

New Children's Room Unveiled at Library...

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Panthers Denied Trip to NYS Final 4...



The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER Examiner

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

FREE
March 11 - March 17, 2014

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 6, Issue 222

Debate Rages on Over Proposed Sober Home in Yorktown

By Rick Pezullo

A much anticipated public hearing on a proposed sober living home in Yorktown didn't disappoint last week as speakers on both sides made passionate arguments for more than three hours to the town board.

Only half of the 38 people that signed up got a chance to plead their case about a three-year special use permit Compass Westchester is seeking to serve up to 14 recovering alcohol and substance abuse addicts in a main house and two cottages at 482 Underhill Avenue. The hearing is set to resume on April 1.

Applicants Tom McCrossan and Mark McGoldrick, who have extensive financial backgrounds but no experience running a sober living retreat facility, are in



Lisa Guerci

contract to buy the home from longtime owners Kip and Julie Testwuide. The home was once a residence for mentally



Mitch Lieberman

retarded individuals. "Our objective is strictly to be good neighbors. It is not to create problems,"

said McCrossan, whose son, Devin, a recovering addict, is slated to manage the sober home. "These people are no different than any resident that would be living in Yorktown. They are not a threat. These are not criminals. They walk in your streets today. We hope there is an open mind and open heart to allow these people to heal."

Devin McCrossan, 22, who noted he became dependent on alcohol and drugs in high school where he was an Honor Roll student and captain of the football and lacrosse teams, said he ran a sober living residence in New York City, but would not disclose the name.

"Sober living is necessary to return to independent living. I believe the sober

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Dedicated Service

The Auxiliary Unit of the Croton Police Department recently announced that Auxiliary Police Captain Lynn Sorenson and Auxiliary Police Sergeant Jeffery Weiss (center) have retired from active duty after many years of service, while Auxiliary Police Officer Michael Burrows has been promoted to rank of sergeant. The Auxiliary Unit assists regular officers of the department in performing duties such as traffic and crowd control, event security and patrol, emergency response, and other tasks as needed.

Proposed Sports Field in Cortlandt Divides Residents

By Rick Pezullo

A sports field that could be part of a proposed luxury housing project on Croton Avenue in Cortlandt has nearby residents at odds with community coaches and other recreation proponents.

A third public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hanover Estates, a 25 to 27-home development on the former 36-acre Croton Egg Farm, before the Cortlandt Planning Board last week centered instead on an all-purpose grass field with 89 parking spaces that is only conceptual and was not originated by the developer.

The hearing also included assertions that a Planning Board member should

recuse himself from the deliberations since he had supported the field in the past as chairman of the town's recreation advisory council, and a newly elected town councilman misused his office by sending out an email blast encouraging youth sports coaches and parents to attend the meeting.

"The town has an opportunity to take advantage of a developer who is willing to clear land for a field. This is not a sports complex. It's a grass field with a parking lot," said Scott Tompkins, a Croton-on-Hudson resident. "This is not the Cortlandt Town Center that's open throughout the day with cars coming

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Refurbished Children's Room at Hart Library Unveiled

By Rick Pezzullo

Ellen Mauro of Cortlandt was pleasantly surprised when she visited John C. Hart Library in Shrub Oak Sunday with her twin sons Erik and Luke to check out the newly refurbished Children's Room.

"When I walked in I didn't expect to see what I saw. It's beautiful," said Mauro, who goes to the library regularly with her sons. "It really brightens up the room. It's fantastic. The kids will be even more excited to come here."

Many other residents joined local officials and library supporters to unveil the approximately \$150,000 work that had shut down the area of the library since September. Joan Landzberg, president of

the Hart Library Board of Trustees, said the Children's Room project was the first change made to the library in 20 years.

"This has been a dream for a long time," Landzberg said. "We're just so excited. We looked for private donors, and they gave from the heart."

The Children's Room was freshly painted and received new carpeting. A separate community activities room was created and book shelving was rearranged. Library Director Pat Barresi said they were hopeful of obtaining four iPads in the near future to add to their technology offerings and compliment the approximately 25,000 children's books.

"It's incredible how much it is used,"



RIK PEZZULLO PHOTOS

Library Director Pat Barresi talks to visitors Sunday.



Children enjoy finger painting in new community space in Children's Room.

Yorktown Supervisor Michael Grace said John C. Hart, which is the third busiest library in the Westchester Library System.

The library has an approximately \$2.2 million budget, which is partially funded by the towns of Yorktown and Cortlandt. Yorktown Councilman Vishnu Patel,

who is the board liaison to the library, said the investment that was made in the Children's Room will pay huge dividends for future generations.

"A library is a champion of youth. Nobody can have a whole library at home. It's a free tutor," Patel said. "This is really very important. It's very nice."

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Mahopac District Suspends Eight Students after Racist Tweets

By David Propper

Eight students from the Mahopac School District were suspended as of last Friday for racist tweets, leaving the school community under attack and on the defensive.

Superintendent Thomas Manko said after a thorough investigation, it was determined that eight students directed inappropriate and racist tweets towards the Mount Vernon basketball team and its fans following a tense February 27 play-off game between the two schools.

Originally, only three students were suspended, but Manko had previously stated more suspensions would be passed down, which occurred last week. None of the students were on the basketball team and the superintendent doesn't foresee any additional students being suspended.

"I can't say we're done," Manko said. "But I think we're close to being done."

Some of the abusive tweets included, "Tough loss boys (Mahopac), but at least we can talk to our dads about #Vernon" and "Anyone else thinking: Where does Mount Vernon get the money to even have sports team." More racially charged, another tweet read, "That's why you shouldn't let monkeys out of their zoo."

Manko, on behalf of the entire school



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

The Mahopac student section is under fire after the boys basketball team played Mount Vernon in a Feb. 27 contest at the Westchester County Center.

district, expressed deep regret for the "misbehavior and poor decision that some of our students made." He went on to say the district is taking the actions of those students and other allegations seriously.

While Manko couldn't go into the specifics of the suspensions for the eight students, he noted suspensions typically range from 1-5 days and further punishment could be enforced. He also said the parents of those students have fully accepted the consequences handed down by the district.

"They know it was a poor choice, hor-

rible choice," he said. "They know what they did was wrong."

At a press conference at Mount Vernon district headquarters Friday afternoon, interim Superintendent Judith Johnson didn't mince words when criticizing the Mahopac boys' basketball team and its fans. She sent a letter to Governor Andrew Cuomo and Commissioner of Education John King detailing alleged civil rights violation of bullying, cyberbullying and racial harassment

Besides racist remarks expressed on Twitter, Johnson said it was confirmed a Confederate Flag was brought to the

game and waved at one point.

Last Thursday, there was a meeting with Mount Vernon and Mahopac school officials, and staff from both the governor's office and education commissioner's office. Johnson said the Mount Vernon school district would be seeking sanctions against Mahopac, citing the Student Dignity Act by created by New York.

Johnson also renewed her call to see the entire Mahopac boys' basketball program suspended for next season. During the press conference, Johnson said there is Mount Vernon student testimony that alleges racism directed at the Mount Vernon team. Johnson said Mount Vernon players heard racial slurs from Mahopac players during and after the game.

According to testimony from eight Mount Vernon players and a Mahopac parent not identified, a Mahopac player didn't shake their hands and stated, "That none of you ugly gorillas deserve it." Other racial slurs were allegedly said during and after the game, according to the players' testimony.

Mount Vernon head coach Bob Cimmino said during the press conference that "the sportsmanship fell to an all-time low and the racial hatred that we all

continued on page 8

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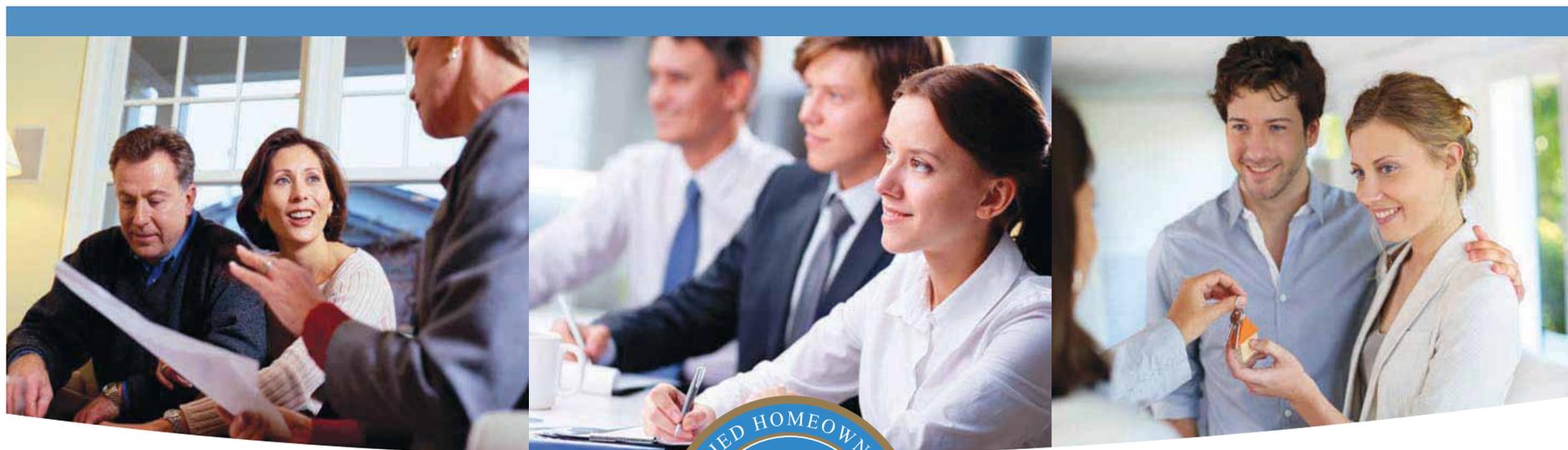
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Donahue, Knickerbocker to Square Off for Buchanan Mayoral Seat

By Rick Pezullo

The two candidates vying for the mayoral seat in the Village of Buchanan next week appear to be on the same page in wanting to put Entergy back on the tax rolls next year, but that's about all they seem to agree on.

Trustee and Deputy Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker, a registered Independent, is running on the Democratic and Residents party lines in her bid to replace Sean Murray, who opted not to seek a third two-year term. She is running with incumbent trustees Richard Funchion and Nicolas Zachary, who are both seeking their third two-year terms.

Looking to get back into village government is Alfred Donahue, who has served 12 years as mayor in the past, most recently in 2010. He is running on the Republican and Village Justice lines, along with trustee hopeful Brian Smith, who served one term on the village board from 2009 to 2011. Village Justice Jennifer Daly, who has served in Buchanan since 1999, was cross endorsed and is running unopposed.

Knickerbocker, 57, a lifelong village resident and property manager, has been a trustee two separate times and would only be



Theresa Knickerbocker

the second woman in the history of Buchanan to be elected mayor. She likes the direction the village is headed and wants to keep it on track.

"I'm a businesswoman and I have a lot of experience on the board. I'm not serving on the board for any self-interests. I'm serving on the board for the benefit of the village," she said. "The last four

years we're getting things done. This is a small village that will go through challenges and needs some direction and people with the best interests of the village at heart."

