STE.202, Brooklyn NY 11228


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Notice of Formation of DStrength LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/18/2015. Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 234 Bedford Rd. Unit #4, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Adler & Adler, LLP. Arts of Org filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/18/2015. Office location: WESTCHESTER County. SSNY designated agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLP to principal business address: 800 Westchester Avenue, Suite N-641, Rye Brook, NY 10573. Purpose: any lawful act. 0000032823 w.o.

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Tuesday, Sept. 15
Tuesdays at Dorry’s gathers "conversation partners" weekly for informal table talk. This week Michael Hackett will facilitate a conversation about the upcoming presidential election. There is no charge. Just come and order your food from Sylvia and enjoy the discussion and the company. Please join us. No reservations are needed. 6 to 7 p.m. Food ordering starts at 5:30 p.m. Dorry’s Diner, 468 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains; 914-682-0005.

Wednesday, Sept. 16
White Plains Outdoor Market. Fresh food and produce from local farmers, plus specialty items; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Court Street between Martine Avenue and Main Street, White Plains

TILL Shed. Take It or Leave It recycling at Gedney Yard, 87 Gedney Way, White Plains; 2 to 4 p.m.

Noonday Concert. Grace Church, in partnership with the City of White Plains Recreation and Parks Department, presents Heritage Brass: A brass ensemble comprised of live former and current members of the U.S. Military Academy Band. This special concert will be held at 12:10 p.m. and will mark the start of 28th season of Downtown Music at Grace. The Heritage Brass concert will take place in the new park plaza located adjacent to Grace Church at Main Street and Mamaroneck Avenue. In the event of rain, the concert will be held inside Grace Church. This event is free and open to the public.

Crossing the Bridge: Art as a Vehicle for Social Justice. The Ghana ThinkTank collective (Christopher Robbins and Maria del Carmen Montoya) will discuss ways in which art can function as a vehicle for social justice. Citing examples from their own explorations, particularly between immigrants and anti-immigrant factions on the U.S.-Mexico border, Robbins and Montoya also will make connections to the work of Mexican artist Teresa Margolles. Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 12:30 p.m. General admission: $10. Purchase College students, staff, faculty museum Art Circle Level Members: Free. Info: 914-251-6100 or visit www.neuberger.org.

Thursday, Sept. 17
Taconic Opera Gala: Opera Goes Insane. Featuring the company’s professional lead singers performing "mad scenes" from famous operas while guests dine. An entertaining and upbeat way to support the continuation of live, professional opera in Westchester. ArtsWestchester, 31 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains. 7 p.m. $150, $200 and $250 (partially tax deductible). Discounts available for groups of two or more and tables for eight. Info and reservations: 1-855-886-7372 or visit http://www.taconicopera.org.

Friday, Sept. 18
Corks & Forks. The Woman’s Club of White Plains Foundation will hold its annual fall fund raiser Corks & Forks at the CV Rich Mansion in White Plains. The event features tastings of signature dishes from many local restaurants as well as wines and beer from area merchants. This year’s specialties will range from appetizers to main courses to desserts and will feature a wide range of cuisines including American, Asian, Indian and Portuguese. As in past years, proceeds from the event will benefit a local charity and this year’s beneficiary will be El Centro Hispano. Reserved and open seating are available and there will be a silent auction and raffle the night of the event. Tickets can be purchased on the website www.womansclubofwhiteplains.org.

“The Mountain Music Project: A Musical Odyssey from Appalachia to Himalaya.” A unique film that follows the journey of two traditional musicians from their roots in the hills of Virginia to the mountains of rural Nepal, where they explore the extraordinary connections between Appalachian and Himalayan folk music and culture, particularly with the traditional musicians of the Gandharba caste. Followed by a live concert of fiddle-based music of Nepal and Appalachia.

Back by popular demand, the Daughter’s of Liberty’s Legacy will be offering a trolley tour of historic places and sites of the American Revolution in the White Plains area. Debra Palazzo, co-founder of the Daughters of Liberty’s Legacy said “the first trolley tour we did back in June was so much fun that people have been asking us to run another one.”

Trolley Tour of Historical White Plains
The trolley tour includes the site of the old court house where the Declaration of Independence was read for the first time in 1776, the battlefield of the Battle of White Plains, Miller house where George Washington stopped the British from advancing north, Miller hill, several revolutionary homes still standing, Horton’s grist mill and more.

Included also is a private viewing of historic Purdy house by the White Plains Historical Society. A Colonial re-enactor, “Mrs. Ann Miller”, who lived through the war will accompany the tour and provide details of what life was like. Palazzo said “there is no greater education then standing in the footsteps where history happened.”

Sunday, Oct. 18 at 2 p.m. Donations requested are $50 and all proceeds go to historic preservation. Seating on trolley limited. Tickets available at DOLL1776.com or by contacting debra@daughtersoflibertylegacy.com or calling Debra: 914-495-3631. Light refreshments included.

