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CSEA Westchester County Unit Presents Scholarships



CSEA Westchester County Unit 9200 officers and activists pose with the recipients of the annual CSEA Unit 9200 scholarships. Scholarship winners are the children of Unit 9200 members.

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We Love You, Governor Cuomo, But You're Wrong on Indian Point

In Our View
Governor Andrew Cuomo's mastery of Albany politics has reaped big rewards for the struggling Westchester resident and taxpayer. In less than a year, Cuomo has closed a two year budget hole without raising taxes, implemented ethics reform and, most important for Westchester, got a two percent tax cap on local government and school district spending passed. Three cheers for our governor, who has been so successful that he is being mentioned as a vice-presidential candidate with President Barack Obama in 2012. But, in our view, Cuomo is wrong on his belief that Indian Point power plant should be closed once its two licenses expire in 2013 and 2015.

- increase carbon emissions by 15 percent;
- require more than \$400 million in subsidies to keep the cost of electricity down; and
- increase the cost of electricity to every resident and business in the state — while no exact dollar amount of the increase was given, it would be "real and significant."

"Indian Point's 2,000 Megawatts of power, which provides 25 to 30 percent of NYC and Westchester's energy, can neither be easily replaced nor in an immediate fashion."

Westchester County Association President Bill Mooney

A recent report concluded that closing Indian Point in a few years would create electricity shortages, higher energy costs and more pollution. The report, requested by New York City, backs up NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg's belief that closing Indian Point would hurt the energy supplies for New York City, Westchester and other suburbs. While Cuomo's State Commissioners responded to the report by stating that closing Indian Point is commercially feasible and the energy is not impossible to replace, we disagree, based on the report which finds that closing Indian Point would:

The report also states that alternatives to Indian Point should be well under way now for a possible Indian Point closing date of 2015. While several alternatives are proposed, no serious work or solutions have been submitted.

One energy alternative that we welcome is the creation of a 1,000 megawatt transmission cable from Quebec to New York City. This plan is slowly moving forward and making its way through review in Albany and Washington, DC. But this new source of energy for New York City and the Metropolitan area should be used to provide additional energy for all of us, not to replace Indian Point.

Nuclear power plants in the United States are not governed by the states, but by the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission, NRC. But Cuomo and the State Department of Environmental Conservation are slowly reviewing Indian Point's water treatment plan, which includes use of the Hudson River, which the state

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Larchmont's William Capodanno Named to Veterans Hall of Fame



Sergeant William Capodanno

State Senator Suzi Oppenheimer has named William Capodanno to the New York State Senate "Veterans' Hall of Fame." The award recognizes veterans for exceptional service in both the military and the community. A Larchmont resident since 1952, Capodanno served in the Pacific Theater of World War II from 1941 to 1946. Sergeant Capodanno received numerous awards for his military service, including the American Defense Service Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

After the war, Capodanno became an active member of the VFW for 65 years, rising to the rank of Commander of Post 1156. He has held numerous other VFW positions at the local, county and state level. Bill Capodanno owned and operated a local roofing business, Village Roofing, for many years. He also served the Town of Mamaroneck for more than 40 years as an active member of its Fire Department.

Capodanno has participated in countless community events, including Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies and cemetery visitations. Outside of Westchester, VFW Post 1156, under his leadership, hosted biannual events for veterans from the Montrose Veteran's Affairs Hospital for 58 consecutive years.

"Bill Capodanno is a beloved figure in the community and justly deserving of this distinction," said Oppenheimer. "I am honored to acknowledge his distinguished service to our country."

Auto Insurance Fraud Ripping Off Westchester Drivers Why Do New Yorkers Pay 53% More for Car Insurance than the National Average?

By Dan Murphy

One of the goals of *Rising Newspapers* — in addition to reporting the positive things happening in Westchester — is to try and highlight wasteful spending or illegal activities that are taking money out of all of our pockets.

