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The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER Examiner

**Somers Crowned Section
1 Champs...**



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Covering Yorktown, Somers, Cortlandt, Croton-on-Hudson, Buchanan, Ossining and Peekskill

FREE

November 4 - November 10, 2014

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 6, Issue 256

Cortlandt First in Region to Have Purple Heart Memorial

By Rick Pezzullo

The first Military Order of the Purple Heart memorial in the Hudson Valley region was unveiled at Cortlandt Town Hall during a moving ceremony last Thursday.

Cortlandt was designated the first Purple Heart municipality in Westchester County, thanks to William Nazario, head of Cortlandt's Veterans Committee and Region 1 Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 21.

"This memorial should be looked at as a tribute to all those who took the oath of service," Nazario, a Purple Heart recipient, remarked to several hundred visitors, including two Gold Star Mothers, who gathered in the parking lot. "All

gave some and some gave all. It will be a reminder that freedom is not free."

The Purple Heart was created in 1932 in recognition of General George Washington's ideals and the bicentennial of his birth. Originally it was awarded for meritorious service. Being wounded was one portion of consideration for merit. When another award for merit was introduced in 1942, the Purple Heart was given solely in the name of the President of the United States to any member of the Armed Forces who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity after April 5, 1917, has been wounded, killed or died after being wounded.

Approximately 1.8 million military

continued on page 12



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

Veterans and area officials gather around new Purple Heart memorial at Cortlandt Town Hall.

Bake Me Something Good!

**No.1B Rye
vs. No.1A
Yorktown for
All Marbles**

After making short work of No.2B Sleepy Hollow on Halloween night in a 47-12 rout, Ryan "Shake & Bakes" Baker (above) and No.1A Yorktown will meet No.1B Rye in the Section 1 Class A finals this Saturday (7:00 p.m.) at Mahopac High School for the Section 1 Class A championship... see Sports



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Double-Digit Tax Hike Possible in Troubled Peekskill Budget

By Rick Pezzullo

Peekskill residents could be facing a tax increase as high as 11% next year if a retooled 2015 budget is approved by the Common Council next month.

A tentative \$53.44 million budget submitted by Peekskill City Manager Anthony Ruggiero last month called for a 2.2% tax hike, along with increases in water and sewer rates and adding a garbage collection fee for all residents, but the council balked at the Sanitation Fund after receiving a barrage of complaints.

The council also put the brakes on any new hires, opposed the allocation of \$350,000 to begin citywide property revaluation and disagreed with Ruggiero's recommendation for the city to with-

draw from the New York State Employee Pension Stabilization Program.

Even with all those changes, the city remains in somewhat financial dire straits, according to Mayor Frank Catalina and Comptroller Ann Maestri, and is looking for some guidance from its auditors on how to deal with a possible 7 to 11% property tax hike.

"We've had many years of using our fund balance but it hasn't been realistic. Now the buck stops here," Maestri told the council during a budget work session last week. "At this point we have a mess on our hands and we have to clean up our mess."

Catalina, who was highly critical of the

continued on page 12



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Police Blotter

State Police

October 24 - 4:19 a.m. – Diego Guzman, 26, of Croton-on-Hudson, was charged with felony driving while intoxicated after being stopped by troopers on the Sprain Brook Parkway following an erratic vehicle complaint. Guzman was charged with felony DWI since an investigation revealed he had been convicted of a DWI related offense within the last 10 years. He is scheduled to appear in Mount Pleasant Court on November 6.

October 27 - 8:43 p.m. – Viorel Chirila,

64, of Croton-on-Hudson, was charged with driving while intoxicated after being stopped on the Sprain Brook Parkway for failing to exercise due care for an emergency vehicle. He is due to appear in Town of Greenburgh Court on November 7.

Yorktown Police

October 25 - 2:30 a.m. – Jordan Fell, 22, of Yorktown, was charged with driving while intoxicated and driving with an inoperable headlamp after being pulled over by Police Officer Matthew

Racioppo on Gomer Street. He is due in Yorktown Town Court on December 2.

October 27 - 5:31 p.m. – Christopher Ahlstedt, 38, of Shrub Oak, was charged with grand larceny in the fourth degree after allegedly removing a leaf blower valued at \$1,600 from Quality Lawn Mower Service on Route 202 without making any attempt to pay for it. He is scheduled to appear in Yorktown Town Court on December 2.

October 29 - 12:25 p.m. – Lawrence Harris, Jr., 23, of Mohegan Lake, was

charged with criminal mischief in connection with a reported domestic dispute on October 15 at East Main Street. Officers Michael Woodard and Michael Kahn conducted an investigation that revealed Harris allegedly threw and broke a cell phone belonging to a female resident of Crompond Road during a domestic dispute. Harris voluntarily appeared at police headquarters on October 29. He was issued a temporary order of protection by Town Justice Sal Lagonia and was released on \$1,000 bail.

Hen Hud Schools Declared Safe after Police Investigate Threat

By Rick Pezzullo

Several schools in the Hendrick Hudson School District were placed in lockdown last week two straight days after an anonymous phone threat was made.

According to information released by Superintendent of Schools Joseph Hochreiter, an unidentified man called the high school at 1:45 p.m. on October 29 wanting money. An earlier report stated the man threatened to bring automatic weapons and explosives to the school, but that was later retracted by the district.

A school secretary and assistant principal calmly tried to get the caller to explain exactly what he wanted but he continued an obscene rant and then hung up. Principal James Mackin put the high school on lockdown and contacted the State Police. Nearby Frank G. Lindsey Elementary School was also put on lockdown.

Twenty state troopers responded to the school grounds and they recommended moving students from the classrooms to the gymnasium. A complete sweep of the high school was made with a canine unit but nothing suspicious was located, police said.

Frank G. Lindsey students were able to leave the school on their regular buses and high school students were dismissed just after 4 p.m. State Police and other local law enforcement personnel remained on the scene.

All afterschool activities and evening events were cancelled at the high school, Lindsey and Blue Mountain Middle School. A uniformed state trooper was present at every district school on Thursday and Friday.

Police are requesting anyone with information regarding the suspicious phone calls to contact the State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation at the Cortlandt barracks at (914) 769-2600.



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Tax Rate Hike Below 1% in Proposed 2015 Yorktown Budget

By Rick Pezzullo

Yorktown Supervisor Michael Grace delivered a tentative \$56.7 million budget for 2015 last week with a tax rate increase under 1%.

The 0.87% spike is the lowest tax rate increase in Yorktown in the last 20 years, following a 1.46% jump in 2014 and a 4.38% hike in 2013. To achieve that, Grace is utilizing \$5.1 million in fund balance from 14 different town funds, including \$2.375 million from the water

district, \$1.15 million from the general fund and \$1.025 million from the Yorktown Sewer account.

This year, \$3,325,000 was utilized from the various fund balances to balance the budget, while in 2013, \$1,333,350 was used from fund balance.

"As a result of efficiencies in day to day operations, we successfully decreased the tax levy two years in a row during 2013 and 2014 with the 2014 tax levy significantly less than the tax levy for 2012,"

Grace stated in his budget message. "Much of our success is attributable to our department heads and staff who have adapted to doing more with less. In preparing the 2015 budget we hoped for our third year of consecutive tax cuts buoyed by the additions to our fund balance at the close of fiscal year 2013."

"The 2015 budget I am proud to say follows suit as we have successfully held the line on taxes," he continued. "Although the 2015 tax levy has slightly increased

over 2014, the difference for the average home with utilities, assessed at \$10,000, is less than the price of a cup of coffee."

Grace noted some of the financial hurdles the town had to overcome were increased costs for employee benefits, workers compensation insurance, retirement, payroll and MTA taxes.

A public hearing on the budget is scheduled for December 10 at Town Hall. The spending plan must be adopted by December 20.

Yorktown Finances Gets Thumbs-Up from Independent Auditors

By Sue Guzman

Auditors with the Certified Public Accounting Firm O'Connor Davies LLP of Harrison delivered the findings of its final financial report for the 2013 fiscal year to the Yorktown Town Board a few weeks ago, and concluded the town is in an "enviable position as the regional economy is still trying to recover."

Partners Alan Kassay and Nicholas DeSantis told those present that the town exceeded the actual amount of estimated revenue by \$1,828,740 due to better than anticipated revenues of non-property taxes, franchise fees, and sales and mortgage taxes.

As a result, the town ended the 2013 fiscal year, they said, with a surplus of \$3.1 mil-



SUE GUZMAN PHOTO

(L-R) CPAs Nicholas DeSantis and Alan Kassay of O'Connor Davies detail their firm's evaluation of Yorktown's financial condition for 2013.

lion, an increase of approximately \$1 million to the town's overall fund balance.

"That fund balance increased by over a million dollars from 2012 to 2013, leaving

the town in great financial condition insofar as its reserves go," DeSantis said. "This fund balance will serve you well as you're dealing with the spending cap imposed by the state, which this year is mandated at 1.6 percent of your property tax levy."

He noted that some municipalities are not in the financial position that Yorktown is in, and are struggling to balance municipal services as they try to stay within the tax cap requirement. "You have reserves that you have compiled over the past four or five budgets that will enable you to get through the continuing slow growth economic recovery," he said.

DeSantis said Yorktown is in a good financial position moving forward. "What

you wisely have done," he explained, "is use these reserves to keep the property taxes down."

Yorktown Supervisor Michael Grace was pleased with the audit's findings and that the town has been able to use its fund balances over the past two years to keep the tax levy within the state-imposed parameters. He pointed out that Yorktown is "still challenged in every way," and was cautiously optimistic about the 2015 fiscal year when the town is facing numerous capital improvement projects.

Grace indicated he was deeply grateful to all of Yorktown's municipal workers for their outstanding commitment and service and for doing more with less.



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Proposed 2015 Cortlandt Budget Well Below Tax Cap

By Rick Pezzullo

Continuing what she proclaimed has been a 24-year tax cap during her administration, Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi delivered a proposed 2015 budget last week that calls for a less than one percent tax increase for property owners, the lowest since 2006 when the town experienced one of 11 tax freezes.

If the \$37.86 million budget is unchanged, annual taxes for 75% of residents in Cortlandt next year will rise by \$18. There is no town tax increase for residents in the villages of Croton-on-Hudson and Buchanan.

"I have worked very hard along with our entire team in our government (town board members, department heads and all of our 200 employees) to deliver and maintain a very close to zero percent town tax increase for our taxpayers while at the same time always seeking new ways to improve our services and community," Puglisi said.

Since Puglisi took over in 1992, the average property owner in Cortlandt has seen their town portion of their tax bill increase by a total of \$366. Town taxes represent only 11% of property taxes. School taxes are 69%, county taxes are 15% and special districts, such as fire, ambulance and library, make up 5%.

Over the last two years, Puglisi ex-

plained Cortlandt has had to compensate for \$9.5 million in less revenue and additional costs. This year, the town was hit with a 37% increase in water rates from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, along with a \$500,000 increase in pension costs and higher health coverage expenses. More than 60% of Cortlandt's 165 employees contribute to their health coverage.

"Even with these financial challenges and obstacles the Town of Cortlandt is able to present a very low town tax in-

crease and dollar amount increase for 2015," Puglisi said.

Spending in the budget is up just 0.8% and its tax levy of .29% falls well below the state mandated 1.56% tax levy cap. To balance next year's budget, \$1.29 million is utilized from the town's fund balance, leaving Cortlandt with \$5.9 million in the bank in all operating funds. Two years ago, the town has \$9.5 million in undesignated fund balance.

