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Have We Turned the Financial Corner?

By Derickson K. Lawrence

Forget oil and gas prices, anyone buying the basics such as milk, eggs, rice, flour, or vegetables are now feeling the effects: prices are rising.

"Why are prices rising when the economy is in a slump?" That's the question my daughter asked recently. "A million dollar question," was my response, "with no easy answer." Walking away I pondered whether the Federal Reserve (Fed) move of cutting interest rates for the seventh time, over that past six months to ease the U.S. credit crisis and other economic woes, may have had other ripple effects.

To be sure, we are in the midst of one of the most challenging economic cycles in a generation.



A reading of 50 is the dividing line between expansion and contraction according to the Institute for Supply Management's factory Index. That number fell to 48 in the month of

April, from 48.6 in March, a recent survey showed. As spending in the economy slowed, so has manufacturing and just about every other economic metric.

In response, the Fed has been aggressive. Just six weeks ago (end of March) the Fed agreed to float some \$29 Billion of tax payer dollars to rescue Bear Stearns Cos. from bankruptcy, and in its first extension of credit to non-banks since the Great Depression, opened up lending to

see Have We Turned Pg. 6

Officials Squabble Over Ownership of Property Reassessment Initiative

Authorship Retained by Feiner and Gronowski

By Hezi Aris

YONKERS, NY – Councilwoman Joan Gronowski (District 3) upon receiving a significant number of irate telephone calls concerning the 24 percent county property tax increase began the process of conducting Internet research about eliminating or downsizing county government, which she for many years recognized had grown to be intrusive and top-heavy. From the onset, Gronowski was led to several Website addresses detailing Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner's long-standing advocacy (since



early 1990's) for the elimination of county government. Further research gleaned one of the most salient issues, that is, that almost 75 percent of county functions are mandated by the state and would have to be either absorbed at the state or local level. The remaining 25 percent of county functions may be redundant to services already performed at the local level, or simply unnecessary.

Armed with the facts, Gronowski arranged to meet Feiner. It was

see Officials Squabble Pg. 6

Mayor Young: Mount Vernon Keeping a Close Eye on Gas Pumps

MOUNT VERNON, NY -- As prices at the pumps continue to climb toward, and in some instances exceed \$4.00/gallon, Mayor Clinton Young's administration has made it a priority to step up inspections of gas stations.

"We understand how much of a toll rising gas prices take on your wallet, we are all feeling this burden," said Mayor Young. "However, what it is within our control to do is to make sure that when you pay for \$20, \$40, \$60 worth of gas, that you are getting the right amount of product. The results of the inspections indicate that people who are buying their gas in Mount Vernon are getting the best bang for their buck."



In recent weeks, Michael Paulercio, the city's Sealer of Weights & Measures, has conducted inspections of 9 stations, a total of 52 petroleum pumps, 34 blended pumps (where different grades of gas come through the same pump), and 6 diesel pumps. The result of the inspections found 9 violations in total, with all but one of the violations found to be in favor of the consumer. The pump in violation not in favor of the consumer was immediately put out of service, but was fixed and back in operation within a day and a half.

There are also some things that

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County Executive Spano Asserts Supervisor Feiner Lied!

By Tom Bock

Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner has exacted the wrath of Westchester County Executive Andy Spano over a pending development project that would encroach onto the working class neighborhood of Fulton Park, situated within the Town of Greenburgh. At stake are the future profits of WestHab, a private corporation, and one-hundred-twenty-one Fulton Park

and criminals there. More importantly, and before engaging the community in dialogue and input, was Feiner's assumption that the WestHab development project was a foregone conclusion. Then he made another admission, perhaps a mistake, and said to the Board members in attendance that, "we may have to find another location." What exactly does that mean, Paul?

While there may certainly be some animosity between the two politicians, especially now that Feiner is trying to dismantle the same county government Spano runs, Fulton Park residents believe County Executive Spano when he says the county has no pre-conceived intentions of doing anything with WestHab or that property. In fact, based on the statement that Feiner



Andrew J. Spano County Executive

May 1, 2008

Dear Greenburgh Resident:

I am writing to correct some information that I understand Supervisor Paul Feiner has been disseminating in your neighborhood that is blatantly false.

Based on an email I received from a Fulton Park resident, I learned that Supervisor Feiner is claiming that the county is threatening to put a homeless shelter in its place if the WestHab Affordable Housing Development on Tarrytown Road is not approved. We are aware that similar conversations with others have taken place.

This is just not true. *We have never nor will we ever threaten any municipality on any issue.* While we are advocates for the creation of more affordable housing for county residents, this Greenburgh proposal has nothing to do with the county. It is strictly a Greenburgh Town matter that Greenburgh has to decide upon. Westchester has no intention of putting a homeless shelter or anything else on that spot. The property is privately owned.

We are well aware of how welcoming and gracious the Fulton Park neighborhood was when WestHab's single men's shelter was in that location. We closed that shelter in 2006. What happens next is up to Mr. Feiner and your Town Board.

It is shocking to us that false rumors about this "threat" are being circulated by your supervisor. Bringing the county into the picture is nothing but an outrageous scare tactic that Mr. Feiner should be confronted on.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Spano County Executive

AJS:mt

homeowners. The WestHab development formula is being dictated by a few, for a few, and hurting the many under the pretext of political correctness. This is not what government is supposed to do. First and foremost, the obligation of our elected officials is to listen to its taxpaying constituency, not expediently submit to developers' "politically correct" advocacy, causes, and ultimate profits.

In a previous article, I addressed the alleged shenanigans that took place by Paul Feiner with a group of residents stating, "In a private meeting with Supervisor Paul Feiner, he repeatedly stated if this project doesn't go through, the county could take over the property to house sex-offenders, pedophiles,

(in non-political speak: done-deal?)"

In a letter (above) mailed to Fulton Park residents, written on Westchester County stationery, and signed by County Executive Andrew Spano, dated May 1, he states, "We are well aware of how welcoming and gracious the Fulton Park neighborhood was when WestHab's single men's shelter was in that location. We closed that shelter in 2006. What happens next is up to Mr. Feiner and your Town Board. It is shocking to us that false rumors about this 'threat' are being circulated by your supervisor. Bringing the county into the picture is nothing but an outrageous scare tactic that Mr. Feiner should be confronted on."

made in the above paragraph about having to find another place, the neighborhood should be told why Supervisor Feiner and his Town Board didn't ask WestHab to simply purchase the old Verizon building directly across the street, while it was for sale at the same time as Jeffrey Zelekowitz's Kings Inn / WestHab homeless shelter was.

WestHab President Robert Miller was a recent recipient of an award for his work with the homeless. It was stated that he had helped create over 4,000 affordable housing apartments in Westchester County. FOUR THOUSAND, and it's still not enough! It appears Feiner's goal is to fast-track this project through the intensive Greenburgh approval

see County Executive Spano. 7

The Hubris Syndrome

By Hezi Aris

"Madness in great ones must not unwatch'd go," Claudius tells Polonius in *Hamlet*. When leaders are consumed by a kind of madness, a lion tamer is likely to have as much success, as any other professional, in dealing with our elected officials from hell. And watched we did. Slogging through a

Yonkers Real Estate Committee Meeting in which AKRF, consultants hired on behalf of the Yonkers City Council, revealed issues and possible concerns of incongruity in the DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement) of the combined projects known as Palisades

Point, Cacace Center, River Park Center, and Larkin Plaza, of the SFC Yonkers Phase I development program cited in the two-foot plus thick loose-leaf bound paper documentation. The information discussed was deciphered under seven contiguous issues which will be discussed another time. The "hubris syndrome" was revealed when discussing the daylighting of the Saw Mill River. Inferences were expressed; incredulity became the response.

The New Main Street Land Development Corporation took center stage. This land development

corporation, was created for the purpose of having \$24 million in New York State funds specifically designated for initially "daylighting the Nepperhan River along the Hudson River shoreline along the Nepperhan River through Larkin Plaza and Chicken Island."

The concept for daylighting the Nepperhan River was the brainchild of former NYS Governor George Pataki whose concept was shepherded with accolades and support from Senator Joseph Bruno, and then Senator Nick Spano. When former Senator Nick Spano lost his incumbency to Senator Andrea

Stewart-Cousins, Senator Bruno bristled, putting the kibosh on the funding, as was first divulged in the Yonkers Tribune. Since that time, Joe Apicella, Executive Vice President of Cappelli Enterprises, and Project Director of SFC Yonkers, has repeatedly stated that the daylighting component is integral to Phase I. It is a necessary financial aspect, without which SFC Yonkers has oftentimes threatened to depart the scene were it not acquisitioned, as it lends itself to the aesthetic demeanor of the project,

see The Hezitorial Pg. 2



The Hezitorial

Be Careful

Driving Home! Mothers Day Remembered

By Bob Marrone

"Be careful driving home." Those were the last words my mother ever said to me.

My mother, Mary, was in the final days of a three year battle with cancer, a time during which we grew closer than we had been, and during which she was relatively healthy and productive. Mom was weak, but alert, resigned and at peace, as my family and I took turns at her side. I was on my way down the stairs from her second floor bedroom when she mustered up the energy to shout those words out into the hall. It wasn't really her bedroom though. It was simply the last room in which she chose to sleep in the house that even after 79 years she never had a permanent room. Her life in that house, indeed that house, had everything to do with what and

who she was, our relationship, and the lives of all who lived there.

The story of my mom's life is not the typical history of a woman who gets married, gets a house in the suburbs and raises her children to be fine young pillars of society. She was an extremely intelligent and independent girl, born into an old fashioned generation Italian family and brought up in the same house

in which she was revered in many ways, but relegated to second class status. As the only girl with two older brothers, her position at the bottom of a loving but rigid food chain was secured by the attitudes of parents and sibling. For erudite and educated Mary, this sent her out on a life of conflict in which she went



see Be Careful Pg. 3

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Over \$1,000,000 Spent by School System on 'Dirt'

In March 2008 Anthony Sutton's letter entitled "Too Much Spending By School District," clearly stated the wrongheadedness of Superintendent of Schools in New Rochelle, Richard Organisiak's planning of new programs in these times of fiscal crisis. Not mentioned is the frivolity of spending \$1,150,000 on dangerous, expensive 'dirt' in 2007. This is the cost of chemical-laden artificial turf laid down on the New Rochelle High School athletic field. Instead of spending precious school dollars on the direct educational needs students, it was invested in substances that can cause lung, eye and skin disabilities. Also, it reaches 130 degrees in sunlight.

The Journal News refused publication in November 2007 of my letter outlining the dangers of

this substance, but the New York Times did publish my concerns along with an article outlining the additional dangers.

My letter also raised the question of legal liability should anyone be injured by these chemical ingredients. I sent a copy of my New York Times letter to the New Rochelle School Board and the Journal News asking about the financial implications should an injured victim's family sue the school for damages.

How can we, in good conscience, expose students to such dangers?

Can this example of poor judgment have anything to do with the fact that New Rochelle has a superintendent of schools whose annual salary is over \$250,000 yet he has no doctoral degree in education?

