



PHOTO BY RICK PEZZULLO

## Decorated Hometown Hero Honored

A veterans' plaque dedication ceremony was held Saturday at Montrose Veterans Park for Charles M. (Chuckie) Wolfe, a lifelong Montrose resident who served in the U.S. Army during Vietnam. Wolfe, who died in 2006 after a long battle with PTSD, received many awards for his two tours of duty, including the Air Medal for Bravery, two Bronze Stars (one for valor), Three Purple Hearts, the National Defense Award for Bravery, and the Vietnam Decoration for Valor. He was also nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor. Bruce Fulgum, a close friend of Wolfe, said, "This is a long overdue ceremony honoring an American hero. He was a tough and fearless soldier." Wolfe is buried alongside his mother and father, a WWII POW, at the Reformed Church of Cortlandt Town.

## Yorktown Chooses Firm to Help Create a Branding Campaign

BY RICK PEZZULLO

The Town of Yorktown is eager to put itself on the map and let the world know what it has to offer and has hired a firm to help make that happen.

Last week, the Town Board voted 4-1 to sign a contract with Thompson & Bender for "community branding," not to exceed \$30,000. Thompson & Bender was one of 11 firms to submit a proposal.

"We're excited," said George Souls, chairman of the town's Economic and Business Revitalization Committee (EBRC). "This was our leading recommendation in getting Yorktown moving faster."

The EBRC was proposed by Supervisor Ilan Gilbert and formed in July 2018 with Town Board backing. Last February, it presented its initial report to the Town Board at a work session. The committee's report highlighted Yorktown's strengths, including a well-educated and diverse population, highly rated schools, good transportation, successful sports programs, trails and

parks, and a low crime rate, among other positive attributes.

The objective of the committee, which Gilbert said will "think outside the box" for the good of the town, is to strengthen and enhance the business environment leading to the creation of jobs.

"Build it and they will come, that type of thing," Gilbert said during a November 12 work session in explaining his reasoning for including funds in his 2020 proposed budget for the branding initiative.

Councilwoman Alice Roker said at the same work session moving forward with the plan was beneficial to Yorktown.

"This is critically important for the Town of Yorktown," she said. "It's not for towns to just get a boost. Are we willing to walk the walk? I'm willing to walk the walk. There are no downsides to this."

Councilman Tom Diana cast the lone vote against selecting Thompson & Bender, saying only that he preferred a different firm.

*Continued on page 2*

## Request Made to Accelerate Decommissioning of Indian Pt.

BY RICK PEZZULLO

The owners of the Indian Point nuclear power plants and their chosen successors have requested approval to speed up the decommissioning process.

Entergy Corporation and Holtec International, through their affiliates, announced last week they had jointly filed a License Transfer Application with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, requesting approval for the transfer of the NRC li-

censes for Indian Point to Holtec after the last unit in Buchanan permanently shuts down by April 30, 2021.

Holtec plans to initiate decommissioning at Indian Point, following regulatory approvals and transaction close, as much as 40 years sooner than if Entergy continued to own the units.

"Holtec's plan to accelerate the decommissioning schedule provides the potential for site redevelopment decades sooner than if Entergy continued to own

the facility, which is good news for the local community," said Chris Bakken, Entergy Executive Vice President Nuclear Operations and Chief Nuclear Officer. "Holtec plans to begin the decommissioning process promptly upon taking ownership, and as part of the agreement between the companies, will provide job opportunities for more than 300 of our current employees who want to remain in the region and continue to work at the site."

*Continued on page 2*



Nuclear power plants in Buchanan will cease operations in April 2021.

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# Yorktown Chooses Firm to Help Create a Branding Campaign

*Continued from page 1*

Planning Director John Tegeder said the most important first steps in creating a branding for Yorktown was developing a tagline and logos.

Dean Bender, one of the founding partners of Thompson & Bender, said the firm has done similar work for the City of Yonkers Generation Yonkers campaign (seven years), Westchester County Office of Economic Development (15 years), County Office of Tourism (eight years), and Hudson Valley Tourism (three years).

He cited Yorktown’s strengths for branding as a lot of rich history, outstanding recreation, quality restaurants and diversity from Fortune 500 companies (IBM Yorktown lab) to farms (Hilltop Hanover, Wilkens Farm).

“As long-time residents of the town, we are thrilled to have been selected for this exciting branding campaign,” Bender stated.

The Thompson & Bender team that was awarded a contract from Yorktown over 10 other applicants.



# Request Made to Accelerate Decommissioning of Indian Pt.

*Continued from page 1*

The companies asked the NRC to approve the License Transfer Application by November 2020 to facilitate a timely transaction closing targeted for May 2021, which will benefit the community, employees and other interested stakeholders.

“This key regulatory filing is an important first step to beginning a new future for Indian Point and the local community,” said Holtec’s President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Kris Singh. “By beginning decommissioning earlier, Holtec will be able

to maintain and create new jobs and work towards releasing the plant site earlier so it can be repurposed and generate replacement tax revenue on an earlier schedule.”

In January 2017, Entergy, which purchased the Indian Point nuclear power plants more than 16 years ago, announced, to the complete surprise of local leaders, its plan for the early and orderly shutdown of Indian Point by April 30, 2021 as part of a settlement with New York State and Riverkeeper.

Holtec’s plan for decommissioning will result in the release

for re-use of portions of the site in the 2030s, with the exception of the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation – the area where spent nuclear fuel is safely stored in dry casks until the U.S. Department of Energy transfers the spent fuel offsite. As part of its plan, Holtec expects to move all of the Indian Point spent nuclear fuel into dry casks within about three years following facility shutdown in 2021.

Holtec has a pending application with the NRC for a Consolidated Interim Storage Facility in New Mexico, which could eventually store spent nuclear fuel

from Indian Point and other U.S. nuclear power plants.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said he and federal representatives are demanding answers on what exactly Holtec has planned for the site.

“In Westchester, we have residents who rightfully demand clear-eyed answers as to what the next steps Holtec have for the plant in our backyard. Further, we have a workforce already here with the expertise – and on the job experience - needed to safely work on this nuclear power plant,” Latimer stated. “The decommission-

ing process must not be taken lightly nor seen as strictly for profit. I am concerned about how Holtec’s plans will impact both the on-site, knowledgeable workforce and efforts to ensure that the cleanup is undertaken while abiding by the highest environmental standards.”

In addition to the federal filing, Entergy and Holtec filed a petition with the New York Public Service Commission requesting a ruling disclaiming PSC jurisdiction or abstaining from review of the proposed transaction, or, in the alternative, an order approving the proposed transaction.

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## Police Blotter

# Croton Man Charged with Forcible Touching on Train

Westchester County District Attorney Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr. announced Jonathan VanAntwerpen, 49, of Croton was arraigned November 20 on a charge of forcible touching – for putting his hand up the skirt of a passenger sitting next to him on a Metro North train in the vicinity of Croton-on-Hudson.

According to Scarpino, on September 27, VanAntwerpen was seated on a Metro North train next to a woman he did not know. The charge alleges he pressed his leg into hers. He then moved his hand up her thigh and under her skirt. When the victim confronted him, he got off at the Croton-Harmon train station.

The MTA Police, with the help of the Greenburgh Police and New York State Police, conducted an investigation, including viewing surveillance video recorded on the train and surrounding area. The Westchester County District Attorney's Office Yorktown Branch is prosecuting the case.

VanAntwerpen appeared in Village of Croton-on-Hudson Court before Judge Sam Watkins and was released on his own recognizance. He is scheduled to return to court December 18.

### STATE POLICE

**November 9** - State Police from Cortlandt arrested Otis L. Martin, 36, of Croton-on-Hudson, for DWI. He was traveling on Route 9 in the Village of Croton-on-Hudson when he was stopped for a violation of the vehicle and traffic law. Investigation revealed he was under the influence of alcohol, and was subsequently arrested.

