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The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER Examiner

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

October 13 - October 19, 2015

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 7, Issue 301

See
Sports**Surging Somers Still
No.1 in NYS...**

PHOTO BY DANIEL LEFKOWITZ

Festival of Fun

The seventh annual Yorktown Festival & Street Fair, sponsored by the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Yorktown, attracted large crowds to Commerce Street and Veterans Road Sunday. For more photos, see back page.

Probe Ongoing for Missing Millions in Mahopac Fire Dept.

By David Propper

As much as \$5 million could be missing from the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department's coffers, and what started out as only speculation on the street has turned into a full-blown investigation that has residents on edge.

After weeks of swirling rumors, the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department acknowledged on its website and posted to its Facebook page that that Board of Fire Commissioners for the department are aware of an investigation currently being conducted by multiple agencies,

including the New York State Police and Putnam County District Attorney's office "into what appears to have been embezzlement or misappropriation of funds."

The release stated this past summer, the Board of Commissioners noted "serious discrepancies in financial reporting." They were discovered between the treasurer's monthly financial reports and annual audit of department finances.

"As the investigation is ongoing, it would be premature to state specifics, such as the person or persons involved,

Continued on page 2

Yorktown Elementary Band Teacher Charged with Child Porn

By Rick Pezzullo

A band teacher at Crompond Elementary School in the Yorktown School District was charged last week with distributing a child pornography video online.

Jeffrey Whalen, 45, of Yorktown, was placed on administrative leave after being arrested by the Westchester District Attorney's Office last Tuesday on felony charges of possessing an obscene sexual performance by a child and promoting an obscene sexual performance by a child in late August at his home.

The District Attorney's Office alleged Whalen shared a sexually explicit video of child between the age of eight and 10 on a file-sharing computer network. He was arraigned in Village of Sleepy Hol-

low Court and released without bail.

Whalen is still listed on Crompond's staff directory but he is the only staff member whose email was removed. The district alerted parents to Whalen's arrest in an email.

"On Tuesday afternoon the Yorktown Central School District was made aware that one of its teachers had been arrested and charged with possession and distribution of child pornography. The teacher is Jeff Whalen, who is based in the Crompond Elementary School," the district stated.

"Mr. Whalen was not working in the district on Tuesday and will be on administrative leave pending the disposition of further proceedings. We want to

emphasize that the authorities have said at this point they are not aware of any involvement of district students. The investigation is still active and unfolding. The education of our students, their security and emotional well-being remains our top priority," the district continued.

One district resident, Wendy Segal, a local tutor, defended Whalen in an online post.

"My sons enjoyed his teaching nearly 20 years ago, and he ignited in them a love of playing an instrument and a love of music through his patience, caring and enthusiasm," Segal wrote. "I say innocent until proven guilty, especially for someone who has really been an asset to the school."



Jeffrey Whalen



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Probe Ongoing for Missing Millions in Mahopac Fire Dept.

Continued from page 1

the amount of funds involved or the prospects of restitution or recovery," the department stated. "The Board of Fire Commissioners is working with law enforcement officials and the fire departments outside legal and insurance consultants, to see to it that all appropriate action is taken to safeguard the assets of the fire department."

The department's now-former treasurer, Michael Klein, resigned September 25 as the probe dragged on, according to a published report. He had been the treasurer since 2003 and owns Buckshollow Emergency Equipment in Mahopac. His company even sold equipment to the Mahopac Fire Department, according to the report, despite him also being the department's treasurer.

"This is by far the largest issue involving finances that I've been involved with," Carmel Supervisor Ken Schmitt said.

Schmitt said he was a "very proud" life member of the Mahopac Fire Department, joining when he was 16 years old. He stressed residents to not throw an avalanche of criticism on the entire department and its services because of "one bad apple."

"We're talking about one individual right now deciding to do what he did,

please do not lump all the members of the fire department," Schmitt said. "Don't paint them with one broad paint brush. That is wrong to do that."

Schmitt continued, "The one bad apple that they had, he will pay. There will be consequences for him...it's disgraceful what this individual did and he will pay for his crimes."

After the meeting, Schmitt reiterated the focus of the investigation is on one individual. When asked if others could be culpable, he said, "We all need to let the investigation run and work itself out."

"Every stone is being turned over, every account is being looked at, every file is being examined," Schmitt said. "There's a forensic audit going on with the state comptroller."

He noted the town board is limited in what information they can request from the fire department--a non-profit organization--when weighing what monies they deserve for the next fiscal year. Schmitt said while the fire department files financials each year, those finances are only associated with the funding allocated from the town to the department.

"It doesn't mean that there are other accounts that we haven't reviewed," Schmitt said.

A couple of residents spoke at last

week's meeting, urging the town to explore ways to make the fire department more accountable and transparent.

Resident and business owner Michael Barile said he believes the town board should take out at least \$521,000 allotted for the fire department, which would result in a zero percent increase.

"I don't remember the last time we had zero," Barile said. "It's quite obvious they don't need that \$521,000."

Resident Robert Buckley suggested the town board potentially designate the department as a fire district, rather than its current status as a fire protection agency, which would allow for "full transparency" akin to the school district and library budgets.

Buckley, like Barile, encouraged the town board to hold some of the money the department is requesting back and "make them really be transparent before you start giving it away because it is our tax dollars."

Councilman Jonathan Schneider, who was past treasurer and currently assistant treasurer for a fire district in Westchester County, said, "Everything we did as a fire district was transparent to the public."

Schneider stressed the town has a "great group of volunteers in our community that we need to acknowledge and

they need to understand that they're appreciated, especially through times like this."

He noted that gratitude would help convince "rank and file" firefighters to go along with a fire district. A fire district allows the public to vote on board of commissioners, but not the actual budget. It does though, allow residents to make freedom of information requests, and attend and speak at open meetings.

Schneider said he's voiced privately for several years the need for a fire district and noted some fire department officials have even agreed with him. With this latest scandal rocking the community, the creation of a fire district should be the first thing that comes to resident's minds.

"What has transpired here, obviously can't be changed," Schneider said. "Whatever comes to fruition during the investigation comes to fruition. That can't be changed. That's the past."

Schmitt said the board would be discussing it up until November 20 if the department would get the full amount of money it requested, which is \$2.1 million.

When asked what he personally thought of the budget request, Schmitt said, "I'm not going to venture into an opinion on that at this time."

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What women should know about 3D mammography...



Ask the Doctor

Bonnie Litvack, MD, FACR

Director, Women's Imaging
Northern Westchester Hospital

nwhbreastinstitute.org/DrLitvack

Q: Are 3D mammograms becoming the standard?

A: Three-dimensional mammography is the most advanced imaging technique. This innovative screening and diagnostic mammography tool is called Digital Breast Tomosynthesis (DBT). Two-dimensional digital mammography remains the standard of care for breast cancer screening. However, Digital Breast Tomosynthesis is now an FDA-approved option for both screening and diagnostic mammography.

Q: What are the benefits of 3D?

A: The medical literature has shown that Digital Breast Tomosynthesis has a higher cancer detection rate than 2D digital mammography alone and DBT decreases the number of patients who need to be called back for additional images, reducing patient stress. Digital Breast Tomosynthesis can be beneficial for all women. However, it is most helpful for those with dense breasts, women who are at high risk for breast cancer and women with a personal history of breast cancer.

For women who do have a suspicious mass and require a biopsy, 3D mammography offers another benefit: The technology can be used to guide the biopsy needle. This translates to quick, accurate biopsies, and it means that the procedure will be shorter for patients and they'll have less exposure to radiation.

Q: What can I expect during the test?

A: At Northern Westchester Hospital, we use the Hologic 3D Mammography unit. The 3D scan is performed at the same time and with the same machine as the 2D mammogram. For the 3D portion of the exam, the arm of the x-ray machine sweeps in an arc over the breast taking multiple thin section images of the breast. There is no additional compression required and the 3D acquisition only takes a few seconds longer for each view. The thin section 3D images allow the radiologist to view the breast tissue layer by layer minimizing breast tissue overlap, enabling the radiologist to provide a more confident assessment.

*American Cancer Society

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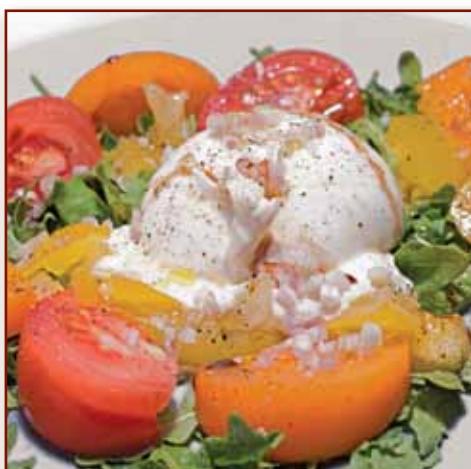


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Councilman VISHNU PATEL tells what he wants to accomplish as YORKTOWN SUPERVISOR.

Dear Neighbor,

The priorities for how we spend our money should not reflect the whims of one man, his political contributors and business associates, nor his political party. **There is no Republican way or Democratic way to pave a road or pick up garbage—only a cost-effective way or a wasteful way.** That's why my administration will give you back the ability to influence the important decisions affecting your life. I will end one-man rule and treat those who disagree with respect.



You would never choose to squander millions on a new highway garage that we don't need or do an expensive shoddy clean-up that leaves construction debris where children will play. We will give you full information about how the town proposes to spend your tax dollars, listen carefully to what you want, and base decisions on your priorities. **No more dishonest budgets that hide how the town is spending your money and no more raids on our rainy day funds.**

I am a scientist who finds solutions to complex problems. One of my inventions made possible I.B.M.'s Watson computer, the system that processes information more like a human than a machine. I will use technology to improve services, keep you informed and provide services at lower cost. My administration will implement an emergency notification system that really works. **In power outages, the town should send text messages to residents instead of foolishly relying on TV broadcasts that can't be seen without electricity.**

Our town website is obsolete. My administration will add safe online payment of taxes, water bills and other fees. We will implement online registration for all town programs. And **when controversial issues face us, our website will enable you to voice your opinions. I will personally read and answer every response.**

We can save money for taxpayers by achieving economies of scale through sharing services and purchases with neighboring towns and our two school districts. **Last, but not least, I will be a full time supervisor. My door will always be open to meet with you, listen to your concerns, and provide answers to your questions.**

Regards,
Vishnu

Yorktown does not need any more expensive mistakes!