Donahue, 78, a retired state trooper and U.S. Army veteran, contends the village has been mismanaged since he left office.

"There has been no leadership in the village for four years," Donahue said. "She (Knickerbocker) couldn't handle it. She's incompetent. I'm still trying to find out one thing she did. The same for the other people. They do nothing. I think our chances are very good. I hope there's a big turnout."

Neither Knickerbocker nor Donahue were in office when Entergy, owners of the Indian Point power plants, signed a 13-year pilot agreement with the village, Town of

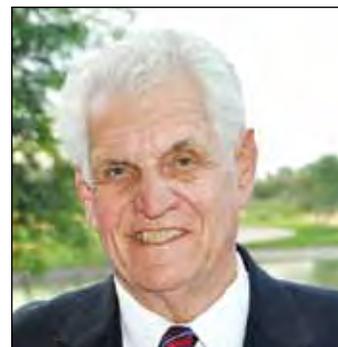
Cortlandt and Hendrick Hudson School District that has cost Buchanan about \$7.7 million in property taxes and affected property values, according to Donahue. The pilot program ends in June 2015.

"The first thing I would do is put them back on the tax roll. I wouldn't negotiate," Donahue asserted. "They should be treated the same way as everyone else. It was really a disaster for the village."

Knickerbocker said when Con Edison owned the nuclear plants it paid 90% of the village's taxes. Now, Entergy, which employs many village residents, pays 43%.

"The pilot program was not a good thing for the village. There's no disagreement about putting Entergy back on the tax roll," she said. "It's crazy to be on this board and not want the best deal for the village."

The two candidates differ on the status of improvements to the wastewater treatment plant in the village that residents approved a \$1.5 million bond for four years ago. Donahue said none of the bond money has been utilized and only "piecemeal" work has been completed. Knickerbocker said the improvements are 70% completed and the



Alfred Donahue

bond hasn't been touched because the village found a more cost effective way to pay for it.

"We're just waiting for the final parts to come in," Knickerbocker said. "Right now there are no violations. I really don't know what he is talking about."

Donahue charged Knickerbocker was "a slumlord" with three

buildings she owns in the village, including one at the Village Circle that has rental apartments on the second floor and vacant commercial space on the first floor.

"Her buildings are an eyesore. She was treated differently because she kept crying that everyone was picking on her," he said.

Knickerbocker said the economic downturn has made it difficult for her to find the right commercial tenant at the circle, especially since she won't rent to a grocery store or restaurant out of respect to her tenants.

"That building is completely renovated and up to code. It's a beautiful building," she said. "I was held to a very higher standard and it got political."

The election will take place on Tuesday, March 18 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Village Hall.

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Peekskill Police

February 27 -9:30 p.m. – Jennifer Muniz, 28, of Peekskill, was charged with three counts of criminal sale of a controlled substance and three counts of criminal possession of a controlled substance after being spotted on the 1100 block of Main Street by officers Matt Basso and Anthony Nappi. Muniz was wanted on an open case for heroin sales that she allegedly participated in during the spring of 2013. She was remanded to Westchester County Jail.

February 28 - 1:30 p.m. – Malaka Garrett, 49, of Peekskill, was charged with two counts of criminal sale of a controlled substance and two counts of criminal possession of a controlled substance after being spotted by Officer Anthony Malfitano and Detective Joe McGann on the 1100 block of Howard Street. Garrett was wanted on an open case of heroin sales that she allegedly participated in during the spring of 2013. She was remanded to Westchester County Jail.

March 2 - 1:50 a.m. – Branco Flores, 19, of Peekskill, was charged with driving while intoxicated after being stopped on Route 9 in a 2010 Hyundai traveling 91 miles per hour in a 40 miles per hour zone. Officer Joe Gorman also determined Flores was driving without a license.

4:50 a.m. – Patricio Guartan-Jimenez, 30, of Spring Valley, was charged with assault following a report of an altercation at 623

Smith Street. Upon arrival, officers found a male with a large portion of his nose missing. An investigation revealed Guartan-Jimenez was involved in a fight with another male and bit the male on his nose. The victim was transported to Westchester Medical Center. Guartan-Jimenez was remanded to Westchester County Jail.



Patricio Guartan-Jimenez

March 5 - 4:50 a.m. – Gary Deleon, Jr., 19, of Peekskill, was charged with petit larceny and criminal possession of stolen property after police reviewed video security footage at the Firehouse Grill on Welcher Avenue following a report of a stolen cell phone on March 4.

March 6 - 6 a.m. – Cory Hepburn, 31, of the Bronx, was charged with failing to report a change of address as a sex offender

from Peekskill. Peekskill Police were assisted by Westchester County Police and the U.S. Marshalls Service.

State Police

March 1 -

Troopers from the Cortlandt barracks charged Daniel Weber, 35, of Yorktown, with grand larceny in the fourth degree in connection with an incident at Walmart at the Cortlandt Town Center in November 2013. Police allege Weber stole four television sets by throwing them over the fence into the garden center. He then attempted to retrieve them after exiting the store. Employees heard the noise of the televisions and later discovered them, preventing Weber from retrieving them.

March 2

Troopers from the Cortlandt barracks charged Louis Davis, 40, of Yorktown, with petit larceny. Police allege Davis went to a residential address in the Town of Cortlandt for the purpose of taking scrap metal that consisted of an aluminum lamp post. A neighbor observed Davis and called 911. Davis was caught by troopers at his residence. Police believe Davis may be responsible for other scrap metal larcenies in the Cortlandt area.

Yorktown Police

March 1 - 9:30 a.m. – Micah Beatty, 39, of Mohegan Lake, was charged with aggravat-

ed unlicensed operation in the third degree following an accident on Lexington Avenue after a routine check with the Department of Motor Vehicles revealed his license was allegedly suspended.

12:40 p.m. – An unidentified 15-year-old Mohegan Lake resident was charged with juvenile delinquency after police received a call from a resident on Sagamore Avenue reporting a male carrying a rifle on the street. Officers Donald Peters and Angel Garcia responded to the area and located the male in possession of a BB rifle.

March 3 - 2:53 a.m. – Mark Quillinan, 26, of Yorktown, was charged with criminal possession of marijuana after Officer Michael Caprio was assigned to check an apparent disabled vehicle near Barger Street. While assisting Quillinan, Caprio observed two bags of marijuana in public view inside the vehicle. Quillinan was released on \$100 bail.

1:10 p.m. – Louis Lopez, 36, of Port Chester, was charged with grand larceny in the third degree following a call from a resident of Journey's End Road reporting a larceny. Officer Paul Dillon conducted an investigation that revealed on March 2 approximately \$28,000 worth of jewelry was allegedly stolen from the residence by Lopez, who was performing contracting work at the residence. Lopez was remanded to Westchester County Jail on \$50,000 bail.



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Editorial

Board Members Made Errors in Judgment with Sports Field in Cortlandt

The phrase, "If it looks like a duck, quacks like a duck, and walks like a duck, it's a duck," could certainly apply to two board members in Cortlandt who came under fire last week for their involvement in a proposed housing project that includes a controversial sports field.

When James Creighton was chairman of the town's advisory Parks, Recreation and Conservation Board he penned a memo supporting a recreational field possibly being placed on the grounds of the former Croton Egg Farm on Croton Avenue. Now, Creighton is a member of the Planning Board, which will ultimately decide whether the field will be built.

Several residents have suggested Creighton has a conflict of interest with the project by prejudging the field with his memo and, therefore, he should refrain from casting a vote. It's a point that's hard to argue. How-

ever, Creighton doesn't agree and believes he can still be objective.

Sometimes the appearance of a conflict can weigh more heavily than the conflict itself and all elected or appointed board members need to be aware of what their responsibilities are in those roles. In this case, it's clear where Creighton stands, and he should stand clear of this application.

The second board member who has no business sticking his nose into the project is Councilman Seth Freach, who angered several residents by sending out an email blast prior to last week's Planning Board meeting urging parents and coaches of local sports teams to show up en masse to send a message that the community supports the field.

There's a reason why the Planning Board and Town Board are separate governing bodies. In the 1970s and 1980s, the Planning Board received

much criticism for being pro-development, and the Town Board was not immune from the attacks since it was responsible for appointing the Planning Board members.

That all changed when Supervisor Linda Puglisi took office, and for the last 22 years, the Planning Board has developed a reputation of being a no nonsense, independent thinking body that does not succumb to any outside pressures.

What Freach did with his email was to try to influence the Planning Board by having a room full of sports jersey wearing coaches and parents. This was clearly out of bounds and inappropriate and he should receive a stern lecture from Puglisi. Since he has only been in office less than three months, perhaps Freach was unaware of what behavior is right and what is wrong as an elected official. This was clearly strike one out of the box.

Mahopac District Suspends Eight Students after Racist Tweets

continued from page 4
felt was disgusting."

While pushing for a suspension, Johnson said she "had no idea" how many Mahopac players might have directed a racist taunt at Mount Vernon's players.

Manko believes a year-long suspension is excessive and said 35 to 40 people that attended the game were interviewed by Mahopac Athletic Director John Augusta, including all three referees, workers at the scorer's table, all the Mahopac coaches, and all of the Mahopac players and none of them heard racial slurs being used.

"We're not saying that there weren't such statements made by our players toward their players," Manko said. "But we can't corroborate them. You still have to have evidence."

Manko also said some fans from Mount Vernon acted in an inappropriate manner toward Mahopac students, including an instance where a Mahopac cheerleader was struck.

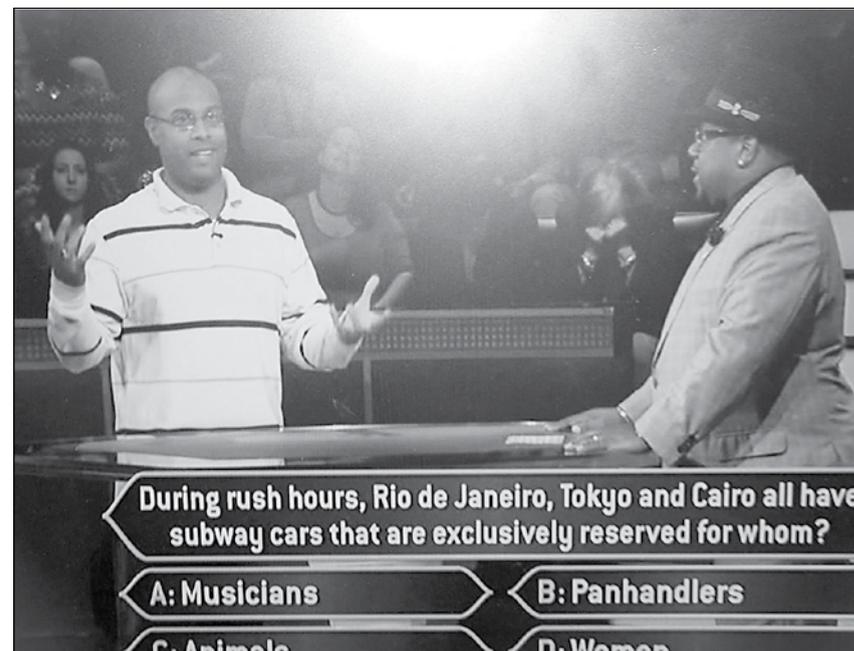
Johnson rebuffed that, stating none of the Mount Vernon fans misbehaving were students and she can't control the actions of adults.

