

**Tips for Choosing Quality
Preschool Camp**



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Fly out of Gate...**



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April 1 - April 7, 2014

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 6, Issue 225

Zoning Board Grapples with Proposed Sober Home

By Rick Pezzullo

Attention on a controversial proposed sober living home in Yorktown turned last week to the town's Zoning Code and how the project should be classified.

The Zoning Board of Appeals received a barrage of arguments from attorneys for the applicants, Tom McCrossan and Mark McGoldrick, a/k/a Compass Westchester, and two neighbors, Linda Gironda and Al French, regarding the interpretation of the code by Building Inspector John Winter that the facility for recovering alcohol and substance abuse addicts at 482 Underhill Avenue falls under the definition of a "convalescent home."

Tensions were running high during portions of the testy ex-

change between Michael Sirignano, attorney for Gironda and French, and town officials, particularly Zoning Board acting chairman Gregg Bucci, who at one point admonished the audience for expressing their feelings.

"This is not a sporting event. We do not clap here," Bucci sternly asserted.

Sirignano contended the "facts are undisputed" that the sober home does not fit the criteria of either a convalescent home or a nursing home, which are treated the same in the town's Zoning Code, and thus it should not be allowed to be considered for a three-year special permit by the Town Board. (A continuation of the public hearing on the special permit will be held tonight, April



Home at 482 Underhill Avenue being proposed for sober living residence.

1, at Yorktown Town Hall).

"If you use the common sense test, if you use the smell test, the application by Compass Westchester in no way, shape or form is a

convalescent or a nursing home as described by your (code)," Sirignano remarked. "This sober living residence is a square peg trying to get forced into a round hole and

it just doesn't fit. Common sense tells you it doesn't fit. It's something new. It's never been contemplated by the code of the Town of Yorktown or any other town in Westchester County. Maybe Yorktown wants to try to be progressive and take the lead on this. That's the Town Board's job."

While conceding the Zoning Code wasn't consistent in its definitions, Al Capellini and Bob Davis, attorneys for Compass Westchester, insisted Winter was correct in identifying the sober home residence with a convalescent home.

"The use proposed matches it to a T. A convalescent home is what the code says it is, nothing more, nothing less," Capellini said.

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Science Whizzes

Five students involved in the Science Research Program at Yorktown High School have won all-expense paid trips to present their research at two international science competitions. (L-R:) Jason Toporoff, Catherine Chung, Sara Mongno, Matt Wrubel and Erik Santini.

Town of Ossining Moving Ahead with Property Revaluation

By Rick Pezzullo

While the City of Peekskill wrestles with spending \$1 million on a revaluation of residential and commercial properties, the Town of Ossining is moving ahead with being the third municipality in Westchester to take the leap.

Tyler Technologies, the company that is also handling the revaluation of properties in the City of Yonkers and Town of Greenburgh, will be attending the Ossining Town Board's April 15 meeting to present a detailed overview of the project, including how homes and businesses will be inspected.

Town Supervisor Susanne Donnelly

stated in a message to residents that town officials have been discussing revaluation for the past two years and have hosted representatives from the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services who encourage all communities to undergo revaluation to ensure fair and equitable assessments of properties.

"While there may be a shift in how some properties are valued, many people will find that their property taxes will not change drastically," Donnelly maintained. "We have worked with both villages and school systems on this project, and have actively kept them in the 'loop' throughout

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Picky Eater vs. Problem Feeder

The toddler and preschool years are often synonymous with the term “picky eating,” which is a normal and temporary part of childhood development. In fact, ninety percent of picky eaters are between the ages of 2 and 5 years. Although in many cases picky eating is the problem, it is important to understand the difference between a picky eater and a problem feeder in order to implement appropriate strategies that reduce mealtime frustration and help your child get the nourishment his or her body needs. Marie Roth, registered dietitian for Blythedale and Kohl’s **Eat Well, Be Well** Nutrition Program, offers us some of the discerning characteristics between picky eating and feeding problems, as well as some tips for how to address these issues.

Characteristics of a Picky Eater	Characteristics of a Problem Feeder
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eats fewer than 30 foods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eats fewer than 20 foods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eats at least one food from almost every type of food texture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refuses to eat foods from entire categories of textures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will eat the same favorite food every day, but will eventually burn out and stop eating the food. But, will eat the favorite food again after about a 2-week break 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eats fewer foods over time. Foods lost to burn out are not accepted back after a 2-week break
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flexible about brands or preparations of accepted foods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inflexible about particular foods, brands, preparation methods, shapes, ect.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tolerate new foods on their plate and are willing to touch or taste the food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won’t tolerate a new food on the plate, and are unwilling to touch or taste the food
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willing to eat/try a new food after approximately 10 or more exposures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cry and throw tantrums when offered a new food; unwilling to try a new food after the typical 10 or more exposures

Tips for Parents of Picky Eaters

- Offer a variety of nutritious foods at each meal
- Expect your child to eat the foods you eat; avoid making separate meals or “kid-friendly” foods
- Serve meals and snack at approximately the same time each day, and prevent between meal grazing. Your child should come to the table hungry.
- Create a pleasant meal time experience
- Limit juice to 4 to 6 ounces daily, and offer only water between meals
- Recognize that appetite fluctuates with growth and activity. Allow your child to use his or her own internal cues for when and how much to eat

Tips for Parents of Problem Feeders

Your child will need a comprehensive and multidisciplinary evaluation to identify the cause(s) of the feeding problem, which may be related to a medical condition, oral-motor issues, nutritional problems, sensory integration dysfunctions, or environmental and behavioral factors. Feeding therapy is often required to resolve the feeding problem and help the child accept additional foods into the diet.



These materials are part of Blythedale Children’s Hospital and Kohl’s *Eat Well, Be Well* Nutrition Outreach Program. For more nutrition information or to learn more about our program, please visit: www.blythedale.org/kohls.



Grace Refusing to Throw in Towel on Preserving Trump Sales Office

By Rick Pezzullo

Yorktown Supervisor Michael Grace is refusing to give up on preserving a building at Trump Park Residences in Shrub Oak that was supposed to be torn down six years ago.

Despite objections from residents at the complex who have reminded town officials of an agreement that the 8,000-square-foot office would be demolished to make room for a walking trail and gazebo, Grace has set his sights

on possibly using it for a senior center or other town use.

“To take a wrecking ball and knock that down makes no sense,” Grace said at a recent Town Board meeting following an inquiry from a resident. “It’s a wonderfully sound, well-constructed building. I think we owe the community at large to see if we can put that asset to community use. There’s an opportunity here and it’s worth an in depth discussion.”

George Brink, who represented 61 homeowners at Trump Park Residences during the planning process, which started in 2004, told the Town Board last month the building was in violation of the conditions of the Planning Board approval. He noted Westchester Land Trust has initiated legal proceedings to remove the building since it’s located on a conservation easement.

That legal action prompted Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi to withdraw a

request to explore using the building for the Cortlandt Croton Center for the Arts which was left homeless following a fire near Charles Cook Pool.

“The integrity of the entire approval process is at stake here, along with the ability of the people to trust that site plans once approved will be enforced by the town,” Brink said. “If this violation is allowed to remain how will any community in our town be able to trust that any future developments will adhere to their site plans? It’s about time this issue is addressed.”

Brink also asserted nothing was being done in order to save developers Yorktown Realty and Cappelli Enterprises money.

“We should not be bailing out a multi-million dollar developer trying to get out from under his obligation to the detriment of my community,” Brink said.

Grace remarked if the building were taken down the location would become a public park and “a new place where you can buy heroin in Yorktown Heights,” a comment he rescinded after Councilman Nick Bianco objected.

“That building was a condition that it (land) belongs to the Land Trust,” Bianco said. “If I vote on something and it’s a condition, it’s a condition.”

Sharp Shooter

Kristen Cinquina of Cortlandt won the state title in the 10-11-year-old girls group in the Elks National Hoop Shoot contest. She went on to finish second in the Regional Hoop Shoot semi-finals in PA, sinking 19 of 25 free throws. Two other local youths, Emily Girolamo and Regan Fallo, finished second in the state finals.



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Two Former Homeless Veterans Recipients of New Furniture

By Rick Pezzullo

Doug Ferguson, a U.S. Air Force veteran, found himself with no place to live a few years ago. When he was able to land an apartment in Peekskill, he had no furniture and had to sleep on an air mattress.

That all changed last week, thanks to Westchester County and Bassett Furniture, which opened its first store in Westchester and donated \$8,000 in new furniture, bedding and dishes to Ferguson's Union Street apartment.

"This is just like hitting the lottery," an appreciative Ferguson reacted after watching a truckload of goods delivered to his second floor apartment. "God has

been good to me. I wouldn't have been able to afford this. I stayed focus, tried to stay upbeat and I came out on top."

Less than 10 miles from Ferguson, Dennis O'Toole, a Vietnam U.S. Marine Corps veteran living in Croton who moved into an empty apartment after struggling with homelessness, also received \$8,000 in furniture from Bassett.

"We're honored to have our first deliveries in Westchester go to such deserving individuals," said David Baker, vice president of corporate retail at Bassett Furniture. "This donation is our sixth donation in as many months, and with every new store we open, we try to make a point of giving back to the community



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

Doug Ferguson (center) enjoys new furniture with Vito Pinto (left) and Bassett Furniture representatives.

before we open our doors for business."

Last year, County Executive Rob Astorino announced a "100 Day Challenge" to house 75 homeless veterans in 100 days as part of the national "100,000 Homes" challenge. Between August and November, Westchester exceeded its goal, housing 85 veterans.

In January, Astorino unveiled the second phase of his challenge, with a goal of housing another 75 homeless veterans while also finding employment for 45 veterans.

"It's an ambitious goal, but certainly a worthy one," Astorino said. "This type of partnership with Bassett and other local

business and community leaders plays an important role in helping us to deliver on our mission of serving veterans in Westchester."

Vito Pinto, director of the Westchester County Veterans Service Agency, said his goal is to provide housing for all veterans in need.

Ferguson is employed full-time at the VA Hospital in Montrose and is studying culinary arts at Westchester Community College.

"All the good things, prayers and blessings came down now," Ferguson said. "It's worth the wait."

Alyssa Martin of Girl Scout Troop 1378 (shown with Yorktown Councilman Vishnu Patel) received her Gold Award on March 8. Her Gold Award Project was "A Sentimental Journey," aimed to impact the lives of senior citizens and WWII veterans by keeping their memories alive.

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Shrub Oak Family Seeks Funds for Cure for Rare Disease

By Rick Pezzullo

Before Lisa Hodes was one year old, there were some signs that something just wasn't right. One day she had some peculiar eye movements. Another day she couldn't hold herself up.

When she went to the doctor, all her vital signs were normal. She later went to a neurologist and spent 12 days in the hospital.

"They thought it was some kind of virus," Lisa's father, Paul, said. "They did all kinds of tests. They poked and prodded and x-rayed. Everything from soup to nuts. Nothing came up."

Finally, when she was about 18 months old, Lisa was diagnosed with a neurological disease called Alternating Hemiplegia of Childhood (AHC), a condition caused by a gene defect that affects only about 300 children in the United States.