GOP Committee Questions Patel Use of Campaign Funds

By Rick Pezzullo

The Westchester County Republican Committee has filed a complaint with the state Board of Elections alleging Councilman Vishnu Patel, who is challenging incumbent Supervisor Michael Grace, failed to comply with campaign finance law by not itemizing how the \$40,000 he contributed from his own pocket were being spent.

Patel, a Democrat who does not accept campaign contributions, reported in his 32-pre general election filings with the Board of Elections the \$40,000 deposit he made was to cover expenses from Franklin Baraff Communications for consulting, printing, mailings and campaign literature.

"Refusing to submit the proper paperwork prevents both the New York State and Westchester County Board of Elections from properly reviewing how Mr. Patel and Franklin Baraff Communications are spending the \$40,000 he supposedly paid them for certain services," said Guy Parisi, chairman of county GOP Committee Law Committee. "It is clear Mr. Patel and his campaign are paying expenses that are going unreported."

However, Patel said he was advised by the county Board of Elections to report his \$40,000 payment to Baraff Communications the way he did and has an itemized

expense list that he will file in the future.

"It's like when you pay for a vacation in advance and then you find out what everything cost," Patel explained. "I am spending my own money. I get no nickel from anybody. I don't salute anybody."

Meanwhile, Grace's war chest for his reelection campaign exceeded \$27,000 in contributions following an additional \$9,715 he reported receiving in his 32-pre general election filing. He also reported spending \$9,064, leaving his campaign with a balance of \$11,948.

In his latest filings, Grace, who is seeking a third two-year term, reported receiving \$1,000 contributions from GHP Strang, LLC of White Plains, Kenneth Modico of Putnam Valley, who owns KJM Construction Management of White Plains, and Robert Butterworth of Casenovia, NY, an environmental engineer who prepares studies and designs for wastewater and sludge treatment facilities.

Other sizeable contributions came from Envirogreen Associates of Katonah (\$750), a consulting engineering firm owned by Richard Cipriani of Mohegan Lake; EMAN Development Group, LLC of Hawthorne (\$600); Laborers International Union of N.A. (\$500); and CDD Strategies, LLC of New York City (\$300), which has worked with Spectra Ener-

gy's Atlantic Bridge pipeline expansion project and the Algonquin gas transmission expansion project, both of which run through Yorktown.

A few weeks ago, Grace maintained he was not influenced by financial contributors and was not even aware who made donations.

"I have a treasurer who handles that. I don't get involved with that," Grace remarked. "I have blinders on who donates

to me. I don't even bother to look. Does it influence me? Absolutely not. I do what I think is right, notwithstanding anything else."

Patel thinks otherwise, saying, "He has a long list of contributors, all the way from Yorktown to Alaska. They're looking for a return on their investment."

Grace and Patel are scheduled to square off in a debate on Wednesday, October 21 at 7 p.m. at Yorktown Stage.



State Senator Terrence Murphy (R/Yorktown) announced last week Yorktown had been awarded a \$7,500 grant to start clearing the right-of-way in preparation of the connection between the North County Trailway and FDR State Park.

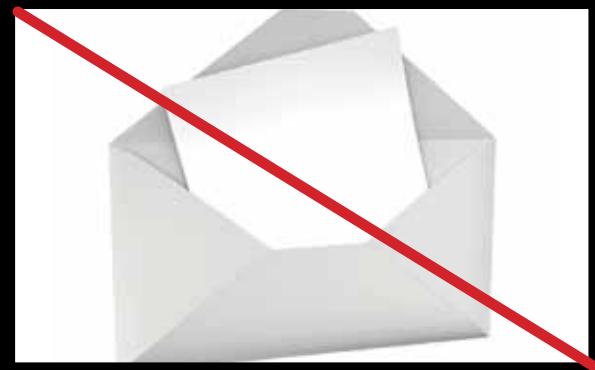
Tom Diana Wants to Keep You in the Dark



He's opposed to using town email lists to send you politically controversial information like the proposed \$4.8 million highway garage project that he supports.



He's opposed to televising the Town Board's public work session meetings. He doesn't want you to see how he is a rubber stamp for Supervisor Grace.



He opposed sending a letter to 200 residents letting them know they could hook up to sewers so that only a handful of special people would get the information.

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Mayor Rips Peekskill Democrats Code Enforcement Plans

By Rick Pezzullo

The Peekskill Democratic slate unveiled a code enforcement program for the city last week designed to more aggressively address ongoing complaints and violations in neighborhoods.

However, Mayor Frank Catalina main-

tained the delays in city officials inspecting plumbing repairs, driveway permits, building permits and certificate of occupancies were caused by Peekskill being short two full-time employees in the Building Department that were eliminated during the previous administration.



Hendrick Hudson High School seniors Danielle Bufano, Spencer Mazzilli and Kennan Ewing were recently named Commended Students in the 2016 Merit Scholarship program. Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2016 competition by taking the 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

"Just on the face of it, they want to make our building inspectors and code enforcement officers paper pushers, more concerned with making reports to the Council than doing their jobs," Catalina charged. "It is not the purview of the Council to supervise them, that's the role of the city manager, and he's doing a great job, as I see it."

Democratic mayoral hopeful Ken Martin and his running mates, councilwomen Kathy Talbot and Vivian McKenzie, and Andre Rainey, are proposing to require regular reports be made to the Council on problems in the city, and the code enforcement hotline be published on all city communications with residents and businesses.

In addition, the Democrats are seeking mandatory annual re-registration for landlords and income producing properties to ensure the city and first responders can reach landlords at any time. Failure to re-register would result in fines being levied against tax bills.

"The fact is, Peekskill has numerous laws on the books that allow the city to go after negligent landlords and address code violations that destabilize neighborhoods," Martin said. "Instead of creating new laws that would make backyard barbecues a crime, we need to publicly hold

the city accountable for ensuring that its code is enforced aggressively."

"One of the things we learned during the fire on South Division Street was just how difficult it is to find a landlord who is renting out apartments in Peekskill," McKenzie said. "If you want to make money in Peekskill by renting out apartments, then you need to ensure we know how to find you if and when a problem emerges or a resident has a complaint."

Catalina said the city already has detailed records of every property owner and a requirement to register 'annually' was rejected by McKenzie and Talbot, along with the rest of the Democratic majority on the Council.

"If the councilwomen even read their emails they would find weekly reports from the Building Department outlining exactly what they are asking for and additional detail regarding cases pending, in the reports filed by the Legal Department," Catalina remarked. "The Building Department investigates every complaint they receive, so I'm not sure what they mean by requiring them to develop a 'pro-active plan to visit every neighborhood in the city annually' and that's why I ask again, if this were a serious proposal, why not bring it to the table at any C.O.W. (Committee of the Whole) meeting?"

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Obituaries



Joan Reynolds

Joan Reynolds

Joan Reynolds, a resident of Ossining, died suddenly October 6 at her home. She was 84.

Born on August 13, 1931, in Stamford, Connecticut, she was the daughter of Willis and Angelina Nobile Springer. On September 5, 1987, she married William Joseph Reynolds, who survives her.

In her own quiet way, Mrs. Reynolds was a woman of many accomplishments. At a time, when most people would retire, she embarked on a second career by becoming a certified Home Health Aide. She worked in this capacity, until her retirement in 2008.

Due to a head injury, as a child, Mrs. Reynolds was unable to continue her formal education. But, at the age of 79, she completed the requirement for her GED, in only four months' time, earning a 92.5% average.

She and her husband were longtime members of the Westchester County Democratic Committee, and she served as an Election Inspector for 32 years. In 1988, she and her husband ran for Alternate Delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

Before he became sick, Mrs. Reynolds and her husband enjoyed their semi-annual trips to Jamestown, NY for the Lucy-Desi Festival. In her spare time, she enjoyed knitting, crocheting, jigsaw puzzles and word search puzzles.

Mrs. Reynolds is also survived by her two sisters, Vivian Brown of Peekskill, and Petrina Head of Dover Plains, NY, and two brothers, Felix and Joseph. She

is also survived by three aunts, Ginny Juhoda of Ossining, Janet Williams of Norristown, Pennsylvania and Mary Boerner of Croton-On-Hudson.

Contributions may be made in her memory to the Peekskill Chapter of the Salvation Army, 117 Nelson Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566, where she served as a soldier. Private services were arranged by Dorsey Funeral Home, Inc. in Ossining.



Carole Jacobson

Carole Jacobson

Carole Jacobson, of Fort Myers Florida, formerly of Yorktown Heights, unexpectedly died September 23, while in flight from Beijing, China to Toronto, Canada. She was 72.

She was born in the Bronx on October 19, 1942, to Max and Pearl Schenckler. She grew up in the Bronx and then in Queens. She graduated from Forest Hills High School, and went on to earn a Master's degree in reading from Queens College and a Master's degree in special education from the College of New Rochelle.

Mrs. Jacobson, a passionate and dedicated third grade teacher for over 35 years, treated each child as an individual. Her support and encouragement motivated and inspired her students with the intention of giving them a love for learning. She worked closely with various local colleges as she served as a mentor to many aspiring teachers.

She and her husband Gil, a former Yorktown Assistant Superintendent for

Business, had their daughter attend and graduate from the district. Mrs. Jacobson was an avid walker and with her family and friends actively sailed, flew, cruised and traveled. In 2013, they moved to Fort Myers, Florida.

She is survived by her loving husband Gil of 51 years, daughter Debbie brother Michael and several nieces and nephews.

Outside of her family, her greatest love was teaching and inspiring children. As such, the family has chosen to honor her by creating the "Yorktown Central School District Carole Jacobson 3rd Grade Fund" to continue to support and develop the hearts and minds of young children. Donations should be sent to the Yorktown Central School District, Attn: Tom Cole, 2725 Croompond Road, Yorktown Heights, NY, 10598.

Chauncey M. Gaudinier

Chauncey M. Gaudinier, a former Peekskill resident, died peacefully October 6 at the Bronx VA Hospital. He was 67.

Born on February 7, 1948 in Peekskill to the late Chauncey and Dorothy Teets Gaudinier, he grew up in Peekskill and was a proud U.S. veteran of the United States Army serving in Vietnam. He was an avid fisherman and hunter and was a member of the Chelsea Sportsman Club.

On September 27, 1969, he married Helen Takacs in Croton on Hudson. He is survived by his loving wife Helene Gaudinier, loving sister Dorothy Gilleo, and dear brother Robert Gaudinier; and his loving nieces Diane Kness and her husband Chris, Corie Gilleo and her wife Stephanie and CJ Kness. He is also survived by loving aunts and cousins. He was predeceased by his daughter Michelle Gaudinier.