Usually the wrongdoing or fraud affects us in the form of higher property taxes. This week we highlight the high number of staged auto accidents affecting all of us who own a car, truck or bus. Most of us in Westchester have a car, and those who don't take a bus or a cab to your destination. For many who can't afford a car, the cost of auto insurance is one of the reasons why.

New Yorkers Stand Against Insurance Fraud, NYSAIF, has been formed to stop the madness. Staged auto accidents in insurance fraud scams are one of the fastest growing crimes in New York State, with the Empire State widely considered the auto insurance fraud capital of America, with almost \$2 billion worth of auto insurance scams having occurred in the past five years alone, according to a recent study.

Here's how the scheme works, according to the New York State Insurance Department; the perpetrators go out seeking to purposely cause ac-

cidents, or even to stage them. Once these bogus accidents happen, the individuals will go to medical facilities that are in on the scheme, dubbed "medical mills." The suspects then order up unneeded tests, including MRIs, psychological evaluations, acupuncture or chiropractic treatment.

Under the state's no-fault law, individuals involved in car accidents are allowed up to \$50,000 in medical treatments. All these treatments and tests amount to tens of thousands of dollars per individual and, ultimately, hundreds of thousands and sometimes millions for the medical facilities.

The report said of the 14,625 reports of suspected health care-related fraud sent to the department last year, 12,807 reports involved no-fault insurance.

"About one in five no-fault claims in the New York City area shows evidence of fraud," said Robert Hartwig of the Insurance Information Institute. "In other words, the claim itself may have been entirely contrived. In New York state alone we are looking at a quarter of a billion dollars in no-fault fraud."

And according to Hartwig, regular law-abiding drivers are paying the price; "Ultimately, Continued on Page 10

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Academic Excellence

Father Thomas Collins Appointed President of Stepinac High School

Father Thomas Collins has been named the new President of Archbishop Stepinac High School. He is the ninth leader of the 63-year-old school, succeeding Monsignor Anthony Marchitelli.

Father Collins, who grew up in White Plains, is a 1979 graduate of the school and is a member of a family with strong connections to the all-boys' high school on Mamaroneck Avenue. His two brothers, John (Class of 1980) and Joe (1981), along with his nephew, Joe (2009) are

Stepinac graduates and another nephew, Michael, graduated just last month. His parents, Thomas and Martha Collins, have lived in White Plains for the last 35 years.

Father Collins graduated from Iona College in New Rochelle in 1983 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. Father Collins studied at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers and was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1992. In 1995, he returned to Stepinac as a member of the faculty. In 2001, he was named Associate Dean of Students and a year later became Dean of Students, a position he held until 2007 when he joined the school's Office of Development. An avid and accomplished golfer, he has been coach of Stepinac's golf team for the last 15 years.

As a priest, Father Collins celebrates Mass on Sundays at three Westchester parishes: Resur-



Father Thomas Collins

rection Church in Rye, Holy Rosary Church in Hawthorne and Our Lady of Sorrows Church in White Plains. He serves as board member at The School of the Holy Child in Rye and has been active in civic affairs in the community, including serving as an aide to the Grand Marshall at this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade in White Plains.

"I am honored to have been chosen to fill this important position at the school to which so much of my life has been closely associated," Father Collins said.

"Stepinac has not only played a key role in shaping the lives of five members of the Collins family but in the lives of literally thousands of other families, as well. The school offers a unique and supportive environment, a tradition that we respect and that remains an integral aspect a Stepinac education today.

"Now that we are an independent school, Stepinac is facing both new challenges and new opportunities. Over the last three years, we have seen a significant increase in enrollment and we are confident that we will be able to maintain this very positive trend. This is an exciting time to be a part of Stepinac and I look forward to having a leadership role as we move forward."

For more information on Stepinac High School, visit www.stepinac.org.