**November 10** - State Police from Cortlandt arrested Luis R. Naula Naula, 35, of Peekskill, for DWI. He was traveling on South Division Street in Peekskill when he was stopped for a violation of the vehicle and traffic law. Investigation revealed he was under the influence of alcohol, and was subsequently arrested.

State Police from Cortlandt arrested Victor M. Lozano Chasi, 20, of Peekskill, for DWI. He was traveling on Route 9 in the Village of Croton-on-Hudson when he was stopped for a violation of the vehicle and traffic law. Investigation revealed he was under the influence of alcohol, and was subsequently arrested.

**November 16** - State Police from Som-

ers arrested Brendan M. O'Brien, 30, of Putnam Valley, for DWI. He was found on Tomahawk Street in the Town of Somers, sleeping behind the wheel of his vehicle while it was still in gear. Investigation revealed he was under the influence of alcohol, and was subsequently arrested.

**November 17** - State Police from Dover Plains arrested Dare S. Studevant, 57, of Putnam Valley, for DWI with a previous conviction within 10 years, a class E felony. He was traveling on Route 22 in the Town

of Pawling when he was stopped for a violation of the vehicle and traffic law. Investigation revealed he was under the influence of alcohol, and was subsequently arrested.

### YORKTOWN POLICE

**November 19 - 5:12 p.m.** - Edward Negron, 59, of Wappinger Falls, was charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance and aggravated unlicensed operation after police received a report of a suspicious vehicle on Baldwin

Road. A computer check revealed Negron's driving privilege in New York was allegedly suspended multiple times for failure to answer a summons. Further investigation revealed Negron was in possession of a quantity of heroin and a quantity of crack cocaine.

**November 21 - 7:02 p.m.** - Rocco Gentile, 46, of Yorktown, was charged with driving while intoxicated following a one-car accident on Ridge Street that involved a Honda Accord striking a utility pole.



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# Slater Unveils Bipartisan Community Transition Team

BY RICK PEZZULLO

Yorktown Supervisor-elect Matt Slater promised to hit the ground running following his victory on Election Day and he's following through on that vow with the announcement last week of a bipartisan, community-based Transition Team.

"Yorktown's best days are ahead of us and I am proud to already be bringing people together from every corner of our community to make sure my administration is ready to go on day one," said Slater, who doesn't officially succeed current Supervisor Ilan Gilbert until January 1. "We have a lot of work to do and I can't wait to get started for the people of Yorktown."

Co-chaired by Tricy Cushner, President of the Yorktown Alliance for Safe Kids, and Peter Lanza, Vice President of the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce, the Transition Team will be responsible for reviewing the town's budget, organizational structure and existing operations. The Transition Team will also help establish priorities for the new administration.

"Our Yorktown community will absolutely benefit from a smooth transition supported by the outgoing supervisor and a community transition team," said Cushner. "These joint efforts represent many community sectors and age groups allowing for various perspectives and sharing of skill-sets. Matt also emphasized his focus on communication and planning as the key elements to working together and accom-



Supervisor-elect Matt Slater (second from right) at a recent Honor Flight event.

plishing goals that highlight the reasons we all love Yorktown. This inclusive and thoughtful idea for a community transition team speaks volumes for where Matt's leadership will take us."

Added Lanza, who is also Vice President of BNC Insurance Agency, "Matt Slater has made a firm commitment to addressing the affordability issues facing our community by nurturing a thriving business atmosphere. This transition team is the first step in that process and I am honored to join Matt, Tricy and the rest of the stakeholders to move Yorktown in a new direction that is focused on transforming and moderniz-

ing Yorktown's local government to make it easier for everyone to use."

Other members of the transition team include: Denise Kness, Vice President of the Lakeland Board of Education; Tom Donatelli, Vice President of Teva Pharmaceuticals and former Yorktown Board of Education member; Mike Dubovsky, owner of Hanover Electric; Barney Molloy, Legislative Aide to Westchester County Legislator John Testa; Anthony Ascenceo, Business Manager for Laborers' Local 60; John Kincart, Houlihan Lawrence Real Estate Professional; Charlie O'Neil, President of Jefferson Owners Corp.; Alexa O'Rourke,

Jefferson Valley Mall General Manager; Heather Novak, Marketing Director for Washington Prime; John McGuire, retired NYPD Detective & CitiBank Fraud Analyst; Roger Campos, Putnam County Savings Bank Branch Director; Adam Brodsky, former New Castle Deputy Supervisor and Director of Commercial Properties for the Hakim Organization; Dorothea LaScala, President of Yorktown Circolo da Vinci; Charles Scheld Esq.; Frank Biele, Program Director for SPARC; Tom Huber, Vice President of Technology for Synchro Bank; and John Cronin, Senior Fellow at Pace University's Dyson College of Arts & Sciences and Former Hudson Riverkeeper.

The public is encouraged to participate in the process by submitting ideas and suggestions at [ideasforyorktown@gmail.com](mailto:ideasforyorktown@gmail.com).

Meanwhile, Slater has formally requested Governor Cuomo to offset the unfunded mandate associated with the sweeping criminal justice reforms that are set to go into effect on January 1, 2020. Slater detailed his concerns pertaining to the financial impact, as well as those regarding overall public safety, in a letter to the Governor.

"Our Police Department and local courthouse provide model leadership on a daily basis," Slater explained. "These new standards will have a negative impact on their ability to properly protect our residents and will cost local property taxpayers more of their hard-earned money."

*Continued on page 5*

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*"Giorgio" Ondek enjoying a slice of pizza as Councilman Patel and owner Jeff Aquilino look on.*

The George Ondek Show can be seen on YouTube by typing in "George Ondek" and the name of the guest, and on Altice/Cablevision Thursdays at 8:30pm and Saturdays at 8:30pm, on your local public access channel.

Look for a preview of upcoming shows at the Paramount Theatre in Peekskill!  
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# Peekskill Seeks Applicants for Council, Court Judge Vacancies

BY RICK PEZZULLO

The City of Peekskill is seeking applicants to fill soon-to-be vacancies on the Common Council and City Court Judge following the results of the November 5 election.

Councilman Colin Smith was elected to the Westchester County Board of Legislators to represent District 1, succeeding John Testa.

Smith will depart the Council on January 1, leaving behind a two-year unexpired term.

His successor will be appointed by the Council, which is comprised of all Democrats, and that individual will have to run next November to serve the final 12 months of that seat's term. Interested candidates must reside within the city.

Meanwhile, part-time City

Court Judge Melissa Loehr is also moving on to the county level after winning one of two available County Court Judge positions on November 5. Loehr finished second among four candidates with 96,097 votes, trailing only Robert Prisco, who received 114,749 votes.

To be considered for the city judgeship, which pays approximately \$80,000 annually, candi-

dates must be admitted to practice as an attorney, have at least five years' experience in the active practice of law in New York and be a Westchester resident.

City Manager Richard Leins told the council last week of the urgency in filling the judge position quickly.

"It creates a hardship for the court," Leins said. "It's too much for one person to handle."

Anyone interested in the judge slot must submit a resume, cover letter and at least four legal references. Council hopefuls only need to provide three references. Documentation can be emailed to [jduncan@cityofpeekskill.com](mailto:jduncan@cityofpeekskill.com), or mailed to the City of Peekskill Human Resources Department, 840 Main Street, Peekskill, NY 10566.

The application deadline for both positions is December 9.

# Plans Unveiled to Reconstruct Fleischmann Pier in Peekskill

BY RICK PEZZULLO

The Peekskill Common Council heard detailed plans last week for the proposed reconstruction of Fleischmann Pier on the waterfront.

The pier was once utilized by 600-foot ships for the delivery of molasses to the former Fleischmann plant that operated in Peekskill, but has fallen into disrepair.