Michael Maloy

Michael J. Maloy, a lifelong resident of Peekskill, died October 5. He was 61.

Born on April 27, 1954 to Donald and Dorothy (nee Philips) Maloy, he was a graduate of Peekskill HS Class of 1972, where he enjoyed cross-country running. On August 21, 1980, he married

Elizabeth Smith, who survives him.

Mr. Maloy worked as a lineman/radio maintainer for Metro-North Railroad for over 30-years, until retiring. He was a member of the Washington Engine Co. 2; and he also enjoyed golf. He will be remembered for his generosity and kind-heartedness. Along with his wife of 35-years, he is survived by his son, Matthew Maloy and his brother Timothy (Carol) Maloy; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Richard Maloy.

Priscilla Picarello

Priscilla Rose Marallo Picarello, a life-long resident of Peekskill, died October 4. She was 91.

She was born on December 18, 1923 in Peekskill to Carmine and Consiglia Caputi Marallo. She attended local area schools and attended Peekskill High School. During WWII she worked as a seamstress at Nan Flower Slip Factory, also at Andy's Restaurant and for White's and Waldbaum's in Peekskill as a meat packer. On September 21, 1947, she married Anthony Picarello at the Assumption Church in Peekskill. They were married for 59 1/2 years.

She was a Brownie Leader at the Assumption School, a member of the Daughters of Catholic War Veteran's, the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW and the American Legion; the Metro-North Retirees Club, USRR Retirement Board and a Life Member of the RR Old Timer's Club. She was also an active fund raiser for the American Heart Association.

She is survived by her two daughters; Linda Greene and her husband Richard of Peekskill and Donna DiMilia and her husband Robert, Sr. of Greenberg, PA., two grandchildren; Tina Marie Greene and Robert (Allison) DiMilia, Jr., and a great-grandson Anthony DiMilia. Also surviving are two brothers, Gerald Marallo and Joseph Marallo, along with several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband Anthony Picarello, four brothers and two sisters, Ralph Marallo, Marie Vanca, Florence Serino, John Marallo, Donald Marallo and Edward Marallo. Contributions may be made to the Assumption Organ Restoration Project.

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Adam Stone
astone@theexaminernews.com
Publisher

Laura Markowski
lmarkowski@theexaminernews.com
Associate Publisher

Peter Stone
pstone@theexaminernews.com
Chief Financial Officer

Rick Pezzullo
rpezzullo@theexaminernews.com
Editor-in-Chief

Martin Wilbur
mwilbur@theexaminernews.com
Assistant Editor

Neal Rentz
nrentz@theexaminernews.com
Reporter

David Propper
dpropper@theexaminernews.com
Reporter

Ray Gallagher
rgallagher@theexaminernews.com
Sports Editor

Meeka Fishin
mfishlin@theexaminernews.com
Layout Designer

Dina Spalvieri
dsupalvieri@theexaminernews.com
Ad Designer

Jeff Ohlbaum
johlbaum@theexaminernews.com
Senior Account Executive

Paul Cardi
pcardi@theexaminernews.com
Senior Account Executive

Nina Harrison
nharrison@theexaminernews.com
Account Executive

Corinne Stanton
cstanton@theexaminernews.com
Media Consultant

Examiner MEDIA
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Letters

A Response to the 'Political Spin' of Letter Writers

To the Editor,

If would be helpful if Ashley Uribe (Siegel Broke Her Own Promise) knew the TRUE and FULL story about what she was talking about.

Yorktown residents need to know why, unlike so many of our neighboring towns, we don't have an automated emergency notification system, or, for that matter, use 21st century technology to communicate with our residents. When it comes to communications, Yorktown is still in the dark ages.

Yorktown did have an automated emergency notification system. It started in the fall of 2011 with a grant from Entergy. But, it was discontinued in 2012 shortly after Supervisor Michael Grace came into office and before all the pub-

licly available phone numbers were purchased. The system had the capability to send emergency messages by land line phone calls, cell phone calls, emails or text message s to those on the list. Residents could designate how they wanted to be contacted. While the land line phone numbers were purchased from commercial sources, residents had the option to supply their cell phone numbers and email addresses. The choice was theirs.

Ms. Uribe's use of my "sharing" comment, taken out of context from a 2011 press release, intentionally omitted this critical line: "Residents may also choose to 'opt out' of the notification system if they do not want to receive emergency alerts." But then, includ-

ing that line in her letter wouldn't have served her political purpose. Isn't that what political spin is all about: cherry picking words?

As for Erin Burns' fears about breaches to her privacy, in today's digital age, most people equate receiving an unwanted e-mail to receiving unwanted junk mail or unwanted robo calls. If they don't like them, they simply hit the delete button, throw the mail in the garbage or hang-up the phone. It doesn't matter if you have an unlisted phone number or sign up for no solicitation lists; if you're connected to the outside world, the outside world will find you.

Sincerely,

SUSAN SIEGEL
Councilwoman

Email Smokescreen is the Pot Calling the Kettle Black

To the Editor:

It's entertaining how Mr. Grace and friends can shout how their opponent's use of e-mail addresses is the vilest form of evil, yet at the same time they can pretend to be saints, hoping you haven't learned of their own, even worse transgressions.

Here's an example of how Supervisor Grace's complaints about e-mail addresses are, at best, a case of the "Pot calling the kettle black." One morning three weeks ago, I parked in the lot behind Yorktown Town Hall. I went into the ground level, southeast entrance of the building, passing a silver gray station wagon, parked right near the door, with the Town of Yorktown crest on its doors. I noticed that lying in the station wagon's cargo area was a "Re-elect Grace

for Supervisor" sign, the kind that would be placed on the lawn of a supporter. My immediate thought was that regardless of what party you're in, that was not right, using a car owned by the town to transport a candidate's election materials.

I said to my wife, "Should I go back home and get a camera to record this? Should we tell the local newspaper about this? Or Channel 12? Or Mr. Patel?" Unfortunately, I did none of those things.

But now think about this – the sign most likely wasn't put in the Town's station wagon by a non-employee of the Town, and it wasn't there for temporary storage. It was put there with the probable intention of transporting it somewhere else for display. So here we have a Town car, a Town employee, and Town gasoline, all

paid for by Yorktown taxpayers, involved in transporting campaign material for a particular candidate. I believe that hardly anyone else saw this but me, except those involved in the skullduggery, and except for those Town employees who saw it but knew better than speak up about it. And I didn't record it and report it. Too bad. So, for Mr. Grace, the most important thing about wrongdoing is "Don't Get Caught." Maybe he didn't "get caught," but a number of us do know about it.

Just because you can call a news conference, feign indignation, and create a smokescreen doesn't mean you wear a white hat.

Yours truly,

NICHOLAS MERRIAM
Jefferson Valley

An Email from Supervisor Grace Would Be Welcomed

To the Editor,

As a resident of Yorktown I find it difficult to grasp why so many Republicans are up in arms about Councilman Patel's email. Seriously, is an email about OUR town, from an elected official, really spam? It was an email that informed the citizens of Yorktown as to why Mr. Patel is opposed to Supervisor Grace's plan to move the Highway Garage to Greenwood Street. Do we not have the right to know why Councilman Patel is opposed? As voters shouldn't we know his thoughts on the project and how he feels the money could be better spent?

In fact I would like to ask Supervisor Grace and the other Council members to send out spam emails stating their views on moving the Highway Garage. I would like to understand how it would benefit the entire community. Where is the funding coming from? Is the funding a sure

thing or will the taxpayers of Yorktown be left to foot the bill for the project? What is the total cost of the project before grants? It appears that the Depot Square Project is a considerable part of The Supervisor's plan for Yorktown's future and therefore I believe that he obligated to give his constituents more information about the project before we vote.

Without information from Mr. Grace I can only imagine what Depot Square will be like. It could be a place where parents and grandparents sit and teach young children to count, 1 brown truck, two brown trucks, etc. It could be a good place for children to learn the song, "The Wheels on the Bus go Round and Round". It could certainly be an excellent spot for a child to learn about the environment, especially as the garbage trucks drive by. Additionally, teenagers might benefit having one or two of their Drivers Education classes at De-

pot Square. They could learn first-hand about car accidents and the damage they cause to cars and drivers. So Supervisor Grace, if you have a different image please send me a spam email as soon as possible. I promise not to delete it.

ROSALIND KLIBAN-WEIS
Yorktown Heights

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Letters

Email Controversy is All Style, No Substance

To the Editor,

I've recently seen some letters-to-the-editor and articles by people who seem to be republicans about FOIL requests to the Town for mailing lists the Town holds. An objection seems to be made that this violates the citizenry's right to privacy.

A specious argument. One can get names/addresses/phone numbers/ages/email addresses from any one of a

number of sources: voter registration lists, online websites like White Pages or Spokeo, or even commercial list brokers. If Republicans are concerned with privacy issues, they might go after the sources who use private information for their own commercial purposes.

Facebook is far from private. Additionally, I receive robocalls from all candidates, political parties (republicans in-

cluded) commercial organizations, and issue-based outfits that invade my privacy consistently, especially at this time of year. Hundreds of uninvited emails from these groups fill my email box, selling me products and candidates and issues.

If the Yorktown Republican Party wants to uphold my right to privacy, I would think they'd address these real invasions of my privacy rather than solely assault

the legal use of a FOIL request to the Town. And stop shouting "smoke" where there is no fire. What an irony: making a PR rumble so they appear to be guardians of privacy where there is no illegality or unwarranted invasion of privacy to be discussed...and it's done for political reasons only. Style, not substance. Phooey.

DEENA WEINTRAUB
Yorktown Heights

To the Editor,

Councilman Vishnu Patel has urged the public to sign on to a petition sponsored by the United Taxpayers of Yorktown (UTY) to "Say No to the relocation of the Highway Garage" on the false claim that the relocation of the highway will cost \$4.8 million dollars.

Now the facts: First, as admitted in Patel's own literature the potential costs, if any, to the Yorktown tax payers would be a comparably modest \$670,000 dollars after State grants (United Taxpayers of Yorktown web site). However, even this figure is not accurate, as it fails to consider the revenue to the Town upon the sale of the present highway garage property with a fully approved site plan.

That \$4.8 million dollar figure bandied about by Patel is the total cost of the *entire* project, which includes more than just the garage location, without considering the

contributing grant money and proceeds from the sale of the existing highway garage property and the deduction for site expenses to be borne by the highway garage property developer.