While Johnson said punishment would carry the most weight to move forward, Manko said he wants to see his district move on. He also stressed the actions of

"eight or so students do not define a student percent body."

"99.99 percent of the student didn't

make poor choices, they made a good choice," Manko said. "This isn't who we are."



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

Big Winner

Richard Swann of Peekskill, shown with Cedric the Entertainer, won \$21,300 on a recent episode of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?"

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Guest Commentary

The History of the First Peekskill St. Patrick's Parade

By William J. Powers

The passage of 25 years has made some memories a little sketchy, but all agree that the First Annual Peekskill St. Patrick's Parade held in March 1990 was a splendid success for a city clamoring for something unifying, positive and long overdue. The luck of the Irish seemingly played a role, too, especially when it came to the weather.

In an effort to honor local Irish Americans and to expose greater Peekskill to Irish music, traditions and history, a small group of Irishmen chatted--informally at first--about starting a St. Patrick's Parade. Local businessman Dan Caffrey quietly took a leadership role. As a former US Marine and NYC Fire Captain, Caffrey knew how to get things done. With the help of well-known bagpiper and fellow newcomer to Peekskill, Joe Brady, Jr., and the early support of then-Peekskill Police Chief Ed Hayes, the first-ever Peekskill St. Patrick's Parade was one step closer to reality.

Pride in Peekskill

At about the same time, "Pride in Peekskill" was charged with developing a series of events to celebrate the City's 50th Anniversary, bring people back into downtown, and enhance the city's image. The non-profit group's first endeavor, with \$500 in start-up money from the Peekskill Common Council, and encouragement from the Irish community, would be a St. Patrick's Parade.

A small group set out to select a highly regarded Grand Marshal, avoid conflicts with other area parades, map out a short, manageable parade route, pray for good weather, and make it an "event" to remember. People with Irish and not-so-Irish sounding names like Finnegan, Nitkin, Seymour, Gibbs, Fahey and Bertoline--just to name a few--supported the creation of the inaugural parade.

The selection of Dr. John McGurty, Sr. as Grand Marshal was universally well-received. What many did not know at the time was that the popular Dr. McGurty, Sr. was in failing health. But his determination was self-evident when he ditched the comfort of his convertible and walked the last several blocks on foot.

His aides, who followed, were: Judge William Maher, Gary Cahill from Peekskill Parks & Recreation and Cathy McDonald from Pride in Peekskill.

With a beaming smile and friendly wave, the dapper-looking Irishman named McGurty, clad in a tuxedo and top hat, was buoyed by the throngs of well-wishers who came to see the first parade and the first Grand Marshal. Among



Dr. John McGurty, Sr.

them, was proud daughter Mary Ellen McGurty, a New York City resident at the time, who returned to her hometown to watch her father march. "You can't beat the Peekskill parade for warmth, charm and enthusiasm," she told a reporter.

Not everything was flawless. Committee members, also busy with setting up for an evening of Irish entertainment at the Paramount, lost track of time--and the Grand Marshal's sash! Luckily, when the parade started, another marcher who was, three years earlier, Grand Marshal in another community's parade, surrendered his sash and gave it to Dr. McGurty, Sr. to wear. He wore that sash for three-quarters of the parade route.

When the proper sash was discovered, a committee member rushed it over to the parade route, but by now the parade had made it all the way to Main Street. Unflustered, Dr. McGurty, Sr. removed the loaned sash and donned the one made locally by a seamstress at Nan Flower Lingerie. But, the new sash contained a misspelling, declaring him the "Grand Marshall," with an extra "l" Now part of parade lore, that sash is a McGurty family keepsake, treasured and donned annually by Dr. McGurty Jr. to honor his father.

Sadly, the Senior McGurty wouldn't see another Peekskill St. Patrick's Parade, including the one with his son as Grand Marshal in 1999. The beloved doctor died shortly after the 1990 parade. Patrick Garvey, when selected Grand Marshal the following year, was quoted as saying: "He [Dr. McGurty, Sr.] was really quite a man, and following in his footsteps is a formidable task."

"The Senior McGurty exhibited dignity, pride and an unwavering commit-

ment to his community. He set the bar high for all of us to meet," said Jack Murphy, this year's St. Patrick's Committee Chairman and 2006 Grand Marshal.

Guinness or Genius?

Joe Brady, Jr. knew there was no way Peekskill could compete with surrounding communities with their already well-established St. Patrick's Parades held on Saturday. He should know; he's the renowned bagpiper who has led both the NYC and Peekskill parades for 25 years.

While some joke the decision to hold the parade on the Thursday night before St. Patrick's Day evolved from consuming one too many pints of Guinness, it was, in fact, a stroke of genius, not Guinness that led to the decision Bands, crucial to the parade, would be available and less expensive since it was off-peak.

Equally important was a compact route. If the weather was cold, kilt-clad, bare-kneed pipers and drummers could briskly walk the route, limiting the amount of time parade-watchers would have to endure low temperatures. If the weather was grand--as it was that first year--marchers could slow their pace and residents suffering from cabin fever could relish being out-of-doors a little longer. With the terrible winter of 2013-2014, if there are mild temperatures on Saturday, March 15, 2014--anything above 40 degrees--the streets of Peekskill will be packed with winter weary parade watchers.

March weather can be fickle at best, but in its inaugural year the weather cooperated with downright balmy temperatures, which brought out the huge crowd. Perhaps it was the luck of the Irish. A familiar cartoon called "Peek's Creak," created by Peekskill Herald cartoon journalist Brian T. Fiorio, captured the warmth of the moment and weather with this quote from a leprechaun: "Weather like this blesses me with so many more shamrocks!" Regardless, with crowds wanting to linger, former Police Chief Ed Hayes was responsible for rerouting traffic and assuring public safety for as long as the crowds wanted to stay.

"Today, we're all Irish"

Former Peekskill Police Chief Eugene Tumolo, a police lieutenant back in 1990, estimated the crowd back then at about 3,000 revelers, according to The Star, predecessor to The Journal News. In the same article, then-Peekskill Mayor Richard Jackson, Jr. was quoted as saying, "Today we're all Irish. We can share the joy of our neighbor's heritage... We

should do it more often."

Coming from the City's African-American mayor--the first African American mayor of a city in New York State--the sentiment was even more meaningful, as he tried to instill pride in Peekskill and find ways to unite his diverse city.

Peekskill Readies for Its Close-Up

The parade was elevated to event status when the local cable company agreed to televise it live. The show's producer, Elizabeth Mitchell Marques, assuaged fears that live television coverage would deter parade-goers from coming into downtown. Quite the opposite happened: everyone wanted to be on TV and be seen by their neighbors! Marques was also responsible for handling all of the details of the TV production including the big challenge--ample lighting--but that was resolved through the donation of spotlights from Camp Smith and a local company. The early evening sky was illuminated like a big Hollywood production.

I was tapped to anchor my company's parade coverage along with former Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES administrator Jack Carey and Peekskill-Cortlandt Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Virginia Anzovino. Carey and I would go on to become Grand Marshals in 1996 and 2007, respectively, Anzovino would retire the next year, and I would announce the cable TV coverage of the parade for 25 years (except when I was Grand Marshal.)

All three of us commented on the impressive crowd, the warm weather and the street vendors who were hawking shamrock-laced hats, green balloons, Irish flags and air horns that occasionally interrupted our commentary. The parade lasted about 30 minutes.

A videotape of the first parade--a remarkable historical account not seen in 20 years--was rediscovered in Joe Brady's basement in 2009 and viewed by committee members. The tape shows a Peekskill police car, with sirens blaring to signal the start of the parade and an enormous crowd, six deep in some spots.

While some groups have come and gone, many have marched in Peekskill's St. Patrick's Parade for most or all 25 years. According to the 1990 videotape, among the groups that participated were: FBI Emerald Society Pipe Band, NYC Fire Department Pipe Band, Peekskill High School Marching Band, the student body of Assumption School, Westchester County Police Dept. Emerald Society Band, BPOE Elks Lodge 744,

continued on page 16

Obituaries



Kevin Bristol

Kevin Bristol

Kevin J. Bristol, a lifelong Peekskill resident and professional firefighter in the city, died March 3 at Hudson Valley Hospital Center shortly after responding to a fire. He was 48.

Mr. Bristol worked as a firefighter in Peekskill since 1989. He was born in Peekskill on March 30, 1965, the son of Owen and Joan Carpenter Bristol. He was educated in Peekskill Schools, where he was a punter on the high school football team, and also a swimmer on the swim team. Later, he attended Texas Tech University, where he, again, was the punter for the football team. On December 4, 1993, he married Kathi Leonard in Peekskill.

He loved painting, and fishing, especially with his two grandsons, whom he cherished. He is survived by his wife, Kathi, of Peekskill, his mother, Joan Bristol also of Peekskill; his children, Brian (Dana) Summers, of New York City, Katie Summers, and Matthew Diterlizzi, grandchildren, Owen and Alex Summers; also surviving is his brother, Patrick (Dawn) Bristol, of Franklin, TN, his sisters Colleen (Jim) McCormick, of Bradenton, FL, Maureen Bristol, of Franklin, TN, and Chrissy (Chris) Ortis, of Pembroke Pines, FL. He also leaves his father-in-law, Robert (Karen) Leonard, brother-in-law Bob (Eva) Leonard, and sisters-in-law Patti Blaich and Mary Pironti. He is also survived by many cousins, nieces and nephews, as well as his Brother Fire Fighters in the City of Peekskill. He was predeceased by his father, Owen Bristol.

A funeral mass was held at Assumption Church, followed by burial at Assumption Cemetery. Memorial Donations may be made to a charity of your choice.

Elizabeth McQuillan

Elizabeth McQuillan, a longtime Cort-

landt resident, died on February 7. She was 81.

She was predeceased by her husband, Patrick J. McQuillan Sr., on July 9, 1988. Mrs. McQuillan was a volunteer for 22 years at Hudson Valley Hospital Center; and she was an active member with the Nor Cort Senior Citizens.

She is survived by her four children: Patrick (Miki) McQuillan Jr., Liz (Gary) Williams, Tim (Phylis) McQuillan, Kevin (Susan) McQuillan; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. She is also survived by her brother, George J. Skennion and sister, Claire Coyne. A funeral service was held March 8 at E.O. Curry Funeral Home in Peekskill, followed by interment at Assumption Cemetery.

Robert Mahoney

Robert R. "Chipper" Mahoney, a resident of Montrose, died peacefully on February 25. He was 78.