Sincerely,
June Carletti Sambol
New Rochelle, New York

Repeal the Tyrannical REAL ID Act

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in regards to Repealing the HR 418 Real ID Act of 2005. I have formerly written to Senator Hillary Clinton, Senator Chuck Schumer and Congressman Maurice Hinchey in regards to this major issue. I am writing this letter with hopes to put a permanent halt to the RFID and National ID card. We demand a REPEAL of HR 418; The Real ID Act 2005. By REPEAL we mean ALL forms of Real ID and or National ID, which ALSO includes the defacto through the back door RFID Social Security card as well, of which is presently being orchestrated by Homeland Security to take the place of the so-called RFID driver's license. This also includes a STOP on ALL personal biometric ID as well. The Social Security card was never

implemented to be a form of ID as it was originally stated "Not for Identification Purposes" upon the face of the S.S. cards, and we will NOT tolerate it to be so today or ever! We the people of the United States of America, a sovereign free people value our privacy, and we will NOT allow ourselves to be subjected to such a Fascist form of massive, invasive human control! We will NOT submit to any such tyrannical control of our lives. We will not sit back and allow such tyranny to take over our lives. We will guide and direct our own lives with the Liberty and Sovereignty that the Constitution of the United States of America, as the Founding Father's have set forth for us to continue, for us and our posterity of future generations to come.

Sincerely,
Patricia Du Bois
Kingston, New York

On the Level with Hezi Aris

on **WVOX 1460 AM Radio**

NEW ROCHELLE, NY - Listen to the *On the Level with Hezi Aris* call-in program on WVOX-1460 AM radio this and every Tuesday. The show is heard live by way of [streaming audio technology on your computer](#), from 10:00 am through 11:00 am.

For those who can't get enough radio, consider listening to Hezi Aris every Thursday, at 8:30 am, as he discusses events impacting Westchester politics with Bob Marrone, host of *Good Morning, Westchester*. Join Bob Marrone every day from 6:00 am through 9:00 am during your daily commute from Monday through Friday.

The call-in talk show format invites your perspective; share your thoughts. Call us at 914-636-0110. Those who call are asked to please stay on topic.

The Hubris Syndrome

From Page 1

as well as the tourist attraction it is meant to exude for all who visit it.

Yet the New Main Street Land Development Corporation, upon which sit a Board of Directors comprised of William Regan, Deputy Mayor and Chairman of the Board, Chuck Lesnick, President of the Yonkers City Council, Patricia McDow, Yonkers City Councilmember, Dennis Lynch, Esq., and Michael Spicer, President of St. Joseph's Medical Center, has now revealed that its purpose is to purchase property about and within the Phase 1 footprint; strongly suggesting that it would incorporate the use of eminent domain law to get property toward the construction of the SFC Yonkers Project. In so doing, the New Main Street Land Development Corporation relieves all options to buy agreements among the developers and present owners of parcels of land within the SFC Yonkers Phase 1 development sites for other uses. The future prospect for conflict of interest in having both Lesnick and McDow sitting on the New Main Street Land Development Corporation and still having a right to vote over approval or disapproval of the SFC Yonkers Project caused both Councilmembers Dee Barbatto and John Murtagh to rail.

After deliberations past 10:00 pm Tuesday evening, May 6, 2008, News 12 Westchester revealed that Bill Struever, of the

development triumvirate Struever, Fidelco, Cappelli is interested in the Glenwood Power Station, upon which Erik Kaiser, Chairman of REMI Companies, removed his firm from a four-year plus option to buy the property from owner Mr. Cappellino. When Kaiser relinquished his hold on developing the property, Robert MacFarlane, President and CEO of Homes for America Housing expressed interest in purchasing the property. During the Christmas 2007 time frame, Cappellino was asking \$12 million for sale of the property. The evident animosity exacted upon Homes for America Housing by City Hall has become clear. Another circumstance first revealed in the virtual pages of Yonkers Tribune.

It seems that Kenneth Cappellino has been cited by John Meyer, Yonkers Building Commissioner for infractions regarding not securing the property from outsiders. The allegations for not securing the property came to light when Jim Bostick, of the Nepperhan Community Center advised Yonkers Councilmember Pat McDow of crowds of upwards of one-hundred young people having used the Glenwood Power Station property as a venue for gang initiation and other conduct that alarmed the community's sensibilities. That revelation, among others, seemingly focused Commissioner Meyer's attention toward the facility. After inspection, Cappellino was cited

with infractions for which he must return to court mid May in response to those citations. Should remedy to the infractions not be completed to the court's satisfaction, City Hall is at the ready to reduce the claimed precarious smokestack structures set upon the property to the ground with the use of bulldozers. Councilmember McDow, at a hearing among community members, YPD gang unit task force members, Police Commissioner Edmund Hartnett, Building Commissioner John Meyers, Councilmember Dee Barbatto, Councilmember John Murtagh (who departed earlier to attend to other responsibilities), City Council President Chuck Lesnick, and Kenneth Cappellino, admonished Cappellino to conclude securing the building by his admitted time frame of two-weeks or come under the threat of the use of the eminent domain law. The very use of the term "eminent domain law" had Lesnick say that he would fast-track the property stalled in stasis before the Landmark Board for over three-years time.

Cappellino obstinately deflected any and all attempts by Councilmember Barbatto to distill how and when the issues cited against the property owner would be relieved. Cappellino instead wanted to drive home his concept that there was no way in securing the abandoned property. He suggested the only solution was development to occur. Barbatto shot back that his

suggestion, while pragmatic, was too far off in the distance to relieve the community's concerns today.

Cappellino admitted to having visible access points for intruders to enter the edifice that are as large and as wide as to allow a minivan to drive through, particularly on the side of the building abutting the Hudson River. Considering he could not tell the panel at the table that he could remedy the lack of security of the building within a specific timeframe, when News 12 Westchester claimed to have gone to the property that evening that showed the property secured with new padlocks, did that prove the property was truly secured or did he hoodwink News 12 Westchester was he toying with the panel at the Yonkers Ceremonial Courtroom earlier that night? What part of his behavior is believable? Why the obfuscated, disrespectful, and condescending tone taken by Mr. Cappellino? What's his game plan? Cappellino will come before the court mid-May. It will be up to the court to decide how to proceed.

What has become evident over these short months is that a former "friend" of City Hall's "family and friends network" has been kicked out of the inner circle, harassed by Building Department citations, deadlines, community uproar, Yonkers City Council inquiry, Yonkers Police Department oversight, judicial review, time

restrictions, and potential loss of property by the use of eminent domain law. A far cry from the alleged sweet deal of many decades in which taxes were relieved in his favor and detrimentally against the benefit of the City of Yonkers.

Such is the "madness" among leaders in name or reality. And so it was that revelations would unfurl in the telling by hubris syndrome sufferers, unique individuals, who exhibit a narcissistic propensity to see the world primarily as an arena in which they can exercise power and seek glory; a disproportionate concern with image and presentation; a messianic manner of talking about what they are doing and a tendency of exaltation; excessive confidence in their own judgment and contempt for the advise or criticism of others; unshakable belief that in the court of history, or G_d, they will be vindicated; restlessness, recklessness and impulsiveness.

How unlike the meek and unassuming newspaper editorial writer... but, acid-tongued bloggers already know that.

Locking the Barn Door

Package of Reforms Proposed by Quinn; and Cast of Dozens to Drain Slushwater

By Henry J. Stern



New York Civic

Hey, wait a minute. Are they all crooks? Tuesday, May 6, 2008, we wrote "Slushwater Percolates Along", reporting on the simmering dispute among Councilmembers on the issue of their discretionary funds (member items, in Albany; earmarks, in Washington). It turns out that substantial sums were laundered through fictitious organizations, other money was simply embezzled (the old-fashioned way) and some went to groups whose only defense is that they have no records.

Yesterday, May 7, 2008, Speaker Christine Quinn announced what she called "a comprehensive overhaul of Council budget practices." We looked for the press release and found one dated April 11. That was the agreement that got her into trouble with her members, because it ceded to the Mayor much of what little discretion the Council has. May 7, 2008, after speaking at a Citizens Union breakfast, appropriately in the Puck Building, she stood with Councilmembers who remain loyal to her, and issued a new set of rules. Link to them here:

[PORK RULES COOKED UP BY COUNCIL SPEAKER CHRISTINE QUINN](#) (The Daily News)
[IN WAKE OF COUNCIL SCANDAL, QUINN OFFERS](#)

[NEW RULES](#) (The New York Sun)
[QUINN LAYS DOWN LAW ON SLUSH](#) (New York Post)

The new rules were dutifully applauded by the good government triumvir, Dick Dadey of Citizens Union, Gene Russianoff of NYPIRG, and a newbie reformer, Susan Lerner, who heads Common Cause, a respected group which is on the mend. The City Club was absent, since it was hijacked about two years ago and has not been heard from since. The new rules are sensible and, if they are followed, many of the abuses that have taken place will be curbed. The problem will continue to be one of dealing with people who have a different set of moral standards, and who will use any loophole they can find to pry funds from the city treasury for the benefit of those who are near and dear to them.

The release was headed: [SPEAKER QUINN, COUNCIL BUDGET TEAM PRESENT BEST PRACTICES FOR BUDGET ALLOCATION PROCESS](#).

Its lede reads: "City Hall, May 7, 2008 - City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn, together with the City Council's 27-member Budget Working Group, today released several major changes to the Council's current budget

allocation process. These extensive and unparalleled budgetary practices significantly raise existing standards for legislative fiscal practices through strengthening governmental transparency and accountability." You can link to the entire release, in which the list of new practices follows a series of blessings from no fewer than twelve worthies, a record for an announcement of this sort. In order of appearance, and using last names except where there have been multiple public figures with the same DNA, they are Quinn, A.Cuomo, J.Rivera, Comrie, I.Dickens, Fidler, deBlasio, Jackson, Yassky, Garodnick, Dadey and Russianoff. No proposal on ethics has ever been launched with

such a multitude of blessings. Returning to the release: "This set of practices includes:

- 1) Increasing pre-clearance requirements for organizations requesting local, discretionary or initiative based funding (BTW, they say 'increasing', we wonder how many pre-clearance requirements there were).
- 2) Heightening disclosure requirements for organizations requesting local, discretionary or initiative-based funding (BTW, again, how tall were the old requirements?).
- 3) Instituting safeguards for the use of fiscal conduits; (You could call this the clean laundering act, but it is actually a good rule).
- 4) Broadening data included in budgetary documents such as Schedule C, as well as making data electronically accessible; and
- 5) Appointing an Independent Council Compliance Officer, as well as a Deputy Compliance Officer, within the City Council's Division of Finance."

(We ask, how independent can this wo/man be if s/he reports to the speaker and the general counsel, an appointee of the speaker? For genuine independence, this person should have a fixed term, be able to appoint staff, and be removable

only for cause, which would have to be proven before a panel of justices of the Supreme Court of the State of New York.

In the interest of providing you with the most complete information, we called the Council to find out who were the 27 members of the Budget Working Group, an entity whose existence was revealed in the headline and first sentence of the press release. On our second call, we were told that the group is fluid, with others joining or leaving, so at the moment the identity of the membership could not be announced. Although that is scarcely the pinnacle of transparency, we do note that 27 is one more than half the membership of the Council, which is 51. Ms. Quinn at this time has enough support to stave off the regicides, which is just. It would be shameful if she were to lose her job for the sins of her members, although her performance hardly qualifies her to seek a much more demanding public office.