There are only about 11 cases of AHC in New York State and Lisa, 13, who lives with her family in Shrub Oak, is the only one in the area, according to her father.

"She's very smart. She can talk. She can read. She's very observant," Paul said. "Some children are more severe than others. Some are in a wheelchair all the time."

Lisa attends a BOCES program at Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School in Croton. Her mother, Renee, said she interacts with other girls with AHC through text messages and Facetime.

"Just because she has a disability doesn't make her different than the rest," Renee said of teenage girls. "We have one mission to end AHC."

Some strides have already been made. A test for AHC that didn't exist when Lisa was diagnosed has been developed.

"This gene that they're looking at is

one that's very close to what affects Parkinson's Disease," Paul said. "The doctors feel there may be other children being misdiagnosed. There's hope as long as they're working on it."

Lisa has a one-on-one aide at school and a personal aide that comes to her home three to four hours a day. She requires physical and occupational therapy and takes three different medications daily. Most of her medical expenses are covered by Medicaid, other than one pill which is not FDA approved and costs about \$1,000 annually.

"We're trying to find out how to cure this. They're pretty close," Paul said. "We're trying to get the word out and educate."

Anyone interested in learning more about AHC or to make a donation can visit www.ahckids.org.



Lisa Hodes

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Can You Help? Time Passes

The upcoming exhibit starting in May at the Yorktown Museum will feature photos from the Museum's archives. These will be augmented with modern photos taken by Yorktown High School students. Thus giving the

before and after feeling to the show. Anyone who has early views of any of the hamlets of Yorktown and would like to share is asked to bring them to the Museum office where they will be scanned & returned or e-mail them

to us (with a brief description) at Museum@yorktownny.com. These will be used as before shots and will then be added to our archives for future research. We need your help! (914) 962-2970.

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Police Blotter

Yorktown Police

March 20 8:50 a.m. – Amanda Olmstead, 24, of Yorktown, was charged with several counts of criminal possession of a controlled substance and criminal sale of a controlled substance on Old Yorktown Road following an investigation by Yorktown Police and the Westchester County Drug Enforcement Task Force for alleged heroin sales. She was remanded to Westchester County Jail on \$15,000 bail.

March 21 - 3:22 p.m. – Charlene Jennings, 30, of the Bronx, was charged with petit larceny and possession of burglar's tools after allegedly stealing three men's jackets valued at \$228.90 from H&M at the Jefferson Valley Mall. She was also found to be in possession of a security sensor removing device.

9 p.m. – Kathy Walker, 53, of Mohegan Lake, was issued a court appearance ticket for allegedly playing amplified music at her residence disturbing an area resident.

10:11 p.m. – Daniel Ucci, 23, of Yorktown, was charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance and having an open container in a public place following the report of a suspicious vehicle in the Starbucks parking lot on Commerce Street. Investigation revealed Ucci was allegedly in possession of an alcoholic beverage as well as a quantity of heroin.

March 22 - 8:06 p.m. – Michael Murnane, 50, of Mohegan Lake, was charged with

assault and menacing following a report of a domestic incident on Mohawk Road. It was alleged Murnane menaced his wife with a knife and recklessly injured her. He was arraigned by Cortlandt Town Justice Dan McCarthy and remanded to jail on \$100,000 cash bail.

March 23 - 11:44 a.m. – Carlos Rosales, 21, of Peekskill, was charged with petit larceny following a report of a larceny at Sears at the Jefferson Valley Mall. Police alleged Rosales removed a pair of sneakers, valued at \$49.99, from a display, put them on in place of his old sneakers and exited the store without paying. He was released on \$250 bail.

6:45 p.m. – Devon Coleman, 20, of Mahopac, was charged with petit larceny following a report of a shoplifting at Sears in which the suspect fled the scene. After a short foot pursuit, Coleman was apprehended for allegedly stealing three pairs of ear buds from store displays.

March 25 - 9:28 p.m. – Kathryn Scarlett, 30, of Mohegan Lake, was charged with speeding and aggravated unlicensed operation in the third degree after being stopped on Route 202. A computer check revealed Scarlett, who produced a Connecticut license, had her operating privilege in New York allegedly suspended for failing to pay a driver assessment fee. She was released on \$100 cash bail.

March 26 - 2:15 p.m. – An unidentified 17-year-old male Mount Kisco resident was charged with harassment in the second degree following a report of harassment between two students at Yorktown High School, in which one student was threatening the other.

State Police

March 21 - 10:29 p.m. – Lee Nuwesra, 54, of Croton-on-Hudson, was charged with aggravated driving while intoxicated after being stopped by troopers for failing to maintain a lane of travel. A positive breath sample yielded a blood alcohol content of .20%.

March 23 - 12:57 a.m. – Douglas Peterson, 48, of Peekskill, was charged with driving while intoxicated after being stopped by troopers for failing to stop for a red signal. A positive breath sample yielded a blood alcohol content of .16%.

David Dowd, 23, of Peekskill, was charged with driving while intoxicated following a traffic stop on Route 6. A positive breath sample yielded a blood alcohol content of .13%.

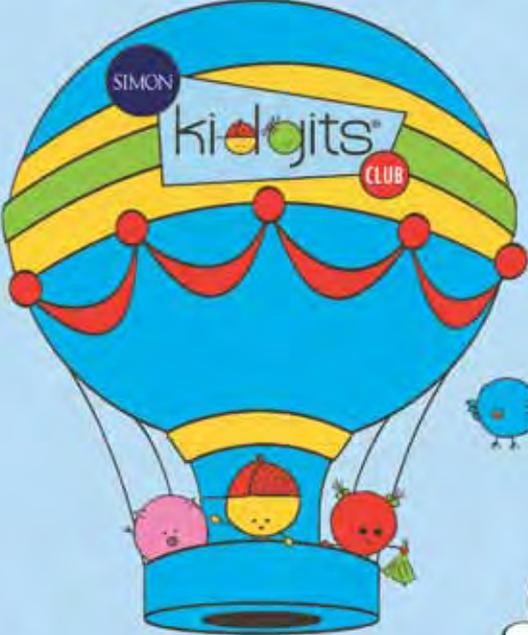
March 24 - Luis Quizhpi, 47, of Ossining, was charged with aggravated driving while intoxicated following a traffic stop for failing to maintain a lane. Quizhpi, who had a previous DWI conviction, provided a positive breath sample that yielded a blood alcohol

content of .21%, more than two times the legal limit of intoxication.

4:24 p.m. – Gregory Leggett, 55, of Peekskill, was charged with petit larceny after allegedly leaving Walmart without paying for \$236.76 worth of men's cologne.

March 26 - 1 p.m. – Margaret Salomon, 42, of Mahopac, was charged with grand larceny and falsifying business records, both Class E felonies, following a complaint from a Town of Southeast business owner. With the assistance of a privately hired forensic accounting agency, it was discovered Salomon, while serving as a bookkeeper, allegedly stole more than \$270,000 from the victims' personal and business accounts.

March 30 - 2:41 a.m. – Vincent Menniti was charged with driving while intoxicated, falsifying business records and falsely reporting an incident following a property damage car accident that occurred southbound on the Taconic State Parkway in Yorktown. Police alleged Menniti falsely reported another person had driven his Mercedes Benz and left the scene, completed an accident report and led troopers to investigate the accusations, giving the supposed driver's name, address and telephone number. Following an investigation, it was determined Menniti was in fact the driver. He is due in Yorktown Town Court April 10.



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- Do you need help with paying your mortgage?



If you are a **single family homeowner** and you answered **YES** to any of the above questions, you may be eligible for financial assistance through the NY Rising Housing Recovery Program.

The deadline for applications is April 11, 2014*

Please join us at one of our storm recovery outreach events. Learn about our programs for single family homeowners. **Eligible homeowners will be able to apply at these events.**

April 5 • 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m

Broome/Tioga: Our Savior Lutheran Church-Lutheran Fellowship Hall, 731 Hooper Road, Endwell

Essex: Jay Community Center Gym/Auditorium, 11 School Lane, Au Sable Forks

Montgomery: Hamilton Fulton Montgomery BOCES, 2755 NY 67, Johnstown

Saratoga/Waterford: Waterford Senior Center-Civic Center, 35 Third St., Waterford

Schenectady: Schenectady Community College-Lally Mohawk Room, 78 Washington Ave., Schenectady

Sullivan: SUNY Sullivan-Student Union Center, 112 College Rd., Loch Sheldrake

April 9

Storm Recovery Outreach Events will be held in Dutchess and Rockland/Westchester counties.

Please visit our website at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov> for location information.

If you can't attend one of our community meetings, you can still apply online at: <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov> or call the STORM RECOVERY HOT LINE at 1-855-NYS-SANDY (1-855-697-7263).

You may still be eligible even if you've received assistance from FEMA, SBA or your Home Owner's insurance.

Types of Assistance Available:

- Repair
- Reconstruction
- Reimbursement
- Elevation
- Interim Mortgage Assistance
- Buyouts & Acquisitions

* Only new applications for single family homeowners will close on April 11th. Applications for Interim Mortgage Assistance (IMA) for homeowners who have submitted a NY Rising Housing Recovery Program application by April 11th will still be accepted. In addition, NY Rising will accept applications for condominiums and cooperatives as well as rental properties. Coop/condo and rental property applications will be available soon.



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Guest Commentary

Nothing Will Be Left of Teatown if Deer Go Unchecked

By Sarah Dale

What do wolves have to do with Teatown?

I moved to Montana in 1995; the same year they reintroduced wolves to Yellowstone Park. It was a heated controversy and as a New Yorker, I had no opinion (or business) in the debate. So, I talked to people - ranchers, hunters, environmentalists. I read a book or two. In "Wolf Wars" by Hank Fisher, it revealed that the idea to reinstate the wolves began when naturalists witnessed a rare occurrence in the big horn sheep herds.

In 1982, the big horn sheep in Yellowstone contracted pink eye. Pink eye, itself, isn't a terminal disease for sheep, but it blinds them and when you live on cliffs, that can be quite fatal. It's also highly contagious. So, in the months that followed, there was a 60% decline in big horn sheep population and the scientists started to wonder what would have happened if the wolves were here? Would the wolves have been able to pick off the first few sheep that contracted pink eye so it didn't spread, thus, controlling the outbreak and leaving the sheep population unchanged? Would the disease have spread anyway, thus giving so much extra food to the wolves that they left the elk alone? What affect would that have on the elk population? If the elk population grew, what would that have done to the grass and other food sources? What would that have done to the other species counting on the same food sources?

And it went on. And the fact was,

they couldn't possibly know what would have happened if the wolves were there, so interwoven is every species in an ecosystem that the presence - or lack of it - can change everything. So, they brought back the wolves.

Almost 20 years later, they can now see the effect the wolves have had: everything - EVERYTHING - is thriving. Including the animals they prey on. So much so, there's a wonderful short video on it called "How Wolves Change Rivers." It shows what's happened far better than I can describe and I hope you'll watch it.

So what does this have to do with Teatown? About 100 years ago, man removed the deer's natural predator in Teatown when we eradicated the wolf from the Northeast. Since that time, we've built suburbs and cities where they once roamed and kept things in balance. And according to The Wall Street Journal, the deer population has grown 100 times larger during that same period. We can't bring the wolves back in areas like this, clearly, but we must take responsibility for the piece of the puzzle we have removed by stepping in where they would have if we too want everything to thrive.