Furthermore, Mr. Patel, and most remarkably the UTY, neglect to consider the perpetual revenue stream by putting back on the tax rolls one of the more valued pieces of property in Yorktown Heights. As a result of the relocation of the Highway Garage, the town actually stands to make money. In fact, several hundreds of thousands of dollars. A fact presented in support of the grant applications made and referenced by Patel and the UTY.

However, the positive fiscal implications are only the tip of the benefits the Town will realize by the Highway garage relocation. The conceptual site plan, which has been a topic of discussion for the past three years and presented numerous times for pub-

lic comment, will create a linear park and new public open space joining Patriot Park with Railroad Park, hence the name "Depot Square." The new public open space will be created where historically existed the town center. The project calls for the creation of a center monument or fountain and a pedestrian friendly flag plaza. A major facelift for the town. Yorktown will emerge as a true destination place and greatly enhance the County trailway system.

Furthermore, the new highway facilities to be located next to the existing sewer plant will not only house the highway department but the parks department's equipment as well. This will allow for the reclamation of the area presently occupied by the parks department in Downing Park. The relocation of parks and highway in new facilities will lead to operational efficiency and greater longevity of town equipment and vehicles, a further long term fis-

cal savings.

Patel knows that his representation that \$4.8 million has been budgeted for the Highway garage relocation is patently false. The petition Patel is requesting to be signed is wholly misleading. As so aptly put by an honorable Democrat, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan: "You're entitled to your own opinions. You're not entitled to your own facts."

The Depot Square project will not cost the town 4.8 million dollars. To the contrary, the project will cost the town little to nothing and result in perpetual revenue stream to the Town and other operational savings. The fact that this may be an election year does not alter those facts.

Mr. Patel should refrain from deliberately misleading the public.

Sincerely,
ROBERT VIOLANTE
Yorktown Heights

To the Editor,

I feel I need to say this right up front in this letter, I am a lifelong Democrat and I was very offended last week when the town distributed my private e-mail address, which I never consented to be released for political purposes. I submitted my email so that the Town can alert me when we are facing a threat of some kind and need to be alerted to next steps and further information.

The Town Board had called a special meeting last Friday to pass a resolution authorizing Supervisor Grace to issue an apology for the e-mail, sent by Councilman Vishnu Patel, who I've previously voted for,

and to prohibit the use of town resources for political campaigns.

I was extremely disturbed that Councilman Patel and his running-mate, Susan Siegel, who I also previously voted for, chose to compound their mistake by voting "no" on these two issues. We do not need taxpayer funding campaigns in Yorktown.

I take umbrage at the assumption by Susan Siegel that this is a Republican versus Democrat issue. When I spoke out, she said, "Thank you Republican District Leaders!"

I am a Democrat! I told her as much and said she should listen to her constituents. Susan's response?

"I don't need to listen to my constituents. That's right. For a sitting board member to say this during a town board meeting simply flabbergasted me (and it is on tape). The fact that Susan Siegel spent the entire time defending Vishnu Patel's wrongful actions instead of defending my rights as a citizen of Yorktown is making me regret my previous votes for them. I won't be making that mistake again, after all, Councilman Patel did not even bother to address my complaints, he seemed more interested in the fact that he paid for curtains to block UV light than the matter at hand. He was insulting and told me he did not need to listen and cov-

ered his ears and his eyes in a very infantile display.

I may not agree with most of what the national Republican Party stands for, but I will give kudos to our local Republican slate for standing up on this issue and defending our rights. This could have been ignored or swept under the rug, but Michael Grace, Ed Lachterman, Tom Diana and Greg Bernard took the high road and handled it in a very professional manner with the import that the situation demanded.

Yours truly,
CHERIE FRECHETTE
Yorktown Heights

YSBA is Non-Partisan and Non-Political, and So Should Others

To the Editor:

During these tough economic times, many businesses and community organizations are being asked to take a position by supporting a certain political party or candidate. It is selfish and unfair for political parties and candidates to put any group in a position where they feel pressured to make a choice.

Local businesses are operated by people

who come from a variety of political persuasions, as do the customers upon whom they rely. The same is true of individuals who belong to one or more organizations or members of community organizations who also own a business. Pressuring either businesses or community organizations to post political signs, posters and brochures in their establishments could put them in a difficult position.

If your business or organization is approached by any political party or candidate to display signs, posters and brochures, just say NO. But if like many people, you feel obligated to do so, simply say YES to all parties and candidates by displaying opposing campaign literature.

Remember, don't risk harming your business or organization by taking a stand that could cause shoppers to take their business

elsewhere. It's hard enough running a business without turning off half the electorate—and it's the fair and equitable thing to do. Do the right thing! Businesses and community organizations need to be inclusive, not exclusive.

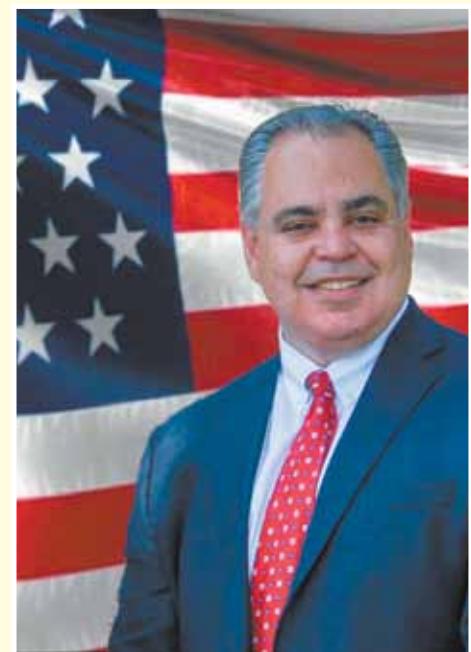
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Girl Praised for Efforts in Making ER Visits Less Painful

By Rick Pezzullo

Caring is sharing is something teachers try to reinforce to students, and it's obvious that's a lesson Biviana Lynch was paying close attention to.

Lynch, 11, a sixth grader at Lakeland Copper Beech Middle School, found herself in the Emergency Room at New York Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital last May needing stitches after falling and cutting her lip.

During her stay, Lynch was given a bag with toys, crayons and stickers to help ease her pain. The bags are part of a program started 14 years ago by Verna Thorn, a volunteer in the Emergency Room.

"This is the only hospital that does this," Thorn said. "I just think it's one of the most rewarding things to make a child smile and see their eyes light up."

It certainly made an impression on Lynch, who contacted Thorn at the end of June and told her she wanted to make sure other children were always able to receive the same comforting bag of goodies when they visited the hospital. Lynch's mother, Martha, a teacher in Peekskill, said her daughter wrote a letter to family and friends asking them to consider making a donation.

As a result, over the summer Lynch was able to collect enough toys and sup-

plies to fill 60 bags, and in a few weeks she's planning to deliver 50 more to the hospital where she was born.

"This was her idea. This is what she wanted to do," Martha Lynch said. "It's a big task when you have to collect all this stuff. She's very mature for her age. There's a lot of history to us with that hospital and I think Biviana had that dear to her heart."

Thorn, who noted she receives some funding from the hospital for her program but often purchases items to fill the gap, said Lynch's efforts far exceed any shown to the toy program since its inception.

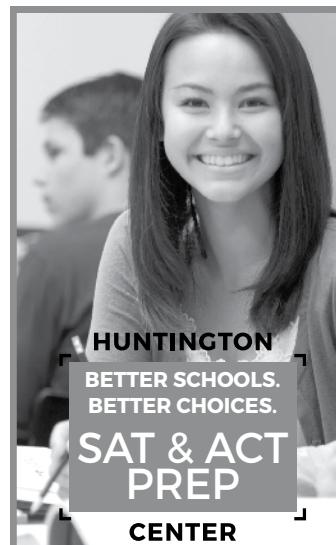
"She's got an amazing heart. She was thrilled with it and she wanted other kids to be happy," Thorn said. "I'm thrilled to death. I'll take any help I can get."

Lynch recently received a certificate of achievement for her generous spirit from Yorktown Councilman Vishnu Patel during a recognition ceremony at the hospital. Anyone interested in helping Lynch provide more bags to the toy program can visit www.giveforward.com. and look for the "smilesformiles" link.

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Biviana Lynch received a certificate for lending a hand to the toy program at Hudson Valley Hospital.



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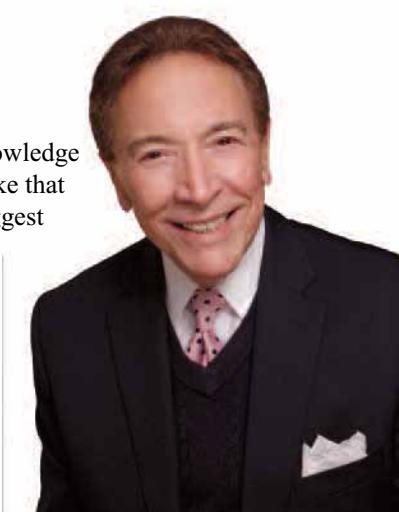
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Somers Town Board Takes Action for New Ball Fields

By Neal Rentz

Additional recreational facilities, including playing fields, are on the path of becoming a reality on property located adjacent to Reis Park in Somers.

At its October 8 meeting, the Somers Town Board voted unanimously for a plan to modify the conservation easement for the Angle Fly Preserve, which is co-owned by the town and Westchester County. The 654-acre Preserve is located in the middle of Somers between the town-owned Reis Park and the county-owned Lasdon Arboretum.

Town resident Paul Elconin told the town board in September he had been working with the state Department of Environmental Conservation for the past four years on a plan to allow recreational uses, such as playing fields, to be allowed on a roughly 11-acre parcel adjacent to the park, located off Route 139.

The town board voted last week to change the easement to Athletic Field Area for the parcel near the park. At the same time, the conservation easement for the approximately 14-acre parcel located in the Angle Fly adjacent to Somers Manor was changed to Open Space Recreation Area that would only allow for passive recreation, like a walking trail.

Elconin said last month the DEC was open to the idea of the conservation

easement changes, as is the county. He said the Somers Manor area land is more environmentally sensitive than the Reis Park parcel and the park would provide easier access to the public using the fields as compared to the Somers Manor land.

At last week's public hearing, the only speaker, Somers Open Space Committee Chair Michael Barnhart, said he was strongly in favor of changing the conservation easement. He said the 14-acre parcel adjacent to Somers Manor, with its meadow, was environmentally sensitive and not an appropriate site for playing fields. A better location for athletic fields is adjacent to Reid Park, he said.

Barnhart praised Elconin for his efforts to change the conservation easement and putting the issue "on the front burner."

Town Attorney Roland Baroni said the conservation easement needed to be approved by the Westchester County Board of Legislators.