Cortlandt also has \$187,000 in an open space account and \$48,000 in a recreation

fund. The town's bond rating was upgraded to Aa2 (double A) and it was recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association for excellence in financial reporting.

"We have never had one year of a deficit and we've always had a balanced budget," Puglisi said. "Once again each year generated a surplus that we used for tax control and relief and maintained our savings account. Cortlandt has completed over \$130 million of projects and did not impact our taxpayers with tax increases during these 24 years."



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Hudson Valley Hospital Center Celebrates Everyday Heroes

In what has become a special annual tradition, Hudson Valley Hospital Center this week recognized its unsung heroes by adding the portraits of 12 more employees to its Wall of Heroes in honor of their contributions to the hospital and their patients.

On October 23, the hospital unveiled 12 new portraits at a ceremony in the lobby of the hospital in Cortlandt. Each month the hospital recognizes an employee who has been nominated by co-workers. At the end of the year, that employee is honored at the Heroes Ceremony and a large, professional portrait is hung on the wall along the front corridor of the hospital, where it remains for the year. It's one of the reasons that the hospital has been cited - by Press Ganey and Westchester Magazine - as one of the top places to work in Westchester.

"This is something that means a lot to our employees - to be recognized by their peers for excellence," said Hudson Valley Hospital President John C. Federpiel. "These portraits let everyone in the hospital, and the community, know how much we value our dedicated employees and the job they do."

Susan Sheehy, captain of the Hospital's reward and recognition team, has worked on the Heroes project for past



This year's Wall of Heroes honorees at Hudson Valley Hospital.

nine years. She says she looks forward to preparing for the event, writing the bios of each employee and arranging for professional portraits to be taken of each.

"It's really an honor to work on this project," she said. "We have so many special employees. It's really wonderful to see them receive this recognition for

their work."

This year's everyday heroes were:

- **Maggie Adler, RN-C, MSN, WCC:** Maggie joined HVHC in 1996 working in ICU, nursing administration, and is currently Associate Director of Stand-

ards & Quality in HVHC's Education Department. Maggie is certified in geriatric nursing, and was instrumental in developing a program to earn the hospital its designation as a NICHE facility (Nursing Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders). This program concentrates on treating older patients with compassion, helps keep their health from deteriorating, and works with their families to prepare patients as they leave the hospital.

- **Sofia Di Maio, Physical Therapy:** While earning her Bachelor's Degree in Health Science, Sofia worked part-time as a receptionist in the hospital's Surgery Center until last April when she joined the Physical Therapy Department as a physical therapy aide. Sofia greets patients in the waiting room with warmth and kindness...making them feel special, and escorts each patient to their treatment area.

- **Jennifer Fairchild (Central Supply/Store Room):** Jennifer has worked at HVHC since 2004 and currently works in central supply and storage. She is very knowledgeable in all aspects of the hospital's operations. Jennifer is an invaluable asset to the hospital.

continued on page 11

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New Gas Station in Ossining Benefits from State Incentive

By Rick Pezzullo

A new gas station on Route 9 in Ossining is one of several hundred in the region taking advantage of a state financial incentive to install emergency backup generators following Superstorm Sandy two years ago that left many stations inoperable with no power.

After Sandy rocked the area, state Senator David Carlucci (D/Rockland, Westchester) introduced legislation requiring all gas stations in the metropolitan area to have emergency generators and be prewired with a transfer switch.

“What we saw during Hurricane Sandy is we weren’t prepared,” Carlucci said. “We never anticipated people not being able to get gasoline. This caused a major safety hazard with people waiting in long lines and fights breaking out. We want to be ready if, God forbid, something like that happens again.”

The legislation passed in the state Legislature mandates approximately 250 stations in Westchester and Rock-

land counties to either purchase a generator, establish a private rental agreement or participate in the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority generator program by April 2015.

Dale English, president of Palisades Fuel, Inc., which operates about 20 stations, including the former Sunoco on Route 9 that is expected to reopen in about a month, opted to participate in the program and will be reimbursed about 75% of the cost of buying and installing the generator and switch.

“We opted to put it in. This program will help us,” English said. “I think it’s a good investment.”



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

Senator David Carlucci (center) with Dale English and Russ Rodriguez inside Sunoco station in Ossining.

Proposed Somers Budget Stays Within State Tax Cap

By Neal Rentz

Somers Supervisor Rick Morrissey released a \$14 million tentative general fund budget last week that will stay within the state-mandated property tax cap.

The budget includes a property tax levy increase of 1.5 percent and a tax rate rise of 1.8 percent. Spending in the ledger would rise by 1.1 percent.

The budget includes spending about \$140,000 to purchase equipment for the

highway and parks and recreation departments, Morrissey said. The spending plan also includes no major program additions or reductions and no layoffs.

Morrissey said his budget was consistent with his pledge of “keeping taxes as low as possible while maintaining the quality of life” in Somers.

The town board plans to adopt the 2015 budget when it meets on December 11, he said.



PHOTO BY NEAL RENTZ

Somers Supervisor Rick Morrissey released his \$14M tentative budget last week.

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Obituaries

William Ciachin

William John Ciachin, a resident of Hopewell Junction for 30 years and formerly of Ossining, died on October 25. He was 72.

He was born in Ossining on August 27, 1942 to Edward Ciaschini and Gloria Tracey. He moved to Yorktown Heights and attended Yorktown schools. He graduated from Yorktown High School in 1960.

From 1961 to 1964, Mr. Ciachin proudly served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He served in Baumholder, Germany with the Army Security Agency as a SP14 Class during the Berlin Crisis. When he returned he married Joyce Keefe on April 22, 1966 at St. Augustine's Church in Ossining. Together they moved to Laurel, Maryland where he worked for the National Security Agency in Fort Meade, Maryland. He later returned to the New York area where he remained and worked as the Foreman of Estate Motors in Golden's Bridge for more than 30 years until his retirement in 2006.

He is survived by his wife; two sons, David Ciachin of Kingston and Dennis Ciachin of Hopewell Junction; his grandchildren, Crystal, Nicholas and Sean; his brothers and sister, Robert Cachine, Edward Cachine, James Cachine, Michael Cachine, and Tracey Cachine. He was predeceased by his son William, Jr. in September 1985.

Thomas Keating

Thomas A. Keating, a resident of Yorktown Heights, died on October 29, at Mount Sinai Hospital of NY. He was 76.

He was born June 12, 1938 in Yonkers to Raymond and Emma A. (Donachie) Keating. He retired after 49 years of service as a Large Systems Specialist at IBM in Manhattan. He was a Licensed Elec-

trician. He loved any type of mechanical work, hunting, fishing, spending time in the Adirondacks and time with his grandchildren.

Mr. Keating is survived by his wife of 53 years, Patricia A. (Manion) Keating; six children; 13 grandchildren; four brothers; and two sisters. He was predeceased by his sister, Kathy, and granddaughter, Julie.

Theresa Marino

Theresa Marino, a longtime Peekskill area resident, died on October 27. She was 81.

She was born in Verplanck on April 17, 1933, to Joseph and Mary Tallerico Marino. A graduate of Hendrick Hudson High School, she worked for over 40 years as a secretary at Burnwell Gas Co. in Peekskill. She was blessed with a beautiful voice and used her musical gifts to sing and play the organ for many people throughout her life. She was an active member of the Peekskill Senior Citizens, and was a Lay Associate with the Franciscan Sisters of Peekskill.

She is survived by her sister, Angeline (James) DeSocio, brother Joseph (Greta) Marino, sister-in-law Margaret Marino, nephew Michael (Kathleen), nieces Mary Lynn, Jennifer, and Maria, four grandnephews and one grandniece. She was predeceased by her parents and brother, Vincent Marino. She will be remembered by all who knew her for her kind and caring ways.

Jacob Goodman

Jacob Goodman, a longtime resident of Heritage Hills in Somers, died on October 25. He was 91.

Mr. Goodman was born April 5, 1923 in New York City to Samuel and Henrietta (Eisen) Goodman. He served in the

U.S. Army from 1943 to 1946. He graduated from City College in 1943, and received his JD from Harvard Law School in 1948. For over 40 years, he was known as Jacob Goodman, Attorney at Law, in New Rochelle. In his later years, he was known as a leader in Heritage Hills, and the surrounding community.

Mr. Goodman was predeceased by his wife, Shirley Goodman on December 21, 1997. He is survived by his beloved daughter, Alice Reo, and his son Michael Goodman, and his cherished granddaughter Emily Reo, his stepsons, Martin and Stephen Ehrlich, and their children, Alison, Jonathan, Timothy, David, and Laura.

Diane Carson

Diane J. Carson, a resident of Ossining, died on October 27. She was 69.

She was born August 2, 1945 in Ossining to Reginald and Florence (Brady) Craft. She worked as an administrative assistant for Chief Burton at the Ossining Police Dept. She worked prior for the Ossining School District and Ossining Recreation Dept.

She is survived by her daughters Sharon Verdejo, Denise Barone, Melissa Car-

son, and Jennifer Carson; brother Robert Craft; and grandchildren Jesse, Chelsea, Antonio, Gabriella, Brianna, Robert, Madison and Benjamin. She was predeceased by her sister Jean Trizinsky.

Giuseppe Conte

Giuseppe Conte, a resident of Ossining, died on October 29. He was 89.

He was born in Sassinoro, Benevento, Italy on April 25, 1925. He was predeceased by his daughter, Maria Conte in Palombo. He is survived by his wife, Assunta Conte, his daughter, Elisabetta (Mauro) Manicchio, son Arcangelo (Marisa) Conte, son-in-law Angelo Palombo, sister Michelina Durant, brother Mario (Paolina) Conte; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.



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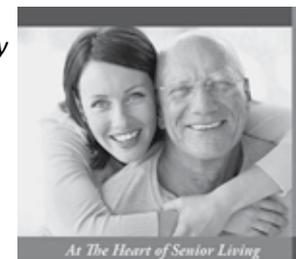
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Editorial

Cortlandt Always Seems to Rise to the Occasion to Stop Intruders

You have to hand it to Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi and her administration: any time something potentially devastating or destructive is facing the town they act quickly to find a way to slow down or stop the adverse situation.

Years ago, Puglisi and company made sure proposed emery mines would never rock the town's residential foundation by outlawing them. When developer Martin Ginsburg was looking to build 352 units on a mountain at Hudson Highland, the town, which contributed \$1 million, formed a coalition with the state, county, Scenic Hudson and private citizens to preserve the land for open space.

Three years ago, Cortlandt saved Furnace Dock Lake by reaching a deal with Con Edison. So far, thanks to its fierce opposition, the town has managed to save the VA Hospital in Montrose from falling into the hands of greedy developers.

And most recently, in maybe one of its most brilliant acts of leadership and putting its money where its mouths are, the Town Board voted to purchase a 100-acre property in Verplanck from Con Edison to prevent an unwanted high voltage converter station from forever changing the character of the hamlet.

Town officials wasted no time in pulling the plug on West Point Partners, which was planning to construct a 50-foot-high, 1,000 megawatt station with buried high voltage cables behind Letteri Field on Broadway and 11th Street, the same location where the Spectra/Algonquin Energy natural gas pipeline project is proposed to run underground.

From the time former councilwoman and current Assistant Planning Director Rosemary Boyle Lasher and Fire Inspector Holly Haight drove to Long Island to document first-hand the size and annoying buzzing sound of a similar facility that really raised

eyebrows among town officials and residents, it was clear there was no way Puglisi and her staff were going to let this unwanted monstrosity become a fixture in Cortlandt.

Cortlandt completely outwit West Point Partners by conditionally winning a bid to purchase the former quarry site for \$2.75 million. The town's tremendous financial status allows it to make such moves when it has to. Not all municipalities would be able to do the same.