As stewards of the land and ecosystem of Teatown, the Board knows if the deer population remains unchecked, there will be nothing left of Teatown. Left unchecked, deer can decimate a forest and stunt its regeneration as they begin to eat budding trees or bushes before they ever have a chance. Opponents suggesting that they fence the deer in don't

fully understand the problem, as that would only hasten the pace of everything dying. The idea of transporting them elsewhere begs the question: to where? Overpopulation of deer is a problem everywhere from here throughout Europe.

I'm not entirely sure why we humans, choose to care deeply about the deer, but so little for everything else in their ecosystem. Perhaps it's their fragile beauty that beckons us to protect them. But in reality, if we truly care for the deer, we'd protect their habitat. We'd strive to make it flourish. We'd make sure they didn't starve to death. We'd make sure that no matter how unpleasant the thought of having to kill in order to truly create more life was, we'd do it, for the sake of the deer.

That's what Teatown is doing. I applaud them for their courage to do their duty to the deer and the land, no matter how unpopular. As a resident now of Croton, I recently became a member of Teatown to show that others will do the same - to protect the deer, to protect their habitat and to protect what we love about having Teatown right next door.

Sources:

Fisher, Hank. (1995) Wolf Wars. FalconGuides

Cambronne, Al. "Cant' See the Forest for the Deer." The Wall Street Journal. March 11, 2014

Sarah Dale is a resident of Croton-on-Hudson

Letters

Hate Letter Sent in Buchanan Elections was Disappointing

To the Editor:

I was very disappointed with a letter sent to the Village residents during the Buchanan Village elections in March.

This letter was a letter attacking my grandsons and my son, Tim, a long time Village employee. What did they have to do with the Village issues??? This was

NOT necessary.

Everyone in the Village knows that Tim, a former Chief and still active member of the Buchanan Fire Department, an active member of the Knights of Columbus, and a fun-loving family man who has entertained our Seniors in area nursing homes is very well respected in the community.

Proud mother, proud grandmother.. that is what I am. In my opinion, the "hate" letter was promoted by Theresa Knickerbocker and her running mates. It is a shame that this is what politics in the Village of Buchanan have become.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN DONAHUE

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Obituaries

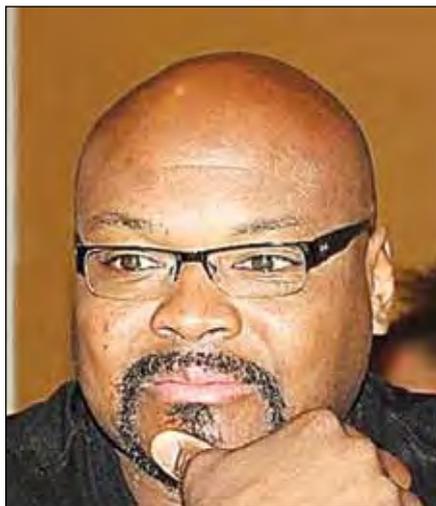
Lenora Lee Lewis

Lenora Lee Lewis, a resident of Peekskill, died on March 26, surrounded by her loving children and family. She was 73.

Born on June 16, 1940, she worked for Food Servers Workers of America, and then later worked with her son Kenny for upwards of 10 years at "Old Fashioned Pizza" in Montrose; always with a "happy face." She is survived by three children; Peter J. and Denise Lewis of Lagrangeville, Debra R. and Douglas Lewis-Jenkins of Danbury, CT and Kenneth J. Lewis of Peekskill; two grandchildren, Austin P. Lewis and Tiana and Mark Dedvukaj and one great-grandson, Adrian Mark Dedvukaj. She also leaves behind her beloved extended family, Bill, Fran, Frank, Michele, Billy, Celeste, and Tony Boula; Debbie and Rocco Ciccone and their families; Nancy and Buddy Przybocki and their children, John, Amanda and Madison and Maco Javiel and his family. She was predeceased by her husband, John Peter Lewis. A Funeral Mass was held at the Assumption Church.

Anthony Love

Anthony Eugene Love, a resident of Peekskill, died on March 25. He was 50.



Anthony Eugene Love

He was born in Tarrytown on October 9, 1963. Mr. Love was a loving son to Allen and Margaret Love, caring brother to Allen G. Love, Jr. (Jessica) and Stephanie Love Newman (Russell), and devoted uncle to Quinten, Jayda, Kai, and Shay Love. He was loved by his many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Mr. Love, also known as Tony, served in the United States Marine Corps, was a long-time employee of Pepsico, Co. in Purchase, and was an active member of the Westchester County community through various service projects and or-

ganizations. He lived his life to the fullest and enjoyed to travel, cook, scuba dive and enjoy good times with friends and family. He was a gentle giant and will be missed by so many.

Carol Pucek

Carol Lauretta Pucek, a former Village of Buchanan resident and a Hopewell Junction resident for 25 years, died on March 28 at the Kaplan Family Hospice Residence. She was 59.

Born in Peekskill on September 26, 1954, she was the daughter of the late Carmen and Anna (Boniello) Piucci. On September 1, 1974 in Buchanan, she married Anthony Pucek who survives at home. She graduated from the Harlem Valley School of Nursing in 1974. She then earned her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from SUNY New Paltz in 1985 and her Master's Degree in Nursing from Pace University in 1991. She had been employed as a Nurse Practitioner in Psychiatry at St. Christopher's Inn at Graymoor Franciscan Friars of Atonement.

She was a member of the Nurse Practitioner Association of New York. An avid reader, she also enjoyed traveling to tropical destinations. In addition to her husband of 39 years, she is survived

by her daughter, Kelly Pucek of Wappingers Falls; her siblings, Sharon Turner of Poughkeepsie, Annette Reynolds of Hopewell Junction, Carmen Piucci of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, and Renee Rodriguez of Hyde Park; many aunts, uncles, and cousins; several nieces and nephews; and a great-nephew. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Christopher's Inn at Graymoor Franciscan Friars of Atonement in Garrison followed by burial at Assumption Cemetery in Cortlandt.

Arlene Tryforos

Arlene A. Tryforos, a resident of Somers, died on March 25. She was a realtor for Coldwell Banker in Somers.

She is survived by her husband, Nicholas H. Tryforos; a son; Robert (Virginia) Perricelli; a daughter, Dana (Eugene) Delaney; 6 grandchildren, Alexandra, Nicholas, Robert, Amanda, Marissa and Nicole; and two step-daughters, Electra and Laura. A Celebration Of Life will be held on Friday, April 4 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Clark Associates Funeral Home in Katonah. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 5 at St. Joseph's RC Church, 95 Plum Brook Road, in Somers.

continued on page 10

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Yorktown Man Charged with Stealing County Parks Items

By Rick Pezzullo

A Yorktown man was indicted last week for allegedly stealing and recycling \$14,762 worth of property while he was employed with the Westchester County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Michael Gallo, 23, of Crompond Road, was charged March 27 with one count

of grand larceny in the third degree and one count of criminal possession of stolen property in the third degree, both class D felonies, and one count of official misconduct, a class A misdemeanor, in connection with a June 2013 arrest by Westchester County Police.

According to the Westchester District Attorney's Office, between January

and May 2013, Gallo, while working for the Parks Department at Kensico Dam Park, removed various items from the workplace without any authorization from supervisors and brought them to Brookfield Metal Resources Center, a resource recovery and recycling company in Elmsford, which also has a site in Montrose.

The items taken and redeemed at the recycling center were six electric golf cart batteries, five other batteries, four brass couplers, eight brass sprinkler heads, two large spot lamps, one sump pump, one power washer, and one hand truck.

Gallo, who faces a maximum sentence of seven years in prison, is next due in court on April 10.

Peekskill Police Investigate Armed Robbery at Motor Inn

By Rick Pezzullo

Peekskill police are investigating a robbery that reportedly occurred March 22 after 4 a.m. at the Peekskill Motor Inn.

Officers assigned to the scene were told a group hired to DJ and perform at an earlier private party were invited

back to the motel by a guest. While several members of the group were checking into the motel, two members were waiting outside when they were allegedly approached by two males armed with handguns who robbed them of jewelry and cell phones.

Police said there were conflicting reports that a shot was fired during the robbery, but no injuries were reported. Police are looking for two male subjects in their 20s, one described as being a light skin black male with braids, approximately 5'10" and 160 pounds, and

the other a medium skin black male, approximately 5'5" and 130 pounds.

Police are investigating reports the suspects had attended the earlier party and had specifically targeted the victims. Anyone with any information is asked to call police at (914) 737-8000.

Town of Ossining Moving Ahead with Property Revaluation

continued from page 1

the whole process. Everyone understands the importance of this process, as it is the only way to both slow and minimize the grieving of taxes, which result in large refunds, lost administrative time, and costs to borrow money to pay settlements."

Since 2009, Ossining has paid more than \$1.27 million in tax certioraris and other associated costs, which the town has had to bond for.

Peekskill City Assessor Michele Jordan has been pushing the city to join the consortium of municipalities in getting a cheaper group rate from Tyler Technologies to correct what she believes have been decades of "inequities" of either over assessed or under assessed parcels.

So far, the Common Council has not committed to pursuing revaluation, due in large part to the hefty cost that Peekskill has no reserves to cover.

Yorktown Police Seek Suspect in Dunkin Donuts Heist

By Rick Pezzullo

Yorktown police are investigating an early morning robbery that took place at Dunkin Donuts Monday on Route 6 in Mohegan Lake.

According to police, a subject described as an Hispanic male entered the store at about 6 a.m. and demanded

money, although no weapon was displayed. He later fled in an unknown direction with \$130.

The subject was described as being 5'8", approximately 38 to 40 years old, wearing a black jacket and black sweater. Anyone with any information can call police at (914) 962-4141.

Zoning Board Grapples with Proposed Sober Home

continued from page 1

"To me there can be no issue whatsoever that this is a convalescent home," Davis maintained. "If there is an ambiguity in the code, that has to be construed in favor of the property owner."

Bucci said when he looked at the definition of a convalescent home in the code it appeared the sober living residence met the criteria of having three or more people who suffer from any disease, affliction or ailment and are habitually kept or bordered.

"We've heard from two different sides here interpreting the code section. I find it interesting that both sides have told us that it's perfectly clear to them what it means and they came out with two completely different answers," Bucci said. "That shows what we're up against here."

The terms convalescent and nursing home were added to Yorktown's Zoning Code in 1969 and special permits for such uses were issued by the ZBA. That was amended in 1997 and the special permit authority was transferred to the Town Board.

ZBA member William Gregory requested the ZBA be able to review the minutes from 1997 when the code was amended. "It would give us somewhat of an idea of what they intended when they made those

changes," he said.

Recently, McCrossan and McGoldrick claimed under the town's Zoning Ordinance their intended use to serve up to 14 recovering alcohol and substance abuse addicts actually fits under the definition of "family" and they could technically proceed with their plans as "a matter of right."

"We're not asking for anything that's different. We fall within everything that is allowed," McCrossan said. "Our application is not about the user, it's about the use, and the use is a permitted use. We will comply with the codes as required. We believe we have a right to be here."