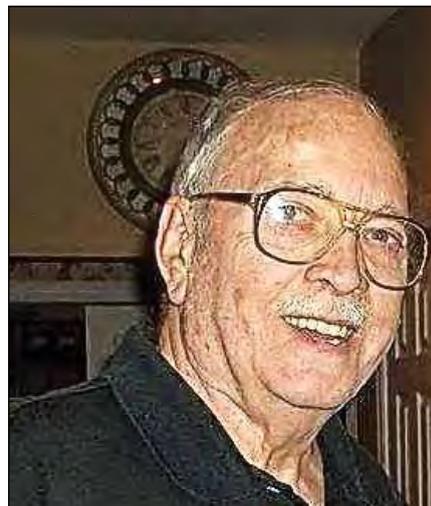
He was born September 18, 1935 to Emma Pauline and Edward James Mahoney. He was a beloved husband of 54 years to Ellen "Snookie" Mahoney (predeceased), and loving father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. He is survived by his children Kevin and Eileen Mahoney of Yorktown, Ken and Trish Mahoney of North Salem, and Kelly and Joe Condomitti of Highland Mills. He loved his grandchildren Ryan, Matthew, Caitlin, Brendan and Connor Mahoney, Kacie Wilson and fiancé Shaun McGuire, Amanda Wilson and great-granddaughter, Alexia. Bob was the youngest brother to Edward Mahoney (predeceased) and is survived by his sister-in-law Shirley Mahoney, and his nephew EJ Mahoney, his wife Andrea, and many loving nieces and nephews.

Mr. Mahoney worked as a sheet metal worker and was a retired member of the Sheet Metal Local #38 Union. He was an avid NY Yankees fan and rarely missed watching them. He held is family near and dear to his heart and enjoyed watching his grandkids' sports and games, etc. He will be missed by all. A funeral service was held at the Church of Divine Love in Montrose. Interment followed at the Sunset Cemetery in Montrose. Donations can be made to the Montrose Fire Department or Montrose Fire District.

Janice Ruth Mason

Janice Ruth Mason, a resident of Somers, died peacefully at the home of her son, Jeff, on March 1. She was 81.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 5 at 11 a.m. at St. Luke's



Robert R. "Chipper" Mahoney,

Episcopal Church in Somers.

She was born in Breckenridge, Minnesota, on June 24, 1932. She graduated from Breckenridge High School and attended North Dakota State College in Fargo, ND. She married John Huey Mason on October 31, 1953. They were married 35 years.

She was very involved in community theatre for much of her adult life, including her college production of Antigone, her early days at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego, CA, and later throughout Westchester County, including the Chappaqua Drama Group, the Katonah Community Theatre, and the Schoolhouse Theatre in Croton Falls, NY. In the 1970s, Mrs. Mason formed the Patchwork Players, a travelling theatre group that performed for thousands of school children over a number of years. She volunteered at Sing Sing prison, teaching theatre to inmates interested in acting; one of the prisoners went on to have a guest appearance in Law and Order. She was a master craftswoman with a lifelong

passion for needle arts. In addition to the hundreds of sweaters she knitted for the family over the years, she began a sewing and needlework design business. Jan spent her last 53 years in Westchester County, enjoying tennis, bridge, theatre, concerts, and other activities with her wide circle of friends. Jan will be fondly remembered for her great zest for life, her kindness to others, and her sense of humor, which she exhibited even through her final days.

She is survived by her three children: Jeff Mason and his wife, Janet Netz, of Ann Arbor, MI; Julie Mason of Novato, CA; and Jonathan Mason and his wife, Donna, of Milford, MA; as well as her niece, Kelly Jones, and her grandchildren, Morgan Mason, Brian MacKie-Mason, Andrew MacKie-Mason, Michael Mason, Tess Zebrowski, Brianna Mason, Christopher Mason, and Alex Zebrowski. She was a devoted, caring and supportive mother and grandmother and will be deeply missed.

Betty Sclocco

Betty Sclocco, a lifelong resident of Ossining, died on March 3. She was 80.

She was born in Ossining on August 28, 1933, the daughter of Elizabeth Knowlton and Joseph F. Haggerty, Sr. She was employed many years at Pace University Environmental Center in Pleasantville.

She is survived by her daughter, Gail Sclocco, a sister, Jean (William) Maguire, and several nieces and nephews. Her husband, Robert Sclocco, and three brothers, Joseph Haggerty, Jr., John "Bud" Haggerty and William Haggerty, Sr. predeceased her.

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results.

Dr. Samet is a well-known school psychologist, educational psychology professor, and New York State licensed psychologist in private practice. He has over 25 years of experience working with children and young adults. Moran is a licensed psychotherapist who works with families to develop positive strategies for students who are disorganized. She is also co-author of Organizing the Disorganized Child.

For further information, call (914) 579-2224, email info@hudsonlearninglab.com, or visit www.hudsonlearninglab.com.

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12 PK



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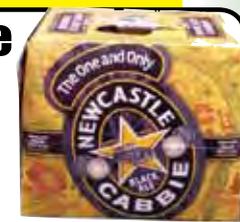
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Astorino Announces Run for Gov in Possible All Westchester Race

By Martin Wilbur, Pat Casey and Neal Rentz

Ending weeks of speculation, Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino announced his candidacy for governor last Wednesday to take on Governor Andrew Cuomo in November.

The Mount Pleasant Republican, a Hawthorne resident, would be involved in a matchup of two Westchester candidates should he secure the Republican nomination. Cuomo lives in Chappaqua.

"I'm tired of listening to the fairy tale that everything is just great when it's just the opposite," Astorino said in his announcement. "I'm tired of watching New York's decline. Living in New York shouldn't sound like a prison sentence but that's too often what you have today."

In a more than six-minute video posted on his campaign website last week Astorino, 46, said he is running to change New York's direction, including reversing the trend that sees it as the highest taxed state and having the worst business climate in the nation.

Crushing expenses have forced more than 400,000 residents and countless businesses to flee New York in recent years to more affordable parts of the country, the largest exodus of any state.

Astorino cited his two victories as county executive in a predominately Democratic county as proof that his emphasis on lowering taxes resonates across party lines. Westchester also has the highest credit rating in the state, he said.

"If New York is winning, re-elect Andrew Cuomo, but if New York is losing, and the evidence says it is, we need to make a change," Astorino said. "New York is number one in all the wrong things under this governor and we're paying the price for it."

With a pro-business and pro-economic development platform, Astorino criticized Cuomo for "demonizing gun owners" and said he will get rid of "Cuomo's Common Core." He also said he is a strong supporter of charter schools.

Cuomo has avoided making any pub-



Rob Astorino

lic statements regarding Astorino or any other potential opponent. He reportedly will not address the issue until the Republicans have decided on their nominee.

Although the announcement came as no surprise, Astorino's candidacy could force a Republican primary. While he is the first member of his party to formally declare, last week a CBS news report quoted Michael Cohen, senior counsel for real estate mogul Donald Trump, as saying the majority of GOP leaders are committed to a Trump candidacy because they believe he is the only one who could defeat Cuomo.

Meanwhile, local elected officials mainly broke along party lines in their reaction to Astorino's entry into the gubernatorial race. Republicans and Democrats, however, agreed that the county executive would have an uphill fight to wrest the governor's mansion from Cuomo.

Mount Pleasant Supervisor Joan Maybury, who served with Astorino for 12 years on the town board, said she was "excited" about his entry into the race.

"Rob brings common sense and the ability to get the job done," said Maybury, a Republican. "He has kept his promises to the electorate in Westchester--lower-

ing the county tax bill, holding government accountable and encouraging business opportunities."

She said Astorino must familiarize himself with residents outside of Westchester.

"In order to win, Rob has to campaign tirelessly across the state and get his message and his personality out to residents across the state," Maybury said. "Rob can do it because he truly is an indefatigable campaigner. He also needs to raise more money to help him become known all through New York."

Astorino served on the Mount Pleasant Board of Education as a college student and later as a county legislator.

County Legislator Michael Smith (R-Greenburgh) said he enthusiastically supports Astorino's candidacy.

"I think the county executive could do

for New York State what he did for the county," Smith said.

Although the governor also lives in the area, Cuomo has had little impact on the county and its residents, with less school aid to Westchester districts, Smith said.

"It will be considered a long shot," Smith said of Astorino's candidacy, but a race he could win once the county executive gets his message out about his record.

Michael Kaplowitz, chairman of the Board of Legislators, said he wasn't surprised Astorino entered because it had been talked about for weeks. More than a year ago, Kaplowitz sided with Republicans, including Astorino on a controversial county budget but he is supporting the incumbent nevertheless.

"I am a Democrat. I am supporting Governor Cuomo," Kaplowitz said.



Readers are Leaders Day

State Senator Greg Ball joined students from Thomas Jefferson Elementary School in Yorktown at their annual "Readers are Leaders Day" to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. Ball had the honor of reading Oh, The Places You'll Go to Mrs. Michelle Poandl and Mrs. Robin Anderson's 3rd grade class.

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Businessman to Serve as Grand Marshal of Peekskill St. Pat's Parade

Cathal (Chuck) McGreal of Cortlandt, who runs two restaurants in Peekskill, has been selected to serve as grand marshal of the 25th anniversary Peekskill St. Patrick's Parade on Saturday, March 15.

McGreal, who was born in Ireland, runs the Quiet Man Public House on Division Street and the Yellow Brick Café on Railroad Avenue, as well as Hibernian Wood Design, one of New York's premier designers, renovators and builders of up-

scale restaurants and private homes.

In addition to his business ventures, McGreal is very active in Irish-American activities. He is a longtime member of the St. Patrick's Committee, holds office in the Peekskill Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the AOH in Westchester County, and a founding member and officer of the Hudson Valley Irish Fest held each September at Peekskill's Riverfront Green.

Marching with McGreal at the head

of the line will be his aides: Erwin Alexandre, Aidan O'Kelly-Lynch, Kathleen Spencer and Susan Sheridan. In addition, the 69th Regiment of New York has been chosen as a "special honoree."

The parade kicks off at 3 p.m. on March 15 on First Street past Assumption Church. Prior to the parade, a brunch will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Peekskill Elks Lodge. Admission to the brunch is \$12 for adults, and \$5 for children five years old to 12.



Cathal (Chuck) McGreal

Paramount Hudson Valley Presents Irish Dance Spectacular This Weekend

The Paramount Hudson Valley will be presenting Rhythm in the Night, The Irish Dance Spectacular on Friday, March 14 and Saturday, March 15 at 8 p.m.

Justin Boros, former lead dancer with Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance and producer/creator of the show, describes Rhythm in the Night as, "An epic journey derived from a tale of good versus evil where deception reigns and temptation rivals the strongest of wills. The story unfolds during the dark ages when the land was ruled by the wicked sorceress Azura, whose spell has trapped the legendary hero Balor under her control to command her legion of relentless henchmen. Hope remains lost for all those in

the kingdom...until now."

The tale of Rhythm in the Night is told through Irish dance with a world-class troupe of both male and female dancers. Adding to the drama and excitement of the production, Rhythm in the Night features an original soundtrack that delivers an orchestral atmosphere of epic proportions. The battle scenes transcend the struggle of dark versus light as the lightning fast rhythms and a thunderous dance troupe display Irish dance like never before seen. Rhythm in the Night turns an age-old art form into an exciting Irish dance spectacular the whole family can enjoy!