With such a track record of success, residents should feel confident that somehow, some way Cortlandt will be a major player in convincing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission not to allow the controversial pipeline to rip through the region. That will likely require a concerted effort from all municipalities currently slated to be disturbed by the pipeline project.

However, would anyone bet against Cortlandt coming out on top again? One would be foolish to do so.

Letters

Wagner Has the Right Vision for the State

To the Editor:

We support our fellow Croton resident Justin Wagner in the State Senate race. In addition to supporting Justin's proposals for tax relief, job creation, government ethics reform, and the environment, we would like to counter some misconceptions fostered by the campaign of his opponent, Terrence Murphy, and some of his supporters.

Justin Wagner does NOT favor giving citizenship rights or free college tuition to illegal aliens. He opposes the New York Is Home proposal, aptly calling it "looney." He does support the DREAM act, which

would allow the children of undocumented residents—those who meet certain requirements as to length of residence, good behavior, etc—to apply for the same tuition assistance programs as anyone else.

On women's issues, the simple fact is that Justin Wagner supports the Women's Equality Act in its entirety, and Terrence Murphy does not. The Murphy campaign has luridly mischaracterized the portion of the Act that deals with abortion.

The Murphy campaign has blown a lot of smoke concerning the law firm where Justin works. Their campaign pieces make vague reference to various kinds

of cases that this large law firm has dealt with. They have not been able to link Justin to any specific controversial cases, nor do they appear to know any more than the rest of us as to the legal merits of any of these vaguely referenced cases. Voters should not be diverted by this smoke-blowing from the real substance of this election: the positions of the candidates on the issues coming before the State Senate, and the candidates' visions for our state.

LOOMIS MAYER
AND CARY ANDREWS
Croton-on-Hudson

Gearity Will Bring Needed Change to Ossining

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in support of Victoria Gearity in her campaign for Mayor of the Village of Ossining. As a past Village Trustee, Deputy Mayor, Ossining firefighter, life member of OVAC and a long time Ossining Rotarian, I have been active in the village as a volunteer for many years. I have an accountant practice in Ossining for the past 44 years and I am a lifelong

resident of the Village of Ossining.

I have seen the village go through many changes, and I feel that it is now time to elect a new Mayor to lead us in the future. Victoria Gearity is a fresh voice who looks at all sides of an issue, and most importantly, she listens to her constituents.

We need a leader who is looking out for all members of the community. Someone who values differing opinions and treats

them respectfully. Someone who is a coalition builder and can work with other elected officials. Someone who comes to the table with open eyes and doesn't dismiss ideas because they aren't hers. It is time for a change. Time for us to elect Victoria Gearity.

My wife and I are both Republicans, and on November 4 we are proudly voting for Victoria Gearity.

FRANK VASSALLO

Letters

Wagner is Best Candidate to be Next State Senator

To the Editor:

Despite this exasperating process, we have to pay attention to the candidates themselves IF we want our interests represented in Albany.

Justin Wagner comes out far ahead in matters that are of grave importance to our futures. His positions are clear, and he shows more thought about the issues, and willingness to stand up for voters, than his opponent.

He made a commitment to protect the environment - and opposes hydrofracking for natural gas (methane) because of its danger to a great NY natural resource - water. He opposes the Algonquin pipeline project, which would carry methane, some from Marcellus shale fracking operations in Pennsylvania, in 42" pipes across Westchester. It poses risks from explosions to periodic release of toxic

chemicals, and clearly merits a lot of attention from public officials.

Mr. Murphy's was handed an opportunity to be a leader as a Yorktown Councilman - a chance to stand up for concerned residents - and he blew it. He didn't oppose the project. He didn't demand a full review to assess potential impacts. Instead, he worked at easing the way for Spectra Energy to gain control of Yorktown parkland for the pipeline and a permanent cleaning station.

What is also clear is that he was too ready to make a quick deal. If he couldn't be bothered to educate himself about potentially major environmental impacts, or listening to residents in his OWN home town, why should anyone trust him to defend our interests in Albany?

We do have a clear commitment from Mr. Wagner, who has been endorsed by

the League of Conservation voters and the Sierra Club.

As a Yorktown resident, I was dumbfounded - and angered - by Mr Murphy's absurd (unsupported) claims, taken from his own answers to Voter 411 that:

He established "equal pay for equal work" in Yorktown;

He preserved water quality by "banning the use of pesticides on our fields" and

He - personally - generated "\$250 Million" in economic growth.

Really? Show me the money. Similarly, he also thinks he can say anything he wants about Justin Wagner, hoping he will fool voters who don't look beyond his false allegations.

His falsehoods include: the claim that Mr. Wagner would give free tuition to illegal aliens, clearly refuted. He implied

in a Yorktown interview that Mr. Wagner was against women's Equality when in fact Wagner supports the entire Women's Equality Act. Murphy has made multiple claims of unfair practices against Wagner even after they were dismissed by the Board of Elections.. There is a pattern of extreme and deliberate distortion. In short Murphy has no shame about his spurious claims of achievement and less shame about concocting false stories about his opponent.

We need someone who will listen to concerns and respond without lies and distortions. Someone with ethics who can tackle the ethics reform. Justin Wagner is the best person to be the next NYS Senator.

Very truly yours,

CHERYL GAJOWSKI
Yorktown Heights

Shame on Diana for Ditching Debate

To the Editor:

Elections can get ugly. Everyone knows this. But this week I experienced something awful and so did members of the Yorktown HS organization, "Students for Better Government." A debate was scheduled between the two candidates vying for the open seat on the Yorktown Town Board for Wednesday night at 7 p.m. Both candidates had accepted and confirmed and the students worked long hours with the local press to formulate fair and relevant questions. I arrived at 7:05 expecting to be late. I looked around, and asked the person next to me, "Where is Tom Diana?" "He's not here yet," was the answer. Soon after, the student moderator announced that Mr. Diana was being contacted, and with or without him,

the debate would begin at 7:30. My first thought was, there was no way he would not show up. He promised these kids, his opponent Susan Siegel, and the press he would attend this, and it was the only debate scheduled.

The "debate" went on, with the panel asking Ms. Siegel questions about her positions on various issues that affect the Town. The seat next to her remained empty. At 7:45 we were read a text Mr. Diana sent to a reporter, that at 5:30 p.m. he had had an emergency with his granddaughter "across the river" and that he was, "in the ER." He stated that he advised "his party" which was supposed to inform everyone that he could not attend because, "family comes first." As the mother of 2 young girls I know that in-

deed family does come first. At first I felt bad about the situation. But then I looked around the room and noticed that there was absolutely no representation from the Republican Party. How did so many people know that Mr. Diana was not coming, and no one else did? Surely between 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. someone could have reached out to communicate this. Diana's story became extremely suspect. I later found that he had not publicized this debate on social media, and that he was refusing to provide documentation that verified his whereabouts.

Was this a planned no-show? Is this a glimpse of what is to come if Diana wins the board seat? Should we vote for a man who doesn't honor his commitments, or at the very least, have the de-

cedency to make a phone call?

Mr. Diana's behavior is similar to that of other current elected Yorktown officials who have used "emergency family situations" as excuses as to why they did not show up to events they just didn't want to attend, for example, FERC public hearings and Spectra Energy information sessions. Ironically, these same people most certainly do show up for fundraisers.

My assumption is that Mr. Diana did not wish to debate Susan Siegel who -- like her or not and party affiliation aside -- is articulate and well informed.

Shame on Tom Diana, and shame on the members of his party who also have shown no respect for the students and the residents of this community.

ROSANNE BRACKETT

Why Victoria Gearity Should Be the Village of Ossining's Next Mayor

To the Editor:

Supporters of the current Ossining Village Mayor have attempted to sway voters their way by claiming that Victoria Gearity does not have enough experience to be Mayor. Which begs the question - how did such an inexperienced person manage to gather and organize the support necessary to earn the Democratic Committee endorsement over a four-time incumbent?

How did such a neophyte earn the endorsements of the Independent Party, our Senator (Carlucci), Assemblywoman (Galef), County Legislator (Borgia) and other cross-Westchester municipal leaders? How did she manage to organize and lead a campaign that gave her such an overwhelming Democratic Primary victory over her experienced challenger?

How did she manage to found, lead, organize and actively participate in such wonderful programs as Green Ossining (a grassroots environmental resource group); Energize Ossining (a state-funded energy efficiency program for homeowners); the Ossining Documentary & Discussion Series (engaging our community in discussion of important issues); and Grow Ossining (a community-based investment fund to grow our business district)?

I worked closely with Victoria on many of these community efforts. I know that her success is due to a strong work ethic and a drive to collaboratively problem-solve with all stakeholders. If we want a government that reflects and represent the peoples' needs then I assure you that Victoria should lead it. She listens. She

seeks input. And she leads.

One vote can make a difference. Let yours be for the candidate with proven

ability to make things happen. Let it be for Victoria Gearity.

SUZIE ROSS

Candidate Campaigning at Yorktown Meeting was Distasteful

To the Editor:

Tom Diana, candidate for Yorktown Town Board Councilman, gave a speech during the town meeting on October 21. As I listened and watched the rebroadcast on TV, I was appalled! His talk was nothing but a campaign

speech. I feel it was grossly inappropriate for Mr. Diana to use a public meeting as a platform to promote his candidacy and personal agenda. It was unfair and in poor taste.

PHILOMENA POLI
Yorktown
Taxpayer

Food Bank Launches Turkey Drive to Help Needy at Thanksgiving

By Janine Bowen

With the holiday season rapidly approaching, many people are preparing to sit down with their families for a Thanksgiving feast. But for many local families, a holiday meal wouldn't be possible without the Food Bank for Westchester.

There are more than 200,000 Westchester residents who are hungry or at risk of being hungry, and the demand for meals increases around the holidays, said Ellen Lynch, the Food Bank's executive director. To help address this issue, the Food Bank in Elmsford launched its second annual Thanksgiving Turkey Drive on October 22.

"As the holidays are coming, and Thanksgiving in particular, food has an even more important, heartfelt place for everyone and it sort of speaks to the connection to family and celebration and gratitude," Lynch said.

With a donation of \$25, Food Bank for Westchester is able to purchase two turkeys that will be given to residents in need. People can donate through the organization's website as well as via text message by texting "FB4W" to the number 88500. In 2013, the organization received more than \$20,000 from text donations.

Last year, the drive was able to raise enough money to provide more than



JANINE BOWEN PHOTO

Deputy County Executive Kevin Plunkett, left, and County Legislator Michael Smith, right, flank representatives of the Food Bank for Westchester and Stop & Shop, recently as they announced the second annual Thanksgiving Turkey Drive to provide meals at next month's holiday for needy families.

4,000 turkeys. This year, the organization has set its goal at 5,000. Lynch explained that the call for more turkeys isn't due to increased need, but rather because of new partnerships with member agencies that will help distribute the food to more families.

Wilma Joseph Dolcy, community service director for Beulah Church in Mount Vernon, said that her organization provides meals for community members, many of whom are unemployed or homeless, two times per week. This is the first year that the church has partnered

with the Food Bank and more than 300 residents have already pre-registered to receive a turkey when they are delivered next month.

"It will help them a lot this year because last year we were getting a lot of people who were calling, asking if we were giving out turkeys, and we could not do it last year so it's a godsend this year," she explained.