An average length of stay for male and female residents at the sober living home will be between 45 and 90 days. Devin McCrossan, 22, a recovering addict, will be part of a management team that will oversee the facility. Most of the rest of the staff will also be recovering addicts.

A few residents that spoke at the public hearing told the ZBA to follow the laws as written and not make exceptions.

"You're opening up the floodgates to having people having unregulated businesses in residential zones," said resident Pia Riverso. "That's what the danger is."

The ZBA adjourned the hearing to April 24.

Obituaries

continued from page 9

Theodore Nikipoulos, Sr.

Theodore William Nikipoulos, Sr., a resident of Croton-on-Hudson, died on March 29. He was 83.

He was born on November 8, 1930 in Penny Bridge, NY (Tarrytown) to the late Nicholas and Lina (Carmen) Nikipoulos. He was a proud Korean War Air Force veteran. He married Anna Mae Taxter of Tarrytown, on November 6, 1954. He worked and retired from Con Edison in Buchanan, and was an active member of the Knights of Columbus #4730 and parishioner of Holy Name of Mary Church in Croton.

He is survived by his sons, John, Michael, Mark and Page Nikipoulos; daughters Carol Waitkins, Mary Ellen DeAngelis and Beatrice Nikipoulos; sisters, Sophie Janos, Irene Anzivano and Filomena Simons. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his loving wife, Anna Mae in 1999, his son The-



Theodore William Nikipoulos

odore William, Jr. and his daughter Susan Candice Perlman. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Holy Name of Mary Church on Wednesday, April 2 at 10 a.m. Burial will follow at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Sleepy Hollow.

**Businesses
of the Week**

Keep Insurance Agency Valhalla

By Colette Connolly

The folks at Keep Insurance Agency are aware that change can happen to anyone. They also realize that people don't always make the right choices to protect themselves from unforeseen circumstances.

That's why the Valhalla-based agency studies the needs of its clients to provide them with the coverage that suits them best.

President and Chief Financial Officer Patrick Kelly leads Keep Insurance, which has offices in New York and Connecticut. It also owns a number of smaller insurance agencies in the metropolitan area.

Kelly's brother, John, established the business in 1983 while still a college freshman. After earning a business degree, Patrick Kelly went to work for his now late brother, learning everything he could from him.

"In those days, the industry was a true underwriting business where agents had more flexibility in negotiating the price of insurance coverage," said Kelly, a Bronx native.

In today's world, technology and access to information have greatly impacted how insurance policies are written. Customers' credit scores and certain predictive modeling strategies that calculate how much clients should be charged are widely

used, explained Joseph A. Cantarella, the company's executive vice president.

Much of Keep Insurance's focus is underwriting business liability insurance, commercial insurance, contractors insurance and umbrella insurance.

It also provides personal insurance, which includes coverage for automobiles, homes, boats and motorcycles. Customers can also obtain life and health insurance through the agency.

Keep Insurance, which is housed in a more than century-old structure that was formerly used as a Methodist church, represents up to 20 different carriers, all of them A+ rated providers, such as CNA Surety, Encompass Insurance, Liberty Mutual Insurance, National General Insurance, Philadelphia Insurance Companies and Progressive.

Instead of searching online for insurance coverage, Cantarella said customers can reach out to Keep Insurance agents who research the options most suited to their needs.

"Some of the bigger insurance carriers that advertise on TV lead people to believe



Staff of Keep Insurance Agency.

that they are the cheaper option, but that's not necessarily true," Cantarella noted. "I know that we can beat Geico any day."

Unlike other agencies, Kelly said his company is committed to educating customers on how insurance coverage works. For example, submitting too many minor automobile claims can cause premiums to rise.

"I think what many people don't understand is that insurance is meant to protect you when you need it," Cantarella said.

Some of the larger insurance companies often "tweak" coverage in order to save customers money, but that is not necessarily a good thing, he added.

"We analyze the customer's needs and also try to explain to them what the benefits

actually mean," added Kelly, who oversees a staff of 18, which includes Cantarella, Vice President Frank Parisi, Catherine McCarthy, the personal lines manager, and support staff.

In addition to devoting about 65 percent of its business to the personal insurance needs of customers, Kelly said the agency's commercial insurance department helps companies of all sizes--sole proprietors, small businesses and large corporations--including many construction companies. Keep Insurance has also insured government agencies, municipalities, school districts and hospitals.

Kelly said Keep Insurance is a smaller, more agile independent insurance agency, one that has expert staff that can quickly check prices and coverage options and who understand the complexities of the industry.

"All we ask of new customers is that they give us an opportunity to look at their current insurance needs, make recommendations and to put a package together that is suited to their particular needs," Kelly said.

Keep Insurance Agency is located at 27 Cleveland St. in Valhalla. For more information, visit www.keepinsurance.com. To obtain an insurance quote, call 914-220-1400.

Keep Yorktown Clean & Green Celebrate Earth Day

Volunteer for

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Wage a War on Roadside Litter! Saturday, April 26, 2014

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Benedict Arnold's Wife Gets a Novel

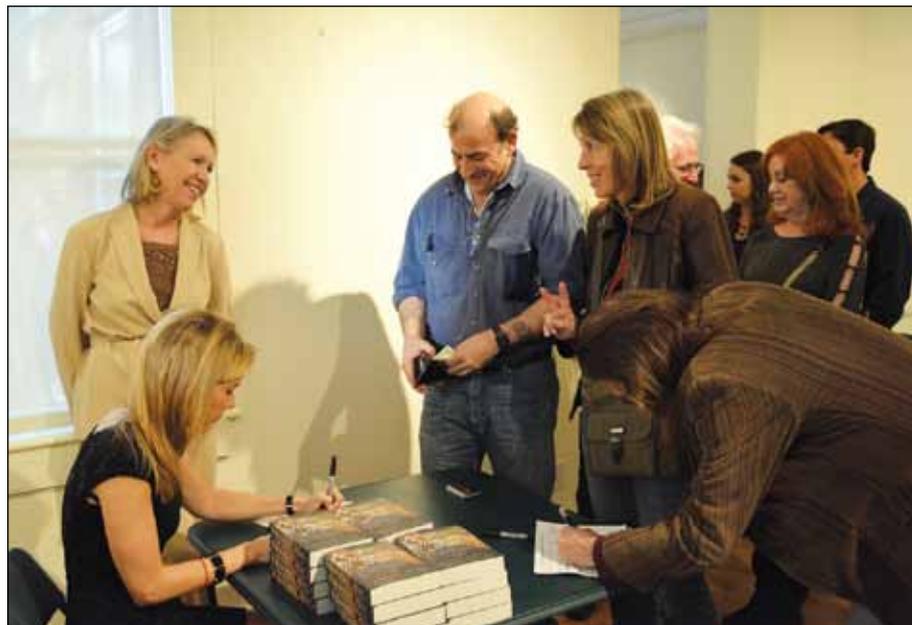
By Tom Acuhteronie

When Allison Pataki and her mother were walking along a trail called Arnold's Flight, she came across a marker that included a portrait and brief description of the famous traitor's wife, Peggy Shippen Arnold. This encounter at the trail, which is located in Putnam County and is the path that Benedict Arnold used to flee, led her to write an historical fiction book, which is called *The Traitor's Wife: The Woman Behind Benedict Arnold and the Plan to Betray America*.

The author, who is the daughter of former Governor George Pataki and grew up in Garrison, spoke about it on Saturday at the Putnam History Museum in Cold Spring.

Pataki spent a considerable portion of her talk discussing the history of the couple. Benedict Arnold, she noted, was "one of our more infamous local residents." Although Arnold was important in major battles during the Revolution – the victory at the Battle of Saratoga, where he was shot in his left kneecap, was noted for its significance in keeping the colonies from being split – he grew dissatisfied due to several events. They included being passed over for promotion by the Continental Congress and being publicly rebuked by George Washington – he was a key supporter of Arnold's – for selling goods on the black market. Pataki likened this rebuke to being a "final straw."

Arnold, a widower, met his future wife, who was a loyalist and came from a well-to-do Philadelphia family, after the British were driven out of the city. Within a month of their marriage, Arnold reached out to the British and offered to spy. British officer John André, who is well known as being Arnold's collaborator, got an overture from him but was skeptical. However, Pataki noted, he was will-



TOM ACUHTERONIE PHOTO

Allison Pataki signs copies of her new book while mom Libby chats with visitors.

ing to deal with his wife, who he knew due to an earlier romantic courtship. She also noted that it was André who drew a portrait of her that is included in the display at the trail.

The plot that forms, Pataki explained, is for Arnold to surrender West Point to the British and for his men to be taken prisoner. In exchange he would get a high commission in the British and the equivalent of about \$1 million in today's money. Losing West Point, which was key for the containing the British due the defensibility of the area, would have been a significant blow in the revolution. Arnold was able to convince Washington to give him a key post for it and then made sure to sabotage its strength by diverting manpower and neglecting maintenance, she explained.

The plot was foiled when André, who

missed his ship because it came under fire, had to travel on foot with the documents that Arnold supplied him. At the time Britain occupied New York City and territory north. Pataki then explained that André was captured by three men just miles away from friendly territory after admitting his role for the British because one of the men wore clothing that led him to believe they were on the same side. Although Arnold wrote a letter mentioning André's travel – he referred to him with an alias – André was detained and the sensitive documentation regarding West Point was to be given to George Washington, who was traveling to meet Arnold at a local residence.

Pataki, not wanting to give away the entire plot, concludes her synopsis, which was met with laughter from the

audience. Taking questions from folks she discussed some rumors, such as whether Peggy Shippen Arnold kept a lock of André's until she died and whether Arnold, before dying, asked for forgiveness for changing sides.

The novel, Pataki explained in an interview, is not from Peggy Shippen Arnold's perspective. Instead, she wants the reader to be able to watch her. The book, for example, includes a fictional lady's maid character and a cast. Asked whether the book could come a movie, she is "optimistic" about it happening.

There were more than two dozen attendees, including George Pataki, mother Libby Pataki – she is a tourism director for Putnam County and gave an introduction speech – Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney and County Executive Mary Ellen Odell.

In her remarks, Libby Pataki noted the local connection of what happened.

"This is where it all came to pass," she said.

In an interview, Odell referred to what Pataki is doing for historical fiction, saying she is "generating a buzz for this genre of writing." The county executive also mentioned upcoming Putnam events, including a cycling classic in May that is in Southeast and the 50th anniversary of the monastery in Kent.

Jonathan Kruk, a Cold Spring storyteller who has been telling Arnold's tale, is excited about the book coming out. Referring to Pataki's work, he suggested it looks as though Arnold's wife's spirit has been captured.

John Duncan, a director at the museum, thought the talk was great. Asked about upcoming events, he noted that the museum will have its annual meeting, which is set for this week and involves electing board members.

NY Knicks D-league Team to Play at County Center

Westchester legislators recently voted to approve a formal licensing agreement with the Madison Square Garden Company (MSG) that would bring the New York Knicks-affiliated National Basketball Association (NBA) Development League team to the Westchester County Center beginning in November. The team will play 24 home games at the County Center with the possibility of up to six playoff games in April.