Nick DeCotiis, senior engineer for Matrix Engineering, said the base bid to rebuild the pier, which will be more than 400 feet long, is \$2 million. However, other components of the project could increase the price tag to between \$3.7 and \$3.8 million.

The new pier would be 11 feet wide, as compared to the current structure, which

is between five and eight feet wide. It will also be handicapped accessible.

The plan also includes doubling the size of the existing parking lot (\$500,000), adding a restroom building (\$110,000) and concession area (\$32,000), constructing a bus drop-off area (\$88,000) and putting in some amenities, such as benches and lights.

Peekskill Planning Director Jean Friedman said the city has applied for several grants that, if received, would cover about \$2 million of the project.

"I'm very happy with it," Friedman said. "There is definitely an interest if we build it."

Councilmembers Patricia Riley and Kathleen Talbot expressed enthusiasm for the prospects of a new pier.

"We've been talking about this for

years," Riley said.

"I think this would really be a huge thing for Peekskill in terms of economic de-

velopment and really making it the tourist destination that we always hoped it would become," Talbot said.

## Bipartisan Community Transition Team

*Continued from page 4*

Albany's latest unfunded mandate is estimated to cost Yorktown taxpayers \$80,000 this coming year. Meanwhile New York State's Aid and Incentives to Municipalities (AIM), which is approved as part of the state budget, has remained flat.

"Having worked in the both houses of the State Legislature, I firmly understand that details of complicated policies are often not recognized until the final stages of

implementation," Slater said. "Seeing how we are on the cusp of the full enactment of these new procedures and protocols, I believe the state has a responsibility to take immediate action to delay the implementation of these reforms, determine the true fiscal impact this will have on local governments, identify the necessary funding mechanism to offset these costs and engage in a meaningful dialogue with law enforcement officials about the new protocols."

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## Third Shift: *Balancing Work, Life & Eldercare*

Presented by Donna B. Fedus, M.A.

The work-life balance is a familiar struggle, but when caregiving is added to the mix, it can feel like you're working a third shift. Dementia caregiving brings its own special challenges, which will be explored. While there are no easy answers, it can help to think through your options systematically with a gerontologist and get support from others on the same journey. Join us to: Define what needs to be done and who can help. Discuss ways to set respectful boundaries with your elders. Discover ways to add respite care to your list when you don't feel like you have a minute to spare.

Please RSVP by Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

**Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Registration & Dinner  
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# Obituaries

## Sol Krongelb

Sol Krongelb, a resident of Somers, died November 11 following a brief illness, surrounded by his family. He was 87.

He was born August 15, 1932, in Jersey City, N.J., to Benjamin and Anna Bloom Krongelb. In 1953, he married his high school sweetheart, Gladys Anne Steinfeld. Sol and Gladys moved to Cambridge, Mass., where they both pursued advanced degrees. In 1959, the couple built a home in Somers, where they raised their three children. Sol and Gladys enjoyed many activities and interests together until Gladys' passing in 2004.

Mr. Krongelb earned a B.S. in engineering physics from NYU in 1953 and a Ph.D. in physics from MIT in 1958. Upon graduation, he joined IBM, which led to a lifetime of research at the Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown. Along with his beloved friend and colleague Dr. Lubomir "Luby" Romankiw and their team, he was instrumental in developing groundbreaking



SOL KRONGELB

technology for the production of the magnetic thin film head, a technology still used in computers today. At the time of his passing, Mr. Krongelb was compiling a history of this pioneering work. He took early retirement from IBM in 1993 and was granted the status of Researcher Emeritus. He continued to be involved in research and technical societies throughout his emeritus years.

He lived and loved Judaism. He was an active and influential member of the Yorktown Jewish Center for 60 years, most recently directing annual award-winning programs to commemorate Holocaust victims. Sol taught Yiddish, loved Klezmer music, and was a volunteer translator at the Jewish Genealogical Convention. He excelled at genealogical research, and particularly enjoyed connecting friends and family with newfound relatives. His many other skills and hobbies included gardening, photography, home repair, cooking, and doing the New York Times crossword puzzle, often with his family.

He is survived by his children, Andrea and Harold Krongelb, Philip Krongelb, and Lisa and Douglas Young; grandchildren, Rachel and Matthew Rapisarda, Joshua Krongelb, Malana Krongelb and Randy Biagas-Hill Jr., Hannah and Richard Olney, Hannah Joy and Jacob Young, and J. Luke Young; and his great-grandchildren, Levi Young and Gemma Rapisarda.

Sol's family would like to thank his doctors throughout the years as well as the medical staff at Northern Westchester Hospital in Mt. Kisco for their loving and professional care for Sol. He was grateful for you all.

## Robert Shook

Robert Shook, a resident of Fishkill since 1993, formerly of Somers, died No-

vember 18 at his home. He was 94.

Born in Somers on October 20, 1925, he was the son of Arthur and Marion (McCann) Shook. He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving in the Pacific during WWII. He was commended for his service and awarded the Victory Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Medal and the American Theater medal. He was



ROBERT SHOOK

employed as a field representative by New York State Electric and Gas for 35 years, retiring in 1988. He was a life member of the Somers Volunteer Fire Department where he served as Chief and Fire Commissioner. He also served as fire inspector for the Town of Somers.

Mr. Shook played semi-professional baseball for the Peekskill Highlanders, a minor league baseball team. He was an avid fan of the NY Yankees and enjoyed bowling, fishing, hunting and spending time with his family.

On October 10, 1959, he married Martha (Schneider) Shook at St. Joseph's Church in Croton Falls. She survives at home. He is also survived by his daughters, Lisa Castiglione and her husband Frank of Roslyn Harbor, Long Island and Wendy Freyhagen of Hyde Park; his grandchildren, Jeffrey and Christopher Freyhagen and Christine and Frank Castiglione; his great-grandson, Gaven Grecco; his niece, Patricia Abdellour; and his nephew, Jon Shook.

## Christine LaSala Romeo

Christine M. LaSala Romeo, a resident of Peekskill, died November 19. She was 90.

Beloved wife of the late John S. Romeo, loving mother of Patricia Romeo-Gilbert and her husband, Paul, of Boston, MA, Juliette C. Romeo of Chicago, IL, Nancy C. Romeo of Bridgewater, NJ, Christine M. Romeo (Tina) of Peekskill, NY, and Robert J. Romeo and his wife, Linda, of Glenville, NY, proud grandmother of 10 grandchildren, and ecstatic great-grandmother of 9 great-grandchildren, sister of the late Gaspar LaSala, and his wife, Constance, of Farmington, CT and the late Vincent LaSala and his late wife, Carol, of Williston Park, NY, sister-in-law of Frances Romeo of Eatontown, NJ. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Christine's family was the joy of her life and her whole face smiled when she got a call. She was known as "Mom" to many. She was an Auxiliary Board member and Hospital volunteer at NYP-Hudson Valley Hospital Center, a member of Inner Wheel, and a Peekskill Rotary Paul Harris fellow. She was a retired romance language teacher at Peekskill High School.

## Grant Smith

Grant B. Smith, a former longtime resident of Croton, died November 14. He was 100.

He was born in Peekskill, the second

oldest son to Grace and Joseph Smith. The family moved to Croton-on-Hudson in 1929. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 62 years, Eleanor (nee Masopust) and daughters: Lynne Jerrick and Bonnie Dunn, and brothers: Robert, William (Bill) and Winfred.

He attended Croton Harmon High School, playing varsity baseball and basketball, was president of the Varsity Club and Vice President of his Senior Class.

In Croton, he was an active volunteer fireman and received a N.Y. State Exempt Certificate for his many years of service. He was also a member of the American League. He held elected offices in both organizations.

Mr. Smith was a WWII veteran, serving with the 98th Infantry Division in Camp Breckinridge, KY. He was employed by National Distillers and Chemical Co for 34 years and retired in 1977. At National, he held various executive positions. In 1980, he moved to Cary, N.C. and shortly thereafter started working part-time for Biting Electric Co and enjoyed the relationship with friends and coworkers. He and his wife, Eleanor volunteered many years at the Cary Library and he worked along with her on many occasions.