Supermarket chain Stop & Shop has also partnered with Food Bank for Westchester with its Charity Hunger Box program. Beginning November 14, shoppers at any local Stop & Shop can purchase a decorated box filled with store brand trimmings such as stuffing and cranberry sauce to donate to the Food Bank. Arlene Putterman, Stop & Shop's director of public and community relations, said that more than 23,000 of the boxes were delivered to food banks across the tri-state area last year. At \$10 per box, she said that the ability for a customer to see the items that are going to families is what drives donations.

"The important part of this is that it's something tangible that a customer is buying...they know that this is food that is going to be given to a local food pantry. They see it, they feel it, they touch it," Putterman said.

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Hudson Valley Hospital Center Celebrates Everyday Heroes

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able asset to the department. She is currently pursuing her degree in nursing.

- **Ruth Gonzalez, Food & Nutrition:** Ruth began her culinary journey at HVHC in 2011. She always maintains a friendly and professional demeanor, no matter how busy the kitchen or dining room may be...and no matter how long it takes for her customers to make their decision on the lunch line. Ruth always takes great care of her customers.

- **Julie Gorman, RN, CRN, Ambulatory Surgery Center:** From the County of Westmeath, Ireland, Julie joined HVHC's Ambulatory Surgery Center in 2006. Certified as a Radiology nurse, Julie worked with Radiology until 2011 when she began her new assignment as Assistant Clinical Nurse Manager of the Ambulatory Surgery unit. Julie's compassion and competence made her, hands-down, the ideal choice for this newly-created position in Ambulatory Surgery.

- **Billy Lang, Patient Care Technician – Emergency Department:** Billy's the first in a patient's room with a gown, a warm blanket, an EKG machine and Accu-check, all at the same time. He received more than 30 nominations from physicians, PAs, nurses and volunteers for this honor. He is currently pursuing his nursing degree.

- **Karen McCarthy, Volunteer Services:** Karen works as Surgery Center Receptionist from 6 -11 a.m. Karen is the first face patients see when they enter the Surgery Center in the morning. Karen greets each patient and family with kindness, and guides them through each check point until it's time for their pro-



Jennifer Fairchild and HV Hospital President John Federspiel admire her portrait.

cedure.

- **Maria Myslinska, PCT – 2 South:** Arriving from Poland in 2002, Maria began working at HVHC in January 2009 as a member of our Environmental Services Department. At the end of that year, Maria was certified as a Personal Care Technician, and joined the night shift on 2 South. Maria was nominated by many of her co-workers for her dedication to her patients, and her outstanding personality.

- **Linda O'Buck, RN – OB:** Linda's nursing career at HVHC began in 1980, when she worked nights in the Medical/Surgical Department, and also covered ICU and OB when needed. After 15 years on the night shift, Linda began working days and joined the OB team in the Maternity Department. Linda is OB's unit

preceptor... educating our staff, and assisting in all annual competencies.

- **Olga Paredes, Environmental Services:** Olga has been a member of the Environmental Services Department since January 2010. She was chosen as Employee of the Month because of her tremendous work ethic and caring attitude.

Olga is always willing to go out of her way to help...not only co-workers, but patients and visitors who enter the hospital. She takes pride in what she does, and it shows.

- **Albert Swansen, Security:** Al joined HVHC three years ago after a lengthy and distinguished career with the New York State Police. During his 25 years of service with the NYSP, Al served on the Governor's Protective Services Unit, ran the Crime Scene Unit/Group K, and was involved in many other units throughout his career with the State Police. Al uses his professional training and experience to improve the response of Hudson Valley Hospital Center's Security personnel.

- **Shelifa S. Vasta, RN, BSN, Case Management:** As a nurse for 13 years, and a case manager at HVHC since March 2013, Sharon possesses excellent interpersonal, communication and listening skills and is highly sensitive to the needs of patients and their family members. Sharon focuses her time in the Emergency Department, providing information and resources which help patients and families make important decisions regarding their plan of care.

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Double-Digit Tax Hike Possible in Troubled Peekskill Budget

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financial management of Mayor Mary Foster's administration last year when he successfully ran for mayor, blamed Ruggiero for putting the council in a difficult predicament, saying, "A guy with experience would not have produced that budget."

"In effect he's saying, 'I gave you a budget and now it's your job.' I take offense to that. He's the one making \$160,000," Catalina remarked. "The ma-

majority is more interested in protecting him since he's the pilot they chose and he just crashed the plane. His bright idea (Sanitation Fund) fell like a lead balloon. We would have had garbage all over the place."

Councilman Vincent Vesce said Ruggiero's Sanitation Fund would have been about a 12% increase on its own with non-industrial users billed \$7 per pickup and industrial users \$14 per pickup, generating more than \$2 million. Ruggiero also suggested increasing water rates by

10% and sewer rates by 20%, both of which he noted haven't been raised in more than eight years.

"Nobody in their right mind sitting at this table knows we can't put that on our taxpayers," Vesce said of the Sanitation Fund proposal.

Councilwoman Vivian McKenzie said Catalina was playing politics but acknowledged the difficult decisions facing the council.

"We don't want to do something that is really going to hurt our taxpayers," she

said. "We're not on skid row. We're in tough times."

Catalina said the "rubber has hit the road" and the council must "seriously bite the bullet" to get the city on a path to financial recovery.

"It's like an adult comes home and a teenager had a party and we have to clean up the mess," Catalina said. "It's a very crazy position that we're in."

The budget must be adopted by December 1. A public hearing is scheduled for November 10 at City Hall.

Cortlandt First in Region to Have Purple Heart Memorial

continued from page 1

personnel have received a Purple Heart over the last 82 years.

"This memorial speaks volumes in remembering the sacrifices of all those who sacrificed for their nation," said Neil Gross, commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 21. "This monument will stand as a symbol for future generations."

The memorial in Cortlandt has a special inscription that reads: "Dedicated to the men and women who were wounded or gave their lives in defense of our great nation to keep it forever free."

Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi, the daughter of a U.S. Marine, said she was honored the town was selected for such a special tribute.

"This is a very special day for the Town of Cortlandt," Puglisi said. "It is a beautiful memorial and it reflects the dignity, valor and patriotism of the Purple Heart veterans who have defended our great country throughout our history."

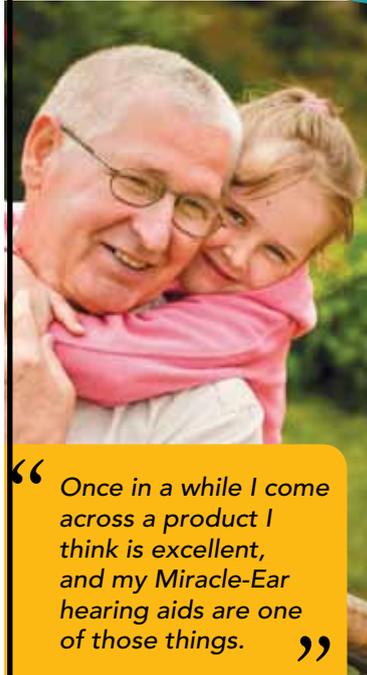


PHOTO BY RICK PEZZULLO

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Businesses
of the Week

Gelardi's Pizza Cortlandt

By Neal Rentz

You could say, metaphorically speaking, that pizza sauce runs through the veins of Mohegan Lake resident Brendan Gelardi.

He began working in a pizzeria at 16 and his passion for hot pies has not wavered. About six months ago he opened his first business, Gelardi's Pizza in Cortlandt.

"I wanted to do pizza since I was a kid," Gelardi recalled last week. "I've been working towards opening my own place ever since."

Gelardi also cooks as his eatery. "There's a lot of work, a lot of hours, long days but it's something that I really enjoy, so for me it doesn't really feel like work," he said. "I really enjoy cooking. I like to make pizza. It feels really good when we put out good food and people enjoy it."

"The specialty of the house" is the Grandma pizza, a thin crust Sicilian with crushed plum tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese. "It's a very popular item," he said. "We try to be a little bit more creative than your average pizzeria."

Another specialty pizzas served at Gelardi's is chicken with sausage on hot cherry peppers. "We try new stuff all the



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Mohegan Lake resident Brendan Gelardi, owner of Gelardi's Pizza, which opened earlier this year in Cortlandt.

time," Gelardi said. "We're going to try to come up with new ones as often as we can."

Business has been good at the new eatery, Gelardi said. "We have a very

good base of regulars," he said. "What we're trying to do is get out the word to more of the community that we're here."

"We pride ourselves on quality and

the freshness of our ingredients. And you don't see that too often at pizzerias anymore," Gelardi said. "At a lot of places they try to cut corners or they just don't want to spend the money to get the highest quality ingredients and that's what we pride ourselves on – getting the best ingredients we can."

"You have to do something to separate yourself from the competition," Gelardi added.

Gelardi said he originally looked at locations in Poughkeepsie but could not find one "that had the right feel" for what he wanted. "The first time I came and looked this place I saw everything around here and I did a little bit of research on the Town of Cortlandt itself and after that I said this is perfect for us," he said. "We want to be a family place with a family environment."

Cortlandt "has the small town feel," Gelardi said. "We want to become like a neighborhood pizzeria. People get to know us and we get to know them."

Gelardi's Pizza is located at 2093 E. Main St. in Cortlandt. For more information call 914-739-5237 or visit gelardispizza.com. The restaurant also has a Facebook page.

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11/05	303 S. Broadway-Tarrytown Ground Level Plaza, Cafeteria Conf. Room	10:00 am
11/06	Jefferson Valley Mall-Yorktown Heights Community Room (behind Food Court)	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
11/07	Radisson Hotel New Rochelle	10:00 am
11/12	303 S. Broadway-Tarrytown Ground Level Plaza, Cafeteria Conf. Room	2:30 pm
11/13	Jefferson Valley Mall-Yorktown Heights Community Room (behind Food Court)	10:00 am & 2:30 pm
11/19	303 S. Broadway-Tarrytown Ground Level Plaza, Cafeteria Conf. Room	10:00 am
11/20	Jefferson Valley Mall-Yorktown Heights Community Room (behind Food Court)	10:00 am
11/21	Radisson Hotel New Rochelle	10:00 am
11/24	303 S. Broadway-Tarrytown Ground Level Plaza, Cafeteria Conf. Room	10:00 am

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The Restaurant Examiner

Leteris Gyro Chef/Owner Celebrates 51 Years in Business

By Jerry Eimbinder

Chris Grammatas, founder of the popular Leteris Gyro Greek eateries in Tarrytown, Mount Kisco and Yonkers, grew up in Washington Heights. As a child, he worked after school in his father's restaurant "Welcome Inn" on Jerome Avenue in The Bronx.

His father died when Chris was 13 and his brother, about 10 years older than Chris, took over management of the restaurant. A year later, when it was sold, Chris's mother moved back to Greece, taking him along.

They returned to America when Chris was 16 and he worked at a restaurant until entering military service during the Vietnamese conflict. "I wanted to be a mechanic," Grammatas said, "but the Army wanted me to cook."

In 2013, Grammatas celebrated his 50th year in the restaurant business.

Leteris Gyro, since it opened in 1994, has been attracting crowds to its corner location at Broadway and Main Street in Tarrytown by charging affordable prices and serving generous portions of Greek and American specialties.

A second Leteris Gyro restaurant was introduced in Mount Kisco in August 2005 and a third opened at Westchester's Ridge Hill in Yonkers in September 2012.

At the three dining destinations, Grammatas said, the most popular dish



Exterior of Leteris Gyro on Broadway and Main Street in Tarrytown.

is the beef/lamb gyro — wrapped in a pita with lots of lettuce, tomatoes and onions, accompanied by tzatziki sauce. It is sumptuous; so huge, it is tricky to pick up without a few ingredients slipping out. The gyro is a bargain at only \$7.50 and a chicken version is available at the same price.