Lowey Announces Reduction in Student Loan Interest Rates

Congresswoman Nita Lowey and Mercy College Vice President of Student Services Margaret McGrail announced that, effective July 1, the interest rate on federally subsidized college loans was reduced to 3.4 percent, just half the interest rate three years ago, as a result of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act.

"Lowering the cost of borrowing for college tuition is among the wisest investments we can make," said Lowey.

"Cost should never be a disqualifying factor for students considering college, and cutting the interest rate on loans in half helps make the high cost of college easier to repay."

In 2007, Congress passed the College



Congresswoman Nita Lowey

Cost Reduction and Access Act, lowering interest rates on subsidized student loans. As a result, two important changes took effect on July 1 to help students afford the skyrocketing cost of college tuition:

- The interest rate on subsidized loans has decreased to 3.4 percent, cutting rates in half from just three years ago;

- New college affordability information is now available to help prospective college students and their families shop for the best value for a college education at www.collegecost.ed.gov.

Students and their families can estimate annual and total costs of a college education and financial aid available from various schools.

Academic Excellence

Emory University

The following local students received a degree from Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., at its 166th commencement ceremony on May 9:

- Leeanne Fagan of Mount Vernon;
- Gabrielle Broadie of Mount Vernon;
- Jena Sold of Ardsley;
- Gregory Frasca of Katonah;
- Matthew Lipkins of Larchmont;
- Hilary Samuelson of Larchmont;
- Kelsey Wickel of Cortlandt Manor;
- Jesse Sedler of Rye Brook;
- Andrew Creadore of Rye Brook;
- Alison Horowitz of New Rochelle;
- Alexander Harris of Purchase;
- Stephanie Glickman of Scarsdale;
- Joseph Nerenberg of Scarsdale;
- Brandon Salese of Scarsdale;
- Stephanie Cohan of Hastings on Hudson;
- Kirsten Baecher of Hastings on Hudson;
- Elizabeth Janszky of Bedford;
- Jonathan Simmonds of Bedford Hills;
- Eugene Kornel of Bedford Hills;
- Hunter Berman of Chappaqua;
- Seth Genende of Chappaqua;
- Brittany Rouchou of Chappaqua;
- Alexandra Migdal of Pleasantville;
- Chaithanya Reddy of Sleepy Hollow;
- Philip Cheng of Scarsdale; and
- Casey Delaney of Waccabuc.

Alfred State College

Nearly 800 two- and four-year degree candidates received diplomas from Alfred State College this spring, including the following students:

- Lila Campiz of Mahopac;
- Taylor Nelson of Granite Springs;
- Patrick Connor of Peekskill;
- James Klein of Cortlandt Manor;
- Diana Rizzo of Scarsdale; and
- Jason Neu of West Harrison.

University of New Haven

The following students were graduated from the University of New Haven on May 15, 2011:

- Jessica Allen of Cortlandt Manor;
- Jacqueline Gouveia of Mahopac;
- Samantha Lee of Mt. Vernon;
- Michael Mauro of Harrison;
- Michael Mauro of Harrison;
- Samantha Chester of Ossining;
- Kevin Kolisz of Ossining;
- Kevin Kolisz of Ossining;
- Matthew Petrone of New Rochelle;
- Douglas Palmesi of Bedford Hills; and
- Angela Martello of Sleepy Hollow.

Excelsior College

Margaret M. Miller, a resident of White Plains, has earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Excelsior College.

Albany Law School

The following area students graduated from Albany Law School at the school's 160th Commencement, held May 13:

- Adam Briskin of Ardsley;
- Meghan McDonough of Eastchester;
- Monica Skanes of Mt. Kisco; and
- Danielle Tabankin of New Rochelle.

Messiah College

The following local student was among the 622 students to graduate from Messiah College on May 14 during the College's annual commencement:

- Ryan Pastore of Tarrytown.