In October 2016, he moved to Bethlehem. A loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, he is survived by five grandchildren: Michelle Dunn Wescott; Suzanne Dunn Hillenbrand; Nancy Dunn Domingo; Sheryl Jerrick Evans; and Glen Jerrick; nine great-grandchildren; and sister, Barbara Smith Brooks.

## Vincent Barco

Vincent Barco, a resident of Cortlandt, died November 16. He was 91.

He was born September 7, 1928 to Felix and Laura Barco in the Bronx. He enjoyed the outdoors and was an avid hunter.

He is survived by his loving wife Frances who he has been with for 28 years and his three stepsons Joseph, Michael and Robert. He was predeceased by his sister Josephine Marrone.

## Robert Strechay

Robert John Strechay, a resident of Shrub Oak, died after a 13-year battle against Parkinson's Disease at NY Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital. He was 78.

Bob, as he liked to be called, was not a man of many words – in fact he only knew maybe one or two jokes – but he preferred to be known for his actions, work ethic and character.

Born in New York City in 1941, to immigrant parents from Czechoslovakia, John and Elizabeth (Prascsak) Strechay of Lower Nazareth, PA (preceded), and relocated to Mount Pocono, PA. He enlisted in 1963 in the U.S. Army, assigned to the Signal Corp, and served in the Philippines, in Da Nang, Vietnam, as well as domestic postings. He was honorably discharged in 1967 and attended college undergrad in accounting at Wilkes College, in Wilkes Barre, PA.

There, Bob met his wife of nearly 50 years, Susan (Smith) Strechay, of Mata-

moras, PA in 1967. Professors DeYoung's Economic History class. After explaining his name was pronounced, Strechay, "like a stretching a rubber band," they began to get to know each other, date and were married in 1970. They moved to Parsippany, NJ in 1972, welcoming their first son Robert J. Strechay, Jr. in 1974 and twin boys Joseph A. Strechay and Daniel S. Strechay in 1978.

After graduating, he worked for Deloitte and Touche where he became a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). After a number of years in the "Big 5" he moved to Allied Stores Corporation, where he served as Vice President and Chief Operations Officer, in 1986 leading the charge against the unsolicited take-over bid by Campeau Corporation, in the Leveraged Buyout frenzy. After the eventual acquisition by Campeau Corporation, he led the merger with Federated Department Stores in 1988. By 1990, he was ready for his next chapter, leaving to establish a consulting business, Advantage Resources. After working on the 1993 special election campaign that saw Mimi Letts elected as Mayor of Parsippany Troy-Hills, he was appointed to the position of Business Administrator and served until 2004. In 2011, he became the Director of Utilities for until his retirement in 2011. Working under Democratic Administrations (Letts, Luther) and a Republican Administration (Barberio), He was seen as a pragmatist who valued bi-partisanship as the best way to serve the residents of the township. He also served as Treasurer of Parsippany-Troy Hills Senior Citizen Housing Corporation, Scoutmaster for Troop 173, and Treasurer of the Natural Glass Corvette Club.

He enjoyed his grandchildren, restoring antique cars – in particular his 1965 Corvette – and, of course, working a lot.

He is survived by his wife Susan P. (Smith) Strechay of Shrub Oak; his brother Ernest and Sister-in-law Linda Strechay, Lower Nazareth; son Robert and wife Kristen Strechay, grandchildren Samuel and Lauren of Hopkinton, MA; son Daniel and wife Kathryn Strechay, grandchildren Nathaniel and William (Lewisboro, NY); Son Joseph and wife Jennifer Strechay (East Pennsboro, PA); and niece Michelle (Strechay) Tauber, nephew Michael and wife Jamie (Youst) Strechay and eight grandnieces and grandnephews.

## Ralph Garcia

Ralph D. Garcia, a 48-year resident of Yorktown, died November 20. He was 86.

He was born in the Bronx on August 11, 1933 to Luis and Emma Garcia. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Joan Ann in 1987. Loving father of Karen and her husband Sam Garcia. He was an avid gardener and hunter and he loved all of his pets. He worked for more than 25 years for the NYC Department of Sanitation.

## Helen Caporale

Helen M. Caporale, a resident of Jefferson Valley, died November 18. She was 89.

She was born October 19, 1930 to Mary and Anthony Asalone in Force, PA. She

*Continued on page 13*



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Adam Stone  
astone@theexaminernews.com  
**Publisher**

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

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## Letters to the Editor

### Thank You Yorktown Community for Your Support

#### To the Yorktown Heights Community from the Family of Brian Mulkeen:

We'd like to express the immense gratitude that we feel toward the kind and giving people of Yorktown Heights and its neighbors.

As many of you know, Brian and his girlfriend Sherry chose Yorktown Heights to be their home last year, inspired by the community and opportunity to be a part of it.

We know – as they did then – that this community is truly special. Upon his loss in service to protecting others, so many of you attended his wake and funeral, paid tribute

with your stories and heartfelt words, and offered additional assistance thereafter, and we cannot thank you enough for offering us solace in our time of grief.

However, your continued efforts to support our family and Sherry are a step above, exemplified most recently by the town fundraising event. We thank the many businesses in Yorktown Heights and surrounding counties for donating gift cards to raffle, for providing food and drink, and for donating your time. Similarly, we thank the many neighbors and NYC Police Benevolent Association for coming together

and coming out in an impressive show of community.

We're grateful that of all the communities in the NYC surrounding area, Brian and Sherry settled here. We know that they found, in you, likeminded people that care for others – that put others' lives ahead of their own.

Thank you for being eternally welcoming, respectful, and compassionate. Our greatest hope is that this shared legacy lives on for generations to come.

With sincere love and appreciation,  
**THE MULKEEN FAMILY**

### Reporter Was Sold a Bill of Goods on Climate Change

#### To the Editor:

I have just gotten done reading "Residents Learn Ways to Combat Climate Change." I don't recall reading an article that is so fraught with misinformation. I don't have enough space to point out all the discrepancies, but I will point out a few. Number one, the bears are not dwindling in population and in fact have increased in their numbers.

Number two, according to a continuous study conducted by the NASAs Goddard institute, the Earth's average global temperature has risen by 0.8 degrees Celsius or 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit since 1880.

Number three, one participant in the discussion states that temperatures have risen and another participant states that it is cold outside and that is absolute proof of climate change. The thing that they need, is a reality check. You can't have it both

ways. Either the climate is getting colder or it is getting warmer. Even the so-called experts cannot agree on it.

Number four is the statement that the cheapest way to produce electricity is by wind turbines or solar cells. The overall cost of the production of these cells and wind turbines makes their production of electricity quite expensive, and by the way, not very green. The cost and efficiency is so far off the wall the German government is now having to buy electricity from France. France produces most of its electricity by nuclear energy plants. The cost of electricity has gone up in Germany to 30.88 euro cents per kilowatt-hour. Just wait for the Indian point plant to go off line. You will see a change in your rate, if you live in the area.

The last thing is the magical electric vehicle. The electric vehicle is being touted

as the best thing since sliced bread. The fact is they are not. If you look at the overall green footprint it is not green. The manufacturing of the batteries is not green at all. What about the disposal of these batteries? How about the charging of these batteries? The more of these vehicles, the larger the load that will be placed on our electrical grid. You see what is happening in California, right? There was a recent comparison in one of the car magazines that compared the clean diesel automobile to the electric vehicle in regard to total environmental impact. The big surprise was the diesel was just slightly, wait for it, cleaner.

The writer of the article was sold a bill of goods and should have used her due diligence before writing the article.