What's popular?

When asked about items rising rapidly in demand, Grammatas responded,

"That would include octopus, all of the soups, stuffed peppers, stuffed tomatoes, lemon potatoes (a side dish that can be added to a platter for \$1.25) and our Aegean salad dressing by the jar as takeout." The salad dressing costs \$4.25 for a pint or \$6.25 for a quart.

Stuffed tomatoes and stuffed peppers are available at the Mount Kisco and Yonkers locations but not the Tarrytown restaurant.

Five tempting house-made soups are offered daily: lentil, split pea, vegetable, mushroom/barley and perky Avgolemo-

no (chunks of chicken with rice and egg-lemon sauce). Lobster bisque is served only on Friday through Sunday. Each soup is priced at \$4.15 (small serving) or \$4.50 (large).

The Grammatas family traces its roots to the Greek island of Lesbos where Chris was fed Avgolemono by his grandmother whenever he had a cold.

The menu has traditional Greek dishes such as baked Moussaka, Spanakopita (spinach pie) and fresh Greek Salad and standards including steak, lamb chops, sautéed calves liver, kebabs, a bevy of salads, sandwiches, hamburgers and appealing desserts including baklava. Beer and wine are available.

A board lists fresh fish currently available and prices (prices fluctuate according to market cost). Seafood is delivered to the restaurants three times a week.

The Yonkers restaurant has a view of the kitchen from the dining area and a full bar. It seats 140 inside and 35 more outside. The Tarrytown eatery's sidewalk tables wrap around the building and are considered the best place in Tarrytown for people-watching.

The addresses are 1 North Broadway, Tarrytown (914-524-9687), 190 East Main Street, Mount Kisco (914-242-8965) and 242 Market Street, Yonkers (914-437-8490). All of the restaurants are open seven days a week. The website is www.leterisgyro.com.

Equus at Castle Hotel & Spa in Tarrytown Debuts Wine-Paired Dinner Series

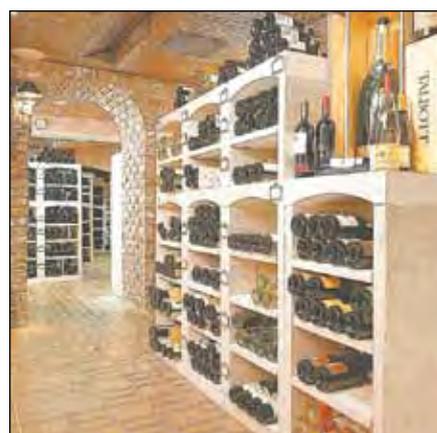
By Jerry Eimbinder

The 2014 "Fall Food Pairing" program at the Castle Hotel and Spa in Tarrytown will begin with two wine-paired dinners — a five-course dinner on November 6 followed by a four-course dinner on November 13.

As an entrée, the Nov. 6 dinner will have braised short rib with parmesan polenta, Brussels sprouts and Sauce Bordelaise.

Accompanying the Nov. 6 dinner will be wine from Silver Oak Cellars and Twomey Cellars, a winery started in 1999 by the Duncan family, the same family that has operated Silver Oak Cellars since 1972.

The Nov. 13 dinner's main course is pan seared tenderloin with potato puree, balsamic glazed pear onion, grape compote and Sauce Bordelaise. At this dinner, California winemaker James MacPhail will field questions about the



Wine case at Equus at Castle Hotel & Spa in Tarrytown.

wines being served. All of the wines are from small California wineries.

Menus and wine

Nov. 6, 2014 dinner menu

Appetizer. Foraged mushroom risotto

Soup Course. Butternut squash soup
Fish course. Prosciutto wrapped stripped base
Entree. Braised short rib
Dessert. Cinnamon panna cotta

Nov. 13, 2014 dinner menu

Appetizer. Smoked duck salad
Soup Course. Cream of mushroom soup
Entrée. Pan seared tenderloin
Dessert. Apple, pecan and rosemary crumble

Wine Pairing

Nov. 6, 2014 wine pairing

Appetizer. Twomey Cellars Blanc 2013
Soup Course. Twomey Cellars Pinot Noir 2012
Fish course. Silver Oak Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2010
Entrée. Silver Oak Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 2009

Nov. 13, 2014 wine pairing

Appetizer. Gap's Crown Chardonnay 2012

Soup Course. Dutton Ranch Pinot Noir 2011

Entrée. Toulouse Vineyard Pinot Noir 2012, Gap's Crown Pinot Noir 2010
Dessert. Rose of Pinot Noir 2011

For more information about the dishes, see "Special Menus" at www.castlehotelspa.com.

The cost per person for the five-course dinner on Nov. 6 is \$150. The four-course dinner cost on Nov. 13 is \$125 per person. Tax and gratuity are additional.

Equus is located in the Castle Hotel & Spa at 400 Benedict Avenue in Tarrytown, NY 10591. Open seven days a week, it serves breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m., lunch from noon to 2 p.m. on Monday through Saturday, and dinner daily from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday brunch is available from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For reservations, call 914-631-3646.

When Your Leaves Start Falling, Don't Bag 'Em, Shred 'Em!

Around this time of year, I start to see large paper bags filled with leaves parked by the roadside. I usually say to myself, what a waste! I just can't understand why anyone would part with this rich resource in the life cycle of plant life. I love fallen leaves of red, brown and gold. I love their look, their smell and the sound, if you listen carefully, as they fall gently from their branches to the ground.

If they are just left there as is, true, they can cause damage to your lawn by blocking light from reaching the grass and inhibiting the evaporation of water, particularly if you have a lot of oak trees whose leaves decompose slowly. They also encourage the growth of mold and/or fungus, which isn't very friendly to grass. If you have walnut trees, that's another problem in that they have compounds in them that actually poison other plants.

I remember one year, before I had the money to have a lawn service, I just left the leaves, figuring that one year wouldn't hurt. Well, when the rains came, the leaves turned into a wet, matted mess that flattened and melted into the grass.

And when spring came and the weather dried up, I had dozens of wet, muddy holes in what had been a fairly decent lawn. I spent the spring getting rid of the thatch and re-seeding. That was the last fall season that I was lazy!



By Bill Primavera

Then for some years, I got into composting, which became somewhat of a religion for me, but not a fanatical one. I have enough property where I was able to take a corner of it, not noticeable from either my front or back lawns, and create a pile of alternating grass and leaf layers, along with daily kitchen scraps. I'd just keep the pile growing until it reached about four feet, occasionally mixing it up with a pitch fork and letting it simmer and smoke throughout the year.

And by the spring, when I was ready to do all my planting, it was ready to use as the richest compost you might imagine.

In the intervening years, my lifestyle has changed radically concerning my prodigious production of leaves on my property, which before Irene and Sandy hit, was mostly shady with huge trees. When I no longer had time to work on a

layered compost pile, I started to mulch my leaves in place on the lawn itself with my lawn mower and found that to be a satisfactory solution. I suggest this to any homeowner, rather than bagging, because leaves decompose very quickly when shredded.

Organic Gardening Magazine suggests that the best technique for mulching leaves in place is this way: Your mower should be fitted with a blade that chops leaves and grass into small pieces, but a side-discharge mower works too. Set to shred by setting the mower height to three inches and remove the bag. It works best to shred leaves when you can still see some grass peeking through them, and that means you may need to mow several times during the fall.

Begin mowing on the outside edge of the lawn, shooting the leaves toward the center of the yard. Mowing in this pattern allows you to mow over the leaves more than once. If the leaves are still in large pieces after you pass over them the first time, go back over the lawn at a right angle to the first cut. Finely shredded leaves filter down through the grass and decompose easily by the following spring.

If there is an overabundance of leaves

on your lawn and the layer of the shredded leaves seems too thick, you might want to suck up the extra leaves by making more than one pass over the lawn with the mower's bag attached. You might also mow with the bag on if you want to collect leaves for the compost pile or to use as mulch in the garden beds. It's best to have no more than a one-inch layer of leaf mulch on lawns and a three- to four-inch layer on garden beds.

Mulched leaves return valuable micronutrients to your lawn and gardens, especially when mixed with grass clippings, and feed the microorganisms and worms that keep your soil - and your grass - healthy.

So why would you want to throw all that good health away by bagging?

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com), specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. His real estate site is: www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com and his blog is: www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

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James Trend of Verplanck, shown with Tony Angi, Committee advancement chairman, and Ernie Wieting, Maintoga district Eagle advancement Council representative, became an Eagle Scout on October 30 by completing an Eagle Scout Board of Review. Trend, 17, a senior at Hendrick Hudson High School, is a member of Troop 49 Ossining of the Westchester Putnam Council, Boy Scouts of America. Trend earned 21 merit badges and demonstrated ideals of service and leadership, including organizing and leading an extensive service project. His Eagle Project involved improving facilities and equipment for the Cortlandt Community Rowing Association and Mehaugh Park in Verplanck.

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The Influence of Nature on the 2014 Grape Harvest

Here we are - at the critical juncture in the annual cycle of winemaking in the northern hemisphere. The most important decision a vineyard manager and winemaker must make each year takes place in the vineyard, not the winery building.

Grape growers around the world - those that tend vineyards for their own utilization or those that contract their crops to winemakers - have been sending grape pickers (or their mechanical equivalents) into the vineyards since August and will continue well into November.

As one might expect, harvest dates vary significantly across the latitudinal band in which grapes are grown. The variety of grape is a key component of ripening. White grapes mature earlier than red. Across the hemisphere, Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio and Sauvignon Blanc begin to mature in late July/early August. Pinot Noir, Merlot may be harvested in September; Cabernet Sauvignon as late as mid-November.

Anecdotal surveys indicate that in recent years the harvests have occurred earlier than previous years. Climate change is the common factor cited (ear-

lier crops tend to have higher sugar content but lower levels of ripeness and concentration).

Overall, however, Nature plays the key role. Man must be adaptive and understand the nuances of the natural order. As the growing season progresses each year, Nature may bless grape growers in the spring with early budding and ideal weather and punish them later with late season rainfall or frost; or inflict arduous conditions in the spring and an extended growing season in late summer and fall. Crop size, ripeness levels, juice concentrations are all impacted by Nature's whim.



By Nick Antonaccio

You Heard It
Through the
Grapevine

During the 2014 growing season I reported on certain natural phenomena that Nature wrought: hailstorms in France, floods in southwest France, drought and an earthquake in California.

The end result? Smiles or furrowed eyebrows? Elation or exasperation? Success or failure?

How did specific regions, growers and winemakers fare in 2014?

Let's begin close to home and fan out from there.

New York State's Finger Lakes region fared poorly. Last winter, prolonged sub-zero temperatures destroyed or damaged over 40% of the potential 2014 crops for many varieties. So bad that the state agriculture department may permit wineries to import grapes from other regions of the United States and the world to supplement the harvest.

The West Coast fared much better. Oregon and Washington were treated benevolently. A number of harvests increased over 25%, benefiting more from higher minimum daily temperatures rather than higher maximum temperatures (ideal conditions for grape development).

California's harvest is expected to be the third highest on record, in spite of continuing drought conditions - and the August 24 earthquake in Napa. An earlier start to the growing season and a burst of hot weather close to harvest contributed to this success - despite a late season hailstorm near Napa, a parting shot from Mother Nature.

Across the Atlantic, Nature was less benevolent, even a bit malevolent. In the high stakes French regions of Bordeaux and Burgundy, summer rains brought early fall fungus, potentially limiting the crop yields. Late summer hailstorms, for the third consecutive year, destroyed up to 40% of crops in select parcels of Bur-

gundy. But Nature's warm, embracing sunshine for most of the spring and summer influenced the overall crop quality in both regions. By harvest, crop yields were expected to be near normal.