Henry Stern is president of New York Civic (www.NYCivic.org) and a blogger on public issues. He was New York City's Parks Commissioner for fifteen years under Mayors Koch and Giuliani.

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Op-Ed

Weir Only Human: Hillary Could be Mother in Chief

By Bob Weir



Weir Only Human

I think it's appropriate on this Mother's Day to give credit to a woman who could become the first mother to be called President of the United States. Yes, Hillary Clinton may not be my choice for the top job, but she has my respect for her perseverance and resilience during one of the hardest fought campaigns in recent history. During the early days of this contest she may have believed in the inevitability of her nomination, but when it became clear that Barack Obama was about to whisk away her chances, she didn't succumb to the negatives that seemed to besiege her. Instead, she came fighting back with the type of determination that smolders in the hot blood of a fierce competitor. A few months have passed since she was being given up for dead in the race for delegates. Party leaders were telling her to throw in the

towel, while some of her closest advisors and former associates were switching sides, saying she couldn't win.

Yet, in the face of so much bone-crushing rejection, the indefatigable former First Lady refused to yield to the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune; to wit, the fact that a relative newcomer to politics has captured the imagination of his African-American brethren as well as a sizable share of the white vote in the country. Nevertheless, Hillary trudged on, in state after state, her voice growing hoarse at times, as she tuned out the naysayers in the Media and the political community and struggled against a tidal wave of adversity. How many of us would have had the intestinal fortitude to get up every day and speak at another rally, appear at another interview and slog through more

increasingly bitter debates while being told that we're destroying any chance for our party to win in November? Even after victories in Ohio and Pennsylvania, two key states needed in the general election, her detractors still said it's over for her because Obama has an insurmountable delegate and popular vote lead.

Undeterred, Ms. Clinton continued her quest to win other primary contests, taking to the stump in Indiana and North Carolina, states in which her opponent had a comfortable lead. In addition, she took a calculated risk by appearing on the Bill O'Reilly show,

considered anathema by the hard left, a voting bloc she hopes to at least split with Obama. Although it was a smart move to get her message out to the largest possible audience, it could have backfired if she came off as wishy-washy against the formidable host of The Factor. Instead, she sat there and went toe to toe with perhaps the most truculent interviewer on the planet and she held her own. Any doubts about this woman's toughness should be dispelled by now. But, toughness is not the only requirement for the job of Chief Executive. That is, unless you're a woman trying to prove to the country and the world that you can

be as tough as a man.

That's no simple task for a nation at war; one used to having a man as Commander in Chief. Maybe that's why Clinton feels the need to say she would "obliterate" Iran if they obtained nuclear weapons and used them on Israel. Obliterate means remove from existence, wipe out, completely destroy. Is that what she meant? Probably not, but it makes her sound tough enough to be respected by those guys slugging down whiskeys and winning wars in the comfort of their local bars. When she's been questioned about such bellicosity she often refers to the tough-talking Teddy Roosevelt, the Republican president known for being a paragon of masculinity. However, TR was best known for saying, "Speak softly, but carry a big stick."

President Kennedy, during the

perilous Cuban missile crisis, didn't say the US would obliterate Russia if Cuba launched a nuclear missile against one of our allies. He said such an attack would require "a full retaliatory response upon the Soviet Union." Retaliatory means to react in kind, to do the same to you that you did to me. Words have meaning as well as consequences, hence, they should be chosen carefully. Yet, in all fairness, TR and JFK didn't have to worry about being viewed as weaker than the opposite sex. Clinton, in trying to appear tough enough, risks being viewed as a warmonger, an unfair criticism often leveled at the man she's attempting to succeed.

Bob Weir is a contributing columnist to *Yonkers Tribune* and *Westchester Times Tribune*.
BobWeir777@aol.com.

New Perceptions of Traditional Conceptions

By Joe Klock, Sr.



Like Klockwork

At some point after the dawn of time, Adam and Eve (or, perhaps, some lower forms of animal life) perfected the relatively simple and more-than-somewhat-pleasant procedure that results in human reproduction. To those intrepid pioneers we must ever beholden; had they not devised (or stumbled upon) that process, all of us would exist only in scattered parts of the Periodic Table of Elements.

For most of the intervening time between Paradise and Presentdom, practically nothing changed in the methodology involved, although countless volumes were written, countless songs composed, and countless tell-alls told regarding the basic techniques (e.g., as renowned physiologist Harry Bellafonte put it, with engaging simplicity: "De woman piaba an' de man piaba an' de Ton-ton go back-a lemon grass.")

But modern science, which wouldn't allow the atom to remain in peaceful hibernation, also couldn't

resist the temptation to introduce variations of that time-honored ritual.

As a result of their efforts, recent years have seen a number of what might be categorized in Bellafonte terms as strategic alternatives to the traditional "Ton-ton go."

The earliest of these was artificial insemination. First employed exclusively in animal husbandry, A.I. was expanded to the human genre as a solution to the problem of infertility. For a while, it was largely restricted to husband-and-wifery, in cases where the conventional piaba exercise had been unproductive of begats.

It worked almost as well when the biological Dad could not be the same guy who got a new tie every Father's Day, since the ultimate newborn blended easily into nuclear family life, as do adoptees.

Of late, though, it has become fashionable for an unmarried woman to borrow or buy sperm, introduced either in person or by

proxy, and welcome her child into a single-parent household. Few are the psychologists who believe that this is an environment more desirable than having both progenitors in the picture, but arguments persist to the contrary.

A somewhat disquieting outgrowth of the artificial insemination and "mystery father" business is the emerging custom of shopping for sperm donors with specific physical, mental, or cultural characteristics - sort of like selecting crayons for a coloring book.

Presumably so as not to be left out of this "customized kiddies" fad, would-be fathers were, a while back, offered the eggs of beautiful young women by an enterprising Playboy photographer, also alleged to be a purveyor of porn. While this

individual may have proven to be playing with something less than a full deck, it seems likely that a successor will pursue the same high-tech pimpery.

If so, it would follow that, after selecting and remunerating the egg-bearer of his dreams, Papa Buyer would forthwith have to round up a competent physician, a petri dish, a surrogate mother and, if he's smart, a crackerjack lawyer.

Those guys unwilling - or not ready just yet - to go into production, as well as those wishing to propagate into the indefinite future (even after kicking the bucket), are offered the option of preserving their sperm in a deep-freeze for later use by them, their heirs, surviving spouses or, perhaps, a future Playboy photographer/porn-pusher.

All such modern intrusions into what has traditionally been the sacred turf of Mother Nature raise the ominous specter of future web sites, junk-mail catalogs, and TV markets where one might prefabricate one's children from an almost infinite variety of mind/body components. The notable success of such enterprises as Home Depot ("you can do it, we can help") suggests that this is a real - albeit scary - possibility.

Might we, then, in soontime, see a plethora of matinee-idol males and gaunt (but bosomy) females? Will overbites, receding chins, bald heads, hairy backs, long noses, short willies, inherited maladies, and thunder-thighs be relegated to the encyclopedias, museums and freak shows of Century 22?

I, for one, hope things don't change too much in these areas. With all its uncertainty, apprehension and occasional misfortune, the age-old game of reproductive roulette

has an irreplaceable appeal, an intriguing air of mystery, a healthy dose of suspense and a romantic mystique. Most of this would be lost if our future generations were to be genetically engineered like race horses, show dogs and fajitas.

Predictability may give comfort to some aspiring parents, but it would be at the cost of the adventure and surprise that are as much a part of the parenthood experience as the divine urge.

One can hope that, whenever possible, children will continue to be fashioned in the old-fashioned way.

Freelance wordworker Joe Klock, Sr. (joeklock@aol.com) is a winter Floridian who summers in New Hampshire. More of his "Klockwork," can be found at www.joeklock.com.

Birds: Friend or Foe?

By Anthony Greco

Don't you just love spring? Trees are blooming. The weather is warming up. And outside of office buildings all across America, smokers can go back to smoking at a leisurely pace. It's a shame I won't be able to enjoy any of it because of birds. How can I walk around comfortably outside knowing that those crazy winged creatures are overhead dropping all kinds of things and looking for things to scoop up, like my cherished Old Spice tie clip?

I assume the majority of people like birds. Even I must admit the flying part is pretty cool, and some birds have beautiful colors, and some even make pleasant sounds. Well, don't let that beautiful nature stuff fool you. You cannot trust a bird. You turn your back on a bird for one second and it could be the last time you ever see your Ringo Starr bobblehead doll. Then, how

would you sleep? (Think about this - birds can't smile.)

You need to be prepared, because we often find ourselves in bird-dangerous situations - and then it's too late. Let's say you're sitting on the back of your 1978 AMC Gremlin (not an easy task - I give you lots of credit), scarfing down a bag of pork rinds, which you've strategically placed on the roof rack (you're an avid skier - have you forgotten?) as you read the latest Wal-Mart circular. You're completely involved with the chapter on bras, when you hear an unidentified bag noise. Your first thought is "oh, no, my bag of pork rinds" (see, reading sharpens the mind). You look over just in time to see some kind of non-smiling winged reptile flying away with a beakful of your pork rinds.

Of course, you're startled, a bit frightened, and deeply saddened by

your loss.

But you're also tough and prepared from having read this stunning exposé. You're fairly certain you can whip that bird's tail in a fight-

to-the-finish-chain-gang-bloodbath. But you're also thinking that bird could peck my face, or my nipples, or even that tender area between my toes. (You should have worn shoes.) Consequently, all reading comes to an end. (Do you think that bird cares that your circular is time-sensitive? Apparently not.) So you grab your pork rinds, jump into the car, and hope to God it will start before that creature returns for a second helping. Where's a SWAT team sniper when you really need one?

This horrific scenario is medically proven to be as likely to happen as any other non-bird scenario. Now, do you see why I feel as I do about birds? You've probably never given it much thought - so I'll give you some time to reflect on your blessings.

(Pause)

Okay, we must go on.

You know, it's really the small birds that are the most deceiving. Obviously, we're all terrified of the big ones - vultures, owls and pterodactyls, but it's those little guys that give you a false sense of security. They seem so gentle, prancing around, and then -SWOOP- they fly by and steal your stuff.

And what about the fact that most

birds have one eye on each side of their head? They can be acting so nice on one side, reminding you how they help you eliminate unwanted rodents, while on the other side of their head, they're winking to a friend (also a bird) about you. You would never know it unless this friend (still a bird) was a snitch, who had a previously existing problem with the first bird's wife. This occurs daily in the in the mysterious lives of birds. I believe it all stems from the fact that they can't tell each other apart. It's quite common to have a male raven, for instance, acting amorously toward another hot-looking ravenette, only to realize well-into the activities that he's smooching with his cousin Larry. I suggest birds wear distinctive gender-coded eyeglasses to help eradicate this embarrassing problem.

The people who created Woody

Woodpecker took full advantage of these demonic bird traits. Mr. Woodpecker is without a doubt, the most vilified, villainous, and villain-like protagonist in television history. And once again, to cite the false sense of security I'm so fond of citing, there's the Woody Woodpecker theme song. While he's putting holes in the back of your head, that lovely little tune is fooling you into thinking everything is all right.

Haberdashery! Or maybe, hogwash!

Regardless, I'm on to them. And by now, I hope you are too.