Respectfully,  
**FRANCIS T. MCVETTY**

### Thanks Supervisor Gilbert

#### To the Editor:

Ilan Gilbert's tenure as Supervisor can be summed up as he brought civility back into Yorktown's Town Board after the Michael Grace Administration. Gilbert consistently treated his friends as well as political rivals with the same respect and listened to all before making an informed decision as to be expected from a former judge. Gilbert's re-election campaign was doomed to failure from the very moment he decided to take the high road and run on his record and refrain from the typical partisan political attacks. Gilbert could not compete with the name-calling, stone throwing and rumor spreading

of his Republican rivals. The attacks against Gilbert and his running mates were constant and brutal as well as blatantly false. The accusations even went so low as to allege that the spouse of one a Democratic candidate attacked a spouse of one of the Republican candidates. Now that the election is over I hope that the Republicans are not 'score winners' who try to get even and literally revert back to the 'my way or the highway' manner they conducted themselves when they previously held the majority in Yorktown's Town Board.

**ROBERT JEFFREYS,**  
Yorktown

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# Westchester's Winter Wonderland Returns to Kensico Dam Plaza

Westchester's Winter Wonderland returns to Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla on Friday, November 29 at 5 p.m. for its sixth exciting season. Starting the day after Thanksgiving, the festive celebration takes place six consecutive weekends through January 4, 2020, plus weekday bonus days during the school holiday. For one \$20 all-inclusive ticket price, guests can enjoy unlimited access to Santa's Village, amusement rides, a live circus performance, ice skating rink plus free skate rental, a dazzling holiday light show featuring favorite elves Ned and Albert, and one of Westchester's tallest (40ft) lighted Christmas Tree.

For the sixth straight year, Westchester Medical Center is the host of the circus and presenting partner of the annual event, which kicks off on Friday, November 29 at 5 p.m. The official tree lighting ceremony will start at 6 p.m. led by County Executive George Latimer and Westchester Parks Foundation Executive Director Joe Stout and sponsored by Robison Oil. New platinum sponsors for 2019 include Wegman's and Verizon.

New this year is the addition of Santa's Village at the North Pole



PHOTO BY WESTCHESTER PARKS FOUNDATION

with live reindeer. Parents can take their own photos or jump in to take a family selfie! Visitors can also visit live reindeer, mail letters to Santa, and see the real-life frozen "North Pole," a total Santa experience!

The heated double-poled, yellow and red striped Winter Wonderland Holiday Circus tent presents up to five performances nightly, with thrilling circus acts that will entertain and delight children of all ages. New acts this year include Motorcycle Thrill Drivers in the Giant Thunder Dome reaching speeds of 55 miles an

hour; Miss Perla the Human Pretzel contortionist; the skills of Senor Soto on the glittering trapeze; and circus legend Greg DeSanto, one-time Director of Clowning on the Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus. DeSanto is originally from Eastchester, NY and was just elected President of the International Clown Hall of Fame.

"There is no better way to welcome the holiday season than at Westchester's Winter Wonderland" said Latimer. "Grab your family and friends and come out to our beautiful Kensico Dam Plaza for a visit with Santa at the

North Pole, ice skating, or our very own Ball Drop on New Year's Eve. It is the perfect way to celebrate this wonderful time of year, and I invite everyone to join me for the Tree Lighting Ceremony for Westchester's largest lighted tree."

New rides will be added to FUNderland Village, including a 55-ft high Ferris Wheel. Kids will have unlimited access to eight rides total including: Winter Hay Ride, Wonderland Train Ride, Holiday Carousel, 40ft high heated Fun Slide, Holly Jolly Dragons, Pony Sleighs and Tubs of Fun.

Lights of Wonder, sponsored by Verizon, will feature favorite elves Ned and Albert and holiday music! Magical displays include angels, snowflakes, elves tossing wrapped holiday gifts and a message of good will towards all. Guests can also skate away on Westchester Winter Wonderland's huge ice rink, the same size as NYC Rockefeller Center. (Skate rentals are free). Pose for photos in front of Westchester's largest lighted Christmas Tree; or take a break from the cold to enjoy food and refreshments in the heated Wegman's Holiday Dining Tent. Beer and Wine is available for purchase for those 21 and

older including a special Captain Lawrence Brew called Red Nose Ale, available only at Westchester's Winter Wonderland.

For those traveling from NYC or North, Metro North is offering a special getaway package to take the train to Winter Wonderland! Guests must purchase your rail/admission ticket from any Metro-North ticket office or full-service ticket vending machine (excluding Valhalla Station). Riders will be directed to take the Harlem Line to Valhalla Station. From there it's just a short walk to the Kensico Dam Plaza where the event takes place. For more information and package details, visit [http://web.mta.info/mnr/html/getaways/outbound\\_WestchesterWinterWonderland.htm](http://web.mta.info/mnr/html/getaways/outbound_WestchesterWinterWonderland.htm).

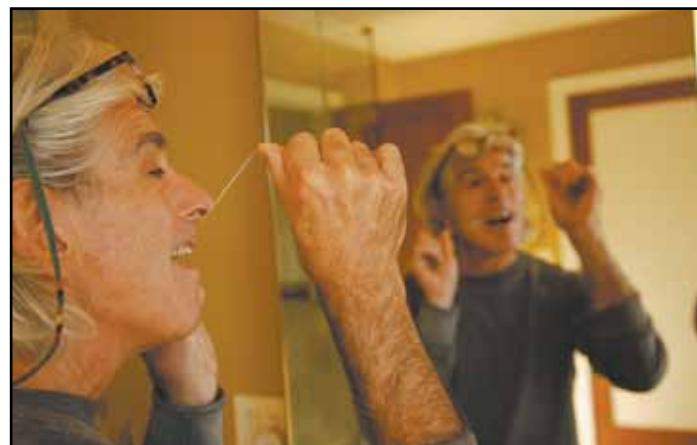
Proceeds from this event benefit WPF and allow the organization to advocate for and invest in the preservation, conservation, use, and enjoyment of the 18,000 acres of parks, trails, and open spaces within the Westchester County Parks system. For more information, visit <http://www.winterwonderland.com>.

For complete information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.winterwonderland.com](http://www.winterwonderland.com).

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# Program Details How to Help Teens With Mental Health Issues

BY ABBY LUBY

The all-male audience listened closely to Colleen Griffin Wagner last week. About 45 men gathered in the Pleasantville High School cafeteria for Dads Night for Youth Mental Health and were eager to know how to connect with youths suffering from a variety of mental health illnesses.

"We've always struggled with getting dads out," said Brian Halloran, who founded Break the Hold (BTH) Foundation last year after his 19-year-old son committed suicide. "As you learn more about it [mental health issues], you realize it touches everybody. We get calls from parents saying, 'My son's friend said this and what should we do?'"

Break the Hold and PvilleCares, a free biweekly drop-in family support group that helps families deal with youth and young adult substance abuse, addiction and mental illness, co-sponsored the event.

Wagner's presentation focused on how to recognize and what to do when confronting someone with mental health issues. She said fathers, uncles, grandfathers, brothers, coaches and friends represent a critical group who could intervene and support a youngster who is enduring difficulties. The outreach was to appeal to fathers or male relatives and teachers who are often left out of the loop.

Several hands went up when Wagner asked how many are in contact with children.



PHOTO BY ABBY LUBY

Colleen Griffin Wagner, a mental health counselor, led a presentation last week for more than 40 men about how to recognize the warning signs of mental illness and what to do.

"You're the people that are right there to help," she said. "You can be the person a kid comes to. You can be a changemaker."

Wagner, a former village trustee, is a professional mental health counselor and a certified instructor for the National Council for Behavioral Health. She related a story of a 10-year-old boy from Ireland visiting his dad in Pleasantville years ago during the summer. The boy showed clear signs of desperation but nobody understood what those signs meant. Wagner learned that soon after returning to Ireland he committed

suicide.

Wagner said classes on recognizing warning signs are as essential as CPR training.