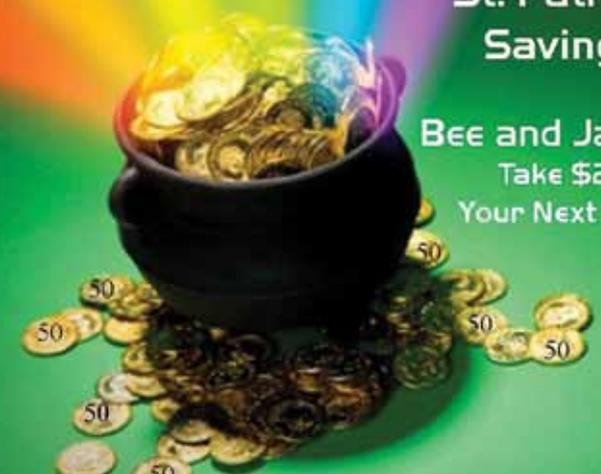
The 2014 spring tour will feature several dancers from the Peekskill region

as part of the 20-member cast that will be showcasing their talents on stages all across the eastern U.S. Noreen Hughes, a highly accomplished competitive dancer, plays the female lead villainess, Azura, in the show. While another local dancer, Joseph Riley, will take the stage as a chorus dancer.

Tickets are \$70 for VIP Tier I seating, \$54 for Tier II seating and \$38 for Tier III seating. Tickets are on sale at ParamountHudsonValley.com and www.RhythmInTheNight.com. Tickets can also be purchased by calling the Paramount Hudson Valley box office at (914) 739-0039.

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Torview Swim and Tennis Club Ossining

By Neal Rentz

With mounds of snow still piled up and some bone chilling temperatures in northern Westchester, thoughts should soon turn to warmer weather.

Ossining resident Bob DeMaine, president of the Torview Swim and Tennis Club board of directors, said it is not too early to gear up for summer.

Torview will begin its 58th summer on Stormytown Road in Ossining. The club season runs from the Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

"A sense of community" is one of the keys to the club's success, DeMaine explained last week. "It started out as a community of World War II vets," he noted. "I think that sense of community has continued."

Torview offers a variety of facilities including four tennis courts a 25-meter swimming pool, a baby pool, and a ball field.

DeMaine said the club also holds a series of events throughout the season, including Kids' Night, "where basically, the kids have the run of the pool;" Men's Night, when men play cards during a barbeque held at the pool; and Ladies' Night, that has included massages and wine tasting.



The Torview Swim and Tennis Club swimming pool during a previous season.

Another popular event held at the club is the Torview Palooza at which members sing and play musical instruments. DeMaine got into the act by playing the guitar while his daughter, Molly, sang a pop song last season. "She's a lot better than I am," DeMaine quipped.

The club season closes on Labor Day weekend with a barbeque and a raft race for children conducted on the swimming pool, DeMaine said.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TORVIEW SWIM AND TENNIS CLUB



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Ossining resident Bob DeMaine, president of the Torview Swim and Tennis Club board of directors.

probably the best time," he said. "We're always looking for new families. It's a great place for families."

The Torview Swim and Tennis Club is located just off Route 9A on Stormytown Road. The club is accepting new membership applications for the 2014 season. For membership details to the club, visit www.torviewswim.com or send an e-mail to membership@torview.com.

The club is more than just a place for families to enjoy the summer, DeMaine said. "We have a great Division III swim and dive team that has been complete for a number of years," he said. "We swim against other clubs."

The club had about 160 members last year from throughout Westchester County. Though it is still winter, DeMaine said individuals can become members for the 2014 season. "Now is

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Debate Rages on Over Proposed Sober Home in Yorktown

continued from page 1

living residence we are proposing stands for hope," he said. "If you reject this residence, what message would you be sending the youth?"

Less than a handful of speakers agreed with McCrossan, including Brianna Lampert and Lisa Guerci, both Yorktown residents.

"We have the opportunity to make a positive difference. We have the opportunity to show the youth of our town that we care and we support them," Lampert said. "If we turn down this house, the message that we are sending is Yorktown is not a place of love and it's not a place of understanding. We have the ability to save lives here."

Guerci, a mother of two, said she was a recovering alcoholic and her father and three grandparents died from alcohol-

ism.

"I'm the face of recovery and I'm not ashamed of it. The head in the sand attitude of not here, not in this town will never contribute to dealing with what can be seen like an unsolvable problem, but it's everywhere," she said. "A place where individuals committed to recovery can function, contribute, work, heal and participate in life is crucial. They deserve quality of life, too."

However, neighbors of the home contended a commercial enterprise, where occupants would pay as much as \$7,500 a month to stay, should not be permitted in a residential area.

"They're short term paying customers, not residents," charged 18-year Glenrock Street resident Linda Gironda, who was wildly cheered by the audience and received a standing ovation. "Why is this

not a not-for-profit facility that takes insurance? The reason is these (people) know a good thing when they see it. They want to take advantage of fragile individuals."

"What is this all about? One word: Money," asserted Nick Toumanios. "They are the ones with the Wall Street mentality who feel the rules don't apply to them. A yes vote only benefits the sellers and the applicants. Prove to us that money can't buy whatever it wants in this town and vote no."

Mitch Lieberman, a lifelong resident who lives near the home, said the town board should not feel threatened of facing a lawsuit if they deny the special permit.

"There is no altruistic purpose for this. This is about money, plain and simple," said Lieberman, who is an attorney.

"This is a quality of life issue. We're entitled to have our family residential areas stay family residential areas. You put this in my backyard you're killing my property value. The notion that we have 3,800 people in Yorktown who will walk into that home and take advantage of it is bunk. For a couple of out-of-towners to come in and make a few bucks off of us is not why we put you in office."

Before the town board entertains the application again, the town's Zoning Board of Appeals will consider an appeal by Gironda and Al French of an interpretation of the Zoning Code by Building Inspector John Winter that the proposal by Compass Westchester as a "convalescent home" was acceptable. The ZBA public hearing is scheduled for March 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Proposed Sports Field in Cortlandt Divides Residents

continued from page 1

and going. This is not Yankee Stadium coming into our backyard. This is simple grass with lines drawn."

"We have made a big commitment in this town to sports programs. Where we're not living up to our obligation is with facilities," said Thomas Johnson of Crugers. "It may not be fair, but this is what we call progress in America. If they're going to do this let them put in the facilities for our children."

However, many speakers who live in homes along Croton Avenue maintained the roadway was already congested and unsafe, and building a field that would be heavily used by soccer and lacrosse teams was a recipe for disaster.

"This is a nightmare waiting to happen. There are other places in Cortlandt where a field can be built," said Dan Biz-zoco, who lives in nearby Apple Hill Es-

tates. "I would be the first one to say we have a lack of fields. This is not the place."

"Those of us living in (nearby) communities bought our homes expecting to live in a quiet residential area," said John Milmore, 39-year resident of Oriole Lane. "It is unfair to subject us to a sports facility that would impact the natural environment, increase traffic, and diminish our overall quality of life."

Michele McGovern said she supported additional recreational fields but not along Croton Avenue, which she noted had received failing safety grades. "Let's not put a field here because we have no other place to build it. If they build it, they will come," she remarked.

She also took issue with an email Councilman Seth Freach sent out to try to sway the board in favor of the field, calling Freach's actions "inappropriate of a Town Board member to meddle in

Planning Board issues."

The developer has agreed to provide the land to the town in lieu of paying approximately \$150,000 into a recreation fund. If the town accepts that offer, it would have to develop the land into a sports field, which carries an estimated cost of about \$750,000. The homes being proposed at Hanover Estates will be marketed for \$850,000 apiece.

Meanwhile, Planning Board member James Creighton also found himself on the hot seat. Creighton explained he had asked legal counsel John Klarl if there were any ethical reasons for him not to participate in the project since he had written a memo several years ago backing the proposed field.

"I feel strongly there's no reason to recuse," Creighton remarked. "There's not even an appearance of impropriety. It's a little disappointing for people to suggest

otherwise. I'm offended by it. I remain open in all ways in regard to this."

Klarl and Chairperson Loretta Taylor supported Creighton, while planner Steven Kessler said each member had to rely on their own conscience.

"To me it's a personal decision whether you're recusing yourself or not," he said. "Personally you have to decide if you can be objective or not. It's not for me to judge."

Former Peekskill Corporation Counsel Bernis Nelson, who lives in Cortlandt, said an Ethics Board should rule on Creighton's situation. She also urged Creighton to "clothe" himself "in humility."

The Planning Board closed the public hearing on the DEIS and asked the Town Board for cluster authority in order to consider three separate options for the project, two of which include the field.

The History of the First Peekskill St. Patrick's Parade

continued from page 9

Peekskill Lion's Club, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Irish-American Social Club, Taconic Road Runners, Kerry's School of Irish Dance, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the VFW, Montrose VA, the Irish Immigration Reform Movement, Peekskill, Montrose and Verplanck fire departments, Peekskill Police, and all of the area's volunteer ambulance corps. A big green dragon named Snuffy and WLNA radio's mascot DJ the Dog delighted children. Elected officials from the whole region turned out to march.

Days in advance, Peekskill DPW workers had painted a green line down James Street and green shamrocks at key locations in the city, including in front of the

Grand Marshal's home--a tradition that continues today, if the Grand Marshal lives within the city limits.

Marquee Performance

The parade was only part of the day's festivities: an evening of Irish entertainment at the Paramount Center was still to come. Some 900 people enjoyed an impressive performance by the FBI Pipe Band who marched down both aisles of the Paramount to a roaring crowd. Headlining the night was acclaimed Irish folk-rock group The Clan. The opening act featured popular Irish Balladeer Mary O'Dowd. The concert was called "spirited" by one reporter and, "If nothing else, the

evening was lively," according to Peekskill Herald columnist Jack Burns. Tickets were \$12 and the event netted about \$4,000 for Pride in Peekskill's coffers. Not a bad return on a \$500 investment.

Mainstay

The parade has comforted residents during some tough times, like in March 2002 when it brought together the community for the first time following the September 11 terror attacks. That parade was reassurance that Peekskill, and by extension America, was not going to surrender its way of life, nor its celebrations. The parade is a mainstay in the City of Peekskill, and because of its growth in

popularity and prestige over the years, is now held on the Saturday before the New York City St. Patrick's Day parade.

"Great Day for Irish, for City"

The headline, from the March 22, 1990 edition of the Peekskill Herald, the local weekly newspaper at the time, could easily be the parade's perennial headline: "Great Day for Irish, for City"

The writer is Vice Chairman of the Peekskill St. Patrick's Committee and former Grand Marshal (2007). He has anchored television coverage since the parade's inception in 1990, except for the year he was Grand Marshal.

What to Do When Things Get Tough on the Home Front: Nothing

The Home Guru has been away for a couple of weeks.

The announced reason was that I was enjoying some well-deserved vacation after five years of never missing a single deadline, but really, I just needed to stop.

I just needed to pull the emergency cord on practically everything that goes with holding house and home – and head and heart – together because I had a real emergency.