Anthony enjoys putting words together, often to form sentences. Anthony is also a part-owner of Media Buzz, a NYC marketing company. Direct email to him at anthonygreco@hotmail.com.

Amicone in Wonderland

By Vox Populi

Let's get right to the point Mr. Amicone. What city are you living in and is your view being obscured by the minions surrounding you?

First, the State of the City address. Its three main points were development - now, educational formula aid change - soon, and a county-wide reassessment - later.

You have been the person "engineering" development as you claim to "grow the tax base" for the last twelve years. "Hello!" If you could get it done tomorrow, Yonkers would still not see these tax dollars; none of which have been spelled out. Did you just discover that the New York State aid formula for our school system was out of whack? Again, you were second and first in command for the last twelve years. You now expect the state to change it "overnight" - that is, by next year's city budget deadline. By the way,

if your staff reads the newspapers, they will tell you that the governor expects next year's budget deficit to be in the neighborhood of \$7.5 billion. Good luck! And as far as your touting the Yonkers Public Schools, hopefully you are not relying on Pierorazio's information. People realize that both you and he, have no clue. This doesn't need an explanation. Nice trick with the county wide reassessment. I am sure the contingent of northern Westchester County Legislators is going to rush to embrace this idea; they will sooner get a raise. And what is the rush behind the SFC Yonkers Project, that is unless you want to beat the next FBI probe?

What is worse than this whole scenario is the fact that one whole control of the city breeds a culture of fools. You Mr. Mayor came into office unprepared and naive under

the sponsorship and tutelage of Kathy and John Spencer. You are in your fifth year as mayor, but in reality, its actually only your third year. Your "brain trust" is basically third rate, leftovers, out-of-towners, Amackassin loyalists, and Spano refugees.

You preach to the right, yet act to the left. Your ability, like the famed "wizard" is doing it with a straight face. Albeit some of it you actually do believe.

Something altogether different is seen through the "Looking Glass" - in fact, it is three examples of hypocrisy. First, you bring down a friend from White Plains to manage

the Yonkers Parking Authority (YPA). Financial scandal and cover-up occurs over his secretary regarding the secretary's educational expenses.

There is no penalty. Oh, your deputy mayor, Bill Reagan, is the chairman of the

YPA - no conflict, right? Second, your appointment, Superintendent Bernard Pierorazio's friend, Charles Whalen losses \$1 million in Continuing Center for Education (CCE) funds. Again, there is no penalty. Pierorazio disbands the program, resurrecting it under another name. Whalen abruptly retires, yet returns as Pierorazio's consultant. Dunne (Whalen's

friend) is scheduled to get a fourth term as president of the Yonkers Board of Education (YBoE), and her employer, Manhattan College gets thousands of dollars from the Yonkers Board of Education (YBoE). Amnhattan College is your alma mater, Mayor Amicone; like in the new Riverside High School of Engineering. Inspector General Phil Zisman, your appointee, released a report on CCE. He said he can't find anything. He doesn't know where to look; and no one knows anything. We are "comforted" in knowing his up-coming reappointment is secured.

Third, but not least, is the building department scandal. Lisa Mrijaj, your Chief of Staff, inherited from Ed Sheeran's Office of Economic Development with not a stitch of experience, now making over \$150,000 per annum, has her son

hired for approximately \$20,000 five years ago at the age of 20, also had no experience. Five years later he is making almost \$60,000 and he is "buried" in the building department. It's not the fault of the Building Department. You put him there, it's your fault. Patronage - no! You said we don't have any - right?

The point is you seem to be living in your own reality or wonderland. These are problems you are directly responsible for. These are your decisions.

You see, Mayor Amicone, you simply can't run government through favoritism with inexperienced and unaccomplished loyalists. It's a \$1 billion corporation.

Please, for all our sake - get a grip!

From Page 1

her own way, unable to outgrow, or even physically get away from, the familial responsibilities thrust upon her by tradition and guilt.

Initially, she stayed in her parents home because her husband went off to fight in Europe right after they married. He never came home, and what became of him remains a mystery. Shortly after that, her brothers abandoned their children to her care. One, succumbing to the

ravages of alcohol, exacerbated by the deaths of his wife and five year old son in a short span, left his two daughters. The other left his four children, three boys and a girl, after his marriage broke up. They did this because they could. A life of second class status in ones family makes it almost impossible to say no when you still live in the same house in which a pecking order was established. Its harder, still,

to tell your brothers to come and get their kids once deposited. So Mary headed into the late nineteen forties with seven children...one of them my brother...no husband, a domineering mother and a nursing career. So much for independence, erudition and enough tennis talent to be a teaching pro; my mother was never to have her own bed again for the rest of her life, spending most of the next forty years sleeping at the

foot of one of her many children's, or grand children's beds until the very last years of her life.

Before the decade of the 1940's was out, she lost the sight in both eyes due congenital detachments of both retinas. They managed to save one of her eyes after an arduous nine month ordeal. She left nursing career because of her eye site, and took a job close to home running a dentist office and working as a

technician. It was walking distance, and she could also be home for the clan.

1950 brought me along. I never met my father, I don't know who is, and I never really cared. It was a whole different time and people didn't ask questions, including me. It broke my mother's heart, but she placed me in a foster home with her (then) best friend for the first few years of my life, taking me back

when the older ones moved on and she had enough resources to handle it. Before you get side tracked by this, take heart that I became closer to my mother than any other, and our relationship was not defined by this necessary hardship. This was about what she had to do. So now she had all of us, and dedicated the rest of her life to bringing every

see Be Careful Pg. 4

Be Careful Driving Home

A&E • Business • Campaign Trail

Be Careful Driving Home

From Page 3

single one of us up with love and care. We were her life. And after us, to some degree brought on by the selfishness of my extended family siblings, she pampered and brought up, for a time, many of their children. Again, that house and my mother's sense of obligation made it too easy. But that was who she was, and that was her life till the end.

As you can, no doubt deduce from this, she was a complicated woman, and hers was not a typical life. But the thing that defined her,

and the essence of the woman, even as she faced death was clear. She really was concerned more about others than herself. When events compelled her to give up the life she wanted, in exchange for the one she had to live, she made a choice most people would not make. I always wondered how much of it was from the heart, versus how much of it was true selflessness. I got my answer in those last hours of her life.

For a time, I felt bad that I did not stay that night when she slipped

into a coma. The hospice people and those of us in my family thought she would be with us for a few more days, so I decided to go home. But soon after that, and ever since, I have been grateful for her last words. At the last moments of her conscious life she was more concerned about my getting home safely than she was about herself. "Be careful driving home!" Yes, I still think today, on this Mothers Day, that her selfless instinct defines mothers everywhere.

The Swingset Mamas to Perform at Mamapalooza Festival, Get Ready to Swing, Dance and Sing

VALHALLA, NY -- The Swingset Mamas will perform at Mamapalooza Rock Your World Festival, a free outdoor, day-long family festival at Kensico Dam that runs from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Mamapalooza Rock Your World Festival also includes kids' activities and fun for the whole family. Learn about the Festival, by visiting the www.myspace.com/mamapalooza2 Website.

The Swingset Mamas are rockin' moms that take the rhythms and realities of everyday life and playfully weave them into songs that kids of all ages will enjoy -- whether buckling your seatbelt to a hip-hop beat in "Buckle Up," or rocking to the EPA-honored sun-safety anthem, "Sunscreen Dance." Visit them at the www.swingsetmamas.com Website.

Performances on Saturday, May 17, at 11:15 am, and 12:15 pm at the Kids Stage, in Kensico Dam, in Valhalla, NY. Admission is free, rain or shine



The Swingset Mamas' Marlowe Bechmann (left) and Lizzie Swan (right)

Steiner Sports Names Jason Teitler Senior Vice President

NEW YOEK, NY -- Steiner Sports CEO Brandon Steiner has named Jason Teitler to the position of Senior Vice President of Marketing, and Kiva Iscol as Marketing Account Executive at America's leading sports marketing and collectibles company, which will embark on new marketing initiatives and strategies.

"We are delighted to bring Jason and Kiva to our management group," said Steiner. "They bring a wealth of experience to the Steiner team, and we look forward to the exciting new initiatives and strategic capabilities that will continue the growth of Steiner Sports."

Teitler has joined Steiner Sports as a member of the marketing group to develop and grow its strategic communications offerings, including sports-influenced programs designed to help brands build better relationships with stakeholders. As part of his role, Teitler will also work with public relations, advertising and marketing firms to further package sports and entertainment activities into their client campaigns.

Teitler, a native of Brooklyn, New York, has significant accomplishments in sports and digital marketing, and public relations, following 12 years at Porter Novelli, where he worked with such prominent clients as

Gillette, GSK, Kellogg's, Princess Cruises, Merck, Tele Atlas, Pfizer, Hewlett Packard, Dupont, Nissan and the Muppets.

Kiva Iscol is a graduate of Cornell University, where as a student she worked in the university's Sports Marketing Department for four years creating a series of programs to connect the varsity athletes to children in the Ithaca community. Upon graduation, she worked in advertising sales at Madison Square Garden, managing \$25 million in accounts involving multiple properties including the New York Knicks, Rangers, Liberty, Mets, Islanders, Devils, as well as the Hartford Wolfpack, MSG Network, Fox Sports Net and Radio City Music Hall.

During the past year, Kiva has been involved in philanthropy initiatives which have taken her across the globe to South Africa, England and Vietnam. She also spent time in New Orleans investigating the role of philanthropy in disaster relief.

Iscol is a native of Pound Ridge, New York, in Westchester, and now resides in Manhattan.

Steiner Sports Marketing, Inc. is a part of Omnicom Group Inc. (NYSE: OMC) www.omnicomgroup.com.

UKRAINIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

On the church grounds at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 14 Broadway & Shonnard Pl., Yonkers, NY

FRIDAY JUNE 13 6 TO 10 PM
SATURDAY JUNE 14 1 TO 10 PM
SUNDAY JUNE 15 1 TO 7 PM

FREE ADMISSION

Vocal Groups & Dancers
Traditional Arts & Crafts
Varenyky, Holubisi, Kobasy
Rides & Games

\$15.00 Pay One Price
Kids Bracelets Sat. 1 - 4

<http://www.brama.com/yonkersukrainianfest>

"First Blood" Returns to the Big Screen

One Night Only Event



NEW ROCHELLE, NY and WHITE PLAINS, NY -- The hit movie "First Blood" will be presented on the big screen on Thursday, May 15th, at 7:30 p.m. local time.

After the movie, fans will also experience the alternate ending that could have changed Rambo's theatrical history forever presented for the first time on the big screen. There will also be an exclusive taped interview with Sylvester Stallone that will also give fans a unique look into the incredible story of the making of "First Blood" over 25 years ago and his unique insights into legend and franchise of Rambo in a specially produced segment for event attendees.

The one night screen showings will take place in the

White Plains, NY 10601
The event is being held to celebrate the release of *Rambo: The Complete Collector's Set*, a 6-disc set featuring all four Rambo films, on DVD May 27th.

Writer, director, and actor Stallone stars as war hero John Rambo, an ex-Green Beret haunted by memories of Vietnam who was once the perfect killing machine. Fans can once again see where it all started in "First Blood" where Rambo escapes from being unjustly imprisoned then must use his cunning combat skills and weapons training to stay alive as he becomes the target in a massive manhunt.