"We cannot leave all the kids that are having issues to social workers or mental health help counselors; there are not enough to go around," she said "What I've learned over the years is the more we know, the more comfortable we are in intervening."

Wagner noted the following facts:

- One in four children before the

age of 18 will have mental health issues, most of which develop during adolescence;

- One in five will experience a mental health issue or crisis;

• 17.1 million youths under 18 have had a psychiatric disorder, more than those with cancer, AIDS and diabetes combined; and

- 50 percent of mental health issues are established by the age of 14 and 75 percent by age 24.

"What kids don't do is they don't tell us when another kid is in trouble," Wagner said. "That's the stigma we need to wipe away. When I talk to kids in schools or in group meetings, I tell them 'Would you rather have a mad friend or a dead friend?'"

There are techniques for adults to practice in order to reach friends of teens and adolescents displaying abnormal behavior. During the 90-minute presentation, Wagner addressed the signs of a youth who is at risk and how to deal with a potential suicidal youngster. She gave brief explanations of various illnesses, such as Attention Deficit Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, bipolar disorder, depression, eating disorders, anxiety, post-traumatic stress syndrome and self-harming.

Wagner said normal indicators of depression are sadness, being subdued or quiet or having little energy. But with youngsters suffering from mental illness, it's anger and impulsiveness.

*Continued on page 15*

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# Peekskill Rotary - Literacy Lovers Project Named Barnes and Nobles Recipient of 2019 Holiday Book Drive

The Peekskill Rotary - Literacy Lovers Project was selected as Barnes and Noble's nonprofit recipient for its 2019 Holiday Book Drive, November 1 - through December 31.

Peekskill Rotary's Reading is Fundamental Committee, co-chaired by Diane Newman Kahn and Lisa Montalto, created a Literacy Lovers program three years ago to educate and inspire parents and their young children ages birth to grade 8 to read. The goal is to encourage a life-long love of reading for children by getting books into their homes and their hands. The committee includes former Peekskill Mayor Mary F. Foster, Lynne Nayman, Anthony Razukiewicz, Bruce Bellom and Sonia Garber.

With materials funded by the Rotary Club of Peekskill Foundation and support from Dain's Lumber and The Cortlandt Town Center, the committee crafted six "Golden Bookshelves" which are stocked regularly with age appropriate, new and gently used children's books in both English and Spanish. The "Golden Bookshelves" are strategically placed throughout Peekskill community facilities serving children in need beginning with Hudson Health Center, Westchester Jewish Family Services and Fred's Pantry. Books have been donated by generous and concerned community members as well as the Westchester Library Systems and Westchester School Districts. To date we have been able to put 28000 books in the hands of children for free thanks to all of the generous support we have received.

"The continued support and partnership with Barnes & Noble, Mohegan Lake for the third year in a row speaks volumes as to the significance of this project. Allison Demato selected our club and literacy project for their Holiday Book Drive recognizing the true representation of a community effort. We are touched by the underlying beauty of this generosity going right back into the local community serving our local children. That is what it is all about!" Montalto said.

The Literacy Lovers and The Peekskill Rotary support the community initiative, Peekskill Basics, modeled after a similar program in Boston, Boston Basics. The program seeks to foster parenting skills

that will help children achieve their educational potential and to promote literacy in our community where access to books in low income areas is limited. <https://www.peakskillcds.org/domain/1004>. Mary Keenan Foster, Assistant Superintendent of the Peekskill Schools commented, "Our goal is to encourage a love of reading in young children, leading to their academic success. Our project will work in synergy to support this significant effort."

Diane Newman Kahn added, "When we

heard the statistics from [www.bostonbasics.org](http://www.bostonbasics.org) that "80% of brain growth happens in the first three years after birth," our committee knew that our work needed to begin at the grassroots level. Getting books into the hands of children and tying in the import of Peekskill Basics supports our goal."

The research is clear. Young children must have access to books to be successful readers and productive members of society. Books need to be in their homes, not only in the schools. Children need to have

easily accessible libraries for their own use and to enjoy bedtime stories read by others. There truly is nothing like holding a book in hand, enjoying the excitement of each page and the anticipation of much more to come as the next page is turned.

The Rotary Club of Peekskill was chartered 100 years ago. The club has about 90 members representing a cross-section of the Peekskill and Cortlandt communities.

See more at: <http://peakskillrotary.com/page/literacy-lovers>.

..... 5th Annual .....

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# Yorktown Student-Athletes Sign Letters of Intent

Eight Yorktown High School student-athletes signed letters of intent last Thursday to play sports at Division I and Division II colleges next year.

Continuing a Yorktown tradition of excellence, all eight students will play lacrosse. They will do so at Binghamton University, Davidson College, Fairfield University, Holy Cross College, Marist College, Monmouth University, Pace University and Virginia Commonwealth University.

"Students don't get to this point without the support of all of the people in this room," said Yorktown Athletic Director Robert Barrett to parents gathered for the signing ceremony. "It doesn't happen magically. You

need a support system but it also has to come from within. Every single one of you deserves what you get."

Noelle Cegielski, who will play lacrosse for Davidson College, credited the strong lacrosse tradition in Yorktown with helping her get to this point. "Going to Yorktown High School definitely played a role, especially being able to play on varsity since freshman year because I've been playing with Division 1 bound players."

Tim O'Callaghan, who will play for the College of the Holy Cross, said he doubted he would be playing Division 1 sports if he had gone to a different high school because he does not think he

would have played lacrosse. "The lacrosse culture is so strong here. It has a huge impact," he said.

The students gathered with their families and coaches in the high school library for photos and congratulations. The future college athletes are:

Jesse Barer - Binghamton University - DI  
John Bowen - Pace University - DI  
Eddie Capone - Marist College - DI  
Noelle Cegielski - Davidson College - DI  
Alex DeBenedictis - Monmouth University - DI  
Kelsey McDonnell - Virginia Commonwealth University - DI  
Tim O'Callaghan - College of the Holy Cross - DI  
Dylan Smith - Fairfield University - DI



PHOTO BY BOB CASTNER

From left, Tim O'Callaghan, John Bowen, Eddie Capone, Dylan Smith, Alexis DeBenedictis, Noelle Cegielski, Jesse Barer and Kelsey McDonnell

## Yorktown Trail Town Committee Receives Grant for Sylvan Glen Park Preserve

The Yorktown Trail Town Committee has received a \$5,000 National Heritage Area grant from the Hudson River Valley Greenway to document the history of the abandoned Mohegan Quarry at the Sylvan Glen Park Preserve with interpretive signs, vintage photographs and online resources.

A major employer in Yorktown from the late 19th Century through the 1930's, the special honey colored granite from the quarry was used in the Cathedral of

St. John the Divine in New York City and the approach to the George Washington Bridge. Although the quarry ceased operating in the mid-1940s, remnants of its operation are scattered in the park.

The project will include two large "gateway" signs, one at each entrance to the park, that will identify the self-guided Quarry Trail and the location of the other signs along the trail and a series of smaller interpretive signs strategically located

along the Quarry Trail that will describe the various stages in the quarrying operation.

One of Yorktown's hidden treasures, the 343-acre Sylvan Glen Park Preserve includes seven miles of hiking and mountain biking trails and is home to the town's Dog Park. By adding a new educational/historic component to the Park's existing recreational amenities, the project will promote economic development by encouraging new visitors to Yorktown.

As the Greenway grant will only cover a portion of the project's cost, the Yorktown Trail Town Committee will be seeking supplementary donations from community organizations and individuals.