To the east, Italy suffered much of the same weather patterns as France. Nature's malevolence manifested itself in poor weather for a good part of the growing season, more so in the north than in the central and southern areas. Several regions reported the lowest harvests since 1950.

Spain enjoyed the warm embrace of a long sunny season; generally, both yields and quality were high.

The 2014 harvest portends a successful year for grape growers in the northern hemisphere. That bodes well for American winemakers and especially for wine consumers. Thanks, Mother Nature. Let's call upon her benevolence for a mild New York winter.

Nick Antonaccio is a 35-year Pleasantville resident. For over 15 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.



PHOTO BY MELISSA KIZIS

Michelle Cavanaugh poses during grand opening of The Little Party Shop on October 25 in Mohegan Lake.

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Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Joins in wordlessly
- 5 Motown singer, Ross
- 10 Rally
- 12 Drain
- 13 African country on the Atlantic
- 15 Specifying article
- 16 Rita or 18th Congressional District candidate
- 18 Lady Liberty's land
- 19 Bothersome task
- 21 Await judgment
- 23 Comic Imogene
- 26 Hospital fluids
- 29 Wire diameter measurement, abbr.
- 30 Display of force
- 33 Wedding vow
- 36 Congressional members Caroline or Sean Patrick
- 37 Not relaxed
- 39 Crave
- 40 Netlike hair controller
- 41 Relative of a plum

DOWN

- 1 Go quiet
- 2 Anxiety
- 3 Jewish quorums
- 4 Ragout or burgoo
- 5 Atlanta-based airline
- 6 Patient or polite preceder
- 7 Apropos
- 8 High math degree?
- 9 Nautical affirmative
- 11 It may need stroking
- 14 French painter, Jean
- 17 Drink water and hold your breath to cure it
- 20 Extremely small
- 22 Rookie socialite, briefly
- 24 Roman statesman, Marcus
- 25 Gas used in welding
- 27 Frost-covered
- 28 Stored-heat oven
- 31 Rocky actor's nickname
- 32 Lowest digits
- 33 'TGIF' part
- 34 Man cave
- 35 She was part of a "bed in" for peace
- 38 Thus

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See solution on page 21

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Happenings

The Northern Westchester Examiner We're happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event and include the words "Happenings Calendar Submission" in your email subject line. Entries should be sent to Neal Rentz at nrentz@theexaminernews.com.

Tuesday, Nov. 4

Coat Drive: The Northeast Westchester Rotary Club is holding its annual Coat and Sweater Drive through November 6. Every year the club collects several tons of clothing and distributes it to community centers and social service agencies through northern Westchester. Drop-off points will feature large boxes with yellow signs. Locations include the Somers Library, post offices, Stop & Shop, Route 100 Market (Somers Mobil), Town Hall, JFK High School and Somers schools.

Free Medicare Counseling: Get help understanding your Medicare benefits and coverage on Tuesdays year-round (except holidays) at the John C. Hart Memorial Library in Shrub Oak, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Field Library in Peekskill. No appointments are necessary for the free service. Meet with a trained counselor for information about Medicare Parts A, B and D, Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Savings Plans, Extra Help and EPIC. You can also call the Senior Benefits Information Center helpline with your questions at 914-231-3260 and a counselor will return your call within two business days. For a listing of all eight SBIC centers in Westchester libraries, go to <http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/senior-benefits-information-centers/>.

Farmers' Market: The Putnam Valley Grange Farmers' Market is held every Tuesday from 3 to 7 p.m. at the corner of Mill Street and Peekskill Hollow Road (Adams Corners).

Senior Benefits Information: Trained volunteer counselors help older adults and their caregivers find information about government benefits to help them stretch their budgets every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the John C. Hart Memorial Library, 1130 E. Main St., Shrub Oak. Get information on Medicare health and prescription plans, nutrition assistance, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), tax relief programs, and much more. Info: 914-245-5262 Ext.227 or <http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/sbic>.

Checkmate: A chess program is held every Tuesday at 4 p.m. at the Ossining Public Library, 53 Croton Ave. It is held in the second floor conference room. Info: 914-941-2416 Ext. 336.

Wednesday, Nov. 5

Bingo Wednesdays: Come to First Hebrew for \$2,000 in total guaranteed bingo prizes, plus an average of \$1,000 awarded in specialty games. Doors open 5 p.m. and games begin 7:15 p.m. every Wednesday (except holidays – check First Hebrew's website calendar). First Hebrew is just west of the Beach Shopping Center

at 1821 Main St., Peekskill. Info: 914 -739-0500 of www.firsthebrew.org.

Thursday, Nov. 6

Small Business Competition: How Small Business Can Handle New Competition will be the topic of a program scheduled for noon to 2 p.m. at Frankie and Augie Zs 3673 Hill Blvd, Jefferson Valley. The program is being presented by the Yorktown Small Business Association in partnership with Westchester Score and PDS Strategies. The cost of the buffet lunch is \$20 and reservations are suggested. Contact Bob Giordano for information at rgiord19@optonline.net or 914-874-4347.

Cancer Support: A Breast and Ovarian Cancer Support Group meets on the first Thursday of the month, at 10 a.m. in the Yorktown offices of Support Connection. 40 Triangle Center, Suite100, Yorktown. Advance registration is required for all groups; call 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290. For a complete calendar of groups at all locations, visit www.supportconnection.org.

Somers Library Exhibit: The work of Chad Wallace will be exhibited during the month of November at the Somers Library. Wallace is an award-winning artist who grew up in Somers. His first grade class was lucky enough to be at the Somers Library opening ceremony in 1982. He has illustrated 10 books for children including: "Earth Day Birthday" (2003) "Earth Feeling the Heat" (2010) and "Seahorses" (2012). To view more of his work, please visit: www.chadwallace.com. For visiting hours at the Somers Library, please call 914 232-5717 or check the library's website at www.somerslibrary.org.

Friday, Nov. 7

Todd Rundgren Concert: Todd Rundgren will perform his hits in a concert beginning at 8 p.m. at the Paramount Hudson Valley, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill Info: 914-739-0039 or ParamountHudsonValley.com.

Card Party: A Card Party hosted by the Father John LaFarge Columbiettes will be held at 7 pm. at the St. Patrick's Parish Center, 137 Moseman Ave. Yorktown. The cost of \$5 includes coffee and dessert. For more information, call June at 914-739-8537.

Hebrew Congregation Events: Two events are slated for this weekend at the Hebrew Congregation of Somers, located at Cypress Lane and Mervin Drive. A Pot Luck Dinner followed by a Shabbat service will be held on Nov. 7 at 6:30 p.m. Adult education will be held on Nov. 9 at 10:30 a.m. Info: 914-248-9532.

Free Play Dates: A free play date program is being held every Friday from 11 a.m. to noon at the Rosenthal JCC Early Childhood

Center at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. The program is intended for children between the ages of 16 and 36 months and their parents or caregivers. Children can play, do art and socialize all under the direction of an experienced early childhood teacher. Pre-registration is suggested. Contact Jennifer at 914-962-8430 or e-mail her at Jennifer@rosenthaljcc.org.

Jewish Center Services: Sabbath services now begin at 6:15 p.m. on Friday evenings and at 9:15 a.m. on Saturday mornings at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Info: 914 -245 -2324 or www.info@yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Job Hunting Help: Free drop-in, hands-on assistance with online applications, resume writing, e-mail accounts and more is held on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the second floor conference room at the Ossining Public Library, 53 Croton Ave. Assistance is offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. This is not a computer class. Info: Cheryl at 941-2416 Ext. 315.

Saturday, Nov. 8

Gospel Concert: The First Presbyterian Church's 14 annual concert series will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the church, which is located at the corner of Routes 202/35 and 132 in Yorktown. The Antioch Choir, which celebrated its 120th anniversary in September, will perform. Info: fpcyorktown.org.

Sacred Song Masterpieces: Asbury United Methodist Church will host the Croton Chorale in its performance of Masterpieces of Sacred Song by Unsung Masters at 8 p.m. at the church, 17 Old Post Road South, in Croton. The 30-person chorus, conducted by Asbury's Chancel Choir director Bob Collins, will perform a collection of beautiful choral gems created by generally unknown composers. The Chorale maintains a tradition of presenting its performances as benefits for local non-profit organizations, with the proceeds from this concert to be donated to the Croton-Cortlandt Food Pantry. Suggested contributions are a donation of \$20, or \$10 for seniors or students, with children under 12 welcomed without charge. For further information, call 914-271-9598 or e-mail bcollins@bestweb.net.

Print And Paint: Spend an evening creating art with your friends in the Katonah Arts Center, 131 Bedford Rd. on Nov. 8 and Dec. 13 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Spend an evening with your friends creating art. Bring your refreshments and wine and creativity. A KAC instructor will cover basic color mixing and painting techniques and assist students as they learn. A beautiful still live will be provided. No experience is necessary and snacks are included. Info: katonahartcenter.com or 914-232-4843.

Ossining Farmers Market: The Ossining

Down to Earth Farmers Market is held year-round on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the corner of Main and Spring Streets. Info: 914-923-4837 Ext. 202.

Overeaters Anonymous: Worried about the way you eat? If food rules your life, Overeaters Anonymous may have the answer for you. There is no weigh-ins, dues or fees. The group meets on Saturdays from 8:30 to 9:30 am at the fourth floor conference at the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, 1350 Route 9, Garrison. Info: call/text Lisa at 917-716-2488.

Sunday, Nov. 9

Rummage Sale: A huge rummage sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Info: 914 -245 -2324 or www.info@yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Painting Churches: The M&M Productions of "Painting Churches" will be held at 2 p.m. at the Somers Library. The program is being sponsored by the Friends of the Somers Library. A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in drama and written by Tina Howe, Mags will be played by WHUD Radio personality and co-host of Mike & Kacey in the Morning. Registration is not required for this free event, but seating is limited and will be on a first-come, first-seated basis.

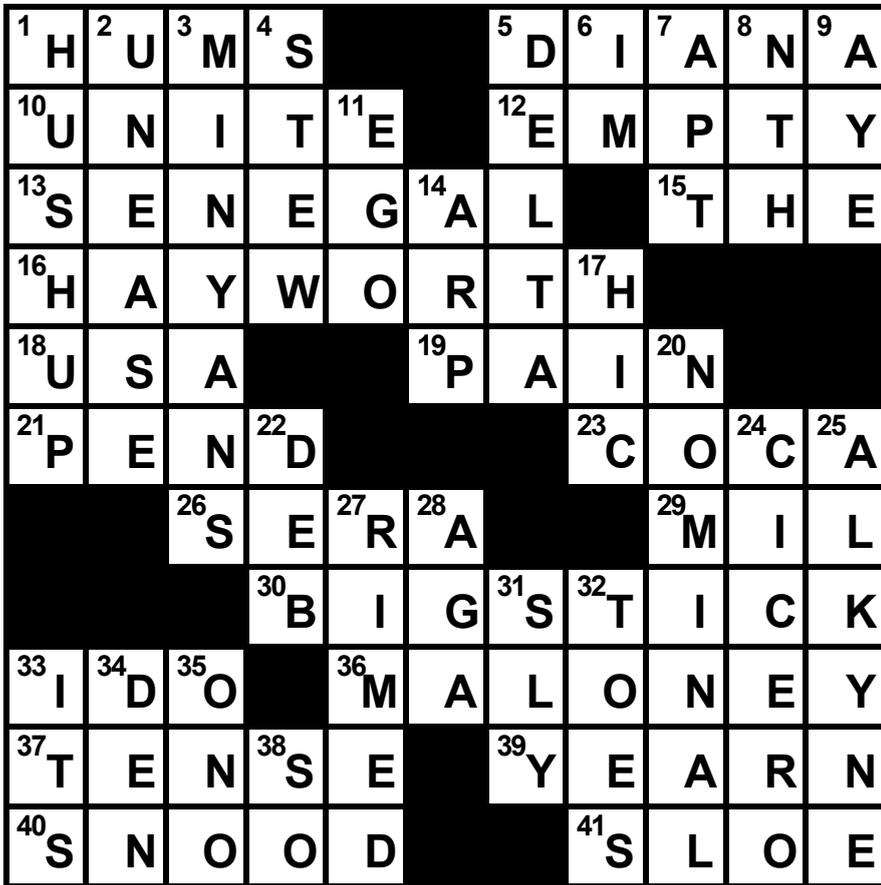
Healing Yoga: Yoga classes for women with breast cancer are held at 5 p.m. on Sundays at Hudson Yoga, 5 Old Post Rd. South, Croton-on-Hudson. Weekly classes are being conducted by rotating instructors. The suggestion is \$15. Info: Elisha Simpson at 914-319-4010 or send an e-mail to info@laughingheartsyoga.com.