Tickets for this special one-time-only event are available at presenting theatre box offices and online at www.FathomEvents.com.

following theaters:
New Roc Stadium 18, New Rochelle, NY 10801
City Center 15 Cinema Deluxe,

The Fine Print

By Lisa Fine



"I LOVE NY" slogan and depict what they love about NY "In A New York Minute" (a :60 second film). Films should be creative and highlight the distinctive places, unique characters and hidden gems that make New York State special. Contestants will compete for prizes including professional HD video equipment, scholarships, NY weekend getaways and the opportunity to screen their "short" during a prime time television broadcast. Entries will be collected over the summer and the winners selected in the fall. A panel of distinguished New Yorkers is being assembled to judge the entries and pick the winners. Current panelists include Philip Seymour Hoffman, Tina Fey and Doug Liman. Info: www.iloveny.com.

the Yorktown Youth Soccer Club, and a mini-Relay for Life by the American Cancer Society, and even more.

The event is being supported in part by the Yorktown A&P, Yorktown Lions Club/Leos Club and the Yorktown PennySaver Media Group/North County News.

All proceeds of the event benefit drug prevention programs for Yorktown youth (Alliance for Safe Kids and DARE). Info: 914 245-4650.

"I Love NY" A short film competition has been announced that invites filmmakers to produce their take on the famous

To submit information for The Fine Print, please send emails to TheFinePrintNY@verizon.net, call 914 243-9761, or visit the www.LisaFineCommunications.com Website. Lisa Fine is owner of L.F. Communications, Inc. some of whose clients may be mentioned on occasion.



YONKERS, NY -- After months of speculation, former New York State Senator Nick Spano today announced he will not run for the 35th State Senate District, a seat he held for 20 years from 1986-2006. "I consider myself fortunate to have been given the privilege of serving the people of Westchester County for 28 years, Spano said. I started my career in the State Assembly as a 25-year-old novice and left as a senior member of the Senate Majority. It is something that very few people will ever experience, and I am profoundly grateful for the thousands of individuals

throughout Westchester who remain loyal and supportive of me." Continuing, Mr. Spano said, "I am proud of the record I left behind in the State Senate, having been successful year after year securing record amounts of education aid for our schools, as well as preserving the outstanding delivery of health care in the Hudson Valleys premier hospital, the Westchester County Medical Center. I am also extremely proud of my work on behalf of those people who suffer from mental illness or were born with a developmental disability, and I will continue to be a vocal proponent to

improve the quality of care provided to this deserving population. That being said, it is my intention to work closely with the leaders and organizations in Westchester to help them promote their agendas." "I will consider this period of time in my life a sabbatical from public service, one that I hope allows me to "smell the roses, enjoy my family, and accomplish all the things that I never had time to do while serving in a personally rewarding, but all consuming, career in government," concluded the Honorable Nick Spano. Upon hearing of Mr. Spano final

decision on the issue, Gail Burns, Chair, of the Westchester County Conservative Party said, "I don't think it is any secret how I feel about Senator Spano, both professionally and personally. Having worked with Nick Spano for many years, I can tell you that he is both a great man and leader; I know he will continue to make contributions to make our community better. While I respect his decision, I can tell you that his voice is greatly missed in the State Capitol, especially by those of us who live in the 35th Senate District.

Hon. Nick Spano Will Not Seek New York Senate Seat

Senator Stewart-Cousins to Face Challengers to Represent 35th S.D.

By Hezi Aris

YONKERS, NY -- The Hon. Nick Spano's declaration that he would not seek the office of the 35th Senate District has opened the gate to other potential candidates that would vie to challenge Senator Andrea-Stewart-Cousins.

Two Republican names have risen to the forefront among inside circles. Yonkers City Council Minority Leader Liam McLaughlin (District-4), and Yonkers City

Councilman John Murtagh (District-5). It has not been formally concluded, but it would be fair to say that the two contenders will reach an understanding upon how to move the challenge forward. At the moment, the likelihood of a primary fight between the two lawyers is nil to none.

A hefty bankroll, one that Albany is said to be willing to finance, goes far toward launching a

credible assault against incumbent Senator Stewart-Cousins. The money being recognized the carrot, at issue is the stick.

Will McLaughlin or Murtagh convince Albany he is the more seasoned? Has Hartsdale's Mary Mahon's

exploratory committee found her efforts worthy of viably contending for the office? Emerging from conjecturing about the field, and coming to a consensus among all the protagonists is the first challenge to the Westchester Republicans.

Join Assemblyman Greg Ball for a great event!
May 28th at Travelers Rest
Route 100 Ossining
6:00-9:00 P.M.



Guest Speaker
Curtis Sliwa
Live Entertainment!
Sinatra Impersonator
\$100.00 per dinner
For More Information
www.gballevts.com or call 845.222.9494



The 30th Running of the
MOUNT VERNON HANDICAP
Sunday, May 18, 2008

New York-bred Fillies & Mares, 3 years old and up, \$100,000 added, 1 1/8 Miles (Turf)
The MOUNT VERNON is named for the city in Westchester County bounded by the Bronx and Hutchinson Rivers.

This race has been run at a mile and a quarter from 1983 to 1988; run on the main track in 1988; run in two divisions in 1992.

THE MOUNT VERNON CONSERVATIVE COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE OUR CITY'S PRIDE AT THE BELMONT RACE TRACK in ELMONT, L. I.

Meet at the CLUB HOUSE on the 2d Floor 3 PM (near the Paddock Room)

Gates Open at 11 a.m.

Grandstand Admission: \$2
Clubhouse Admission: \$5
Children under 12 free with an adult.
Parking Gates Open: 10:45 a.m. daily
General Parking: \$2
Preferred Parking: \$4

Not a Fund Raiser
Contact Rosemarie at (917) 731-7275 or Kevin at (917) 529-7264

Community • Economic Development • Epiphany Park

Safe Rides is Running Again!

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NY --- Look for a four-door sedan with official plates to designate the official temporary Safe Rides vehicle. Safe Rides will operate on Friday and Saturday nights throughout the school year from 10PM-1:00AM. Call 914-478-2471.

Advocate Program (YAP) will be held at the James Harmon Community Center Lower Level this Friday until 10PM. It's a kewl place to hang out with friends, play pool, ping pong, or video games, or use the computers. For more information direct email to JConte@hastingsgov.org.

Friday Night Hastings Youth

Senior Citizens, Middle School Students Join for Arbor Day Tree Planting



NEW ROCHELLE, NY -- New Rochelle Senior Citizens and junior high school students from the Isaac E. Young Middle School participated in a tree planting and grounds cleaning event on Thursday, May 1, at the Hugh A. Doyle Senior Center, 94 Davis Avenue, New Rochelle. The ceremony, coordinated by Program Specialist Phillis Maucieri, was attended by Mayor Noam Bramson,

Parks and Recreation Commissioner William Zimmermann, Arborist Paul Reholz, Office for the Aging Executive Director Thomas Crossman, and Isaac E. Young educators Mary Monteleone and Martin White and their students. Students from Ms. Monteleone's class detailed the significance of Arbor Day and students from both classes cleaned and planted the grounds.

Yonkers Students First Place Recipients in 2008 Bicycle Safety Poster Contest

Port Chester, Chappaqua, Yorktown, and New Rochelle Students Awarded

WHITE PLAINS, NY -- Students from Yonkers schools accepted the first place prizes in the 2008 Bicycle Safety Poster Contest, beating out over 300 other submissions. Students from Port Chester, Chappaqua, Yorktown and New Rochelle were also represented by winning recipients.

The awards were presented on Sunday, May 4, as part of the opening day festivities of Bicycle Sundays on the Bronx River Parkway, in the parking lot across from the Westchester County Center.

The poster contest was sponsored by Westchester County Parks and the county's Department of Public Works, Traffic Safety Section. The students received awards for their posters that best demonstrated an awareness of bicycle safety rules of the road.

All first place winners are from elementary schools in Yonkers. The third grade winner is Naomi Mayoya of Foxfire School, fourth grade winner is Brandon Diaz of Casimir Pulaski School, and the fifth grade winner is Alex Lopez of Robert C. Dodson School. The students' artwork best exemplified the theme: "If you bike at night, use lights." All winning posters will be displayed throughout the county and will be featured on the county's website www.westchestergov.com/parks.

The 2008 Bicycle Safety Poster Contest was open to all Westchester students in third through fifth grades. Judges from the Westchester Bicycle Safety Advocates Committee chose the winning posters from entries



Brandon Diaz, Fourth Grade, Casimir Pulaski School



Naomi Mayoya, Third Grade, Foxfire School



Alex Lopez, Fifth Grade, Robert C. Dodson Elementary School

submitted from all over the county.

The posters were judged on their originality, message depicting bicycle safety awareness, as well as the artwork. The award recipients will receive prizes donated by local vendors and certificates of merit.

The first place winners received bicycles with helmets, courtesy of Danny's Cycles of Scarsdale, Pelham Bicycle Center, and Bicycle World of Mount Kisco. Second place winners received scooters, courtesy of Hickory & Tweed of Armonk, WalMart of White Plains, and Kmart of Greenburgh; and helmets that were donated by Safe Kids of Blythedale Children's Hospital, Valhalla. Third place winners received digital cameras donated by Toys R Us of White Plains, and helmets donated by Safe Kids. Honorable mentions received movie tickets to Clearview Cinemas, bicycle accessories from Danny's Cycles, and bicycle helmets from Safe Kids. In addition, all students took home saddle packs from the Westchester County Health Department's Be Fit program, bicycle lights from Danny's Cycles, and sport water bottles from Modell's Sporting

Goods of Greenburgh.

Refreshments at the ceremony were courtesy of City Limits Diner of White Plains, Trader Joe's of Scarsdale, and A&P Supermarket in Eastchester. Also, those attending the ceremony were eligible for a raffle to win a pair of tickets for a New York Mets game this season.

The winners of this year's contest are:

First Place/ 3rd grade: Naomi Mayoya, Foxfire School, Yonkers; First Place/ 4th grade: Brandon Diaz, Casimir Pulaski School, Yonkers; First Place/ 5th grade: Alex Lopez, Robert C. Dodson Elementary School, Yonkers; Second Place/ 3rd grade: Kiera Dewar, Casimir Pulaski School, Yonkers; Second Place/ 4th grade: Sherin James, Casimir Pulaski School, Yonkers; Second Place/ 5th grade: Diana Dos Santos, Casimir Pulaski School, Yonkers; Third Place/ 3rd grade: Ashanti Lindo, Casimir Pulaski School, Yonkers; Third Place/ 4th grade: Caroline Foster, Brookside Elementary

School, Yorktown; Third Place/ 5th grade: Charisma Gonzalez, School 9, Yonkers; Honorable Mention/ 3rd grade: Nathan Rim, Brookside Elementary School, Yorktown; Honorable Mention/ 3rd grade: Miguel Bustamante, Casimir Pulaski School, Yonkers; Honorable Mention/ 4th grade: Mohamed Mohamed, Foxfire School, Yonkers; Honorable Mention/ 4th grade: Krysten Moncano, Casimir Pulaski School, Yonkers; Honorable Mention/ 4th grade: Madeline Garell, Westorchard Elementary School, Chappaqua; Honorable Mention/ 4th grade: Lizabeth Torres, Robert C. Dodson Elementary School, Yonkers; Honorable Mention/ 5th grade: Florida Mulaj, Christ the King School, Yonkers; Honorable Mention/ 5th grade: Katie Tenefrancia, King Street School, Port Chester; Honorable Mention/ 5th grade: Abigail Wachua, Daniel Webster Elementary School, New Rochelle.