As part of its research into the quarry's history, the Committee is attempting to locate descendants of the people who worked at the quarry and who may be able

*Continued on page 13*

Patterson Recreation Center

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## Obituaries

*Continued from page 7*

married Vincent Caporale in 1952 in Clearfield, PA. They moved to NY in 1953 where they lived happily married for 67 years until his death on March 25, 2019. She retired from the Croton School District, having worked as a bus driver for 23 years. She enjoyed gardening, taking long walks, and watching sports, especially the NY Mets and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

She is survived by four children, Vincent Jr and his wife Patricia; Michael and his wife Claudia; Michelle Caporale-Davis and her husband Robert; and Toni Caporale. She is also survived by two granddaughters, Jaclyn Caporale-Guglielmo and her husband Antonino; and Nicole Davis-Armstrong and her husband Paul; and four great-grandchildren, Vincenzo and Francesco Guglielmo; and Charlie and Jack Armstrong. She is also survived by her granddogs, Sonny and Louie.

### Salvatore J. Bottiglieri, Sr.

Salvatore J. Bottiglieri Sr., a resident of Buchanan, died November 20. He was 90.

He served in the U.S. Navy from 1955 to 1957. He retired from the Hendrick Hudson School District in 1995 after 35 years of faithful service. He was a chairman and member of the Village of Buchanan zoning board for over 20 years. He was a lifelong member of the Buchanan Engine Company, Cortlandt Engine Company, a life member of the Peekskill Elks, and a member of the Mt. Carmel Society of Verplanck. He was also an active member of the Buchanan Seniors.

He is survived by his adoring wife Carmela, who he was married to for 67 years.

## Yorktown Trail Town Committee Receives Grant

*Continued from page 12*

to shed light on the quarry's operations.

Created in 2014, the Yorktown Trail Town Committee is a 501c (3) not-for-profit volunteer organization whose dual mission is to leverage the town's extensive network of foot and bike trails to promote economic development while at the same time providing greater recreational, health and social benefits to the town's residents and visitors.

To date, the Committee's completed projects have included the construction of the Mohansic Trailway that links the North County Trail to the trails in FDR State Park, the installation of wayfinding signs on local roads designed to help motorists and cyclists find the access to many of the town's parks, the distribution of 10,000 maps of the Yorktown Heights business hamlet adjacent to the North County Trail and the installation of two large "Welcome to Yorktown" signs on the Trail that feature the map.

More information about the Yorktown Trail Town Committee is available at [www.yorktowntrailtown.com](http://www.yorktowntrailtown.com) or by emailing [yorktowntrailtown@gmail.com](mailto:yorktowntrailtown@gmail.com).

He is also survived by his daughter Concetta, his son Salvatore Jr. and wife Sandra, his granddaughter Gina and husband George, his grandson Salvatore and wife Susan, and four great-grandchildren, Gavin & Geordi Chang, and Abrianna & Gianni Bottiglieri.

### Irene Muranelli

Irene Muranelli, a resident of Ossining, died November 22, joining her husband and true love, Anthony P. Muranelli, and two of her sons, Anthony Muranelli Jr., and Thomas J. Muranelli, who preceded her in death. She was 91.

She will be sorely missed by her cherished sons, Jimmy (Sharon), Peter (Vickie), Dennis (Marlene), and Bobby, along with her loving daughters, Rosemarie, Clare (Tom) and Irene (Michael). A tremendous void will be felt by her 18 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

She was born in Coventry, England on February 6, 1928, to Thomas and Clara Turner and was the youngest of six children. It was there, during WWII, that she would meet her soulmate, and soon to be husband, Anthony, a member of the 82nd Airborne. Fittingly, they would be married on June 6, 1945, the first anniversary of D-Day. While she was young in years when

they met, Irene would say that the toll of war on her, her family, friends and their hometown, forced her to become mature at a very early age.

Together, with her husband Anthony, Irene taught her children that love of each other, family, faith in God, and love of country were what mattered most. This woman of small stature stood tall and was often referred to like the rock of the family, not only because of her strength but because she was the foundation the Muranelli family was built upon.

As in life, Irene carried herself with grace and dignity right up until her final moments on Earth.



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## Dr. Mitchell Kahn Yorktown

BY NEAL RENTZ

Dr. Mitchell Kahn recalled last week how he mulled his options before deciding to become a dentist.

Kahn explained last week why he wanted to become a dentist. "I always loved to work with my hands. I used to play the clarinet and saxophone and draw a lot," he said. "I had to make a choice, either getting a PHD in genetics or architectural engineering. It seemed like this was a good blend."

Kahn, who resides in New Fairfield, CT, graduated from dental school in 1983 and has been practicing dentistry ever since. His office is located on Commerce Street in Yorktown.

The practice of dentistry has changed significantly over the years through technological innovations, Kahn said. "We don't use film in the mouth at all. We use digital radiography," he said. "The X-rays then are presented on a large computer screen so that I can show patients what's going on. The resolution and the clarity are superb. And the amount of radiation that patients are typically exposed to is a lot less."

Another recent innovation is the ability of creating crowns and bridges in a single day. Kahn said he uses the Cerec; the company which he said is the innovators of



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Dr. Mitchell Kahn is shown working with one his patients, Noah Samuel of Somers, at his Yorktown office.

digital tooth restoration technology. "We're able to do more and more treatments in the mouth in a digital form," he said. "The ad-

vantages go beyond just being able to fabricate the permanent restoration in one simple visit. There is less discomfort because

we can eliminate the impression phase. And there is the ability to also to do a more conservative restoration because we don't typically have to remove as much tooth structure. Being all ceramic, the aesthetics are superior as well."

The ceramic restorations can be customized to match the adjacent teeth, he said, adding the advanced technology has eliminated the need for temporary crowns.

Implants, which are artificial tooth roots, can be restored in one visit, Kahn said. Orthodontic work is also done in his office, Kahn noted.

"We take of almost all needs," he said.

Kahn said his staff is like a family. "Most of us have been together now over 15 years and everybody has been involved in dentistry for more than 30 years. So, it's a very experienced staff," he said.

His practice includes many families who have had three and four generations of members come to him, Kahn said. Children are particularly comfortable coming to his office, Kahn noted.

"We treat patients from four years old to 103," Kahn said.

Dr. Mitchell Kahn's office is located at 1940 Commerce St. in Yorktown, Suite 202. For more information, call 914-243-7373 or visit <https://www.yorktownsmilesby-drkahn.com/>.

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Anyone who brings a donation will be put in a raffle to win a ladies Versus by Versace watch! Raffle to take place on Saturday, December 14, 2019. You do not have to be present at the drawing to win.



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**Your donation will make a difference!** More than 10% of children under the age of four in Westchester live in or below poverty. The goal is to help get clean diapers to families that struggle to afford them in Westchester.



# Program Details How to Help Teens With Mental Health Issues

*Continued from page 10*

"We think they are acting out, but they're not," she said.

Seeking help for those who are troubled is essential. If a teen who typically visits your house seems off, engage them or speak to a parent, but don't let it slip by, Wagner said. If an adult sees a youngster acting differently, she urged the audience to engage with them verbally.

"You can start a conversation with 'I've noticed that...' or 'Want to walk with me right now?' You do not want to focus on their changing behavior," Wagner said.

"You don't want to 'fix' them. Also, giving praise when deserved goes a long way."

A technique called reflective listening – repeating back what is said – is also helpful and shows that you're a good listener, she said. Put away your cell phone, be accepting and reserve judgment.

Interspersed with the talk, three segments of "Suicide: The Ripple Effect" were shown, a documentary by Kevin Hines, who is a friend of Wagner's. Hines attempted suicide at 19, jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge. The film chronicles the impact of his attempt on others and his work as a mental health advocate since then.

Wagner spoke emphatically about connecting a troubled person with the right resources and following up. Westchester Medical Center is the closest hospital with a psychiatric unit and everyone should learn the hospitals that have detox centers.

There's also the Text Crisis Line: 741741. Last year the line received more than 100 million texts.

At the end of the meeting Pleasantville resident Chad Kraus told the group, "I'm coming from the perspective of wanting others to know you are not alone, and if there are people in this room that are struggling with their own kids, nieces or

nephews or neighbors, I've been through it like Brian [Halloran], and number one, no one is alone. We have to stop the stigma. If ever you want to talk to a fellow dad in the community and get a dad's perspective, I'm happy to also help you."