PAY INCREASES APPROVED

Also at last week's meeting, the town board voted unanimously to provide salary increases for several non-elected, non-union department heads, and support staff. The resolution stated the

raises were being provided "in an effort to retain these valued employees and to bring their salaries up to a competitive level with neighboring municipalities."

Some of the pay hikes included Police

Chief Michael Driscoll; from \$56,616 to \$57,465; Town Assessor Teresa Stegner from \$70,349 to \$71,404; and Director of Finance Robert Kehoe from \$90,641 to \$95,173.



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Singer-Songwriter Relies on Music for a Brighter Tomorrow

By Martin Wilbur

Anthony Rispo knows what it's like to overcome a rough patch in life.

Like many other young adults over the generations, he found expectations difficult to manage, especially external pressures concerning college and career.

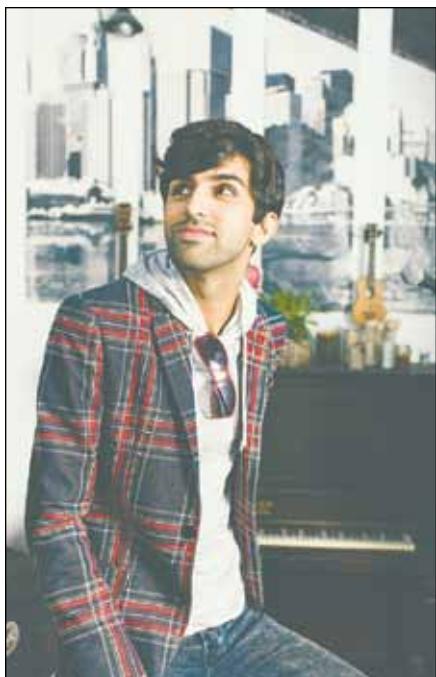
Fortunately for Rispo, 25, he has had music and songwriting to fall back on, not only to help pay the bills through being a church organist and teaching music lessons, but also as an avenue to express himself.

"All my life I was in the classical music scene playing the organ, and I assumed my role in that scene, like unintentionally, just by default," said Rispo, a Mahopac resident since he and his family moved from Yonkers when he was 15.

"Basically, it all kind of came to a head. I feel like I repressed a lot of it when all this stuff came to a head and I realized on my own there's a person behind all of this," he added.

At about 21 years old, after having been forced to leave the Cleveland Institute of Music following a year and a half of study because of a prohibitive tuition increase, Rispo experienced feelings of anxiety and being emotionally trapped.

For a child who played the organ at churches as a teenager and attended the precollege program at Juilliard while still



Anthony Rispo will perform a special concert, Music for Tomorrow, on Oct. 18.

a high school student, what had been forecasted to be a successful classical music career appeared to be suddenly derailed.

He said he also didn't get much solace from the cathedral and classical music communities.

"As I got older, I've been around people that were in it for the competition or the status or the recognition, and I fell into that a little bit, but in a distant way," said Rispo.

On Sunday, Oct. 18, he will help celebrate overcoming his darker periods through a performance at the Winery at St. George on Route 6 in Mohegan Lake. The program, called Music for Tomorrow, will feature Rispo performing about 10 of his original songs, mainly in the pop music/singer-songwriter genre. He will be on keyboard and be accompanied by two guitarists, a drummer, a string quartet and backup singers.

The concept behind the program, which Rispo describes as more of a movement or cause, was to write and perform music that makes people feel good about themselves.

"Music for Tomorrow was an idea where I wrote music that would inspire people and give hope," Rispo said. "It was a simple idea to use songwriting to inspire people. And I was drawing on my own experience."

Originally, Rispo had planned on focusing the performance to spotlight mental health issues. However, he concluded that there are plenty of young people who have insecurities and anxi-

ety and wonder about their place in the world, but are not diagnosed with a specific condition.

Rispo picked up music while going to church as a young child with his parents at St. Bartholomew's Church in Yonkers. At about nine years old, he would practice on a keyboard that was at home. He took organ lessons from the church's music director and progressed rapidly, to the point where he was playing at church in his early teens.

While Rispo has had opportunities to play cathedral music professionally on a full-time basis – something he has resumed doing – he also wants to explore other musical possibilities.

Recently, a family friend listened to his original music and through a contact put him in touch with a Los Angeles music producer. He plans on raising money to head out to California. The upcoming concert at St. George's is free, but for those patrons who like Rispo's music, there will be a crowdfunding website set up at www.indiegogo.com to help him meet some of his expenses.

For more information about Rispo and the Oct. 18 concert, scheduled for 6 to 7:30 p.m., visit www.anthonyrispo.com. The Winery at St. George's is located at 1715 E. Main St. in Mohegan Lake.

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Congratulations From Vishnu Patel



Newest Eagle Scout Matthew Abbate with his two Eagle Scouts Brothers Zachary, Daniel and parents Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Victoria Abbate. Councilman Vishnu Patel presented Certificate of Achievement to the Abbate brothers.

Lakeland Copper Beech Middle School student Biviana Lynch recently received an award from Yorktown Councilman Vishnu Patel for donating supplies to the toy program at New York Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital Emergency Room in Cortlandt.

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Forum Offers Hope, Help to Families with Drug Abuse

By Arthur Cusano

Opiate abuse continues to skyrocket across the nation, but there is help for Hudson Valley families in need of support.

That was the message for the several dozen people who attended a forum held

Thursday night at the Mahopac Public Library sponsored by Drug Crisis In Our Backyard, a local organization founded by two families who lost children to drug abuse.

The organization was founded by Steve and Susan Salomone and Carol Chris-

tiansen and her now-deceased husband Lou, in 2012 when their sons died.

"We got to know each other through the tragedy," said Steve Salomone. "But we also kind of came out, and Susan wrote a story that was published locally, and as a result we got a tremendous outpouring from the community. Not just of support, or of sympathy, but of empathy because people were experiencing the same problems."

Salomone called Thursday's event a call to action, and said the biggest obstacle to their work was denial and passivity.

"Someone else is not gonna' solve this," he said. "The government is not going to solve this. We're gonna' solve this. We're a grassroots organization and that's what we're all about."

The organization talks to area families regularly and offers advice and counseling, and members also appear at community events and area schools.

The organization has begun doing Interventions, and now offers weekly open support groups in Putnam, Westchester and Dutchess counties. They are also developing a martial arts program aimed at self-confidence, discipline and combatting bullying.

The forum, entitled Breaking the Silence, brought together local addiction

experts and treatment professionals. Among them was Dennis Creedon, the Mahopac Central School District superintendent. Creedon said young people are more prone to make bad decision and try both prescription and illegal drugs.

"A medicine cabinet that is not locked is an invitation to a teenager," he said. "Not that they want to disobey, they are curious by nature."

Creedon said adverse childhood risk studies had showed that teenage boys dealing with several types of trauma in their life, such as living with an abusive parent, have a 3,000 percent increase in likelihood that they will be an intravenous drug abuser.

Boredom is another trigger that studies show leads to drug abuse, Creedon said.

"If they are smart and they are bored, they are going to snap," Creedon said. "In school they may be inappropriate and asked to leave the room. But if they're also smart and bored, they may look for escapism."

Creedon said parents must maintain a close eye on their children, and do whatever they can to keep drugs out of the community, including teaching their children to snitch on other students.

Continued on page 17



PHOTO BY DANIEL LEFKOWITZ

A benefit concert was held Friday at Paramount Hudson Valley in Peekskill for The Justin Veatch Fund, Jeffrey Veatch (pictured) created The Justin Veatch Fund, a 501(c)3 Organization and recognized New York State charity, in 2009 following the death of his son, high school senior Justin Veatch, from an accidental drug overdose.

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Chalking it Up in Ossining

The second annual Chalk It Up! festival was held October 4 at Market Square in Ossining. Ossining High School student artists Mae Jiminez and Jen Mielke (shown) tied for third place, while local artist Shirley Benavides received first place for her creation.



Forum Offers Hope, Help to Families with Drug Abuse

Continued from page 16

"Love doesn't mean kids get to slide," Creedon said. "It doesn't mean you look the other way. And if you have love in your home and in your community you don't let someone else's kid get in trouble. Make a phone call."

Susan Salomone said she wanted a support group member to talk about the program, and introduced Elyssa Kopf, who talked about her son's issues with substance abuse and her struggle to come to grips with his problem as a mother, wife and registered nurse.

"Eighteen months ago I was living a false reality, today I can tell you that although those things are still true, I am the parent of a drug addict. And today after months of partaking in Drug Crisis in our Backyard support group, I can say I'm slowly learning to once again be proud of myself as a person, parent and grandparent."

Kopf said her son was 15 months clean and sober. She said support meetings showed her drug addiction can happen to anyone, including those from good homes with no history of drug abuse.

The event's guest speaker was Dr. Fre-

derick Hesse, the medical director at Arms Acres drug rehab center in Carmel. Hesse told those on hand that they were living through an Opiate pandemic, with 43,000 deaths in 2014 alone. In 2011, drug deaths overtook vehicle fatalities as the largest cause of death. At the same time, opioid production was increasing every year, and in 2011 it set a new record for production. Every year since then, the BBC has reported they have met a new high point for heroin production. "Heroin is pure, and it's cheaper than it has been," Hesse said.

Meetings in Westchester County are held on Tuesdays at the Yorktown Counseling Center at 2000 Maple Hill St. Suite 101 in Yorktown Heights from 6:45 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information on Drug Crisis In Our Backyard and help services offered in our area, go to www.drugcrisisinourbackyard.com.



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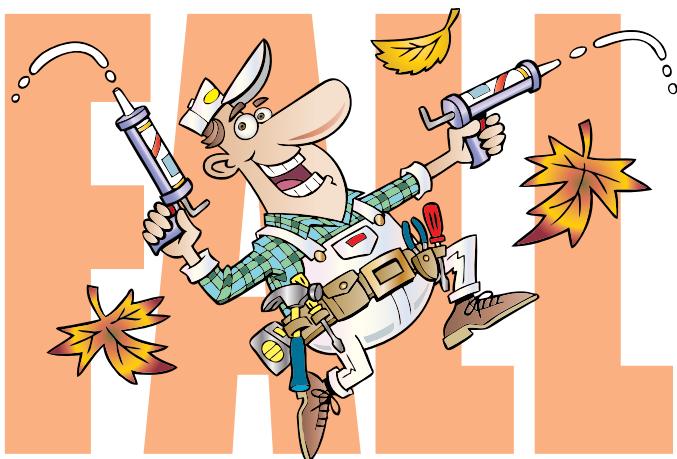
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**Businesses
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Oncology Massage Therapy and Cancer Care Support Mt. Kisco

By Colette Connolly

There's something profoundly comforting about Susan Balamaci's new practice in Mount Kisco.