"By planting and maintaining trees, New Rochelle strengthens its commitment to environmental sustainability and a high quality of life," said Mayor Bramson. "This symbolic planting at the Hugh Doyle Senior Center represents our broader effort to add greenery and beauty to more neighborhoods,

parks, and public spaces throughout our community."

The tree, a flowering cherry, was planted in memory of the late Lorraine Mason, a dance teacher who worked with the disabled community at the Center. The annual tree planting is part of New Rochelle's designation as a

Tree City.

"This is the fourth year that students from Isaac E. Young Middle School have partnered with the Senior Center for a spring cleanup," noted Parks and Recreation Commissioner William Zimmermann. "City Parks and Recreation is thankful for the continued commitment by IEYMS

faculty and students with their annual Arbor Day gifts of labor and beautiful trees; beyond the obvious visual beautification impact, this event offers the wonderful opportunity to have young citizens working alongside our older citizens in a true intergenerational effort."

WCBA Participates in 50th Annual Law Day Celebration

WHITE PLAINS, NY --On May 1, the Westchester County Bar Association celebrated Law Day 2008. Law Day, first established in 1958 by President Eisenhower, sought to acknowledge the principle of government under law. Now celebrating its 50th Anniversary, Law Day is an annual event celebrated by bar associations across the country. The WCBA Law Day celebration is held in conjunction with the Naturalization Ceremony held at the Westchester County Courthouse.

Hon. Mary H. Smith presided and County Clerk Timothy C. Itoni welcomed the 121 new citizens, administered the Oath of Allegiance and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

After the new citizens' swearing in, WCBA President Anthony J. Enea, Esq. presented an award to the first place team of the 2008 Westchester High School Mock Trial Competition - Rye Neck High School.

WCBA Law Day Co-Chair Tejash Sanchala introduced guest speaker, New York State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins. While serving as a member of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, Senator Stewart-Cousins was



The Rye Neck High School Mock Trial team poses with (L-R) County Clerk Timothy C. Itoni, State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, WCBA President Anthony J. Enea (holding trophy), Mock Trial sponsor David Ganis from Webster Bank, WCBA Mock Trial, Coordinator Clarissa Dayton, and Rye Neck Coach Kristine Pegno.

instrumental in authoring and passing the county's first human rights laws, which established the Human Rights Commission. This day, she spoke about the Rule of Law, which was the theme for the national Bicentennial anniversary of Law Day.

"The Rule of Law protects us and empowers us simultaneously," said Stewart-Cousins.

"It inspires us locally and globally

to ensure that we remain a society which endures under all leadership that is free from tyranny, because we are, in fact, governed by laws - not people. That is perhaps the greatest lesson that can be learned as we honor the rule of law."

She concluded, "In my estimation, the rule of law illustrates the progress of our history - and reflects, as each of you do - the promise and potential for our future."

Brodsky Announces Legislation to Break Westside Development Logjam

Public Hearings on Westside On May 23

ALBANY, NY and NEW YORK, NY -- Assemblyman Richard L. Brodsky Chairman of the Committee on Corporations, Commissions and Authorities announced the introduction of legislation to restructure and speed up development of the Westside rail yards, and public hearings on all the major Westside projects including the Javits Convention Center, Moynihan Station, the 7 Line extension, the Boulevard, ARC, and the rail yards. The Committee has conducted a series of oversight hearings and issued subpoenas concerning Westside projects, and previously introduced legislation to require public disclosure of the status of all large capital projects in New York City.

"Progress on large capital projects in New York City has ground to a standstill. The City and the region cannot afford further delay, and a change in the governing structure for some of these deals is necessary," said Assemblyman Brodsky.

"We are introducing today legislation to move the rail yards from the ownership and decision-making authority of the MTA and transferring them to a new authority

modeled on the highly successful Battery Park City development. There are two immediate advantages to doing so. First, the MTA will receive up to \$1 billion in cash for its capital plan as had been promised by the MTA but never attained, and second, it will allow for development of the rail yards in an orderly, building by building manner, without the public having to forever surrender ownership of the land and participation in future profits. This is the model that worked so well in the development of Battery Park City, and will work well here. The new authority will prepare a development plan that will allow it to consider social and community interests, to work with a variety of developers, and to hold title to the underlying property and not sell it at the bottom of a real estate contraction. A permanent income stream can be developed for the MTA as well, as has happened at Battery Park City," stated Assemblyman Brodsky.

"It is important to emphasize that this bill directs no criticism at any agency, the MTA, ESDC, the City, or any public official. We need to rethink these projects, but to do so



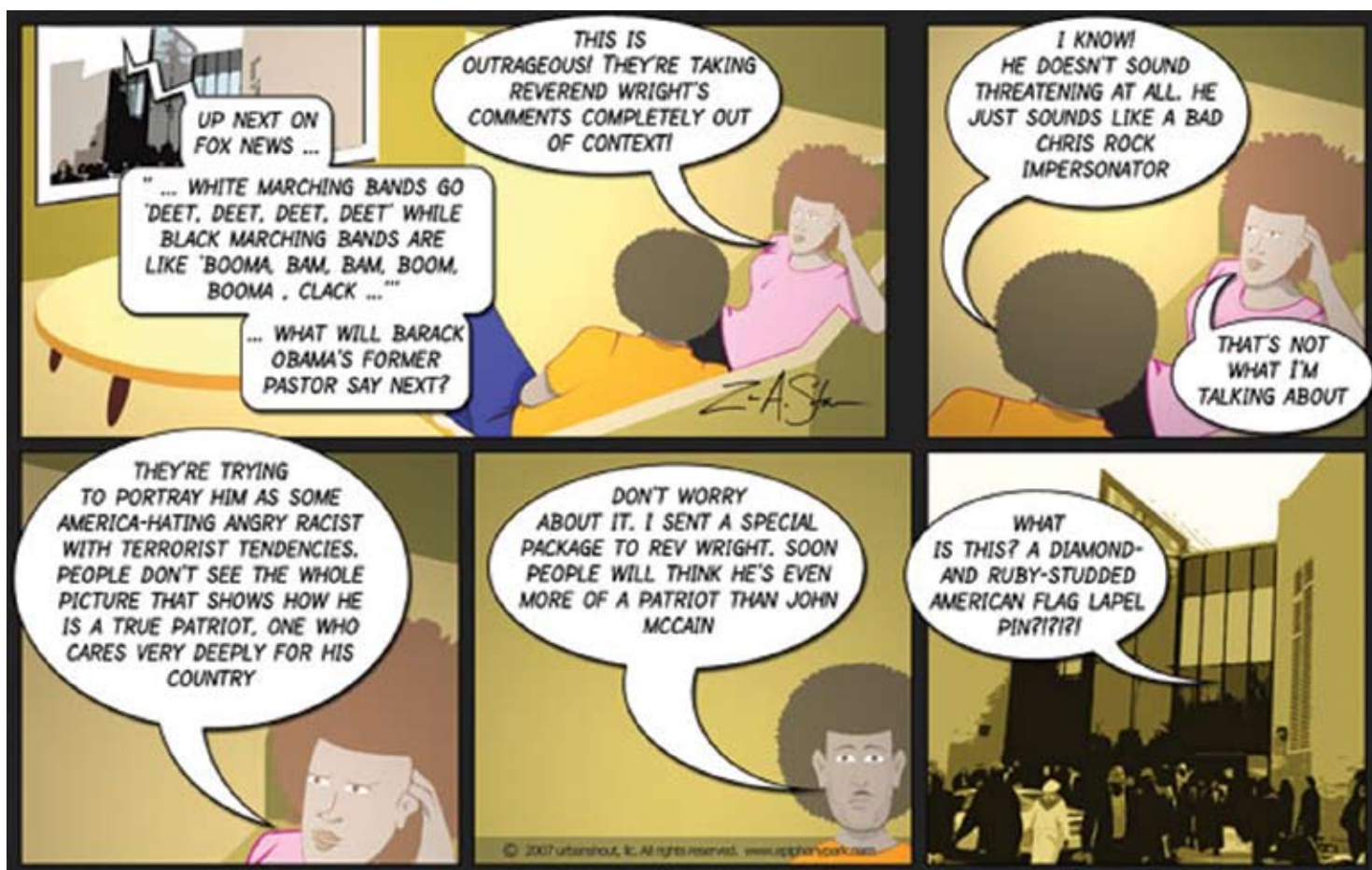
in a cooperative and thoughtful way. The state, region, and City are faced with a development crisis. We are seemingly unable to move forward on any large project. We are short the capital to do so, and in some cases have made mistakes about priorities and individual projects. We can and must go forward, but only after a careful public examination of the realities, and then the difficult job of setting priorities. It is doubtful that all the projects can or should go forward. But the most significant and necessary projects can no longer be subject to the start-stop, announce-retract dynamic that we see repeatedly. Good intentions are everywhere. Good intentions are not enough."

"The Committee will convene a hearing on Friday, May 23 in New York City to examine these projects, and the legislative and administrative solutions available. We are committed to moving forward, to economic growth and investment. We appreciate the cooperation of ESDC Acting Chairman Avi Shick, MTA CEO Lee Sander and New York Commissioner of Economic Development Robert Lieber who have agreed to present testimony."

The Committee's past hearings have focused on plans for the Jets Stadium, the financing and purposes of the 7 Line Extension, the plans for a rebuilt Javits Convention Center, and the MTA's activities at the Hudson Yards properties. "In the end, we must remember that the MTA Capital Plan is not funded, and that is the highest priority for our limited capital resources. The difficult job of setting priorities in an environment of limited resources is what we are now confronting. Working together we can meet that challenge."

epiphany park

By Zuri A. Stanback www.urbanshout.com



Economic Development • Education • Environment

Construction at Petrillo Plaza in Mount Vernon

Work will Include Improvements to Bus Stops and Traffic Signals

MOUNT VERNON, NY - Downtown Mount Vernon is undergoing a face-lift. Work to improve the area began on Monday (May 12) at Petrillo Plaza, the area of East Prospect Avenue between North Third Avenue and Park Avenue.

The \$2.4 million construction project is a joint initiative of Westchester County and the City of Mount Vernon. It will enlarge the waiting area for Bee-Line passengers, install new bus shelters and benches, street lighting and a landscaped center median along East Prospect Avenue. The street will also be paved and new traffic signals installed.

"This project is a springboard for Mount Vernon to redevelop the downtown area," said County Executive Andy Spano. "Not only

will it be welcomed by all who visit the area, but our bus passengers will be able to wait for buses in comfort and out of the elements."

County Transportation Commissioner Lawrence C. Salley said, "With 3,500 daily passengers, Petrillo Plaza is the third busiest bus stop in the Bee-Line system. We want to make available to our Mount Vernon passengers amenities that have been included in the White Plains and New Rochelle bus terminal projects."

"Public transportation is vital to Mount Vernon residents," said Mount Vernon Mayor Clinton Young. "This project will benefit not only bus riders but all those who visit our downtown area to work or shop."