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Southern Westchester Music Festival. A day of music, food and family fun and activities. Featuring Felix Cavaliere’s Rascals, Marc Cohn, David Johansen, Steve Forbert and many other artists. A portion of the proceeds to benefit Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital. Harbor Island Park, Mamaroneck. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. $48. Children (under 12): Free. Info: Visit www.sowemusicfestival.com.

Teaching Trails: A Community Path for Environmental Education. Join guided trail experience through the woodland forest. Discover who left that track, which tree makes its own heat to help melt the snow from the event will benefit a local charity and this year’s beneficiary will be El Centro Hispano. Reserved and open seating are available and there will be a silent auction and raffle the night of the event. Tickets can be purchased on the website www.womansclubofwhiteplains.org.

Sunday, Sept. 20
Fairy Houses. Children can use their imaginations by creating fairy houses out of natural objects. Cranberry Lake Preserve, Old Orchard Street, North White Plains. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-428-1005.

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A&B
Tigers Edged by Raiders, 20-17, in Rain Soaked Home Opener

By Albert Coqueran

The White Plains Tigers battled the rain and wind and North Rockland High School, to a 20-17 loss, in their 2015 Football Home Opener, at Glenn D. Loucks Field, on Saturday.

The Tigers improved immensely in their second game of the season on the defensive side of the ball. Against Carmel High School in their first game of the season, the Tigers defense gave up 454 total yards and 39 points.

On Saturday in their Home Opener, the Tigers defense stood strong, while surrendering only 150 total yards and 20 points, which included keeping the Raiders out of the end zone twice from within their own 10-yard line. "We made a conscious effort this week on defense and we changed some personnel. They dialed it in and did a great job," said Head Coach Skip Stevens.

Nonetheless, the Tigers still came up three points short on offense. Not sure of the thought process of the Tigers, with 1:16 left in the game, after fighting back from 17 points down, to 20-17, and on their own 24-yard line with no timeouts.

But after Tigers quarterback Tommy Avery hit Chris Schiavone with a 13-yard pass and moved the ball to the Tigers 40-yard line, Avery ran the ball twice within the out of bounds markers and did not stop the clock.

What made the situation even more puzzling is that Avery has been the most efficient player for the Tigers this season and even last season for that fact. Avery was responsible for 182 yards of the Tigers 257 total offensive-yards in their Home Opener.

The senior QB threw for 156 yards, while completing 13-of-20 passes with one interception. He also ran for 26 yards on 12 carries. Last week against Carmel, Avery also had an impressive game, while completing 9-of-16 passes for 152 yards and three touchdowns.

The only way to interpret the final minute of the game is that Avery, as he has done so many times, was going to put the Tigers on his back and run to get within field goal range; but the clock beat him. "I was trying to make something happen on the sideline. I tried to cutback to the sideline and I just could not make it. It kind of killed the drive," explained Avery.

With Tigers running back J.J. Hernandez out with an injury, wide receiver Donovan Brunson played two roles, while running from the back field for 66 yards on six carries and catching two of Avery's passes for 67 yards.

Brunson was the catalyst for both of the Tigers touchdowns. After Schiavone caught a screen pass and ran for 22 yards to the Raiders eight-yard line in the third quarter, Brunson ran the ball eight yards to the goal line but fumbled. Fortunately, for the Tigers, the ball was recovered by Avery and turned it into a 56-yard field goal range; but the clock beat him.

Brunson also caught a pass from Avery and turned it into a 56-yard gain to the Raiders 12-yard line, which staged a four-yard quarterback keeper by Avery for a TD. "Yeah, I am disappointed taking a loss is hard but I know we have some work yet to do," commented Brunson.

The Tigers certainly have some "work yet to do." One of the main reasons for coming up three points short against North Rockland was a multitude of penalties which cost them dearly. Also the Tigers had two turnovers that led to the Raiders touchdowns. Tigers' Gill got stripped on the Raiders 37-yard line, which resulted in Raiders Nick Cortez running the fumble back for a touchdown. Also, there was Avery's only interception of the game, which resulted in a Raiders touchdown.

White Plains is 0-2 to start the 2015 season, with a multitude of talent to rectify the situation. But the Tigers improved on defense and running back J.J. Hernandez will return next week. Also, do not expect the competent Avery to make the same mistake twice.

The Tigers second home game of the season will be against Scarsdale High School and commence, on Friday, Sept. 18, at 7 p.m. at White Plains High School.

The White Plains Tigers make a gallant entry onto Glenn D. Loucks Field for their 2015 Football Home Opener against North Rockland High School, on Saturday, Sept. 12.

Despite their Home Opener loss to North Rockland, 20-17, on Saturday, White Plains improved immensely on defense, while relinquishing only 150 total yards to the Raiders, while giving up 454 yards against Carmel High School in their previous game.