Monday, Nov. 10

Musical Munchkins: The Yorktown Musical Munchkins meet on Mondays from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. at the Yorktown Stage Theater in room 12. The program is for older babies up to the 1's. Free trial classes are offered. Info: 914-771-7000 or www.musicalmunchkins.com.

Writers Workshop: A writer's workshop will be held on Mondays through Dec. 22 at the Somers Library. Session one will be held from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and session two will be held from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Bring your ideas, pen and paper (or laptop) so that within a few short weeks you will have developed the strategies to become a lifelong writer. People of all skill levels are welcome. It will be presented by Linda Spear. Space is limited, so register early. Register for one session only please. Call the library at 914 232-5717 or register online at www.somerslibrary.org.

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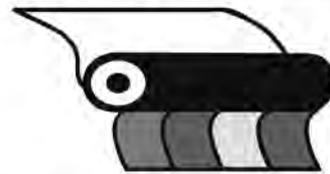


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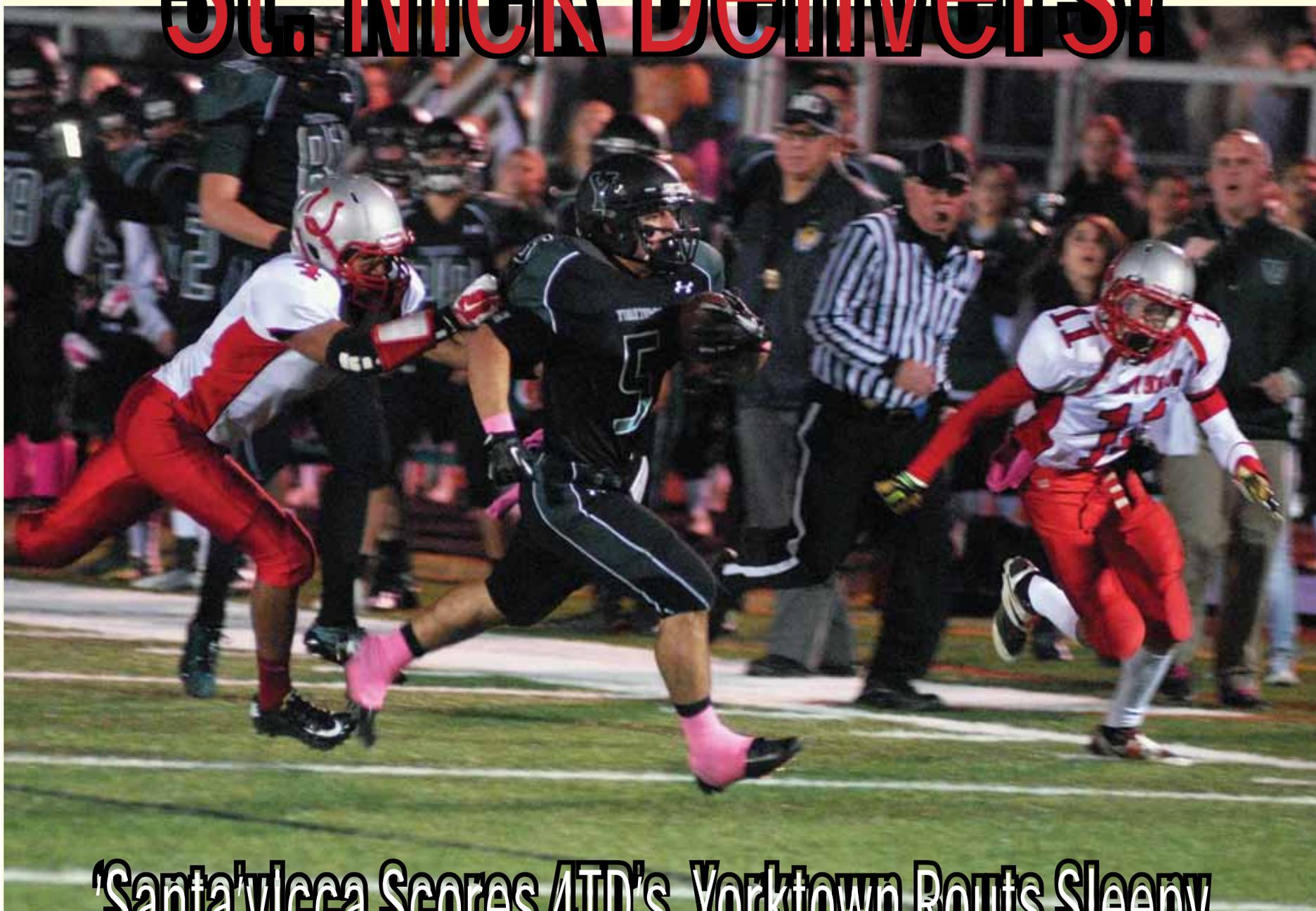
The Northern Westchester
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Sports
Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

November 4 - November 10, 2014

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

SPORTS SECTION

St. Nick Delivers!



'Santa'vicca Scores 4TD's, Yorktown Routs Sleepy, Advances to Class A Final

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Yorktown junior HB Nick Santavicca rushed for 208 yards and four touchdowns (including the one above) in the No.1A-seeded Huskers' 47-12 Section 1 Class A semifinal win over visiting No.2B Sleepy Hollow last Friday night at Charlie Murphy Field. State-ranked (No.9) Yorktown advanced to Saturday's Class A championship for the first time since 1998 and will face No.1B Rye at Mahopac at 7:00 p.m... see Grid Notebook

Yorktown In, Somers Out of Class A Championship Game

No.1A Huskers Ease In, Face No.1B Rye in Title Tilt; Tuskers Denied by Garnets, 21-19

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

The stage was set for the biggest football game in Northern Westchester history, but the curtain never rose. The theatrics were set to officially begin after No.2A Somers checked in with a semifinal defeat of No.1B host Rye last Saturday, setting up what would have been a Section 1 Class A championship playdate with No.1A Yorktown this coming Saturday night at Mahopac High where mayhem would rule the night.

Yorktown did its part the night before when junior HB Nick Santavicca snapped off four touchdowns and ran for 214 yards on Friday night, leading the undefeated Huskers to a 47-12 win over No.2B Sleepy Hollow in the other Section 1 Class A semifinal.

But Somers (7-2) was denied entrance when its defense could not get off the field over the course of the final five-plus minutes in host Rye's 21-19



Yorktown DE Dan Del Bene sets up for sack of Sleepy QB Joey Good in Huskers' semifinal win.

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

gained a step on the Headless Horsemen, the whirling dervish was gone, last seen scooting uncontested for portions of his new school record 1,506 yards in a season. Santavicca broke the previous record of 1,382 by former All-NYS FB Pete Cariello, arguably the finest two-way player in Yorktown history, who went on to win a national title at DI-AA UMass before a spinal injury derailed what might have been a shot at the NFL.

"Our linemen were blocking very well," Santavicca said of Logan Peters, Joey Costella, Richie Campanaro, Steve Veteri and Joey Blume. "They made holes that I could run through and there was also a lot of cut-back alleys, which is what I do best. It's unbelievable to be mentioned in the

same breath as Pete Cariello, it really is, and being a part of history is something I never thought of but we still are trying to make history this Saturday."



Yorktown RB Nick Santavicca breaks free for TD in semifinal rout of Sleepy.

semifinal victory over the suddenly sullen Tuskers, who saw their two-year reign as Section 1 champions crash and burn last Saturday night at Nugent Field where the Garnets (8-1) relied on their franchise QB Andrew Livingston to survive and advance a classic playoff.

The now-abandoned notion of an all-Northern Westchester championship would have been as big as it gets in this neck of the woods, but we'll never know, leaving Yorktown (9-0), winners of four Section 1 titles in the 1990s and a pair of NYS titles in 1993-94, as the area's lone representation for our Class A title hopes.

Bring your popcorn and get there early because parking will be tough to come by as local alumni join forces with the current student bodies and their families for the right to gain entrance into the NYS playoffs; something

Yorktown hasn't done since 1998 and Rye has failed to do since 2008 (Class B NYS champs). Rye moved to Class A in 2009 and has come up short ever since.

Yorktown's outcome was never in doubt vs. Sleepy. Once Santavicca had



Yorktown RB Tim Forbes sheds would-be Sleepy tackler en route to TD run in semifinal rout of Headless Horsemen.

Sports

Grid Notebook

Coach Mike Rescigno's Huskers will now be playing for their first Section 1 title since Longo - lovable OL/DL Jason Longobardi -- and the boys did so in 1998 during a 10-1 NYS semifinal season under then-coach Dan Callahan, who took the reins from two-time NYS champion Coach Ron Sanatavicca, the uncle of the record-setting halfback.

When Santavicca wasn't scoring or breaking off big gains, senior captain Tim Forbes was bullying in from three yards out for a birthday score that no 18-year-old will ever forget. Senior QB Ryan Baker

Scott Weaver, Nick Golio and sophomore Dom Cioffi - were draped on Sleepy wideouts, preventing lefty slinger Joey Good from being any good. Along with a front four as stout as any in Section 1, Husker LB's Mike Dedvukaj, Forbes and Ryan Tim Brandt were crippling the Sleepy ground game.

Rye, which defeated Yorktown, 36-20, in the 2013 semis, will have its hands full with Yorktown, but the Husker secondary will be placed on red alert this week as it prepares to deal with Livingston, who is 161 yards shy of the Section 1 record for



COLIN SMITH PHOTOS

Somers QB Nick Lombardo is hunted by Rye defender in Tuskers' semifinal loss last Saturday.

also got in on the act, racing 75 yards on the first possession of the second half for a 35-0 lead. Baker, who rushed for 111 yards on eight totes, also fired a TD pass to TE James Fennessy.

Yorktown's secondary -- Shivam Gupta,

career passing yards (Rob Higle, Briarcliff, and 5,469).

It was Livingston who single-handedly dashed the hopes of Lakeland, Panas and now Somers this season, as the prototypical 6'2" 200-pound signal caller



Somers FB Timmy Fazzinga scored two TDs in loss to Rye last Saturday.