It all started when I got involved with a community issue that was highly charged and polarizing. I took a position and utilized this column, in retrospect not the best venue, to engage readers and to express my views on the matter, using a metaphor unthinkingly that caused quite a ruckus. Some community members on the other side of the issue, some of them friends, became upset with me, some saying so quite pointedly in the press.

While I stand firm in my beliefs about the issue, to anyone I may have offended in expressing them, I say here that if I were to write that column again, I would choose my words more carefully, respecting the beliefs of others at the same time.

I am the kind of guy who likes to be liked by everybody and this bout of being criticized harshly and publicly took

its toll. Added to an already hectic lifestyle of a two-track career, for the first time ever, I felt a compelling need to put on the brakes and just STOP.

I stopped making my bed, remembering how I once wrote an article based on some ridiculous study claiming that making your bed in the morning augured a better day, all day, much like eating an apple to keep the doctor away.

I stopped my obsessive dieting, my lifelong curse, and stopped getting on that damned scale at least twice a day. After the first week, I was feeling paunchy but calmer and sleeping better.

I stopped shaving, exposing what I'd look like if I let my real hair color show and terrifying my wife that I'd soon let myself become Willie Nelson.

I stopped hanging my clothes by color code in the closet, after having written about the system my wife had developed for me. In fact, I stopped hanging my clothes at all and for good measure, just let them drop to the floor in my dressing room.

I stopped putting the toilet seat down, reminding myself of that article I wrote about toilet history and etiquette that pulled more response than any other I had ever done.

I stopped setting the alarm on my iPhone and didn't get up every morning at my usual 5 a.m.

I stopped cleaning after myself in the kitchen.

I didn't take the garbage out on Thursday.

I didn't read the newspaper.

I stopped answering the phone just because it rang.

I stopped checking emails and texts every few seconds.

I just stopped.

After two weeks of my retreat from the rat race of deadlines, pacing and racing, I had transformed from The Home Guru to The Home Slob. The riot of my summer garden had withered on winter vines and my mind had grown totally still.

One recent morning, oddly the morning of the public hearing on the controversial issue, I awoke at 5 a.m. with just one thought in my head that hadn't popped there since a time in my younger

years when I worked a spiritual program: "Be still and know I am God."

I didn't invite it in. It was just there. I had cleared away the wreckage of the pile-up that too busy a life had created. I had wiped the slate clean by doing nothing. I was restored.

I made my bed, showered, shaved, had breakfast with my wife, really listened to what she was saying, opened the weekly paper, missed seeing my familiar column and got ready to go back to work.

During this period away, I learned that nobody has to live up to their own expectations of being the perfect Home Guru either at home or away from it.

Every once in a while, I guess you just have to stop to get started again.

The Home Guru is back.

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. Primavera's 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.



By Bill Primavera



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Today's Winery May Not Fit Your Preconceived Notion

Wine is, in its most elemental form, an agricultural product. To make a decent wine you must be a decent farmer. This axiom has been generally true since the beginning of winemaking, nearly 6,000 years ago. Of course, as with many products, there are exceptions, which is the focus of this week's column.

In the last 30 years or so, the winemaking industry has been turned upside down, through modern technology and modern entrepreneurs. These influences have infiltrated every level of wine production, oftentimes for the betterment of the end product being offered to consumers.

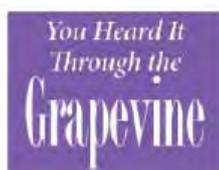
Many wine consumers believe that the process for making wine is similar for all wines. The supposition is that grapes are gently handpicked at the epitome of ripeness, carefully sorted for rotten grapes, leaves and insects, and then lovingly crushed, fermented, aged and bottled, all under the watchful eye of a master winemaker. Although this process does occur in many wineries, it is a far cry from the vast quantity of wines sold in the United States. For the most part, wine-

making is big business. Over 80 percent of wines produced and sold in the United States come from about 20 percent of the number of producers.

This is the current state of winemaking in the United States. There are several business models being practiced, some subtly different from each other, others radically different from centuries-old winemaking.



By Nick Antonaccio



1. Full-spectrum wineries: This is the traditional model that still flourishes around the world – but in diminishing numbers. Entrepreneurs invest in farmland, then plant and tend grapevines and harvest the crop each year. They also invest capital in an all-encompassing winery operation, replete with pressing equipment, fermenting containers, storage and aging barrels or tanks and a bottling line. This operation typically requires a significant capital

investment.

But what if you have the passion but not the cash? There are several means by which to pursue your ambition.

2. Buy the grapes but control the wine production: There are many farmers who

find immense satisfaction in purchasing high quality farmland and planting and growing their own grapevines. And there are no shortages of entrepreneurs who would rather stain their hands with grape juice rather than sully them with vineyard soil. By outsourcing grape production, these winemakers are able to focus on producing the final product rather than the raw material. And the capital commitment, along with the annual operating costs, is far less than for a full spectrum winemaker.

3. The alchemists: These are the entrepreneurs who are interested in producing their own individual expression of a wine, without the burdensome cost and time commitment of growing grapes or producing fermented grape juice. They will outsource grape production and then contract with a cooperative wine-processing facility to crush and ferment their purchased grapes. No sullied or stained hands; a minimal capital investment. Their primary investment is in barrels and warehouse space. They blend purchased grape juice in their own barrels and then store and age the wine as they deem appropriate to achieve a desired end product. An outsourced mobile bottling and labeling line completes the cycle.

4. The hobbyists -- or the cash-strapped: These entrepreneurs have created what I've dubbed the virtual winery. Every phase of the winemaking process is outsourced, typically to a vertically integrated processing plant. A virtual winery "owner" contracts with these firms to purchase certain grapes, process them and place the virtual winery's label on the bottle. No capital costs, a negotiated annual operating cost, clean hands and the ultimate gratification: your own wine to market. It is estimated there are over 1,500 virtual wineries in the United States alone.

The idyllic image many of us have as we sip a glass of wine is a small winery with rows of owned vineyards surrounding a red-barn winery building, guarded by a frolicking dog and ebullient owner. The truth in many instances is a carefully created marketing campaign of sensual images and illusory labels.

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.

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Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Putnam wet
- 5 Putnam dry
- 11 Mellowed
- 12 Cooling-off period
- 13 Google founder
- 14 Right-winger
- 15 "Mother ___ I?"
- 17 Easily manipulated
- 21 ___-time loser
- 24 Salary increase
- 25 Assoc. of nations
- 27 Kimono belt
- 28 State emphatically
- 30 This girl
- 31 Gr. public squares
- 36 Amongst
- 40 Caviar source
- 41 Off the wall
- 42 Posh British term of address
- 43 Oxen's burden

DOWN

- 1 Drink from a dish
- 2 Ottoman officer
- 3 Barrel
- 4 Increases in tissue fluids
- 5 33 and 45 material

- 6 No amateur
- 7 Singer, Sayer
- 8 Sealing wax ingredient
- 9 Overdone pride
- 10 Tokyo token
- 16 Out, in a way
- 17 ___ bono
- 18 Rat's place
- 19 3 in Roman letters
- 20 Per person
- 21 Earl Grey, e.g.
- 22 Children's card game
- 23 Richard Bach novel
- 26 Lowdown
- 29 Themed composition
- 31 Blood classification system
- 32 Hair jelly
- 33 Antique
- 34 Pre-barbecuing spice application
- 35 Years ___
- 37 Chinese leader
- 38 Pigmented fluid
- 39 One way to change color

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42							43			

See solution on page 21

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Examiner

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.com.

Tuesday, March 11

Adult Education: A series of class for adults are being held at the York town Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Mishneh Torah--Every Tuesday, between 7:30 and 9 p.m. there will be a discussion for those who want to delve deeply into Jewish practice, philosophy, history, culture and related matters. The text used will be Maimonides' MISHNEH TORAH, in English. Pirkei Avot. At 11 a.m. on the first and third Monday of every month, Rabbi Urbas will teach a classic text on ethical thinking, combined with practical tips on Jewish living. This Talmudic text is a popular work for everyone. Understanding Hebrew Prayer--- On Mondays, at 7 p.m. Cantor Isabel Kopstein will explore the Siddur. She will help students already somewhat familiar with Hebrew to advance in the knowledge of the meanings of prayers, almod and the Law--- On Thursdays, at 10:30 a.m., Wendy Segal will discuss Ethics, Talmud and Jewish law. Cases from a text book, the news, and even Judge Judy will help in understanding the wisdom of the Jewish sages and how to apply that wisdom applies to today's problems. Info: 914-245-2324 or info@yorktownjewishcenter.org.

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.

Game Show Night: The Chabad Jewish Women Circle invites you to get into the joyous spirit of Purim by being a part of a fun game show night! 7:30 pm, at the Yorktown Nursery School, 247 Veterans Rd. in Yorktown Heights.

Wednesday, March 12

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, March 13

Drug Addiction Forum: Drug Crisis In Our Backyard is teaming up with Phoenix House Academy of Westchester to co-host the sixth drug crisis community forum: "Hope and Recovery as We Confront Every Family's Nightmare -- Prescription Drug and Heroin Addiction" from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Phoenix House Academy in Westchester, 3151 Stoney St., Shrub Oak. Phoenix House Chief Medical Officer Andrew Kolodny, M.D. will be a guest speaker along with other health policy advocates: journalist and New York Times bestselling author David Sheff, whose books include "Clean and Beautiful Boy," and award-winning filmmaker Greg Williams, who will also show a trailer from his groundbreaking film, "The Anonymous People." Info: 914-261-7689 or ccarolchristiansen@yahoo.com

Yorktown Historical Society: A discussion of "History of Emily Warren Roebling" by local historian Monica Doherty in recognition of Women's History Month in a Yorktown Historical Society program will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the John C. Hart Memorial Library, 1130 Main St., Shrub Oak. The free event is open to the public. It is the story of an admirable and multifaceted woman and her connection to the Brooklyn Bridge and to Yorktown. Info: 914-962-4370.c.radke@computer.org or www.yorktownhistory.org.

Holocaust Commission: The Somers Memorial Holocaust Commission is planning its annual Holocaust program, which is an evening of reflection and remembrance. Our purpose is twofold: to educate children so that they will never forget the horrors of the Holocaust and other genocide, and to promote the teaching of human rights in our school. Our yearly program, held at a local high school, includes many inspirational projects submitted by high school students.

The program will also feature a keynote speaker, a choir, and student singing and dancing to help make it a memorable evening. Everyone is welcome, and if you are interested in meeting and/or joining our group, please contact Ruth Rosenberg at 914-248-5149.

Friday, March 14

Lasdon Park Programs: Two programs have been scheduled at Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial, located on Route 35 in Somers. Spring Wreath Decorating for Adults will be held on March 14 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Celebrate spring by decorating a wreath with bunnies, butterflies, flowers and greens. Meet in the greenhouse. Fee \$15; pre-registration required at 914-886-5108 or carolinesgardens@aol.com. Spring Wreath Decorating for Two will be held on March 15 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Bring your child or a friend to make a seasonal wreath in the greenhouse. Fee \$15; pre-registration required at 914-886-5108 or carolinesgardens@aol.com.