Funding for the project came from various Federal Transit

Administration and New York State Department of Transportation grants.

During construction, Bee-Line Routes 7, 40, 41, 43 and 55 that normally serve passengers on the south side of Petrillo Plaza will be moved to Elm Avenue next to Metro-North's Mount Vernon East railroad station. Passengers were handed information on the project last week, and signs have been posted at the bus stop reminding passengers of the construction. Passengers who use Routes 53 and 54 will find their buses at West Prospect Avenue and Gramatan Avenue.

Vernon Hills Landscaping of Mount Vernon is the general contractor for the project and will be supervised by the county Department of Public Works.

May 20 Vote: New Rochelle School Board and Library

By Peggy Godfrey



NEW ROCHELLE, NY - Communities throughout Westchester will be voting on their school and library budgets and board candidates on May 20, 2008. In New Rochelle Proposition # 1 will allow residents to decide whether they are willing to accept a total of \$4.2 million in state aid for capital projects. This EXCEL (Expanding our Children's Education and Learning) grant money was made available to every community in New York State on a one-time basis. The voters must approve this grant first, then the school district can bond for the money and the state will reimburse the city over a period of time which could last up to 30 years. The New Rochelle Board of Education would like to use EXCEL money to make Jefferson School handicap accessible by adding elevators and modifying restrooms. Isaac E. Young Middle School would gain a new gymnasium roof and masonry pointing. Mitch Spalin, Vice President of the South End Civic

League, thinks all schools should be handicap accessible. "If we can get the money this way, we should give serious consideration to voting for this proposition."

John Quinn, Assistant Superintendent of the New Rochelle Public Schools, claimed there would be "no net tax impact" from this grant. He added if the residents don't pass this proposition these mandated improvements must be completed in the future. "This way we get the state to pay for it in future years." A total of \$4.2 million in grant money from the state will be gained: \$3.3 million for the local portion and an extra \$900,000.

The New Rochelle School District budget is projected to increase this year by 5.5% which is the lowest in at least 6 years according to Quinn. The tax increase of 6.1% is based on the assessments. There is only one person on the ballot for school board member, incumbent Mary Jane Reddington.

The New Rochelle Public Library will also have their budget and trustee candidates on the ballot. The total budget proposed is \$4.1 million, an increase of \$325,000 or nearly 8.5%. There is a fund balance of \$110,000 and a cumulative prior pilot recovery of \$56,000 listed in this budget. The tax levy increase is \$181,000. Extended library hours for Saturdays in July and August 2008 and the last weekend of June 2009 added \$100,000 in contractual salary increases. There are three candidates for two library trustee positions. The candidates this year are Kelly Berkell, Quentin Jacobs, and Joseph McNelis.

Innovative Pilot Program Recycles Shrink Wrap at New Rochelle Marina



Thousands of pounds of shrink wrap will be recycled in New Rochelle this spring thanks to an innovative new program encouraged by Harbormaster Salvatore Gugliara.

NEW ROCHELLE, NY -- Thousands of pounds of heavy plastic wrap used to protect dry-docked boats from winter elements will be recycled for the first time this spring, thanks to an innovative pilot program encouraged by New Rochelle Harbormaster Salvatore Gugliara.

The New Rochelle Municipal Marina is one of three sites in Westchester County offering collection of the discarded shrink wrap. The material will be picked up by the Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities and delivered to the Material Recovery Facility in Yonkers. The product can then be sold to recyclers for about \$160 a ton, to be manufactured into other materials. With the average boat using as much as 20 pounds of wrap, it is anticipated that tons will be removed through the month of May.

"It's important to keep this material out of the waste stream," said Harbormaster Salvatore Gugliara, adding that this recycling effort was part of a broader "Clean Marina" program he hopes to see initiated in New York State.

"This initiative is in keeping

with our goal of environmental sensitivity," noted Parks and Recreation Commissioner William Zimmermann. "It's a program we should endorse and take the lead on."

Additionally, for the second year in a row, the Marina will continue to participate in the recycling of monofilament fishing line, again in collaboration with Westchester County. The New Rochelle Municipal Marina is a full service marina containing approximately 300 boat slips and 150 mooring spaces rented on a seasonal basis, primarily for residents of New Rochelle. Services include hauling, launching and wet/dry boat storage. The Marina acts as a gateway to the beautiful Long Island Sound for canoes and kayakers, and offers a fuel dock and state-of-the-art pump-out station which is vital for recreational boating.

Upcoming events at the New Rochelle Municipal Marina include the Striped Bass tournament on Saturday, June 7 and Marina Day Open House in August.

For more information, contact the Marina at 914-235-6930.

Have We Turned

From Page 1

Wall Street securities firms at the 2.5 percent discount rate - now 2.0 percent. These unprecedented and courageous moves took the world markets by surprise and ended - for a week - the age-old debate introduced by Milton Freidman that free markets without government intervention reign supreme. More importantly, in hindsight, those moves averted a disastrous credit crisis melt-down and moved us away from the abyss.

Lagging Effects

Other components of the markets, however, are still reeling. Despite the surprise jobs' report from the Labor Department on May 2nd, which showed the [jobless rate](#) drop to 5.0 percent in April from 5.1 in March, versus the 5.2 percent that many economists were expecting, it's still the highest level in three years.

Here are some of the contributors. Wall Street banks and securities firms, hit by \$309 billion in mortgage losses and write downs, have slashed 48,000 jobs in the past 10 months, led by cuts at Citigroup Inc., Merrill Lynch & Co., Lehman Brothers, and Bank of America Corp, according to the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association.

Merrill Lynch, the third-biggest U.S. securities firm, said on April 17 it would cut about 3,000 more jobs after the credit-market crisis forced it to write down about \$6.5 billion in debt. Other job cuts mentioned in the May 2nd report included 60,000 and 110,000 in construction and goods-producing businesses,

respectively, in the month of April. The bad news is that there's more to come.

The good news is that employers cut fewer jobs than were expected. The surprise came in the service industries, where 90,000 jobs were added - the most since December. That one-time, better-than-expected data helped the Dow Jones Industrials Average close at its highest point, so far, in 2008. Along with the market rally came another rally of sorts - the rally of the dollar, which is a departure from the past. Empirically, there has been a correlation between the Fed actions of easing rates since September of 2007, and the drop in the value of the dollar. And it was no surprise to see oil test its previous high of \$120 per barrel on May 5th as a result of the Fed recent rate cut of 25 basis points - again a weaker dollar. However, it's important to note that the dollar rally was spurred by the market anticipating a pause to rate cuts, and receiving a surprise of better job numbers. Better job numbers and any sign of consumer strength, as a trend, would mean the Fed is not only done with cutting rates, but has to start raising rates.

Rising Prices

We have seen energy price appreciation for longer than six months and that trend will moderate slightly, but will continue. The same is true for commodity food prices but for different reasons.

A case could be made that the Fed actions of cutting rates contributed to both higher oil and commodity prices, and a reversal in that trend, or

just a pause, may have an arresting effect in the near term. First, oil or any other commodity, priced in U.S. dollars on the international market, has fetched higher prices to compensate for a weak dollar. Second, ridding that premise, higher oil prices and correlated gas and diesel prices then lead to higher transportation costs. This, of course, leads to higher prices of the transported goods. So despite the slump, that's the rationale for higher prices for airfare, goods and any products and services dependent on oil and its refined components.

Conversely, as the value of the dollar rises internationally you literally get more "bang" for the buck, so to speak. As a result, if the dollar rally continues, and the Fed communicates its bias to raise interest rates, we can expect to see energy and commodity food prices moderate. The only conclusion to that will be an up tick in consumer demand in two areas: a) in the case of oil and gas - demand created by the driving and traveling season, which will begin at the end of May; and b) in the case of food commodity prices - global demand.

Global Effects

A tangential rationale for rising commodity food prices stems from our quest for an alternative to the U.S. dependency on foreign oil. This has led to price increases of corn and soybean which are critical components of not only the ethanol and biodiesel production, but of the food chain world-over.

With the combination of tax credits and incentives, coupled

with increased demand for corn to produce ethanol, and for soybean to produce biodiesel fuels, a speculative market with higher prices for those commodities was created. Add price protection, from import tariffs, and you've got the "gold rush" effect.

Moreover, if we focus on corn as the principal feed ingredient in livestock production, those higher prices are passed on through the chain. So whether it's dairy products, poultry, meats or those crops displaced by planting larger acreage of corn, the argument is that those prices are higher than they would have been in the absence of the expansion in bio-fuel use.

Finally, the growing demand for corn and other grains like rice and flour, from emerging markets like China and India, compounds the price issue. And media reports of riots in other developing countries, because of shortages, put the demand in perspective. Consequently, a drop in oil prices at this point, may not significantly affect food commodity prices because of these shortages, hoarding and rationing that is budding around the world.

As we look forward to the next two months, there is one silver lining - The Economic Stimulus Benefits Package. Whether it's six hundred or three hundred dollars, for many who qualify, it will not arrive soon enough. Derickson K. Lawrence is the CEO of MarketView Resources Inc., a private label banking company in Mount Vernon. Reach him at info@marketvw.com.

Officials Squabble Over Ownership of Property Reassessment Initiative

From Page 1

during their meeting that they agreed to initiate a grass roots task force of individuals who would be willing and have time to explore how the state of Connecticut eliminated county government in 1960, which would also include their experiences, pro or con, without this level of government. The first open meeting attended by almost 200 people at the Grinton I. Will Auditorium Library was held on April 30th, at which time a petition drive was mounted to ask the state to commission a study to eliminate county government, without mitigating the mandated functions.

Prior to that public meeting, at the April 14th Rules meeting, Gronowski introduced legislation calling for the City of Yonkers to conduct a property reassessment, which had not been undertaken for decades. The onerous 24 percent county tax hike in Yonkers was

based upon a disproportionate equalization rate. The matter was put into the Budget Committee meeting, which met on May 6th. Unexpectedly, at that meeting's agenda, a resolution prepared in the name of Yonkers Mayor Phil Amicone was introduced. The legislation, prepared by Yonkers Corporation Counsel, aware of Gronowski's legislation, attempted to marginalize her efforts asking the Yonkers City Council to request that Westchester County undertake a countywide reassessment, and having the temerity to further ask that his resolution be substituted for hers.

In his attempt to rationalize his being first to the plate, Mayor Amicone alludes to his "resolution" being in his delivery of the State of the City address the previous week. Even so, Gronowski's legislation had already been introduced and

was sitting in committee. By no small coincidence, also on or about May 6, both County Legislator Ken Jenkins and Gordon Burrows sent out a press release calling for a county reassessment, which reads in part:

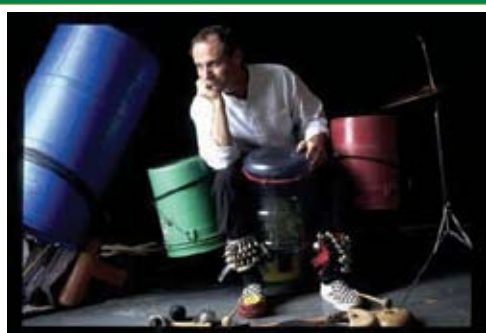
Burrows said, "I note with pleasure that I am not the only Legislator concerned about the problems associated with Westchester's erratic re-valuation policies. My friend and colleague Legislator Ken Jenkins (D/Yonkers) proposed, at the May 5 meeting, creation of a Westchester County Property Valuation Commission. The commission would gather property data, perform relevant data analysis, and submit recommendations on property valuation. Personally, I think the county should begin the process of properly valuing Westchester's real property now. That requires action now at the state

and county level, and it requires an annual commitment to maintaining the process. Legislator Jenkins's proposed commission might well be part of the solution."