Oncology Massage Therapy and Cancer Care offers the kind of serene, cozy environment that is a godsend to cancer patients who are looking to restore their bodies from weeks, months or sometimes years of treatment.

A board certified medical-surgical registered nurse and a licensed massage therapist with advanced training in oncology massage therapy (OMT), Balamaci's gentle demeanor is perfectly suited to this work, a labor of love for this Cross River resident.

Balamaci pursued general massage therapy to help family members deal more effectively with illness. She was later inspired to transition to nursing.

"My vision initially was to become a holistic nurse," she said.

A career at Northern Westchester Hospital helped fulfill that dream and Balamaci found herself working for the hospital's Cancer Treatment and Wellness Center as an integrative medicine nurse.

While working full-time at the hospital, Balamaci realized the benefits of Reiki,

gentle touch, reflexology and other therapeutic body treatments for cancer patients that were provided through a grant.

Balamaci wanted to offer massage therapy in greater depth, specifically tailored to oncology patients, and it was then that she began to think about opening a private practice but without the clinical feel cancer patients are all too familiar with.

Since opening in August, Balamaci's space could pass for anyone's home – reclining chairs, soft and attractive lighting and beautiful art work. There's even a wig stand in her treatment room. Patients can have a cup of tea after their treatment and read the inspirational books on a nearby shelf.

Balamaci, who has completed advanced training in OMT and is a Preferred Provider of the Society for Oncology Massage (S4OM.org), said this type of massage supports the body rather than challenging it. The process is an adaptation of classic Swedish massage techniques and acupressure that are tailored to each client's unique circumstances and medical history.

Modifications such as reducing pressure, positioning for comfort, slowing pace and adjusting rhythm, among other strategies, are crucial to ensuring that patients receive

the best experience possible, Balamaci said. Having patients lie on their sides supported by pillows and towels is often the best position for the therapy.

"Knowing how to modify and how to adapt is key to doing this work, and that's where medical knowledge comes into play," said Balamaci, who is licensed in New York and Connecticut and nationally certified by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork.

She said research on this relatively new holistic form of therapy shows it can make a difference in the lives of cancer patients. A recent study conducted by Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center involving about 1,300 patients over a three-year period showed that 52.2 percent had reduced anxiety; 40 percent had less pain; 40.7 percent reported less fatigue; 30.6 percent experienced reduced depression; and 21.2 percent had less nausea.

Leading cancer care hospitals that promote OMT include the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, the Mayo Clinic, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and John Hopkins University.

In addition to massage, Balamaci also teaches guided breathing and mindful

meditation instruction based on the teachings of Herbert Benson, a pioneer in mind/body medicine.

"I want my patients to leave here with ways to stay relaxed and to be able to manage their own emotions, a toolbox if you will, for managing stress and the swirling emotions of this journey," said Balamaci, who graduated from the CT Center for Massage Therapy in 2004.

"When I have a patient who slept through the night for the first time in weeks or a patient who no longer wakes up with nightmares, then I know that I've done something positive, as small as it may seem."

Balamaci has begun a "Pay It Forward" fund to help those who cannot afford the cost of her therapy by inviting community members (who do not have cancer) to receive massage, donating 50 percent of their fee to the fund, to make the therapy as accessible as possible.

Such treatment is not typically covered by insurance and patients pay privately for her services.

The practice is located at 131 E. Main St., Suite 212, in Mount Kisco. For more information, call 914-589-3226 or visit sbalamacioncologymassage.com.

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Showboat Sails into the Westchester Broadway Theatre

By Evelyn J. Mocbeichel

Often there are films or stage productions we have heard of for many years, yet the historical facts about the literature they were based upon might not be familiar. The current production, Showboat, now playing at the Westchester Broadway Theatre (WBT) in Elmsford, is one that I recently learned some interesting information about.

Based on the book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, with music by Jerome Kern, I learned the storyline was from a book written by Edna Ferber. There have been other theatrical and film productions based on her work, including Giant, Ice Palace, Saratoga Trunk, and Cimarron. She won a Pulitzer Prize for her book, "So Big," and Cimarron won an Oscar. This is quite an impressive line of powerful stories by this prolific writer. To gather background information about life on a showboat, Edna Ferber spent several weeks on a river boat called the James Adams Floating Palace Theater in North Carolina, to collect material about the slowly disappearing American entertainment venue. As a result of her research and experiences, Showboat was the outcome.

According to Pia Hass, director of press/public relations at WBT, this is our "most spectacular production in years!"

It will run from September 24 through November 29, and then have a break. At that time the WBT holiday production, Tim and Scrooge, will take center stage through December 27. Showboat returns December 30, through January 31, 2016. Showboat, the first great serious Broadway musical, combined the talents of Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II. The story, which spans almost 50 years, follows the lives, loves, and losses of a troupe of riverboat performers aboard the Cotton Blossom floating theater on the mighty Mississippi. Its timeless score contains some of the most beautiful and emotionally charged songs ever written for a musical, including "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man" and "Make Believe." "Ol' Man River," is the show's most memorable anthem about how the mighty Mississippi River, that unstoppable force of nature, is completely indifferent to human suffering.

Showboat departed from typical musical comedy material, based on Ferber's best-selling novel by Edna Ferber, was a melodrama with musical numbers that actually reveal character and further the plot. The musical illuminates the racial and social changes that were shaping the country in 1890-1927. It features a multiracial cast and a plot that deals, among other things, with the plight of an inter-

racial couple for whom it's illegal to perform together in certain Southern states. The show opened on Broadway at the Ziegfeld Theatre on December 27, 1927. The critics were immediately enthusiastic, and the show was a great success, running a year-and-a-half, for a total of 572 performances. It has been revived numerous times, most successfully by Hal Prince in 1994. Two Film versions were produced by MGM including the 1936 film with a Screenplay by Oscar Hammerstein II, starring Irene Dunne and the 1951 Technicolor film version with Ava Gardner and Howard Keel. Richard Stafford, a WBT favorite, directs and choreographs the show, with Musical Director Ryan Wise.

Information:

With the holidays approaching, it would be a perfect time to invite a friend or family member for a wonderful evening out of fabulous entertainment! Gift certificates are also available. There are both matinee/lunch and evening/dinner performances to pick from. Reservations: Call (914)-592-2222. Also at: www.BroadwayTheatre.com Group Reservations: Discounts for Groups of 20 or More: Call 592-2225. Luxury Boxes: Call 592-8730, for private parties of

6 to 22. Enjoy dining and theatre in an elegant private box. Additional features include an expanded dinner menu, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, private powder room, and Luxury Box reserved parking. Additional cost, call for details. Ticket Prices Dinner and Show range between \$56.00 and \$84.00 PLUS TAX depending on the performances chosen. Beverage Service and Gratuities are not included in the ticket price. Discounts are available for children, students, and senior citizens at selected performances. Also check the website for on-going Special Offers! More news at: www.BroadwayTheatre.com

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Crossword

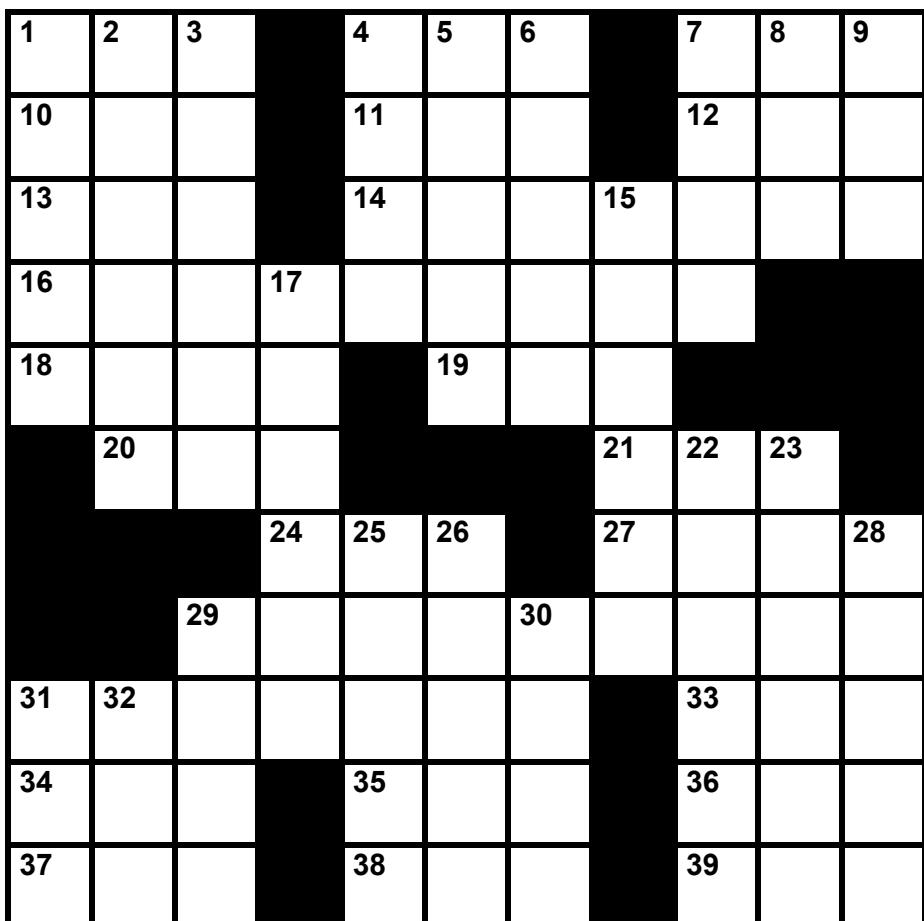
ACROSS

- Across
 1 Part of a crane
 4 Dickensian "Drat!"
 7 Quote from Homer
 10 Born
 11 Plant served like potato
 12 "I ___ you one"
 13 Obtain
 14 Rehearsals
 16 "One Day at a Time"
 handyman or Mahopac
 financial group
 18 "Wherefore art __ Romeo?"
 19 Some trial evidence
 20 Unpaired
 21 What supports a tooth
 24 Kan. neighbor
 27 Little buffalo
 29 It's the right "time" to go to
 this Brewster print
 and graphics shop
 31 Sentinel
 33 Small eating instrument, abbr.
 34 Chatter
 35 Uni-Ball
 36 Long slippery fish
 37 Heretofore
 38 Period