Union College

The following local residents were among the 520 Union College students to graduate June 12 during a ceremony on the College's Hull Plaza:

- Maxwell Troop of Chappaqua;
- Alexa Engert of Goldens Bridge;
- Robin Panella of Harrison;
- Albert Blanchard of New Rochelle;
- Amanda Wald of Larchmont;
- Kristin Kennedy of Ossining;
- Emily Kaufman of Peekskill;
- Christina Maldonado of Cortlandt Man-

or;

- Christopher Chiodo of Scarsdale;
- Michael Kanner of Scarsdale;
- Brittlyn Pearlman of Scarsdale;
- Rachel Stein of Scarsdale;
- Brett Sussman of Scarsdale;
- Ryan Owen of Somers;
- Hilary Fried of Yorktown Heights;
- Daniel Blum of New Rochelle;
- Saul Kurtz of Armonk;
- Carolyn Canetti of Chappaqua;
- Ronald Knox of Cross River;
- Conal Molloy of Hawthorne;
- Hyeon Hwangbo of Mount Kisco;
- Jodi Schwartz of Mount Kisco;
- Eli Arnow of Pound Ridge;
- Guss Firestein of Pound Ridge;
- Anne Woodward of South Salem; and
- Zachary Weil of Katonah.

Villanova University

The following local residents received undergraduate degrees from Villanova University at the 2011 Commencement Ceremony on May 15, in Villanova Stadium:

- Kathryn O'Malley of Yonkers;
- Marisa Zipay of Tarrytown;
- Lisa Fazzolari of Harrison;
- Erin Wade of Harrison;
- Rory Fugazy of Larchmont;
- Kristin Skorney of Larchmont;
- Michael Swetz of North Salem;
- Lucille Bell of Ossining;
- Kaitlyn Brown of Cortlandt Manor;
- Matthew Dezzi of Cortlandt Manor;
- Vincent Veltri of Port Chester;
- Rita Fitch of Scarsdale;
- Erika DeFonce of West Harrison;
- Amanda Nyman of White Plains;
- Maria Guida of Bronxville;
- Elizabeth Gunn of Bronxville;
- Elise Pierpont of Pelham Manor;
- Zachary Granelli of New Rochelle;
- Alanna McCabe of New Rochelle;
- Jillian Schonberg of New Rochelle;
- Meagan Burke of Armonk;
- Jennifer DiMarino of Armonk;
- Michael Perito of Armonk;
- Deena Liso of Bedford;
- Scott Procops of Bedford;
- Kristina Benza of Briarcliff Manor;
- Gregory Billings of Briarcliff;
- Caroline Bolwell of Briarcliff Manor;
- Elizabeth Snyder of Chappaqua;
- Haris Chaudhry of Irvington;
- Evan Jacoby of Irvington;
- Joanna Dinardi of Pleasantville;
- Lauren Freidhof of Pleasantville;
- Megan Hughes of Pleasantville;
- Kimberley Kostiw of Pleasantville;
- Emily Harrington of Pound Ridge; and
- Alexandra Hull of Tarrytown.

Stonehill College

The following local students recently graduated from Stonehill College:

- Anthony John Noto of Granite Springs;
- Michael Matthew Daly of Cortlandt Manor;
- Molly Fineout Little of Cortlandt Manor;
- Benjamin Curtis Yarter of Port Chester;
- Gabriel A. Acosta of Bronxville;
- Caitlin Noelle McEvily of New Rochelle;
- Dana Elizabeth Gilfeather of Pleasantville.

Southern Methodist University

The following local students were awarded degrees during Southern Methodist University's May 2011 Commencement ceremonies:

- Molly Marantz of Harrison;
- Grace Kelly of Bedford; and
- Brendan Golden of Pound Ridge.

Merrimack College

Merrimack College held its 61st graduation exercises on Sunday, May 22, in which the following local student was awarded a degree:

- Sarah Benischek of Shrub Oak.

Young Local Bands Battle at Playland

Six of the best young bands from the metro area are preparing for battle as Playland Park in Rye hosts its annual "Battle of the Bands" on Friday, July 22 at 6 p.m., at the park's famous Music Tower Theater. Rain date is Friday, July 29.