Following the vote, board Chairman Michael Kaplowitz (D/Somers) said, "This is a tremendous opportunity

for Westchester County and MSG/NY Knicks to establish a quality professional basketball franchise right here in our community. Not only will this provide an exciting and affordable experience for families, having the Knicks Developmental League team here builds on a long and storied tradition of basketball in Westchester County. Schools like Mount Vernon with nine State titles, Peekskill with five, Yonkers, White Plains, Tuckahoe and Blind Brook with multiple state titles and a Westchester alumni list of basketball greats like Ben Gordon, Elton

Brand, Ray Williams, Gus Williams, Earl Tatum, Hilton Armstrong, Scooter McCray, Rodney McCray, Lowes Moore and others, many of whom have gone on to great success in the NBA make Westchester the perfect place for an NBA Developmental squad to call 'home.' The Knicks may be a men's team but clearly, Westchester is also home to dominant Girl's basketball programs like, Irvington, Haldane, Ossining and others"

The license agreement is a five-year licensing deal with an option for MSG to renew for a second five years. The coun-

ty projects to net between \$2,000 and \$12,000 a game, or \$48,000 to \$288,000 per season, not including the playoffs. The agreement carries no risk for taxpayers and has a big upside as attendance and revenues from parking, tickets, food, merchandise, and advertising sales grows.

Majority Leader, Legislator Catherine Borgia, (D/Ossining), said, "This is a fantastic opportunity to benefit Westchester's economy and create new jobs. We all look forward to working with our new partners at MSG in community involvement"

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS 914-864-0878

Peekskill Barber Shop Raises over \$5,400 for Hair Charity

Beale Street Barber Shop on South Street in Peekskill raised more than \$5,400 as host of the first ever Million-Hair Challenge Hair Drive to benefit the Kathleen F. Marks Memorial Foundation.

Six participants cut between 10 to 14 inches of hair each to donate to the foundation's "Hair Because You Care" wig program. The hair will be used to make wigs for local patients who cannot afford to purchase their own human hair wigs.

Each participant fundraised for months, and as of March 25, \$5,442 was raised. The event's top fundraiser was

Danielle Picariello, 9, who raised \$1,660 with her team.

The "Hair Because You Care" wig program is ongoing. Donations can still be made on the firstgiving.com website through the link on the foundation's website www.KFMFoundation.org. Any other businesses or individuals that want to participate can call (914) 497-9308 or send an email to Crystal@KFMFoundation.org.

Six participants in hair drive show hair they collected for wigs at Peekskill barber shop.



Lakeland High Wig 'n' Whiskers Presents Singin' in the Rain April 4-5

The Lakeland High School Drama Club, Wig 'n' Whiskers is proud to present this year's spring musical, Singin' in the Rain.

Performances are Friday, April 4 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, April 5 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. Seating is reserved.

1920's Hollywood is the setting for this zany, light-hearted romantic comedy about the early days of sound film, when many a movie studio found itself scrambling to salvage the career of its

chipmunk-voiced silent picture star.

The MGM classic has been faithfully and lovingly adapted by Broadway legends Betty Comden and Adolph Green from their original award-winning screenplay. Each unforgettable scene, song and dance, is accounted for, including the show-stopping title number, complete with an on stage rainstorm.

Tickets can be purchased through our website, www.wigNwhiskers.com; or you can make reservations by calling (914) 528-0600 ext. 231.



The Lakeland Education Foundation raised \$40,000 during its annual fundraiser March 8. Honorees were Jim Rathschmidt and members of The Unfunded Mandate Band.

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Camps



Preschool Camps: What Parents Should Look for in a Quality Program

By Evelyn J. Mocbeichel

It only takes a few days of warm weather for parents to start thinking ahead to summer camp for their youngsters. Older children usually have their own ideas as to what type of camp activity they are interested in and parents can take a lead from this input. Considering the child's interest is one of the priorities parents want to include. However, once the camp "theme" is established it is up to the parent to check other aspects of the program. When a younger child is being enrolled in a camp, there is even more items to touch upon. Parents of preschool children are left with sorting through camp literature to find the best program for their child. These parents are the ones that should be the most particular when choosing a program for their little ones. This is usually the first camp experience for the child and there are many aspects of safety and program content the parent should question. Parents might like to use the same criteria when looking for a preschool camp program as they would if they were looking to enroll their

child in a nursery school. Following the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) licensing guidelines, the following suggestions should be kept in mind during the search for a preschool camp.

Full or half day?

If your child still takes an afternoon nap, or is not a "high energy" type, then perhaps a half day program is best. Working parents might prefer a full day program that will provide a creative atmosphere for their child, rather than having the child spend the summer at a sitter's house. Some baby-sitters are unable to take the child out of the home environment, if there are several other children, or infants in their charge. Parents that want the child to enjoy fresh air and organized outdoor activities would be best off looking into a professional camp or preschool program. Many school term nursery schools feature summer programs to make their programs "year round" operations. Therefore, the logical choice

would be to continue your child in the same program he or she is comfortable with already, if they offer this service. Or perhaps a parent would like to have the child experience a new environment to create a more exciting summer, and then the search is on for a quality program.

If a child is in a nursery or camp program for more than three hours, the OCFS is required to inspect and approve the school's total program. This includes the teachers' qualifications, staff/child ratio, health and safety factors, size of the facility, the curriculum and a host of other requirements. Some camps are open all summer and others for part of the summer. Weeks of total enrollment may not only depend on your child's activity and interest level, but also on your budget. Ask if there is a minimum of weeks you must enroll.

Will you be driving your child to camp each day or is transportation part of the total fee? Avoid selecting a camp so far away that the very young child will be spending a disproportionate time riding to and from the camp. If busing or transportation is provided, is the vehicle

in good repair and seat belts provided? Do the drivers have safe driving records? Does the camp insure them? Do not feel uncomfortable asking the camp director these questions before enrolling. Your child's welfare is at stake.

Staff ratio

Ask the director or person giving the tour what the ratio is of children-to-staff personnel. In the preschool group at least a 1 to 8 ratio is recommended to provide the best coverage for children 3 to 5 years of age. Is it adult staff or teen assistants in charge of the group? Are these staff members qualified and experienced to work with children in this age group? How many staff are returning from the previous summer? Are the junior staff paid or considered "counselors in training"? (CIT's). In some town parks and recreation programs, these CIT staff must give one year of service before being hired back the following year. Unfortunately, staff attendance may lag because of this summer of

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Preschool Camps: What Parents Should Look for in a Quality Program

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complimentary service. The children suffer because there is not continuity in the program and it becomes difficult to warm up to a counselor that is not there on a regular basis.

Some camps offer an "open house" before enrollment takes place in order to let visiting parents tour the facility and meet the staff. If the camp operates a nursery school year round, visit the school before enrolling in the camp, to have a visual idea of how the management operates its total program. Ask the director of the school for references of satisfied parents whose children currently attend the program, or who have sent a child to their camp program. Telephone and gather information for at least three or four camps you are considering for your child. Visit their website before visiting to see how the camp program is explained. Ask friends who have sent their children to camp about the one they picked. Do not select a camp just because the driving is more convenient or a car pool is readily available. Find one that will meet the needs and interest of your child and is run by the best-qualified, professional staff.

Health and Safety

Very young children need extra

attention while outdoors. What are the rules for supervision while outdoors and what is the condition of the play equipment? Is there a fenced-in play area for very young campers, free from low hanging branches? Where are the bathroom facilities and is the child escorted to the restroom if the group is occupied? A preschool child should have a staff person nearby at all times and not allowed to wander, unattended.

If there is a pool or lake that is used by the campers, is it well supervised at all times and with a certified lifeguard? If your child is not ready, or not interested in water sports, must he or she participate in lessons or group swimming? Parents might prefer looking for a preschool camp program that only offers "sprinkle time", rather than pool or lake activities for the younger child. This will alleviate some of these safety concerns if only water play or sprinkle time is enjoyed by the child.

All camps should require that the child have a medical examination before camp begins. Have your physician list any restrictions or allergies your child might have. Snacks at camp can vary. If there is a food the child cannot have, be sure to bring this matter to the attention of the director at the start of the session. Is there a registered nurse or doctor

on the premises or on call? How many staff members are trained or certified in first aid or CPR? Be sure the camp has your doctor and dentist's telephone number and the name of the hospital you prefer, if emergency medical attention is needed. The camp enrollment form should be thorough enough to ask for this information and other pertinent facts about your child. NOTE: Be sure to update your vital information on your child's enrollment form, should any information change since the enrollment process started. Remember if you sent in this registration several months before camp started you may have changed employment locations or cellular telephone numbers by the time camp starts.

Always list an emergency contact person, if you cannot be reached during an emergency or when the child needs to be picked up. Ask the director what provisions have they set in place to identify any person coming to pick up your child.

Questions, questions

Always ask plenty of questions when looking for a program for your child. Read the camp literature thoroughly and do not hesitate to ask about anything that

seems unclear. Is the program content defined and planned for each week that your child attends? Are the themes and unit activities appropriate for the age of the children or are the children expected to just "play" all day and entertain themselves? Does the camp issue a weekly newsletter to keep you informed about the program? What are the payment schedules and can extra days or weeks be added if the child enjoys the program? Is there a discount for a sibling enrolled in the same camp? What are their policies for withdrawals should the child not be happy at camp or unable to complete the session? Will they refund any money not used for the remaining weeks or can you apply it to next year's camp session?

What is the age range of the children enrolled in the program? Licensing regulations require that the age groups not be mixed, for the safety of all the children. Does the camp you are considering specialize in the preschool child or does the camp include children through teenage years? It is up to the parent to find out the answers they feel add up to a quality camp program. Your child will have a fun-filled summer and so will you knowing each day is spent with friends, in a safe environment and under the watchful, caring eyes of trained professionals.

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You May Not Believe This Personal Story, But I Swear It's True

This column comes with an advance warning: You may not believe it, but it's true.

It involves a feng shui seminar the Home Guru Team sponsored last week for my fellow associates at William



By Bill Primavera

Raveis Real Estate to celebrate my birthday. I had recently met a fascinating feng shui practitioner named Deanna Trust whom I invited to join the team in order to offer her services to listing clients over a certain price point.

Midway through the two-hour presentation, my mouth was open, my eyes

open even wider, as I realized that, unwittingly, I had created a set of conditions within my home that has revolutionized my life within the past three years.

Not that long ago I was down on my luck, deeply in debt and seemed to have few options open to me. Having been the

owner of a highly successful lifestyles public relations agency in the 1980s and 1990s, I was forced after 9/11 to take a nine-to-five nonprofit job that I found less than gratifying while doing odd freelance PR and editorial jobs to make extra money. The only bright spot was, at that time, my part-time entry into real estate.

To take my mind off things, I decided to convert what was my daughter's large bedroom into my work space. Looking for a theme but not wanting to spend much money, I remembered that I had a collection of nautical prints and oil paintings in the attic that my wife and I had inherited from our adopted Aunt Pearl. I had never really been attracted to seascapes but I thought they looked more masculine than the needlepoint and flowery wallpaper in the room. I asked my regular painter, Joe Pascarelli, to strip the wallpaper and to paint the walls a color that would pick up the primary tone of the nautical theme, a medium teal, a color that normally I would never choose.