39 Funny in a subtle way

DOWN

- 1 Apprehensive feeling
 2 Resound
 3 Modus operandi
 4 Be an omen of
 5 Bitter
 6 He wrote 'The Seasons'
 7 Sullen
 8 Possess
 9 Guy's
 15 President who said "Mr.
 Gorbachev, tear down
 this wall!"
 17 Annoying type
 22 Joined together
 23 Cat that earns its keep
 25 Skip off
 26 More gloomy
 28 Abundantly
 29 Gloomy Gus
 30 Sicilian erupter
 31 Heavy-duty cleanser
 32 Trireme item



Solution on page 24



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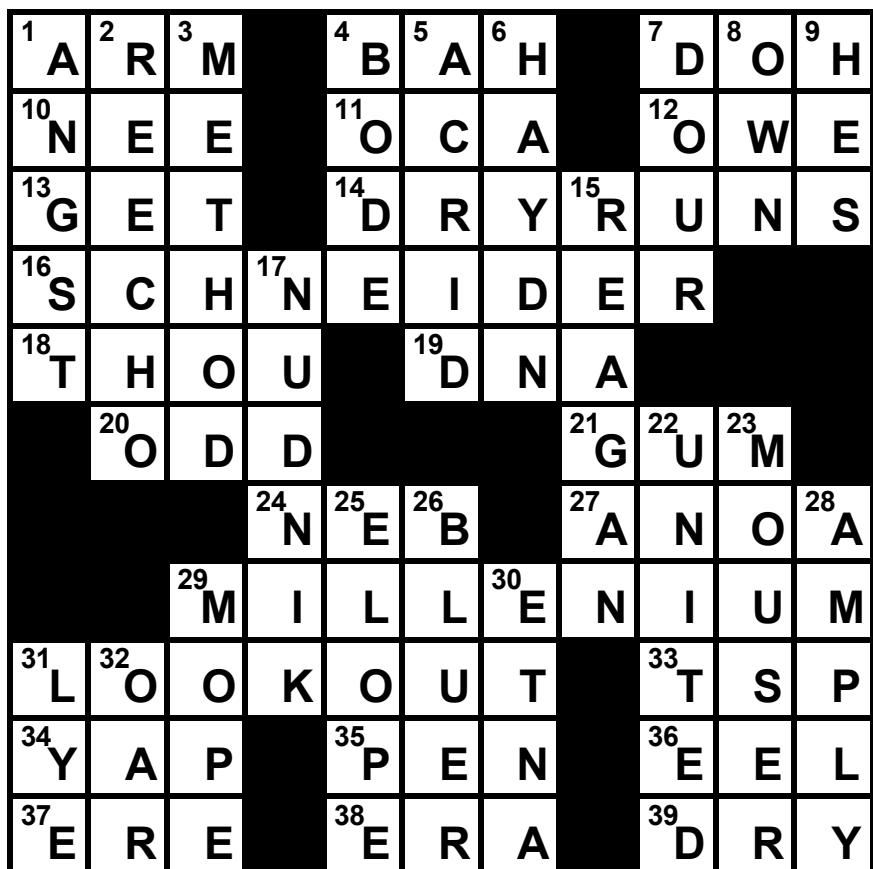
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Benefits of a Revocable Trust

A revocable trust is an efficient and effective tool that can be utilized for asset management, asset protection and estate planning purposes. It is often used as an alternative to a Last Will and Testament ("Will") for purposes of avoiding probate but it has many other uses. Conversely, it can be overused at times and implemented for the wrong reasons.

The person who establishes the trust is the creator and the person in control of the trust's assets is the trustee. Usually, the creator and the trustee are initially the same person.

A revocable trust is just that – revocable. Do not confuse it with the irrevocable Medicaid trust which is useful for different reasons. Since the trust is revocable, the creator maintains complete control over the use and enjoyment of the trust assets and can change or revoke the trust at any time.

There are many advantages to creating a revocable trust. First, a revocable trust ensures the continuous management of your assets if, unfortunately, you become physically or mentally disabled. In essence, it replaces a power of attorney. Even though a power of attorney is a necessary planning document, third-parties such as banks, brokers, and transfer agents may have more difficulty in dealing with a power of attorney.

Second, a revocable trust avoids the commencement of a guardianship proceeding if you become incapacitated without a power of attorney. If you become disabled without a power of attorney or revocable trust, a court proceeding is held to determine your ability to manage your own finances and health care decisions. If the court decides that you are unable to do so,

it will appoint someone (a guardian) to make those decisions for you. This procedure can be time consuming and involves constant court intervention and supervision.

A third advantage of creating a revocable trust is to avoid probate. The benefits of avoiding probate are two-fold. First, your beneficiaries have immediate access to the money in your estate, which is useful to pay estate taxes, administration expenses, debts, and funeral costs. Second, if you own property in more than one state, it avoids the

headache of hiring multiple attorneys to probate your Will in each state where your property is located. Upon death, a revocable trust simply becomes irrevocable, and your assets will be distributed immediately according to the plan that you have created.

Finally, a revocable trust can actually be used to avoid a Medicaid estate recovery. In my prior article I wrote about Medicaid liens and recoveries and noted that Medicaid can file a claim against your probate estate for benefits paid during your lifetime. The operative

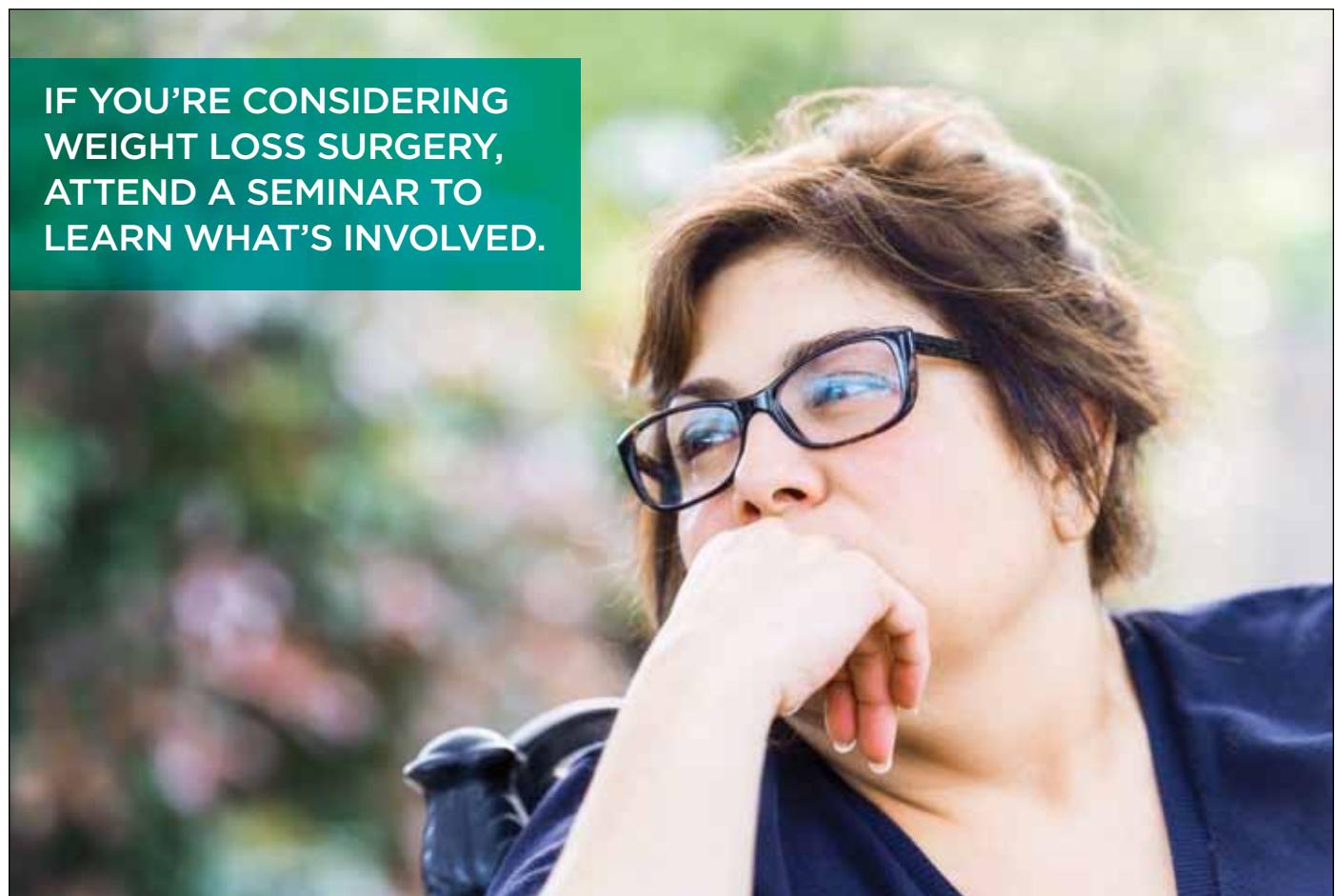
words here are "probate estate". Since a revocable trust avoids probate, Medicaid cannot file an estate claim against the assets of a revocable trust. If you know someone who is on Medicaid with a house, co-op or other residence in their individual name – you should contact us promptly to help avoid a Medicaid estate claim.

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Report: Real Estate Market Robust in Westchester, Putnam

During the last quarter of the year, any prospective homebuyer can tell you that it hasn't been a sure thing that you can get the house you've set your cap on.

In today's market, if a house is priced right and is in good condition, it doesn't last long on the market. Further, we've seen the return of multiple offers and bidding wars as buyers have returned to the game and inventory has remained tight.

According to a report released last Thursday by the Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (HGAR), which reports on real estate sales in Westchester, Putnam, Rockland and Orange counties, home sale volume in this region continued to be rigorous. There were moderate price changes through the third quarter, representing an increase of 15.2 percent in home sales over last year's third quarter results.

Specifically in Westchester, the sales of single-family homes increased during this period from 1,935 units to 2,065, or 6.7 percent. Sales of condos jumped significantly from 330 units to 403, a 22.1 percent increase, while co-ops jumped 13.5 percent, from 481 to 546 units.

In Putnam, sales were more dramatic with single-family homes increasing 18 percent (233 to 275) and condos increasing

51.9 percent (27 to 41).

The rapid pace of sales all year long and into the third quarter put some downward pressure on the supply of available properties posted with the Multiple Listing Service (MLS). Westchester experienced a 4.3 percent decrease in inventory while Putnam declined 2.1 percent.