The bands, whose members are 15 to 20 years old, were selected as the cream of the crop out of more than 20 entries. Judging will be done by a panel of music experts that will include individuals from the local and professional music industry.

The winning band will receive a grand prize trophy and a \$200 gift certificate from Sam Ash Music. Winners will be invited back to perform at the county's winter Battle of the Bands at the Westchester County Center in January, 2012.

This year's contenders are:

- Forever and After (Hawthorne);
- Pier 54 (Ardsley);
- Howling Hour (Yonkers);
- Counterfeit Society (Valhalla);
- Nepenthe (Cortlandt Manor); and
- Joe Fox and the 4th Floor Band (Yorktown Heights).

As an added bonus, visitors can watch Playland's fireworks display at 9:15 p.m.

The "Battle of the Bands" is sponsored by Westchester County Parks, Friends of Westchester County Parks, radio station 107.1 The Peak and Sam Ash Music in White Plains. Parking is \$5 on Friday. Regular admission fees apply. For more information, call 914-813-7010 or visit www.rye-playland.org.

ships together with Committee Chair Koshy Prakash and committee members Hattie Adams, Esteban Brown, Zubaidah Jackson and Mike Wolf. Eighty proud family members attended.

The winners are not only very smart future leaders but also civic minded and understanding the needs of our fellow citizens. They are Dana Fatterusso, Gwenaelle Giffard, Kent Justin Hoffman, Alexander Joseph, Michael Messina, Dean Jordan Mitchell, Stephanie Okereke, Jaimie Parambil, Gregory Paul, Sarina Pooppallil, Kimberly Puccia, Arielle Angelina Prowse, Benedict Pucilowski, Varun Soondar, Pheba Varghese and Adria Strudwick.

County Swimming and Diving Championships Scheduled

Swimmers and divers from all over the county will compete for top honors during the 86th annual Westchester County Swimming and Diving Championships, which will take place in July and August at two swimming facilities.

The diving competition will take place at Lake Isle Country Club in Eastchester. Dates are Monday and Tuesday, July 25 and 26, beginning at 2 p.m. each day. Divers ages 10 to 13 will compete on Monday, while divers 14 to 17 will compete on Tuesday. Rain date is July 27.

Playland Pool in Rye will host the swimming competition, which begins on Monday, August 1, and runs through Thursday, August 4, beginning at 4:30 p.m. each day. Rain date is August 5.

Participants do not need to be members of a team, but they must pre-register with the Westchester County Swimming Association by calling (914) 864-7086.

Entry fee is \$2 per event, and there is a one-time registration fee of \$5 per applicant. Registration deadline is Monday, July 18, at 9 p.m.

The events are sponsored by Westchester County Parks and the Westchester County Swimming Association.

Lake Isle Country Club is located at 660 White Plains Road in Eastchester. Playland Pool is located at Playland Park in Rye.

Go to wesa.ussswim.net or www.westchester.gov.com/parks for more information.

Spaces Still Open for LMC-TV's Summer Teen Filmmaking Workshop

While enrollment for LMC-TV's Teen Summer Filmmaking Workshop I is complete, there are still openings for Workshop II.

Geared for young people, the workshops are an opportunity to learn hands-on filmmaking skills, from cinematography to scriptwriting to computer video editing.

Workshop II — Filmmaking: Make a Movie That Tells a Story (Part 2) for kids aged 12 to 17 held daily, July 18 to August 5 from 10 a.m.

to 3 p.m. — still has openings. Participants will collectively conceive of, write a script for, shoot, direct and edit a short dramatic film using state of the art video equipment, editing and scriptwriting software.

The cost for the three-week program is \$1,100. For more information or to sign up, call 914-381-2002 ext. 201, e-mail lmctv@lmc-tv.org or visit www.lmc-tv.org.

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