Then, I moved my collection of about 200 crystals from a guest room to the shelves of my new room. Because I've always had a statue of my patron saint, Joseph, accompany me wherever I sleep, I took him along for good measure.



The Home Guru's work/sleep space: the color teal, a seascape, crystals and St. Joseph.

As soon as I occupied my new space, unexpected things started to happen, but I didn't make a connection. Home Guru readers started calling, saying that they felt they already knew me through my column and wanted to list their homes with me. My real estate business doubled

in one year, then it doubled again the next. The same thing happened in my PR business. I made new friends. New investment opportunities came my way unsolicited. The press reported more on my activities. So I thought, hey, I'm just

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Enjoying Wine as a Transcendent Sensory Experiment

At my periodic wine tasting events for consumers I always emphasize that we each have individual, unique palates. Our individual palates influence our unique senses of taste and smell; our individual palates influence our appreciation of one wine over another; our individual palates segregate us into varying camps, such as red wine lovers or white wine lovers or dessert wine lovers.

But why is this?

The sensory experience we have with wine is focused and centered on two very distinct senses: our sense of taste and our sense of smell. When we savor a glass of wine it is these two senses that transmit ethereal data points to our brain cells and create impressions of the wine. One person's perception of sweetness may be another's perception of savory. One person's perception of an earthy wine may be another's perception of a barnyard characteristic.

Let's delve into the attributes and influences of these two of our five senses.

Our sense of taste. We all remember ninth grade biology. We have four components of our sense of taste: sweet, salty,

sour and bitter. More recently, science has unraveled and defined a fifth sense - umami (savory) that I never knew I had but thank laboratory research for helping me discover it in my physiological make up. We experience these senses when we sip wine and it interacts with our tongue and the lining of our mouth. It is these interactions that send signals to our brains and thereby form impressions of a Cabernet Sauvignon or a Pinot Noir. In turn our receptors create memory banks for future reference so that the next time we taste a wine, these cells, through the signals from our tongue and mouth, will help identify if the wine is Cabernet Sauvignon or another wine.

This would be a fine explanation of how we interact with and perceive a glass of wine, but in fact it is much more complicated.

Our sense of smell. It is with this sense that we truly experience wine. Our brain receptors, and therefore our experience with wine, food and all things aromatic, are influenced significantly greater through our sense of smell than our

sense of taste. Our physiological make up bears this out. When we experience wine, it is our nasal passages that provide the sensory perception of our encounter, much more than our sense of taste. The body of receptors and interactions through our sense of smell includes over ten thousand components.

Therefore, our experiences with wine, and our brains' ability to record and remember these experiences, are overwhelmingly centered in our sense of smell. From fruit characteristics such as cherries or blackberries to nature's natural essence of ocean brine or earthy forest, we encounter all around us through our sense of smell. Without this, we would not be able to distinguish fruity wine from vegetal, or even red wine from white.

These olfactory senses emanate from our nasal passages. This is why I have my wine guests go through a ritual each time they experience a wine: Swirl the wine in the glass to open its bouquet and distinctive aromas; then aggressively insert your nose in the glass to absorb the aromas; then sip the wine and swirl it in your mouth. In this way you are opening the aroma receptors in your nasal passages and your mouth to enjoy the full experience of appreciating, analyzing - and

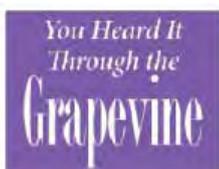
remembering - the wine at hand. It is in this way that I, and my guests and students, are able to anticipate the profile of a bottle of Italian Barolo to be earthy and voluptuous and a French Chablis to have elements of ocean brine or seashells.

The next time you encounter a glass of wine repeat the exercises I've outlined above. From then on your interaction with wine will have a baseline of comparison and a finely focused approach to fully experiencing and memorizing individual wines for future reference.

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



By Nick Antonaccio



You May Not Believe This Personal Story, But I Swear It's True

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on a lucky streak--until the moment in the middle of Trust's lesson when she said: "In feng shui, we work with five elements that operate in harmony in nature: among them is wood, the element that feeds fame and success . . . and water feeds wood . . . so a good color to paint a room where we spend most of our work or sleep time would be a water color, either green or teal, and it would be good to have images of water in evidence."

My mind started racing as she continued: "To energize our intentions, we might also add a crystal or two and, for good measure, maybe an image of the patron saint of the home and productivity, St. Joseph."

By this time, I was in a near state of apoplexy. I raised my hand and told my story to the group. Trust didn't seem surprised while my fellow associates may have felt that I was just adding drama. But I swore to all, it was the truth. And it was all done unwittingly.

"You just made your intentions known to the universe and the universe responded," Deanna explained in a matter-of-fact

way, adding that my bedroom was in the fame/wealth quadrant of my bagua, whatever that is. But who cares about the details when all the basic elements are in alignment and working without my having consciously planned it?

As readers may know, I'm in the process of moving to a new home. Can you guess how I'm planning to decorate my work/sleep space?

If you want to talk with feng shui specialist Deanna Trust for a consultation, call her directly at 973-366-3570. But fair warning: you may find yourself in some future situation that people won't believe.

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



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Crossword

ACROSS

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- 6 Many years old
- 10 Honolulu's ___ Tower
- 11 He gave his name to a doctrine
- 12 Set up newly
- 14 Silent approval
- 15 Creamy desserts
- 23 Factual evidence
- 24 Math proposition
- 25 Omnipotent
- 27 Uncivilized
- 28 Tough interrogation
- 36 Undulations
- 37 Part of a table setting
- 38 Black chalcedony
- 39 Dots on a map

DOWN

- 1 Listen here
- 2 Pub staple
- 3 Big bird of stories
- 4 Even if, briefly
- 5 What Hanna might drive to the

- supermarket
- 6 Mo. without a holiday
- 7 Animal with curved horns
- 8 Botch
- 9 Deer
- 11 Heartland spelled out
- 13 In favor of
- 15 Bookkeeper
- 16 Website abbreviation
- 17 "Fa" follower
- 18 Summit
- 19 Consistent with
- 20 Worldwide fiscal agcy.
- 21 Bird that doesn't fly
- 22 "Do the Right Thing" pizzeria owner
- 26 Roll of bills
- 28 "Tea for ___"
- 29 Solo in space
- 30 Trailing plant
- 31 Dinosaur's last name
- 32 Official US publisher
- 33 Scrape
- 34 Period in the earth's history
- 35 Nixon has two

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36						37				
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See solution on page 21

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Happenings

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

Tuesday, April 1

Somers Library Exhibit: Alice Walsh is exhibiting "Ex Libris: Found Art from a Public Library" at the Somers Library, located in Reis Park, off Route 139, during April. Any questions please contact somersartgallery@wlsmail.org. Visit Alice's website at www.alicewalsh.com. Call the library 914-232-5717 for viewing times in the Program Room.

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

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

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

Wednesday, April 2

Support Connection Program: Support Connection will present a free educational program: "Lymphedema after Breast or Gynecological Cancer," from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Hudson Valley Hospital Center, 1980 Crompond Rd., Cortlandt. The program is open to people living with breast, ovarian and gynecological cancers. To learn more or to pre-register, which is required to attend, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

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, April 3

Teen Portraits: "Inside/Out: Teen Portrait Identity" is being held through April 27 at the Field Gallery in the Field Library at 4 Nelson Avenue, Peekskill. An opening reception is scheduled for today from 3:30 to 8 p.m. For further information call 914-737-1212, e-mail Alicia Morgan,

gallery curator at amorgan@wlsmail.org, or visit the library's website at www.peakskill.org.

Holocaust Commission: The Somers Memorial Holocaust Commission is planning its annual Holocaust program, 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, April 4

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.

Pot Luck Dinner: A Dairy Potluck Dinner, followed by a Shabbat service, will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Hebrew Congregation of Somers, located at Cypress Lane and Mervin Drive. Info: 914-248-9532.

Spring Services: During the spring months, Sabbath services will begin at 8 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, April 5

Veterans' Benefits Workshop: A workshop on veterans' benefits will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 1009, 235 Veterans Rd., Yorktown. The event is being presented by the Veterans service agencies of Westchester County, Putnam County and Yonkers. Call 914-995-2145/2146 if you plan to attend.

Health Fair: The Lions Clubs of Northern Westchester, Putnam and Rockland Counties will hold a Health Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 1040 Main

St., Peekskill. Info: 914-737-8544 or weserve20r1@gmail.com.

Focus On Haftarah: Once each month, during Shabbat morning services at First Hebrew, we discuss what chanting the Haftarah text after the Torah reading adds to our understanding of Torah and how it can help shape our lives. This month's event will be held after today's service, which begins at 8:30 a.m. at First Hebrew, 1821 Main St., Peekskill, just west of Beach Shopping Center. All are welcome. Info: 914-739-0500 or www.firsthebrew.org.

Somers Library Events: A series of events have been scheduled for the Somers Library, located in Reis Park, off Route 139. On April 5 from noon to 1 p.m., a Lotus Flower Lantern Craft Workshop will be conducted. The class is for ages 13 and up. A \$5 material fee must be paid before registration is confirmed. Class size is limited and registration is required. Stop by or call the library to register at 914 232-5717. There is no on-line registration for this event. Also on April 5, from 2 to 4 p.m., Experience the Enhancement of Korea will be held. This multimedia presentation brings to life Korea's rich and unique cultural heritage, from colorful art to modern Korea. Seating is limited and registration is required. Call the library at 914 232-5717 to register or register online at www.Somerslibrary.org. A writers' workshop for adults will be held on Mondays from April 7 to June 30. Session one will be held from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and session two will be held from 2:30 to 4 p.m. It will be presented by Linda Spear. Space is limited, so register early. Register for one session only. Call the library at 914 232-5717 to register or register online at www.Somerslibrary.org. Intermediate iPad and iPhone can be taken on April 7 or 28 Session one will be held from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and session two is slated for 2:30 to 4 p.m. The program is lecture based; owning an iPhone or iPad is not necessary. Register for only one intermediate session. Seating is limited and registration is required. Call the library at 914 232-5717 to register or register online at 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 Anony-mous: Worried about the way you eat? If food rules your life, Overeaters Anony-mous may have the answer for you. There is no weigh-ins, dues or fees. The group meets on Saturdays from 8:30 to 9:30 am at the fourth floor conference at the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, 1350 Route 9,

Garrison. Info: call/text Lisa at 917-716-2488.

Sunday, April 6

Easter Bunny Breakfast: The Yorktown Lions and the American Legion will hold their fourth annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny at the Yorktown American Legion, 235 Veterans Rd. There will be three seatings: 8 to 9:30 a.m.; 10 to 11:30 a.m.; and noon to 1:30 p.m. The fee is \$10 for those 12 and older; \$7 for children between the ages of 2 and 12; and free for children under 2. For reservations, call 914-407-4162 or sent an e-mail to yorktownlionsclub@gmail.com.

Model Seder: Cantor Isabel Kopstein and Rabbi Sternstein will use the actual Seder as a model, showing you how to create a lively Seder, how to sing Pesach melodies in English and Hebrew, and how to use an interactive Haggadah from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. A free Passover gift will be given to all who attend. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 13. RSVP: Rabbisternstein@gmail.com or at 914-245-2324.