Family Service: Temple Israel of Northern Westchester invites you to our family service on March 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the temple, located on Glengary Road in Croton. Services will be followed by a yummy Oneg. Newcomers are always welcome. Come back on March 15 at 7 p.m. for our special Purim service. Another Oneg, sponsored by the Sisterhood, will delight the children and adults alike come in costume and let your silly self shine

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.

Winter Services: During the winter months, Sabbath services will 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.

Saturday, March 15

Historical Society Event: Images of Old in Cortlandt will be the topic of a talk by Laura Lee Keating, town historian, and her co-author Jean Moczarski, a retired educator and writer, on their book "Cortlandt," a compilation of old pictures of people and places throughout the town and its villages and hamlets at 2 p.m. in a program sponsored by the Van Cortlandtville Historical Society at The Little Red Schoolhouse, 297 Locust Ave,

Cortlandt Manor. The free event is open to the public. For more information, visit www.vancort.net; or call, 914-736-7868.

Temple Event: We invite you to join us for the Megillah reading and our famous Purimspie at 6 p.m. at Temple Beth Am, 203 Church Place, Yorktown Heights. The celebration continues in Gloria Hall with appetizers, music and dancing for the adults. All are welcome. Children's snacks and activities will be held separately. Info: www.templebetham-ny.org or betham@optonline.net.

First Hebrew Events: Two events have been scheduled for this weekend at First Hebrew, 1821 Main St., Peekskill, just west of the Beach Shopping Center. A Purim Celebration and costume contest will be held on March 15 at 7 p.m. Come in costume, bring your noisemakers, or use ours, to help stamp out Haman's name during First Hebrew's traditional reading of the Megillah, which tells the story of Purim and the Jewish people's victory over an ancient enemy. Prizes will be awarded for best adult, child and family costumes. The fun continues with a "Make Your Own Sundae" following the reading. There will also be a Passover wine sale and tasting. A Family Purim Party will be held on March 16 at 10 a.m. Singer/song leader Zev Haber will lead a big Purim Sing-Along, with other activities followed by a light festive meal. There will also be a Passover wine sale and tasting. Info: 914-739-0500; fhc@firsthebrew.org or www.firsthebrew.org.

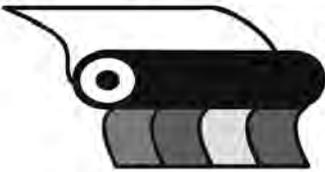
Yorktown Purim Reading: A Purim Megillah Reading and an original play in honor of the holiday will be held at 7:45 p.m. at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. The entire family is welcome to join in this happy, fun-filled evening. Info: 914-245-2324 or www.info@yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Somers Library Exhibit: Lynn Shulman is exhibiting a collection of her watercolor paintings and drawings at the Somers Library, located in Reis Park off Route 138, in March. The exhibit includes landscapes, figures, still life subjects and drawings in multi-media. You can contact Shulman at lynsplace29@aol.com. For library hours call 914 232-5717 or visit www.somerslibrary.org.

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 Anonymus: Worried about the way you eat? If food rules your life, Overeaters Anonymus 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.

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Examiner
Sports
 Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

March 11- March 17, 2014

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

SPORTS SECTION

Mason Jarred!

Slow Start Dooms Panas in NYS Region Finals



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Panas senior F Tyler Mason and the Panthers were bottled up all day long in the Panthers' 60-46 season-ending setback to Section 9's Red Hook in the NYSPHSAA Class A regional championship at Beacon High School last Friday afternoon where the Section 1 champion Panthers were denied their first trip to Glens Falls and the NYS Final 4 since 1997... see Boys' Hoops Notebook

Sports

Boys' Hoops Notebook

Panas, Haldane Can't Measure up in Regional Finals

Panthers Fall to Red Hook, Blue Devils Ousted from Public School Tourney by Independent Friends Academy

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

BEACON – Section 1 Class A basketball champion Walter Panas couldn't shoot a lick throughout the first half and most of the game, hitting 31 percent (16 for 51), including 2 for 13 from the field in the first quarter of the Panthers' 60-46 season-ending setback to Section 9's Red Hook in the Class A regional championship at Beacon High School last Friday afternoon.



Panas senior Tom Frost goes up for shot against the Red Hook defense in Panthers' loss to Raiders last Friday at Beacon High.



Panther Tom Parrish splits pair of Red Hook defenders.

Panas F Mike Evans fires J against the Red Hook defense in Panthers' loss to Raiders last Friday at Beacon High.

It wasn't pretty from any Panther vantage point, as the Raiders were clearly superior and brought an unmatched energy into the contest.

"For the first game in, I think months, we were not the more aggressive team," Panas coach Shawn Sullivan said. "We tried to be, but they just beat us to it and had us on our heels the whole game. We just couldn't get into any rhythm. I just told the guys that I think that for the first time in like six weeks we were not the aggressor. They did an unbelievable job against us. I don't care what team from Section 1 was here tonight, if Red Hook played like they did tonight they beat any one of us in Section 1. Ball fake, shot fakes, found the open man... they did it all. We couldn't get out from under it. I don't think we played with the urgency

that we played with the last two games. I thought we were prepared, but it's my fault that we were not ready to go."

Sixth man Mike Evans finally broke the seal in the first quarter, giving the Panthers (18-5) their first field goal with just over a minute left in the first quarter. The Red Raiders (17-5), on the other hand, hit 50% from the floor in the first half and 53% for the game, taking a 26-16 lead into halftime, as Panas hotshot G Tim McCauley limped badly as he went to the locker room. McCauley, the senior captain, finished with 14 points and three steals but was hardly himself after an incredible postseason run. Panas was 0-for-16 from three before McCauley finally hit one late in the third.

"We didn't come out strong enough," McCauley admitted. "Our shots weren't falling and we weren't playing defense. We were giving them wide open layups. They just outplayed us. When they were open, they hit their shots and we left

them open a lot. We just didn't get out and cover like we normally do. It would have been amazing to get to Glens Falls but we were not the better team when it came down to it."

Still, the Panthers came out stronger to open the second half and trailed by 10 to end the third, 38-28. Red Hook's Dennis Hare put the game out of reach early in the fourth by nailing two deep threes off the left wing for a 16-point bulge.

"We tried to mix up defenses at that point and he buried two quick ones on us," Sullivan said.

Red Hook negated Panas' penetration from its offense with a hybrid 3-2 zone, designed to stop McCauley, according to second-year Red Hook Coach Matt Hayes.

"We knew who their key players were, McCauley's a heck of a player," Hayes said. "He earned everything we threw at him tonight. He's very aggressive and likes to go to the basket and he plays big

for a guard of average size, and that's what I stressed to our kids that we needed to keep him from getting to the rim. I was happy with how we guarded him."

For Sullivan, now in his 12th season with the Panas varsity, he'll never forget the group that led him to his first championship and the program's first since 1997.

"This was the most coachable group of kids I've ever had, the toughest and most competitive and winning was all that mattered to them," Sullivan concluded.

HALDANE MEETS ITS MATCH

It wasn't going to be easy for a tiny school like Haldane to battle a melting pot like the Friends Academy, which



All-Section Panas G Tim McCauley beats the Red Hook defense for two of his 14 points in loss to Raiders.

Sports

Boys' Hoops Notebook



Blue Devil G John Rotando drives lane in loss to Friends Academy.

recruits/accepts players from across larger portions of Long Island. But half the town trekked up Rt.9D anyway and showed up at Beacon High School where the Section 1 Class C champion Blue Devils (15-7) were unable to provide the thrills that folks in and about the Cold Spring area had become accustomed to during this magical post-season run.

The simple facts were evident early and often as Section 8's Friends Academy (18-3) was more versatile and skillful than Haldane was last Friday in Friends' 71-49 thumping of the Blue Devils in the Class C regional finals, but that should not take anything



Garret Quigley powers up for two points in loss to Friends.

away from Haldane's season, given the circumstances.

The Blue Devils got a game-high 23 points from junior All-Section swingman Peter Hoffmann, who should be the lead dog in Haldane's quest to repeat next season. Friends ran an up-tempo, high-pressure attack that featured juniors Tyrone Perkins (20 points) and Cyrus Holder (17), who might also be back in the regionals next year.

Hoffmann was the horse Haldane rode in on as he posted 16 of his game-high 24 points in the second half of a 61-54 victory over Section 9's S.S. Seward in the regional semifinals at the Westchester County Center last Tuesday. Hoffmann also had 11 rebounds in that win while G John Rotando added 14 points and four assists.

Friends buried five first-half 3-pointers before the break, most coming from the near corner, to take a 36-19 lead at the half.

"They were good, very good," Haldane Coach Joe Virgadamo said. "They were

quicker, more athletic and we didn't want to go up and down with them. We just couldn't get over the hump."

F Matt Halpin added seven points and six rebounds for the Blue Devils, who represented in the state tournament for the first time since 2001 when Coach Virgadamo led them there. Chances are pretty strong that this current group of Blue Devils could find a way to defend their title and get back for more next season, but unless the NYSPHSAA changes mends its ways youthful Friends will likely be there, too.

That won't sit well with Blue Devil fans, who chanted "Private School" in protest at the Friends Academy, which is a Quaker, coeducational, independent school that should likely be competing in the in the NYSAIS tournament instead of the NYSPHSAA, which continues to permit a gross injustice upon its own public schools by allowing Catholic, private and independents to compete in the public school tournament of sectional champions.

Haldane has now lost state tournament games to Friends in both boys' basketball and soccer this season as NYSPHSAA continues to turn a blind eye to an issue that has angered coaches, players and fans for many, many years.



Blue Devil F Edmund Fitzgerald digs in for shot attempt against Friends.



Haldane G Peter Hoffmann goes right at the Friends Academy defense in Blue Devil loss at Beacon High School last Friday.

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Ossining, Haldane Headed to NYS Final Four

Peekskill Loses Without Coach Headley; Kennedy Falls Short

By A.J. Martelli

All season long Class AA powerhouse **OSSINING** has done nothing but demonstrate its sheer dominance. The Pride won their fourth gold ball in as many years – and their fifth in school history – on March 2, and carried a ton of momentum into the regional round. Ossining thrashed Kingston (Section 9) 77-47 last Tuesday in the region semis, and then on Saturday at Binghamton, the No. 1 Pride ran past No. 4 Horseheads 69-52 to reach the New York State final four for the third straight year.

Ossining was able to win the region despite losing the majority of last year's players to graduation, a feat Head Coach Dan Ricci was most impressed with.

"I think it's tremendous," he said. "Going to the states three years in a row, especially after graduating 10 kids and losing one to a transfer with only three returning players, says a lot about our program."

Kingston stood virtually no chance in the regional semis, as Ossining jumped out to an early lead and never looked back. The game against Horseheads proved to be a little bit more of a challenge in the early going; the Pride only up 10-9 after the first quarter.

But a huge second quarter explosion by the Pride was the difference maker – an explosion on both offense and



Ossining junior F Jalay Knowles powers for two of her 24 in Regional championship win over Horseheads.

defense. Ossining netted 26 points in the second quarter, while only yielding seven opposing points.