Leah Caro, president of the Hudson Gateway Multiple Listing Service and Bronxville Real Estate, commented on the last quarter as "holding steady with the modest increase in sales in Westchester and with prices not becoming too overbearing for purchasers to stay in the marketplace."

Of particular interest to Caro was the significant increase in condominium sales.

"Condos and particularly co-ops took the hardest hit during the recession, in the double digits," she said, "and the fact that they've rebounded now is indicative that there are first-time purchasers moving out of rentals and jumping into ownership. At the same time, those condo sellers can be buying into a single-family home."

"When we see that all segments of the marketplace (are) showing an improvement, it means health in the real estate market," she continued. "When one segment

over-performs or underperforms another, it shows that something is out of balance."

"As in the last quarter, I talked about the 'tale of two inventories.' Homes that were priced well got multiple offers and sold well, while homes that were overly ambitious in their pricing did not sell and are coming off the market. Maybe those owners had the luxury of time to have the market catch up to the price they're seeking. Because of that, we are seeing inventory levels that are pretty stable. I think the number of sales looks good."

Although the region's inventory has been trending downward as a result of strong market activity, it has not shrunk so much or so rapidly as to put a crimp in the continuing market improvement, according to the HGAR report. Further, there doesn't appear to be so much of a decrease as to generate significant upward pressures on prices. In fact, there were price decreases in some market sectors.

In Westchester, for instance, the third quarter median sale price of a single-family house was \$676,500, representing a price decrease of \$6,000, or nearly 1 percent, from last year. In contrast, Putnam's \$335,000 median price rose \$15,000, a 4.7 percent increase.

The closed real estate sales reported here largely reflect successful marketing and showing activity that took place during the

spring and early summer months of 2015. At that time there were favorable conditions for a healthy market, including stable mortgage interest rates in a tight range around an average 4 percent for a 30-year conventional loan. Rates were even lower from other mortgage products.

Also in that period, acting as a confidence-building factor for prospective homebuyers, unemployment rates were decreasing and new jobs were generally increasing. HGAR's overall assessment of the report was that "our local regional real estate market has had a good run and remains poised for more as conditions permit."

Caro projects that there may be sustained momentum through the fourth quarter and advises sellers that anyone coming out to view homes between Thanksgiving and New Year's "are not folks who have nothing to do. I would advise sellers to keep their homes on the market during the fourth quarter," she said, "because they'll be inconvenienced less in that there are fewer buyers out there, but those folks who come out tend to be real buyers rather than lookers."

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). His real estate site is www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com, and

The Home Guru



By Bill Primavera

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Happenings

Tuesday, Oct. 13

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).

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.

Healthy Happy Hour: Healthy Happy Hours are held on Tuesday nights in Mahopac and another location may be added. Take a 10-day vacation from processed foods. Are sugary, fatty, easy-to-prepare, addictive junk foods making you feel sick and tired? Then reset your metabolism and break your addictions to unhealthy foods. For more information contact Diane at 914-843-8745.

Wednesday, Oct. 14

Torah Studies Class: Chabad of Yorktown, 2629 Old Yorktown Rd., is proud to announce season one (11 classes) of the Torah Studies course, which begins today and runs through Dec. 20. The program brings you a series of stimulating text and discussion based classes that take place on a weekly basis. Our lessons will engage you in a multidimensional way by challenging you intellectually, spiritually and emotionally. They explore contemporary issues through a Torah perspective as well as tackling timeless questions in the Jewish tradition. The classes are open to all, whatever your level of learning may be. The fee for the full season (11 classes): is \$36, and includes the textbook. Each class is independent. For more information, to view the topics of the classes, or to register visit: www.ChabadYorktown.com, call 914-962-1111, or email info@ChabadYorktown.com.

Field Library Exhibit: The Field Library, 4 Nelson Ave., Peekskill, and the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art are presenting Sabrina Occhipinti: Doorways at the library through Dec. 31. Info: 914-737-1212, peekskill.org or visit the library's Facebook page.

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 or www.firthebrew.org.

Thursday, Oct. 15

Taste Of Talmud: Every Thursday morning from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the

Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompton Rd., Wendy Segal conducts a class titled "A Taste of Talmud." She discusses "How Jewish Thinking by our Sages Informs Our Lives Today." Come join our lively weekly class (in its sixth year!) which discusses contemporary ethical issues in light of the wisdom of the Talmud and our sages. No prior Jewish knowledge or Hebrew reading is necessary. Everyone is welcome. Info: 914-245-2324 or yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Intro To Yoga: Teens & Tweens Intro to Yoga & Mindfulness: will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Somers Library. IMPORTANT: Please bring a yoga mat or a large beach towel to class. Class is geared towards teens and tweens in fifth grade and up. Funding is provided by the Friends of Somers Library. Space is limited. Please register for this event by calling the library at 914 232-5717 or register online at www.somerslibrary.org.

Historical Society Program: The History of Hilltop Hanover – The Land, Its Use and the Farm, will be presented by Lucille Monz, director of the Hilltop Hanover Farm & Environment Center, at 7:30 p.m. at the farm, 1271 Hanover St., Yorktown. The program is being presented by the Yorktown Historical Society. The free event is open to the public. Info: Charles Radke, Yorktown Historical Society, Orogram coordinator at 914-962-4370, e-mail c.radke@computer.org, or visit: www.yorktownhistory.org

Love: "Love," an exhibit about varying aspects of love in the 20th and 21st Centuries in paint, installation, video, and sculpture is being held through Dec. 6 at the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, 1701 Main St., Peekskill. Artists include Alzamora, Barney, Bercea, Brenner, Brickley, Edmier, Feuerman, Gutheil, Hacker, Indiana, LeDray, Majic, Mapplethorpe, Neshat, Newsom, Otterson, Ozbolt, Pretzer, Ritterpusch, Ruckhäberle, Sadler, Tomasula, and Wathen. Info: 914-788-0100 or www.hvcca.org. HVCCA is also on Facebook.

Friday, Oct. 16

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 Crompton 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.

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.

Please no baby items, stuffed animals, upholstered furniture, mattresses, pillows or exercise equipment. Call Emily Kluga at 914-243-8050 Ext. 22249 or ekluga@yorktown.org for more information.

Halloween Train Show: Take the kids on a scavenger hunt or a wagon ride at the eighth annual Halloween Train Show through Nov. 1 at Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial, 2610 Amawalk Rd. (Route 35), Katonah. The program will take place Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The principal attraction of the event in the main house will be the huge railroad layout, featuring Lionel trains traveling through haunted scenery and a Jurassic world of dinosaurs, the latter being significantly smaller than the actual behemoths of long ago. The main house will be transformed to the time when dinosaurs ruled the Earth with exhibits about the creatures, presented along with some special treats and surprises. The library will screen the 3-D children's movie, "Rexy the Dinosaur." Children can experience an outdoor fossil dig, surrounded by a hay maze, presented by Westchester Tool Rental. Young aspiring paleontologists can take part in a scavenger hunt presented by Prospero Nursery. The Lasdon Memorial Garden will be transformed into a prehistoric topiary garden with many surprises, made possible by SavATree, Inc. Halloween wagon rides will be "haunted" by reptilian ghouls and will culminate with a special Jurassic treat. The Garden Shop will offer refreshments, including "dino dogs" and "bronto burgers" along with plants, pumpkins and gifts for sale. The train display, movie and house admission is \$3 per child and \$7 per adult. The wagon rides are \$5 per person. Combination packages are available at \$5 per child and \$10 per adult. Net proceeds from the events will benefit the Lasdon Conservatory project. For information go to parks.westchestergov.com or lasdonpark.org or call 914-864-7268.

Torah Study: All are invited to study Torah at 9 a.m. at Temple Beth Am, located at 203 Church Pl. Yorktown, with our engaging Rabbi Robbie Weiner. Bagels and coffee are provided for all wishing to explore how this week's Torah portion is a mirror into our lives. No previous knowledge is required, and all backgrounds are welcome. For information, please call our Rabbi at 962-7500 or email him at RabbiW@optonline.net.

Yoga Program: Support Connection, which provides free programs and services for people affected by breast and ovarian cancer, announces a free program: "Yoga-A Path toward Wellness." It is

Happenings

offered every Saturday from noon to 1:30 p.m., at Club Fit, 600 Bank Rd., Jefferson Valley. The program is open to women with breast, ovarian and gynecological cancer. To learn more or to pre-register, which is required, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Ossining Farmers Market: Down to Earth Markets is holding the Ossining Farmers Market outside at the corner of Spring and Main Streets. The market runs every Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visit DowntoEarthMarkets.com for vendor details, events, and other updates at Ossining's Down to Earth Winter Farmers Market.

Comedy Night: LOL with three professional New York City club and TV comics in a Comedy Nigh at 8 p.m. at First Hebrew, 1821 Main St., Peekskill, just west of Beach Shopping Center. The charge of \$25 per person includes light refreshments. Everyone is welcome. Info: 914-739-0500, fhc@firstthebrew.org. or www.firstthebrew.org.

Sunday, Oct. 18

Family Game Night: Family Game Day will be held at 11:30 a.m. at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompton Rd. Children of all ages invited. Refreshments 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: Ellisha Simpson at 914-319-4010 or send an e-mail to info@laughingheartsyoga.com

Monday, Oct. 19

Pirke Avot Classes: Pirke Avot classes given by Rabbi Stanley Urbas will begin at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompton Rd, today, at 11 a.m. Everyone is invited to learn more about Judaism. Info: 914-245-2324 or yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Defensive Driver Course: An AARP Defensive Driving Course will be offered from 8:30 am to 2:30 p.m. at the Somers Library. The fee is \$20 for AARP members (please put your membership number on your check), and \$25 for non-members. Pre-payment is required. Make checks

out to AARP and submit them to the reference desk. Refunds will not be given if you fail to attend or if you cancel on the day of the class. Bring a valid driver's license, bag lunch, beverage, and pen. Space is limited so register early. Call the library at 914-232-5717 to register. There is no online registration for this event.

Free Jazz Sessions: Free Jazz Jam

Sessions are being held every Monday at The Winery at St. George, 1715 E. Main St., Mohegan Lake. Info: 914-455-4272.

Tuesday, Oct. 20

Somers Holocaust Memorial: The Somers Holocaust Memorial Commission is hosting a coffee at the Somers Library at 7 p.m. Award winning artistic works of

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local students reflective of the Holocaust and human rights issues will be on display. Dr. Lola Marulies will speak about her experiences during World War II, how she survived for one year in the Polish Ghetto and how she lived in an underground bunker in the woods for nine long months. For more information please call Ruth at 914-248-5149.

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