Open House: The Soundview Preparatory School, 370 Underhill Ave., Yorktown, will hold a Spring Open House from 1 to 3 p.m. To register, come to the campus or call 914-962-2780 Ext. 112. Info: soundviewprep.org. Info: 914-245-2324 or yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Bingo: Bingo will be played tonight and on May 4 and 18 at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. The doors will open at 5 p.m. and play begins at 6:30 p.m. There will be \$3,000 in prizes awarded during each Sunday session. Food will be available. Info: 914-245-2324 or yorktownjewishcenter.org.

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

Monday, April 7

Somers Library Drive: The Friends of the Somers Library has kicked off its annual membership drive. Membership forms can be picked up at the Somers Library, in Reis Park on Route 139, or you can send your check to - Friends of the Somers Library, PO Box 443, Somers, NY 10589. The Friends are a fully tax deductible-501(c3) organization. Annual dues are \$20 (\$50 Patron, \$100 Sponsor) and donations in any amount will be accepted.

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April 1-April 7, 2014

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

SPORTS SECTION



Pity thy Goalies!

Local Snipers to Tickle Twine

RAY GALLAGHER/BILL KENNEDY PHOTOS

Marksmanship will be at a premium this spring as (L-R) Lakeland/Panas' Dana Bozek, Yorktown's Emily Concialdi, Putnam Valley's Eva Rabson and Mahopac's Kim Harker are among the top snipers in Section 1 and each are integral parts of the big picture for the Rebels, Huskers, Tigers and Indians, who expect to contend for league and section titles this spring... See Girls' Lax Notebook

Sports

Boys Lax Notebook

Depth, Skill Prevail in Yorktown Wins over Put Valley, Jay

by Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

When the text message came in over the phone, upstart Putnam Valley had just cut three-time reigning Section 1 Class B champion Yorktown's lead to 7-3 late in the third quarter of their opening-day lacrosse scrim at PV High.

It was a hopeful Put Valley dad, who has earned respect throughout the lax community for keen twig insight and the D-I DNA distributed to his eldest: "Murphy Cup goes to Lakeland this year!" the text said.

But before an eventual response could be sent Yorktown, with blink-quick effectiveness, had relegated the text mute (reply read: "Wow! Very early, think 'Town will be better by then"). All-American middie Luke Palmadesso (3G, 3A) and All-American attackman Connor Vercruysse (4G, 2A) scored four of the next five goals within five minutes and the Huskers had upped their lead to 11-4 en route to a 13-4 finale on Thursday, March 27th.

The Huskers (2-0) followed up that effort with an 11-4 victory over visiting John Jay on Saturday behind a hat trick from All-American attack Connor Vercruysse (7G, 3A this season). The Huskers got two goals apiece from Mike Dedvukaj (1A), Nicky Bonitatibus (1A),



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Nicky Bonitatibus (L) of Yorktown may have the better inside roll but PV's Paul Sacco was styling the mad USA kicks.

god job there, they came out hard. We just couldn't finish the ball. We were a little sloppy. I'm hoping it's a first-game-kinda-thing. We had stretches in the game that were good; late third and some of the fourth. Again, we've got some new kids, sometimes the focus, which we talk about all the time, but you can't do it for them. Hopefully, we'll come out better on Saturday (vs. Class B finalists John Jay)."

Truth be told, both teams hope to play better, but the new-era Tigers came away having earned a measure of respect for sticking and staying with the heralded green and white, what with their 36 Section 1 titles and six state jewels over the course of four stupendous decades. But depth and superior skills gave way to hope and the title-hungry Tigers settled for a moral triumph.

"Put Valley was feisty though," Marr added. "The slid and covered. They definitely were all over the ball. They didn't give us anything, we had to earn it, and so, they look like they should have a good year."

Upon seeing the Tigers show signs of promise, the PV coaching staff was pleasantly pleased with the degree of fight PV put up. It's been three years since the Tigers hoisted their third Class C sectional crown, and they are hoping that tests like this one prove fruitful in late May when three-time reigning Class C champion Bronxville figures to be fixin' for a fight.

"I'm happy with the way our defense came together," said Put Valley Coach Brian Kuczma, himself a former Yorktown and Hopkins All-American, too. "When we played 6-on-6, I thought we looked pretty good, but against a team

like Yorktown you can't take penalties and make unforced errors and go off-sides like we did at crucial times. But when you can fight four quarters against a Yorktown team, and you know you're not going to come away with a win every time or maybe not even any time, you hope to gain some things out of it, and I think this is going to help us moving forward this season."

Newcomer and Kennedy transfer Brett Trodden (1G) showed promise and veterans Mike

Benvenuti, Rich Denike and edgy midfielder Tommy O'Sullivan also scored for the Tigers, who found it tough to solve Yorktown's Austin Fusco-led defense. The sure-fire two-time All-American-in-waiting was stifling.

It was the dreaded unforced errors that led to Yorktown's game-icing barrage, the Huskers scoring man-up goals at will against PV junior goalie Ryan Mello (7 saves), who has significant skill and next-level potential but made his first start against one of the premier prep programs in all the world while allowing 13 tallies. Huskers Kristopher Alvarado (2G, 1A), Ryan Baker (2A), Nicky Bonitatibus (1G),

Nick Del Bene (2G, 1A), Eric Meyreles (1G), Billy Strassman (1G) were also contributors on the scoring sheet.

"It was the first game of the season so there were some jitters out there, especially with some of the younger guys," admitted Palmadesso, who worked X with precision. "It took a little while to get going but we eventually settled down and started playing our game. PV played us pretty tough today, but we didn't shoot that well today, I thought we got good looks we just didn't finish as many shots as we should have."

The Huskers did fare better against John Jay, putting quick distance between themselves and a potential suitor for their Class B title.

Super 7 Lax Poll

NWE/Putnam Examiner-area
Super 7 poll includes the top teams from its coverage area

No.1 YORKTOWN – After disposing of John Jay 11-4 with very little resistance from the Indians, Coach Marr's Class B Huskers appear to have little to no threat at retaining what would be their 37th sectional title in late May, unless Somers has a notion. Let's face it though, Yorktown will never come back to the pack. One can only hope to give them hell for 4 Q's and thank them for setting the bar so high, and this current unit has the goods to become an instant classic should they continue to improve.

No.2 LAKELAND/PANAS – Obviously, with their big road win over Section 2 power Shenendehowa, Coach Lindsay's Class A Rebels (3-0) appear



Yorktown's Kristopher Alvarado & PV's Tommy O'Sullivan got to know one another in 13-4 Husker win.

Nick Del Bene (2A) and Ryan Baker against the Class B runner-up Indians.

With two big tests out of the way, three-time defending Section 1 Class B champion Yorktown is just getting started.

"We didn't really play very well," Yorktown Coach and former Huskers/Hopkins All-American Dave Marr said, his Huskers ushering in a new era with a crisp new uniform top, foregoing the old-school jersey's the Huskers have worn for decades. "I think Put Valley did a really



Husker Ryan Baker takes a run at Put Valley's Paul Sacco.

Sports

Boys Lax Notebook

poised to put their consistency issues to rest. There is good reason for hope among Rebel followers, so long as nobody believes the dope they read and lets it get in their heads. It's a long, long season with



Put Valley's Brett Trodden celebrates one of four goals he's scored in two games.

plenty of pendulum swings in store, but L/P has emerged as the lead candidate for their first Class A crown since 2010.

"Tough to gauge where we are, we've played hard though," Lindsay said after the Rebs made short work of Arlington in an 18-9 win. Rebel middle Sean Murphy bagged a career-high five goals and added three assists. All-American hopeful Brian Prunty (4G, 2A) and Jimmy Flaherty (4G)



Rebel middle Brian Prunty and company are off and running at 3-0.

were huge, too. "We can be a very good lacrosse team."

Flaherty (9G), Prunty (10G) and Murphy (9G) have blown up here in the early going, forcing teams to lock off three scorers, which is all but impossible to do unless you're Yorktown. The trio were at it again in their 9-7 win over Shen, Prunty (3G, 1A), Murphy (2G, 1A) and Flaherty (2G, 1A) filling the stat sheet.

"We're getting it done for the most part yeah," Prunty said, "We've definitely been sloppy at points but it's still early on so we will work on fixing that. But overall we have played well, everyone has stepped up since last year."

With Put Valley up next (today), the Rebels, whom the Tigers defeated last season, hope to restore a little order between the two.

"That's the plan," Prunty said.

No.3 MAHOPAC - Coach Haddeland's Class A Indians (0-1) have a lot to prove this season if they intend to restore the pride that is credited on account of the nine sectional titles the program has earned, but just one title since 2004 is glaringly painful to accept. Who's the next Tony Tanzi over there in Pacland; remember the

kid that went from Mahopac to Sacred Heart and became the first pro player in Heart history (Boston Cannons 5th round 2008 Major League Lacrosse). Most pre-season pollsters/pundits are snubbing the Indians, who should play with a pretty hefty chip on their shoulders since their line of credit is pretty low right now, and Thursday's 7-6 loss to 2013 Class A finalist North Rockland (now there's something you never thought you'd type) didn't help any, despite D.J. Pearl's (3G, 2A) five-point effort.

"Respect is earned," Haddeland said. "Penalties killed us against North Rockland." No excuses come Thursday vs. Arlington.

No.3A SOMERS-Tyler Devito pumped home three goals for Coach Lew Janavey's Class B Tuskers (0-1), but it wasn't enough in a 9-4 opening-day loss to visiting Iona Prep. When they get healthy, we suspect the Tuskers, based on their vast level of athleticism, can stick around with Yorktown and quite possibly advance to their first title tilt since 2010.



Yorktown's Luke Palmadesso and PV's Mike Benvenuti exchange pleasantries in Huskers' 13-4 win last Thursday.

No.5 PUTNAM VALLEY - What a difference an opponent makes. Coach Kuczma's Class C Tigers (1-1) opened up against Yorktown in a 13-4 loss but bounced back sharp in 12-7 romp of Fox Lane behind a hat trick from senior Mike Benvenuti and two from seniors Kevin Fitzsimmons and Rich Denike in a fairly balanced display of scoring. Saw some good things from the Tigers in their loss to Yorktown, including Royce Conlin at the dot. Brett Trodden had three goals and one assist in Putnam Valley's win over Fox Lane and has four goals in two games.

No.6 HEN HUD - Well, the youthful Sailors gave L/P a real battle for a half (4-3), courtesy of some excellent netminding from Pete Finnell (22 saves), but the

number of looks the Sailors allowed the Rebels caught up to them in the second half of a 15-6 loss. Rebel Jim Flaherty and Brian Prunty each racked up three goals and two assists. Young Kevin Prunty added a career-high four goals and Sean Murphy had two goals and one assist. Sailors have big test today vs. John Jay and Somers Thursday.

No.7 BREWSTER - Coach Honey's Class B Bears (2-0) opened strong and saw three goals and five assists come off the stick of Fairfield-bound middle Liam DaRos in a 13-1 win over North Salem. DaRos (16 points in 2 games) added six goals and two assists in Brewster's 16-9 win over Clarkstown South. Big test today vs. Somers.



Brewster's Liam DoRos has been on fire during the Bears' 2-0 start.