"We held them to seven points in the second quarter, 26-7," Ricci said. "We got great contributions off the bench from kids like Jenna Lividini, Alicia Sanchez; Abby Squirrell did a great job on their best kid, their center. And we got our usual, real good performance from Jalay Knowles, Shadeen Samuels, and Stef Svoboda."



KASIE SCARDUZIO PHOTOS

The Ossining girls' basketball team pose with their 3rd NYS regional championship plaque in the last four years after taking out Horseheads.

Knowles put on a 24-point, 12-rebound show vs. Horseheads, which followed a 42-point eruption against Kingston in the semifinals. Samuels also notched a double-double in the region finals with 13 points and 11 boards, while Svoboda posted 15 points.

"We were missing more scoring chances to beat a team like Horseheads, because they're a much better, much stronger team," Ricci said. "Jalay and Shadeen both had double-doubles, and when those two kids play like that, we're tough to beat. All 11 kids I played gave us something; a basket, a rebound – something. Depth is definitely a strength of our team. We're a deep, young, hungry team."

State-ranked No.3 Ossining (22-2) will need to stay as hungry as ever, now that it will be making its run at a repeat for the state title. The Pride will face state-ranked (No.15) Gates-Chili (Section 5) in the state semifinals on Friday night at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy. Ossining beat Gates-Chili 86-69 in the NYS finals last year to capture its first state title in school history, and Ricci already knows what to expect from the Pride's upcoming competition.

"They (Gates-Chili) lost three of their studs, but brought one back – Cierra Dillard," he said. "Our style is going to give her problems and we're going to make her work for every basket she gets."

The Pride certainly have a great shot at earning another state title in Class AA, but down the ranks in Class C, **HALDANE** has made strides and, equally, has a good chance to collect a state championship. The Blue Devils won the section Feb.

28 with a 49-32 victory over Keio and followed with a 53-27 region semifinal win over undefeated Tri-Valley (Section 9) last Tuesday at the County Center.

Haldane moved on to the region finals this past Saturday at New Rochelle, and came away with a 46-38 win over Friends Academy (Section 8) to reach the state semis.

"It's an unbelievable experience," said Haldane's junior G Allie Monteleone, who netted 27 points in the win over Tri-Valley and 14 in the region-clinching win over Friends. "We've been working hard for this all year and it's great that hard work has paid off. I couldn't imagine doing this with another team."

The Blue Devils trailed Friends 21-19 at halftime, but surged in the second half. Jess Harrison hit a huge 3-point field goal the late in the third quarter to put Haldane up 31-26, and from there the Blue Devils never faced any peril.

Haldane (16-6) will face State-ranked (No.4) Chatauqua Lake on Saturday



Ossining G Shadeen Samuels makes way up court in win over Horseheads last Saturday.

afternoon at HVCC in the state semis.

The dream ended for **PEEKSKILL** this past Saturday in the Class A region finals, losing 62-47 to Maine-Endwell (Section 4) at New Rochelle High; the lady Red Devils' hope of capturing their first state title since 2011 dashed.

The real story was not so much the season-ending loss, but the absence of Head Coach Rodney Headley, Jr., who was not on the sidelines coaching because of an apparent suspension. The reason for Headley's suspension was never given by Peekskill Athletic Director Lou Panzanaro, though he said he hoped Headley would be back for the state tournament had the lady Red Devils won.

His lack of presence, however, clearly impacted Peekskill's key players.

"We weren't prepared for the situation we had to face," said sophomore Lanay Rodney, who was the lady Red Devils' all-tourney nod in the section tournament last week. "Headley not coaching was similar to losing our best player. It sucks, but it's life. It was a tough game, but we have to move on. I just wish it didn't end like this."

Shaina Iton felt the state-ranked (No.13) Red Devils (18-5) could just not find a rhythm.

"We weren't able to get in sync," she said, "and it threw us off the entire game."

Though the season has come to an end for Peekskill, the players enjoyed the ride, finding comfort in winning their third Class A gold ball in five years.

"Overall we had a great season," Rodney added, while Iton expressed the same thoughts:

"We had a fantastic season, and I couldn't be more proud of my teammates."

Outside Section 1 in the CHSAA, **KENNEDY** made a stellar run in the state tournament, but came up just short in the semifinal round, losing 46-39 to Kellenberg this past Friday. Despite the loss, Kennedy received solid outings in its final game from Kiera Hennessy (nine points, nine rebounds), Kaitlyn Knox (seven points, seven rebounds), and Meg Weidenhamer (seven points, nine rebounds).

The Gaels finished 18-12 in their first season in the CHSAA (as they were Class B semifinalists last year), which made boss Lance DeMarzo very proud.

"I couldn't ask any more from my girls this year," he said. "Going 18-12, being league champs, and making the Catholic state semifinals – you can't ask anything more."

Sports

Dear World: We're Sorry & United Against Racism



By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

I'm a proud Putnam County guy, through and through. Born and raised in the Bronx until I was nine, my roots were pulled from the heaving cement of 226 Naples Terrace and transplanted in the summer of 1972 in the rural thicket of Putnam Valley, where more than a few donkeys (literally) were my closest friends.

I always said I would never leave my chums in the Valley, unless of course it was for bordering Mahopac where it turns out my soul mate was nestled neatly somewhere behind the old K-Mart

off Route 6. I would leave PV in 2002 for Mahopac, the home of perhaps the most madcap sporting folk in the state. When it comes to its prep sports and its sporting reputation, few towns in Section

stir outrage against Mahopac. The local media then piled on.

Never mind the Mahopac cheerleader that allegedly got popped by a Mount Vernon supporter, never mind the taunts and challenges of grown men, who hurled profane comments at the fabled Mahopac Maniac student body, showing the type of moxie and pride that Duke's Cameron Crazies would in a Tobacco Road dustup with hated North Carolina.

There is no better student section in the state than the loyal, blue and gold-bleeding @MahopacManiacs.

The tables would turn to rage after a slew of tweets and the allegations of a detestable Confederate flag at the Mecca of Section 1 basketball. The repulsive tweets are simply indefensible, bordering on a 1920s-style ignorance right there on the worldwide web. #FAIL!

Suddenly, Mount Vernon vs. Mahopac has whipped up a frenzy for the ages after those asinine tweets surfaced, which included illicit, racial tones that I was assured time and time again would no longer stem from this new generation of liberality. So why was it that a bunch of teens from Mahopac couldn't hack the derisive mocks of several grown men of color after their moment of playoff perdition? What set their emotions off?

The blowback has weakened the cultural immune system of beloved Mahopac Coach Kevin Downes, a proud black man with as much legendary clout in Mahopac as former Indian great Dave Fleming and as much street cred as former Indian AD and Section 1 hoops royalist Bob Behrends. If Mahopac were truly the racially charged community it has now been brandished as, how did Downes, the former All-Section running back and basketball legend, get to the top of the food chain? Because Mahopac respects a black man just as much as the next standard-bearing community in the U.S., but this heavy Italian-Irish community won't take any guff from anybody: Black, White, Hispanic, Asian or Carmel, if it feels disrespected.

In fact, had Carmel fans taunted Mahopac kids after a football game, the way in which Mount Vernon adults did in

the Section 1 semifinals, they would have said things about the Rams on

Twitter, too.

Race would not have mattered one iota, but since they stirred it up in this urban vs. rural instance, Mahopac has dealt with the debacle by suspending eight students as of Monday and imposing sensitivity training while Mount Vernon Superintendent Judith Johnson has vowed to have the Indians' 2015 season cancelled. Yeah, um, Judy can you have a cup of tea with that moral high ground you've ceded with your disproportional demands and denunciations.

That's a bit much, considering the Mahopac basketball team and its coach were a class act throughout this entire situation and continue to be so. (Mount Vernon officials are calling on the state to recognize the situation as a civil rights violation.)

So what did we learn from this fiasco, which channels 2, 4, 5, 7 and 11 helped erroneously fuel. (ABC News, in particular, with its wholly inaccurate report that basketball players made the tweets.) Either we learned that a handful of the 10,000 mostly white folk in Mahopac are still stuck in the '60s in their assimilation deprived surroundings, or, as Mount Vernon would have you believe, we're ALL racists here in Putnam County.

Some in Mahopac were dumb enough to hit send/tweet with their vile views, so the entire community must own up now and pledge this never happens again.

Having witnessed the taunts that initiated this firestorm from spitting distance, I can assure you Mount Vernon's fans spewed some very abusive B.S. at the Mahopac Maniacs, and a small handful of those normally responsible Maniacs didn't deal well with their emotions and went to technology to unleash a wave of lunacy.

So maybe it's time to take a long, hard look in the mirror since Mahopac seems to have blurred the lines, perhaps crossed it, on more than one occasion, according to several coaches interviewed for this piece.

"What's going on at Mahopac has been cultivated by some of their coaches over the last four or five years," one respected local coach said on condition of anonymity. "This past event is not an isolated event but a pattern established with no accountability by their administration."

When I tell you I respect the coach that said this to me, I mean it with all my heart, and as a Mahopacian, with two young children in the district, it bothers me that people I respect in the area feel that way about the district I am beholden to.

It happened, Mahopac, and now we have to wear it, knowing full well that change is in order if this is truly a reflection of our community, though I'd bet my house it's not.

The words of Mahopac High Principal, Adam S. Pease, (@PeaseAMHS) are more indicative of what most in Mahopac feel: "Dear World: The disgraceful actions of a select few (Mahopac High) students do not represent our school's values. We stand with you against racism!"

I have seen this Mahopac community rally around one another for causes as important as civil rights, and I can guarantee that Mahopac would be there to lend assistance to any community in need of support, including Mount Vernon.

There is no doubt in my mind that the principal's thoughts are the prevailing sentiment from Lake Secor to Lake Casse and all points in between, but we need to be on our best behavior going forward, gang.

The world is watching now, and the first slip will only fuel an incessant fire that Mahopac is just a small part of. Black or white; we're in this thing together.



BILL KENNEDY PHOTO

For much of the last decade, the Mahopac Maniacs have represented all that is good in high school sports, but a handful of them crossed the line following their Section 1 Class AA semifinal loss to Mt. Vernon by going to Twitter with racially-charged remarks.

I can match Mahopac; from Pop Warner Football to Mahopac varsity basketball.

On Feb. 27, the basketball team found itself in the throes of a national whirlwind since its 43-40 sectional semifinal loss to nine-time state champion Mount Vernon, in the Section 1 Class AA Final 4 or beyond for the fifth time since the turn of the century.

The ensuing, unwarranted situation is now so outlandish—and somewhat out of proportion depending upon whom you ask—because the race card was pulled from the deck after the Mahopac student body was baited and incensed by fervent Mount Vernon adults, who taunted them from beneath the main grandstand of the Westchester County Center.

Those heated, verbal exchanges culminated in the now-viral tweets by at least eight Mahopac students who enraged the Mount Vernon partisans, who then paraded their share of activists seeking to

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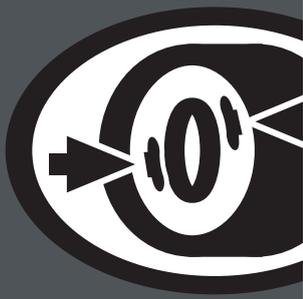
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