Somers DL Brendan Smith chases down Rye's Andrew Livingston in Tuskers' semifinal loss to Garnets.

made clutch play after clutch play when his team needed them most, including the 4th-down conversion that clinched the win over Somers. Despite being sacked five times, Livingston inflicted damage by finding Tim DeGraw (TD pass) and Drew Abate for chain-moving passes before crossing the goal line for the game-winning score just before the third quarter ended. Truth be told, though, Somers should have put up more points on a Garnet defense that struggled all season.

"Livingston is a great player, one of the bests I've played against and he's a class act," said Fazzinga, "but I think defensively we actually played pretty well, it was our offense that had trouble getting going."

The Tuskers made several uncharacteristic mistakes that proved costly, including a special team's gaffe that cost them in more ways than one. After mishandling a snap on their second score, the Tuskers botched one PAT attempt and were forced to go for two on a potential game-tying attempt in the fourth quarter after FB Timmy Fazzinga bulled in from two yards out with 8:42 left for his second TD of the day. WR Tyler DeVito also scored for Somers, hauling in a 65-yard touchdown pass from QB Matt Pontbriand with 5:30 left in the third.

"We gave it everything we had every day, so I have no regrets which I'm happy about," said Fazzinga, a captain. "It was an absolute honor to play for Somers."

Fazzinga's not the first guy to say that since Coach Tony DeMatteo came on board...

Lakeland QB Anthony Capozzi set the school's single-season touchdown record with two scores to beat Pearl River, giving him 18 for the year... In a win over Harrison, Brewster's TE/LB Matt Gargano had 101 yards

receiving, 16 tackles, a sack and a fumble recovery...

Section 1 Championships Saturday, November 8 at Mahopac High School: Class AA No. 1 John Jay-EF vs. No. 2 Arlington, noon; Class D No. 1 Tuckahoe vs. No. 2 Haldane, 3:30 p.m.; Class A No. 1 Yorktown vs. No. 1 Rye, 7 p.m.

Sports

Boys Soccer Notebook

Yorktown Falls Short to Byram in Class A Tilt

By A.J. Martelli

FREEDOM PLAINS – The Yorktown Huskers played .500 soccer most of the season, and had to win one of their three remaining games on the regular season schedule just to earn their way into the postseason dance. So naturally, most folks were surprised when the No. 11 Huskers put together a winning playoff run, knocking off the likes of Panas, Tappan Zee, Hen Hud and Somers to reach the Class A finals.

Yorktown came within an eyelash of achieving its dream of winning a section title Sunday at Arlington high, drawing the short straw to No. 4 Byram Hills in overtime, losing 3-2 by way of a hard luck golden goal off the foot of Brandon Drossman of the Bobcats, arguably Section 1's best program. The Huskers advanced to the title tilt after a 1-0 semifinal win over host Somers, in which a hobbled Mohamed Hamza nailed the game-winning goal late in the second half.

Although disappointed, the Huskers left the field with their heads up, knowing they didn't phone the season in when the chips were down.

"I can't say enough about my boys, they really played their hearts out," Huskers Head Coach Ed Polchinski said. "Once again we played another top notch team, Byram, and it was another war. Unfortunately, the ride ended, and I can't take anything away from my boys and the way they played the whole season – especially tonight's game. It showed they had a lot of character; a lot of guts. They gave it all they got and that's all you can ask for."

The Huskers trailed 2-1 with 6:11 to play, but Yorktown sniper Joey Landicino got some help from Marcello Spiniello and slipped one past the Byram keeper to knot the game at two –



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Yorktown's Adam Romanski (R) and Husker G Jacob Braham revel in the glory of their 1-0 semifinal win over Somers last Thursday.

proving Polchinski's point about his team offering everything it could.

After Landicino's goal, the Bobcats and Huskers held each other off, pushing it into overtime.

Spiniello struck for Town's first goal just four minutes in on an assist from Hamza, who had been valiantly playing hurt with a bothered hamstring. But Drossman came up with a goal to tie it up with 14:01 to play in the first half, driving one past Husker stone wall Jacob Braham, who had a monster effort against a pesky Somers club as well. Both sides stopped any more scoring before halftime and showed off some defense to make it 1-1 at the intermission.

"We thought we had a little momentum; we knew we had to come out the first 10 minutes and play tough against Byram because we knew they had the experience here before us," Polchinski said.

"I told them we have to be ready to come out for the first 10 minutes and thank God we did; we got that one goal, but Byram kept fighting back. Give them a lot of credit, because usually if we go one or two goals up, we're good. They (Byram) were very aggressive, and they just found the back of the net one more time than we did."

The Huskers finished the season 11-9-1 overall, and showed they can be a dangerous force when dancing in the postseason – an improvement from last year, when Yorktown was axed in the first round at the hands of Horace Greeley. Polchinski was, in a word, proud of the type of attitude his players exhibited and



Yorktown's Mohamed Hamza scores game-winning goal in 1-0 win over Somers.



Yorktown's Marcello Spiniello looks to spin away from Somers' Zach Lichtman in 1-0 Husker win.

continued on page 27

Somers Rocks Byram Hills, Wins 2nd Sectional Title Since 2011

Haldane Wins 4th-Straight Class C Crown; Mahopac Falls in Final

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

Playing together since they were in elementary school, the seniors of the Somers High girls' soccer team, like so many before them, are no strangers to success. But none of the 60-something varsity victories they had produced since they began playing for the Tuskers would have mattered much had they lost the Section 1 Class A championship match



Somers' Ciara Ostrander has been nothing short of phenomenal in the post season.

last Sunday on the campus of Arlington High.

Somers' Shashona Bedrosian, Ciara Ostrander and Nicole Anes (twice) made absolutely sure that everything that happened before November 2nd, 2014 would matter, as each found the back of the net in the state-ranked (No.3) Tuskers' 4-0 championship win over defending Section 1 Class A champion Byram Hills.



Somers senior D Haley Bonner goes up for header in quarterfinal win over Eastchester and has been mainstay on defense for 4 years.



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

The Haldane soccer team poses with their fourth consecutive Section 1 championship plaque last Sunday.

Melissa Righetti added an assist for the Tuskers.

The top-seeded Tuskers put up three first-half goals and never looked back, advancing to the NYSPHSAA tournament for the second time in four years where they will face the winner of the Section 9 Goshen vs. Section 4 Vestal winner and put their unblemished 19-0 record on the line in the NYS quarterfinals.

After winning it all in 2011, the Tuskers lost the sectional title in 2012 on PK's and the fell flat in the 2013 quarterfinals, so there was only one ending whereby the Tuskers could find redemption, which is what they sought and found against Byram Hills.

Somers prevailed over the No. 3 Pearl River Pirates 2-1 behind sophomore



Somers F Hannon Exerts has scored a ton of big goals this season and continues to do so in the post.

Melina Couzis' 20-yard free-kick goal in the semis, and took a 6-1 decision over Eastchester in the quarters behind a monster five-goal second half that saw Ostrander (3G, 1A), Jessica Rosenbaum (2G) and Hannon Eberts (1G, 3A) go off.

HALDANE AGAIN!

Second half goals by Bailey McCollum, Marina Martin and Sara Jacoby propelled Haldane to a 6-1 win over Schechter for the Blue Devils' fourth-straight Section 1 title. State-ranked (No.2) Haldane (13-4) advanced to the New York State Class C Regional against Section 9 champion Rhinebeck today at Arlington (5:00 p.m.). McCollum scored twice and had two assists for the Blue Devils, who blew open a 2-1 game with four unanswered. The Monteleone sisters, senior Allie and soph Hannah, were pivotal to victory, each netting a goal. Allie, a three-sport sensation and on the soccer team since the eighth grade, has now won about a dozen Section 1 titles at Haldane.

"It's the last time I'll be part of an organized soccer team," she told the Journal News. "It's a different feeling from the rest.



Haldane's Allie Monteleone blasts a shot in Blue Devils' championship win Sunday at Arlington.

I don't have a next time."

MAHOPAC UPSET BID FOILED

Mahopac (13-7) lost senior forward Jess Magnani to a first-half ankle injury, and twin sister, JoLynn, Mahopac's



Somers' Melina Couzis scored the game-winning goal in semifinal win over Pearl River.

leading scorer, sat out the game with a bad back injury. Still, the Indians held a 2-0 halftime lead and looked like they would pull the upset of the season before 2013 NYS runner-up North Rockland erupted with five second-half goals en route to a 5-2 Class AA championship win. Morgan Kirby had a goal and an assist for the seventh-seeded Indians, who also got a goal from Hope Wilson.

Sports

Field Hockey Notebook

Mahopac, Lakeland Stroke Big, Advance to Final 4's

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

And then there were four, the Final 4. Class A No.2 Mahopac survived a 4-1 quarterfinal win over No.7 North Rockland last Thursday and top-seeded Class B Lakeland, the five-time reigning NYS champion, trounced No.9 Harrison, 7-0, as each advanced to their respective semifinals. But goals were tough to come by for Yorktown, Somers and Carmel, who were all eliminated in the sectional quarters.

Nationally-ranked (No.2) Lakeland (17-0) increased its consecutive win streak to 47 games after seeing All-American Dana Bozek (20 G, 28 A) go off, scoring twice and setting up a third goal.

"Dana's intensity and execution from the start of the game to the finish was stellar," Hornet boss Sharon Sarsen said. "Her first two backhand shots blasted the backboard. Dana recognized it was the playoffs and demonstrated why she is a junior captain for our team."

All-Section sniper Molly Fitzpatrick (31



Mahopac senior Sarah Quarto gets the edge on a North Rockland foe in the Indians' 4-1 quarterfinal win last Thursday.

G, 5 A) and Emily Power added two goals apiece for the Hornets. Meghan Fahey also scored while Valerie Perkins set up a pair.

Caileigh Lampersberger scored for



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Mahopac's Mikaela DiBello on the go in 4-1 quarterfinal win over North Rockland last Thursday.

continued from page 25



Yorktown goalkeeper Jacob Braham punches out a corner kick against several pressing Tuskers in 1-0 Husker win.



Yorktown Captain David Mertz zips past Tusker Zach Lichtman in 1-0 Husker win.

hopes they keep it up in years to come.

"We always fought back, even in the season we had a lot of tough luck," he added. "We had a lot of tough luck in the beginning, losing five games by one goal. I give them a lot of credit in how they handled themselves after the game, and during the game. They didn't stop and hopefully they won't, as their careers go on. That's the name of the game."

fifth-seeded Yorktown in the first half of the Huskers' 2-1 quarterfinal loss to No.4 Byram Hills, who will play Lakeland in Tuesday's semifinals at the Hive where the winner will meet the No.3 Rye vs. No.2 Pearl River winner at Brewster in Thursday's 5:00 p.m. Class B title tilt. Rye managed a 7-0 triumph of No.11 Somers to advance.

Mahopac, which scored three late goals to snap a 1-1 tie, advanced to Tuesday's semifinals to face No.3 Horace Greeley, with the winner moving on to challenge the No.1 Mamaroneck vs. No.4 Suffern winner in Thursday's 3:00 p.m. championship at Brewster.

Mahopac's Sarah Quarto, Mikaela DiBello, Jane Kasparian (1A) and Tara Kirby (1A) each scored for the Indians, who saw G Nicole Amerling make five saves in the win. DiBello's game-winner sparked a late onslaught that saw the Indians

inch one win closer to getting back to the sectional finals for the first time since 2001.

Suffern defeated No.5 Carmel, 4-0, to advance, shutting down the Rams' potent offense, which had scored 34 goals in the last seven games. Like Yorktown, the Rams should build off their strong finish and look to remain in the mix next season.



Mahopac's Jane Kasparian makes her move in 4-1 quarterfinal win over North Rockland.

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