Sports

Girls' Lax Notebook

Put Valley Targets Repeat in Class C

Yorktown, Lakeland/Panas, Mahopac, Somers Expect to Contend

By A.J. Martelli

PUTNAM VALLEY became title town last year when the Tigers made history, winning their very first Section 1 Class C chip. It only got better for Put Valley when they rolled through regionals, and made it to the New York State Final 4. The Tigers may have lost in the state semifinals, but enough good could not be said about the girls' lacrosse team who, in their own words last year, were the "superstars at school."

And this year, even after graduating top stars Erin McCrudden and Melissa Wagner, the Tigers are hoping for a repeat effort behind Coach Kurt Worell – now in his third year at Put Valley.

Worell will bring back senior Sam Cunningham and junior goalie Kayleigh Hartnett; juniors Jackie Cunningham, Eva Rabson and sophomore Steph Wagner – all key contributors to last year's historic run. Kaitlyn Phillips, Erin Mah, Kristen Arraiano and Antonia Hoyos will also provide the Tigers with some pop.

"We expect to build on the success we had in 2013," Worell said. "We will continually push ourselves past our comfort levels to gain the necessary experiences to be the most competitive athletes we can be. We want to prepare



Put Valley's Jacqueline Cunningham.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Yorktown's Casey Duff.

all season long with competition that will enable us, as a team, to defend the title in the Class C championship game."

Wagner also mentioned the team's goal of repeating, and knows being in a league with teams like Yorktown, Somers, Brewster, and Lakeland/Panas will be a true test of will.

"Our goal is the same as last year, to be in the section finals," she said. "It's tough to have lost some top players this year, but we have a few girls stepping up to fill their shoes – those being Kaitlyn Phillips, Antonia Hoyos, and myself.

"We are really focusing on a strong, aggressive defense, and we have a large array of girls who have proved they can score; many of our goals have been spread across the team. We know we have a tough schedule this year, but we are ready to take the challenge. It'll help and prepare us for sectionals and beyond."

Put Valley has already picked up where it left off, starting the season 2-0 with an 8-3 win over Nanuet and an 18-17 conquest of

Clarkstown South this past Friday.

The Tigers will face off Thursday against league opponent YORKTOWN, who in recent years has established itself as the team to beat in Class B. Although going 16-3 last season, the Huskers were upset by John Jay-Cross River in the section finals. The bitter end to last year is all the motivation Yorktown needs this year, as the Huskers will look to get back on track with a strong corps of returning players.

Led by Coach Ellen Mager, in her 11th season at the helm of the team, Yorktown will sport senior middle Emalee Mongno, who will be playing for Ohio State next year. Mongno will likely do most of the heavy lifting, but she'll have a solid support group with senior attack Emily Concialdi (a USC commit), senior

middle Sydney Stern (SUNY Oneonta), and sophomores Casey Duff and Katie Comerford. Marist-bound senior goalie Bianca Dente is currently out with an ACL issue, but when she gets back to 100 percent, she will be tough to be beat.

Junior attack Jenna Gammer was as clutch as they come last year, and she talked a lot about how hard the Huskers have been working to make this season one to remember.

"As a team, we're excited to finally start playing," she said. "We've been working extremely hard in the preseason. One of our strengths this year is our talented offense where everyone is a threat and contributes in scoring plays.

"Our defense is also very solid, and with the intensity and competitiveness we bring to practice, we all continue to improve. All of us have been playing together for years and with our camaraderie both on and off the field; with our motivation and work ethic, I definitely think we will have a much happier outcome at the end of this season."

Before hosting defending Class C champion Put Valley Thursday, the Huskers open their season tomorrow on the road against Class B rival Fox Lane.

Though eliminated in the quarterfinals last year by Scarsdale, LAKELAND/PANAS is always a top contender in Class A, and this year will be no different. Coach Sharon Sarsen, in her 28th year as



Yorktown's Sydney Stern.

boss of the Rebels, hopes to her team can go one step ahead and better last year's record of 10-6-2.

"Our expectations this season are to improve our game from 2013," Sarsen said. "We have more depth and a bit more experience. We will miss tri-captains Rebecca Bard, Kristen Conroy and Gianna Bensaia this season; miss their intensity and competitiveness. We have to find a way to replace those aspects of our team."

Coming back to sure up the midfield will be sophomore Dana Bozek, who last year netted 37 goals and made 25 assists, Katie Bradbury (26 goals and 10 assists last year), and junior Gianna Paglia. On attack senior captain Molly Fitzpatrick will lead the way as she did last year with a team-high 78 goals, while adding 18 assists.

Senior Krista Sawler will also be returning, and the Rebels will be paced on defense by senior captain Kim Monteferrante, senior Kayla Moore, and junior Ellie Dineen-Carey. In goal will be Amanda Santos, who secured a save percentage of 51 in 2013. Junior Alex Haplin will also see time in the net.

Newcomers Valerie Perkins (sophomore attack), Brianna Muniz (sophomore defense) and Courtney Araujo (junior defense) will also give the Rebels some extra volume.

"We want to improve in 2014," Sarsen added, "and win every time we take the field."

MAHOPAC finished last year 10-7-1 and made a good playoff push, despite

Sports

Girls' Lax Notebook



Rebel Katie Bradbury.

losing 9-5 in the Class A quarterfinals to Suffern. This year Head Coach Jim Lieto, in his sixth season, returns a strong bunch of girls who have the stuff to put together a winning campaign.

"We're very excited," Lieto said. "We have one of the biggest and most talented returning groups we've had in a while, and we feel that the returning players are ready to step into these roles."

The Indians will be headed up on offense by Kim Harker, Mahopac's leading scorer last season with a team-high 70 goals; last year she also distributed 14 assists. She'll be backed up by Carly Weiss, who last year netted 44 goals and made 20 assists.

"Kim is a tremendous player with a combination of speed, endurance, and fantastic stick skills," Lieto said. "Carly



Mahopac's Kim Harker.



Mahopac goalie Anna Raymond.

is great at creating on the field; she can dodge really well to score or draw the double team and find the open cutter."

Captain Erin Moloney will be a key component in the midfield, along with Tara Ravoli, Alyssa Kirby, and Sarah Lilley. On defense the Indians will look to be led by Jane Kasparian, Sarah Quarto, and Delany Volpe. Between the pipes Anna Raymond returns in her fourth year on the varsity squad. The Indians are goal-driven this year and would like to be the last team standing, though the road to a section chip will be difficult.

"Our goals are to go as far as we can in sectionals and compete with all the top teams in our area," Lieto added. "The competition is very strong in our class with Suffern returning its entire team. North Rockland and Lakeland/Panas consistently have strong teams, and Mamaroneck and Scarsdale have been improving rapidly, so it will be a hard road to sectionals."

The Indians opened this past Friday at home against Wappingers, and came away with a 16-4 win. Harker led the tribe with six goals and threw in an assist; Kelly Maxwell was right behind her with three goals and three assists. Mahopac will be back at it this evening, on the road vs. Pearl River.

SOMERS will also be in the mix this year, after going 11-5-1 last year and making

it to the Class B semifinals. The Tuskers fell just short to Yorktown in the semis, but to some are considered favorites this year to win it all. With Coach Jaime Irving leading the way, Somers will bring back a strong bunch of scorers and finishers.

The Schurr sisters, Tara and Emma, will be playing at Boston next year but before they do, they will surely turn heads this season. They'll be the Tuskers' two key players on offense, backed up by junior Nicole DeMase (middle/attack) and Emily Englert (attack). Sydney Ericson, Diana Bradbury, Shannon Coogan, Allie Arcidiacono, Izzy LaRocca and Gabby Rosenzweig will shape the rest of squad on both sides of the field, while goaltender Aly Martone will handle a lot of the work in the net.

Irving talked about the team goals for the year, hoping to take the next step and win the section.

"At the beginning of each season we set goals and expectations," she said. "We want to make it further in the playoffs than last year, so we are aiming to get to the section finals and win. We want to make sure that every day we are always challenging ourselves and moving forward."

"We expect to never become complacent and always know that anything can happen on any given day, and to make sure that each day we step onto the field, we bring our A game and do the small things."

Somers (1-0) brought its A game when it opened the season last Thursday with an 11-7 win over Mamaroneck; DeMase leading the way with four goals.

In Conference I, League B **CARMEL** will be a team to keep an eye on. The Rams, led by Coach Kerry Hackert, went 10-8 last year and made it to the Class A quarterfinals, where they lost to North Rockland. Carmel will look to do a little better this year though, returning junior middle Caitlyn Murphy, junior attack Hannah Aull, and junior attack Ciara Breslin. SUNY Purchase commit Virginia Redlon, and defenders Maria Gura and Kelly McElroy are expected to help carry the load as well.

Newbies Tierney Day (sophomore goalie), Ivana Kariusakova (middle), Tiffany Horn (middle), and Ashley Heis (attack) will give the Rams an added dynamic.

"We are very excited for this season," Hackert said. "Last year, in our third year as varsity, we won the league and won our first sectional game. We are looking to make more Carmel lacrosse history this



Brewster's Lily Lleshaj

season."

The Rams (0-1) started their campaign last Thursday with a 20-11 loss to **BREWSTER** - who, led by seven-year boss Gerry Walsh, will look to improve upon last year's record of 8-9-1. The Bears graduated big time finisher Kristen Ohberg, but will bring back senior middle/attack Lily Lleshaj to fill the void. The Bears just two short years ago were Class B finalists, falling to powerful Fox Lane, and certainly have the goods to get back to prominence this season.

The Youthful **HEN HUD** Sailors in Class C will be another team to look out for in Conference I, League B with junior middies Amber Feminella (53 goals, 18 assists last year), Jackie Riefenhauser, and Rachel Blitzer leading the way. Last year the 10-8 Sailors were a casualty of Putnam Valley's run, but pose a threat to make of run of their own this season.

Fresh off his second straight New York State girls' basketball title, Coach Dan Ricci of **OSSINING** will lead the Pride to what will surely be another winning lacrosse season. Last year Ossining went 12-5-1 behind ace shooter and 200-goal scorer Molly Malone, but upon losing her to graduation, Abby Squirrell, Stef Svoboda, Jalay Knowles, and the Hagerman sisters - Camilla and Gabby - are expected to pick up the dirty work.

The Pride opened this past Friday with a 19-7 win over Harrison; Squirrell peppered the net six times to lead Ossining to the win, and threw in three assists for good measure. Gabby Hagerman helped out with four goals and an assist.

"Eight of our girls play basketball, so they just got out onto the field (last Monday)," Ricci said. "So all things considered, we did OK. Abby was very dominant on draws and dictating the offense. Gabby Hagerman also played well in the midfield."

The Pride (1-0) will play their next game tomorrow afternoon at home against Pleasantville.

Del Bene & the Jets

Huskers Soaring Start No Surprise



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Yorktown attackman Nick Del Bene (R) scored twice and assisted on another goal against Connor Malone and the Putnam Valley Tigers in the visiting Huskers' 13-4 opening-day win last Thursday. Three-time reigning Section 1 Class B champion Yorktown (2-0) followed that up with a statement win on Saturday, clouting John Jay 11-4 at Charlie Murphy Field while the Tigers bounced back nicely in a 12-7 road win at Fox Lane... see Boys Lax Notebook

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