Seemingly, neither Mayor Amicone or any other members of the Westchester County Legislature introduced any reassessment legislation prior to the Feiner/Gronowski effort to eliminate county government.

Both resolutions by Councilwoman Gronowski and Mayor Amicone's suggested replacement are being reviewed.

Billy Jonas Concert



Rock On

Come learn about recycling from dynamic children's entertainer Billy Jonas whose music and message will educate, engage and inspire children of all ages. The concert is on Sunday, May 18, 1:00 pm. Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased online (no service charge) at www.riverdaley.org



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Government • Sports

County Executive Spano Asserts Supervisor Feiner Lied!

By Tom Bock

From Page 1

system, get back into County Executive Spano's good graces, and all the while helping WestHab get their profits.

Robert Miller must believe he can solve Westchester's affordable housing concerns in Greenburgh, all in one building! The selling price for Zelekowitz's building was \$2 million. The only plausible rationale for Zelekowitz having received thirteen years of the maximum allowable rent from the county, is for Zelekowitz to sell that property to WestHab; which has been contractually consummated.

Regardless of the property WestHab purchased, the demand for zoning changes, in the guise of political correctness, seem extortionary in tone, and need to end. The property is zoned for single-family residential or single story commercial. It's not zoned for four, five, six or more story apartment buildings! That's why there is a two-story motel. The neighborhood association, residents and business are all asking for one simple thing. They want no zoning variances granted to WestHab and to have the existing building renovated. Greenburgh must assimilate the building design by Building Code and Zoning Laws so as to permit the residential design to match and blend into the neighborhood. The Town must recoil from spot

zoning for this or any project at this location.

Paul Feiner, the apparent affordable housing champion of Westchester, is slowly turning the Town of Greenburgh into nothing but affordable housing. On May 28th, he plans to have "his" Town Board vote to approve this project. Ignoring that your neighborhood might be next, he's reminding me of Eliot Spitzer's steamroller comment. What we really need is an affordable Town for everyone!

There are several salient issues. First, Town government should not be circumventing the normal process for building anything in the Town. Second, the Town Board should be listening to the neighborhood, and as taxpayers and constituents, doing what's right by them. Third, whatever Feiner's motivation, it behooves him to assign such projects where appropriate and not to obsess his compulsion on Fulton Park. Fourth, Feiner and crew have done nothing to assist this neighborhood's horrendous flooding and traffic conditions. He should start there. Fifth, when all other neighborhoods refused the homeless and said "not in my backyard," Fulton Park opened their arms and embraced them for over twenty years. The Town should help to accommodate them for a change! Sixth, WestHab's proposal for a green roof on this building, to allow

a larger footprint and taller building should not be allowed. Green roof technology may be good, but until the Town has a Code for it, it should not be allowed in lieu of something else. Seventh, there are easements involved that predicate what can and cannot happen to this property. There should be a moratorium on all activity with this property until the courts have made their decision.

Fulton Park, already comprised of many work force families, is looking toward the Town of Greenburgh, it's supervisor, and Town Board to do the right thing. Fulton Park cannot change political correctness, political expediency, or simply bad judgment. They live here are wholly vested in Fulton Park. Stop railroading this project to the benefit of WestHab and to the detriment of Fulton Park residents. WestHab should not get the grant money for a monstrous building that doesn't blend in with the neighborhood. Neighborhood residents haven't been shown the most recent plans, as Feiner claimed in several articles in *The Journal News*. WestHab continues to refuse to meet and work with the neighborhood or go over the plans with neighborhood residents. County Executive Spano acknowledged one of Feiner's alleged lies; how many more were made? It's not too late to do the right thing for the residents that elected you!

Mayor's Column

By Mary C. Marvin
Mayor of the Village of Bronxville



Memorial Day 2008 will be like no other in Bronxville. Thanks to the yeoman volunteer efforts of two Village residents, Cindi Callahan and Jane Staunton, our focus will return to the real meaning of Memorial Day – honoring our veterans.

Hoping to get a few dozen veterans and their families to lend their name to a scroll of honor, we now have just under 1,400 names of men and women who served in our armed forces and lived in the Village at one time.

Their stories are varied and poignant. Generations of Bronxville citizens have truly stepped up when called in time of national need. Families in Bronxville have sent their sons and daughters into harms way from as long ago as the Civil War up to and including the war in Iraq. In fact, we have Bronxville fathers who have served in Vietnam, with sons who have served in Iraq. Others in Bronxville experienced the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Battle of Iwo Jima and the taking of Normandy Beach. They were military engineers, hospital corpsmen, seabees, flyers, artillery experts, bombardiers, seamen, special forces, paratroopers, submariners and mountain troopers. A remarkable number of Bronxville women also served our country in varied capacities.

One Villager liberated Jewish captives through enemy blockades, another identified that soldiers were contracting hepatitis through

war effort at home. Victory garden contests were instituted, complete with silver cups as prizes.

We indeed have heroes among us. Their stories were shared in their experiences at a tea reception on May 11th at the Women's Club. Letters and remembrances will be on display, along with a continuous showing of the War World documentary, "Art in the Face of War", by Bronxville filmmaker David Baugnon. In addition, there was a performance by the West Point Tuba Quartet.

Following the event at the Women's Club, the photos and remembrances were moved to grace our merchants' windows throughout the Village. In addition, the Bronxville Veterans Memorial Committee has instituted a calling card program. Donations collected from canisters placed in our local stores will go towards funding cards for injured military personnel being treated at the Landstuhl Medical Center in Germany. Much thanks goes to Cindi Callahan and Jane Staunton for putting together this vast array of memory, artifact and donations into a single and comprehensive program.

All of the expenses associated with this new initiative have been generously underwritten by the Bronxville Historical Conservancy. Showing your support for our veterans by participating in the recent events go a long way to help us recapture the true meaning of Memorial Day in the Village.

Westchester's Budding Basketball Stars to Compete in Benefit Tournament to Fund Summer Camp Scholarships

Former New York Knicks Star John Starks to Attend

WHITE PLAINS, NY -- As gas prices continue to rise, and the future of the economy remains uncertain, more Westchester families are finding summer camp to be a luxury they can't afford. That's why MVP Basketball Camp, a White Plains-based not-for-profit organization, is organizing the first-ever three-on-three basketball tournament to benefit MVP's Community Outreach Program, which provides summer camp scholarships to disadvantaged kids. The MVP Basketball



Camp Three-on-Three basketball tournament fundraiser will take place on Saturday, May 17, rain or shine, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at White Plains Middle School—Highlands Campus. Boys and girls ages 6-16 will compete in six divisions based on age and gender.

The action on the court won't be the only excitement at White Plains Middle School—Highlands Campus on May 17. Former New York Knicks star John Starks is among several celebrities scheduled to attend and The New York Knicks organization is scheduled to send its Knicks Groove Truck to entertain the crowds. The day will start with a celebrity tip-off at 9:00 am and more notable appearances at lunchtime.

"Westchester is home to some of the brightest budding basketball talent in the country," notes Noel Muyskens, Executive Director

of MVP Basketball Camp in White Plains. "The three-on-three basketball tournament is open to boys and girls, ages 6-16 of varying abilities, to showcase their skills and to help raise money to send disadvantaged kids to camp this summer," he adds. "Funds raised at this tournament will also support MVP's 'Hoops for Troops' program, which pays camp tuitions for children who have family members serving in the armed forces," says Muyskens.

The minimum donation to participate in the MVP Basketball Camp three-on-three basketball tournament is \$15 with proceeds to benefit MVP's Community Outreach Program. To enter your child in the tournament, call Noel

Muyskens, MVP's executive director at 914-946-1231 or visit: www.mvpbasketballcamp.org.

The tournament is sponsored by 103.9 WFAS-FM. Mr. Muyskens also notes that MVP Basketball Camp is taking applications for its summer programs and that scholarship awards are still available.

Founded in 1994 by businessman Stan Greene, MVP Basketball Camp has flourished to become one of Westchester County's largest and most successful day camps. Built on the core values of community, teamwork, diversity, learning, and fun, campers closely interact with coaches and other campers to provide a comprehensive learning experience. Its Community Outreach Program offers financial assistance to over 25% of the campers who attend MVP Basketball Day Camp, helping to assure a wide variety of classes and cultures. MVP's Community Outreach Program is generously supported by grants from The MBIA Foundation, and The Louis R. Cappelli Foundation; and corporate contributions from Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide and Entergy Corporation. MVP Basketball Camp is a 501 (C) (3) not-for-profit organization based in White Plains, NY.

World-Class Sailors Preparing For U.S. Disabled Sailing Championship

Compete for Independence Cup on Long Island Sound

RYE, NY -- As part of US Sailing's National Championships program, dozens of sailors from the United States and Canada—many of them champions of previous national and international regattas and Paralympic medalists—will compete for the Independence Cup at a four-day event hosted by the American Yacht Club

(AYC) in Rye, New York from June 6 – 9, 2008. Officially named the 2008 U.S. Disabled Sailing Championship, it is sponsored nationally by Rolex Watch U.S.A. and Dry Creek Vineyard. UBS, The Carlyle Group, Heineken, and EMA Clocks are serving as additional sponsors.

"Sailing is one of the only sports in the world where disabled athletes can compete with able-bodied people as equal competitors," says AYC's Regatta Chair Bill Sandberg. "These competitors are sailors, first and foremost. They just happen to have a disability."

The event is the only national sailing championship for disabled sailors. It is open to any sailor with a physical disability, provided that they meet eligibility requirements. Past events have included quadriplegics, paraplegics and amputees, as well as individuals with multiple sclerosis, cerebral

palsy, polio and ALS. Several of the participants will go on to compete in the Paralympic Games in China this coming September.

Competition will be held in three classes of boats: 2.4mR (singlehanded, meaning one sailor); Sonar (triplehanded); and Ideal 18 (doublehanded). In order to level the

The winner in the Sonar class receives US Sailing's Chandler Hovey, Jr. Trophy, named for "Buzz" Hovey. Hovey was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1947, but continued to race actively -- with able-bodied sailors -- until he retired from the racing circuit in 1981. The Judd Goldman Trophy, given to the winner in the 2.4mR class, is named for Justin "Judd" Goldman (1914-1989). Despite his own physical disability, Goldman was an accomplished sailor and inspired the creation of the Judd Goldman Adaptive Sailing Program, Chicago, Illinois.

The inaugural Independence Cup took place in 1990 and the event has been held annually since then. For the past decade, the Chicago Yacht Club hosted the U.S. Disabled Sailing Championship. Beginning this year, the Championship will be hosted by different sailing organizations around the country every year to expand awareness of disabled sailing and encourage disabled individuals to take up the sport.

For more information and directions, please visit www.americanyac.com. For more information, please visit www.ussailing.org.



Mayor Young: Mount Vernon Keeping a Close Eye on Gas Pumps

From Page 1

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