Tigers running back Donovan Brunson turns the corner for a 27-yard run late in the third quarter. Brunson rushed for 66 yards on six carries and had two receptions for 67 yards in the Tigers' loss to North Rockland, 20-17, in their Home Opener, on Saturday.
Stepinac Dominates Newburgh, 31-0, to Open 2015 Season

By Albert Coqueran

Stepinac High School Head Coach Mike O’Donnell understands quite well how hard it is to repeat as CHSFL AAA Champions. Last season his Crusaders went undefeated in the regular season and playoffs, while winning the CHSFL AAA Championship. However, the 2014 Crusaders did lose one game, which was the newly formed NY State Catholic High School Championship and concluded the season 12-1.

The Crusaders season last year was their best since 2010, when they went undefeated at 12-0 and won the CHSFL AA Championship. Although, in 2011, the initial season Stepinac stepped-up to AAA, they made it to the Championship game but lost to St. Anthony’s High School and finished with a 9-3 record.

"Every year is a different year. We were ecstatic to have such a great year last year. From the 23 seniors who graduated last year, 10 of them are playing college football," mentioned O’Donnell. "We expect to be good and a challenge every week. However, the only team to repeat as CHSFL Champions in the past 20 years was St. Anthony’s, so it is not an easy feat," said O’Donnell, who begins his 28th year as the Head Coach of the Crusaders.

Despite the fact that getting back to that elusive NY State Catholic League Championship game will not be easy, the Crusaders started on the right track by trouncing last year’s Section 9 Champions, Newburgh Free Academy, 31-0, on Friday.

Furthermore, the Crusaders scored 31 points and shut out Newburgh, with one of their best players on the sidelines, as senior T.J. Morrison was injured.

How good a player is Morrison? The Crusaders wide receiver/cornerback has 10 Division One college offers at this time. Some of the schools seeking Morrison’s talents are: The U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Stony Brook University, University of New Hampshire, Towson University, Sacred Heart University, Monmouth University and the University of Rhode Island.

"My work ethic, my coaches and my support system that pushes me to become greater and greater, (that is why I am getting all these college offers)," said Morrison, who will return to action next week against Iona Prep. Yes, that is the same Iona Prep that Stepinac beat last season, 16-14, in one of the greatest CHSFL AAA Championship games in history, at Fordham University.

Tyquell Fields takes over for the Crusaders as quarterback, after Brendon Coleman graduated his talents to West Point. Fields orchestrated a balance attack of passing and running to crush Newburgh.

Fields (115 rushing yards) orchestrated a balanced attack of passing and running to crush Newburgh. Fields threw for 191 yards, while completing 13 of 23 passes with two touchdowns.

Fields tested junior wide receiver DeVante Reid, in the first quarter with a 31-yard touchdown pass. Then Fields sent fullback Jordan Gunther over the goal line on a one-year run later in the first quarter. Reid showcased his talents against Newburgh, while catching six passes for 94 yards.

Fields hit one of his favorite targets wide receiver Jesse Brown for a five-year touchdown reception in the third quarter.

Crusaders kicker Liam Butler showed he was season-ready by booting a 38-yard field goal in the second quarter. Butler also went 4-for-4 on extra-point kicks in the game. The Crusaders scoring was highlighted by a breakaway-run by senior halfback Kobe Miranda, who scooted 58 yards for a touchdown.

Westchester Knicks Home Opener Set for November 12

By Albert Coqueran

The Westchester Knicks will kick-off their second season in the NBA Developmental League with their Home Opener against the Maine Red Claws, at the Westchester County Center, on Thursday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m. The Maine Red Claws are the NBA D-League affiliate of the Boston Celtics.

The Westchester Knicks, the NBA Developmental League affiliate of the NY Knicks, missed the D-League Playoffs last season in their inaugural year, while finishing with a disappointing record of 10-40.

Westchester Knicks Interim Head Coach Craig Hodges will not return to the bench next season. The local Knicks are presently in the process of seeking a new Head Coach. Hodges served as an assistant coach last year but finished the season as Interim Head Coach, after Kevin Whitted was fired with four games remaining in the season.

The Westchester Knicks schedule for the upcoming season encompasses 48 regular season games with 24 home games at the Westchester County Center. The slate of 24 home games in White Plains will include 12 homes games being played on Friday, Saturday or Sunday, with eight afternoon games.

The Westchester Knicks once again will bring back their popular School Day for local students, on Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 11 a.m. Another highlight this season will be that local fans will be able to watch the Westchester Knicks challenge the Santa Cruz Warriors, the 2014-15 NBA D-League Champions, on Sunday, Jan. 3, at 5 p.m.

Westchester Knicks season tickets for their second season at the Westchester County Center are on sale now starting at $10 each per game. For more information log onto WestchesterKnicks.com or call 914-559-6889.
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