Halloran said knowing how to react is the first step in opening a conversation and then informing the right people.

"We are the answers to the problems with the next generation," he said.

For more information, visit [www.bth-breakthehold.org](http://www.bth-breakthehold.org).

## Send a Holiday Package to Overseas Troops

The Defend the Holiday program, a joint effort between Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell and United For the Troops, is once again up and running, and residents are asked for assistance in supplying comfort packages to those serving overseas in the U.S. Armed Forces.

For every \$15 donation, a care package will be sent to a soldier overseas, with a card sent to the person whose name the donation is made in.

United For the Troops was founded by Jim and Patty Rathschmidt of Mahopac with the help of friends and families whose sons and daughters are serving overseas. Its sole purpose is to make life while away from home a little better for those brave men and women.

Following numerous conversations with service men and women, the group found out that the military provides soldiers with the essentials for day-to-day life, but many miss the extra amenities they enjoy while at home. Therefore, some of the items included in these comfort packages include cookies, DVDs, CDs, snacks and T-shirts.

Cards can be reserved at [www.putnam-countyny.com/carepackage](http://www.putnam-countyny.com/carepackage) through Dec. 21.

Payment for the cards must be sent or brought to Terry Oliver, County Executive's Office, 40 Gleneida Ave., Carmel, NY 10512.

For more information, call Oliver at 845-808-1001

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# Town of Cortlandt

## Tree Lighting & Holiday Celebration

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**6:00 PM**

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# A Primer on How to Go About the Business of Decluttering

As a realtor, I find that one of the more difficult subjects to discuss with a listing client is clutter – or rather decluttering.

Outside of my real estate business, I have only occasionally dipped into the world of decluttering because I have relied on my wife Margaret, a natural neatnik and a supremely organized person, to keep our home in order.

Still, that doesn't mean I shouldn't lend assistance to her, or at least learn how to not get in the way. Over the years, some of the advice to the organizationally-challenged has changed, and some has reappeared in a new form many times over.

Back in the 1980s, cleaning expert Don Aslett published "Clutter's Last Stand," one of the most popular of his many titles. Aslett's claim to fame was to communicate the techniques and tools of a professional cleaner to the average homemaker so that she (or – shocking for the time – he!) could clean faster and more economically. His advice on clutter is to toss it, and his book is filled with inspiration on overcoming the internal resistance to doing so.

In the 1990s, organization expert Julie Morgenstern took a gentler approach in her book "Organizing from the Inside Out."

Much of the basic advice is the same, but she advises that once the clutter-clearing dust has settled, you examine your life and interests when deciding where the things in your life should go.

Starting as a web forum participant in the early 2000s, Marla Cilley grew an immense and loyal internet following through her system of changing habits via "baby steps," cleaning by zones a little bit each day, and lovingly accepting one's own organizational imperfections. To her, "clutter cannot be organized" and she places great importance on tackling even a bit of it regularly each day.

A later organizing guru is Marie Kondo, whose 2014 book, "The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing," was a worldwide bestseller, and whose next book, "Spark Joy: An Illustrated Master Class on the Art of Organizing and Tidying Up," was equally successful.

If you take only a superficial glance at her KonMari Method, it seems to be about folding and arranging clothing and other items into mesmerizingly neat and tiny arrangements. Kondo is featured in many hypnotic YouTube videos demonstrating this aspect of her method, and you will

probably learn a tidier way to fold shirts from her, if nothing else.

Her system goes well beyond that, however, ultimately focusing not as much on what to discard, but on choosing what to keep based on how much joy it brings you. It even gets downright mystical. For example, in Kondo's second book, to determine whether or not a series of books gives you joy, you may want to arrange them in a stack and hug it to see how it makes you feel. That's a little far out, even for me, but her passion certainly has had an effect on people.

Among her more pragmatic pieces of advice, she advises the opposite of Cilley's "FlyLady" approach of baby steps. When decluttering, pick one category, scour your entire home for items in that category and sort through them all at once. Seeing all 12 of the similar shirts, for example, will make it easier to know which are your favorites,

and the lift from completing the task will be a reward in itself.

The recurring thread in all this advice seems to be that clutter will not make you happy, and whatever does make you really happy is not clutter. I may not reach my wife's levels of neatness, but I have certainly felt the pleasant effects of letting go of old things as my life and my interests change.

Now is as good a time as any to begin the process again.

*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. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.*

## The Home Guru



By Bill Primavera

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This program is supported in part by a grant from the New York State Department of Health.



# Turkey, Football and Estate Planning

BY SALVATORE M. DI COSTANZO

Traditionally, Thanksgiving is the holiday when the entire family, for better or worse, comes together. After the melatonin calms everyone's nerves, this a great opportunity for families to discuss sensitive topics which are often set aside for "some other time."



In some instances, the discussion might be driven by my children encouraging family members to get the ball rolling on their planning. In others, it might be a recognition by the family that a loved one needs assistance due to

the onset or progression of a cognitive impairment necessitating family involvement. Finally, parents who are actively engaged in their planning should use this as an opportunity to bring their children into the "loop."

Often, children are concerned that their parents have no plan in place, but to their surprise, they learn that their parents have already met with an attorney and have attended to their affairs. I find that many people prepare their estate planning documents, only to keep it a secret from their children and family. If you are a parent of adult children, it is a good idea to let them in on the secret. The administration of an estate becomes very difficult when those persons involved have no knowledge of the affairs prior to death.

If no planning has been done, you might suggest to your loved one that they should schedule a consultation with an elder law attorney to talk about preparing a Last Will and Testament, Medicaid Trust or Revocable Trust. Too often peo-

ple are focused on the details of the specific planning techniques, rather than the goal of actual planning. For instance, do not try to explain the difference between a Revocable Trust and Medicaid Trust to your family member. Rather, explain to them the importance of memorializing their wishes upon death so their family can carry out their plan and to also protect their assets if they become sick and require long-term care. This will make it easier for them to take the next step and schedule a consultation. If they continue to be reluctant, suggest they begin with smaller items such as preparing a power of attorney. In my experience, this is a

good way for them to dip their toes into the water.

In that same fashion, you might ask them about their feelings if they one day need long term care and must spend a significant portion of their assets on it. After all, the cost of such care would reduce the inheritance passing to their children. If this topic provokes any negative feelings, you might suggest that they meet with an elder law attorney to discuss asset protection strategies, such as a Medicaid Trust. Leave the details of a Medicaid Trust to someone like me.

Finally, where it is evident that someone needs assistance due to cognitive im-

pairments, you need to be proactive and perhaps meet with an elder law attorney on your own for guidance and insight on potential solutions to ensure the well-being and safety of your loved one.

Remember, the goal is not to educate your loved ones, but to move the needle in the right direction by fostering an atmosphere conducive to these sensitive conversations. Avoid "telling" them what to do. Rather, use real life examples of other family members and friends. Show your genuine concern for their well-being to guide them in the right direction.

I can be reached at 914-245-2440 or by e-mail at [smd@mfd-law.com](mailto:smd@mfd-law.com).

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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, NOV. 26

**Diaper Drive:** Genesis Jewelers of Yorktown, 32 Triangle Center, is holding its fourth annual Diaper Drive to support the Westchester County Diaper Bank through Dec. 13. Please bring any size, type or brand of disposable baby diapers or wipes. Anyone who brings a donation will be put in a raffle to win a lady Versus by Versace watch. The raffle will take place on Dec. 14 and you do not have to be present to win.

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

**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>.

**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.

**Hygeia Programs:** Two ongoing programs are being held on Tuesdays at Hygeia Integrated Health LLC, 3505 Hill Blvd., Suite K, Yorktown. Community Acupuncture is being held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$30. Come experience the beneficial effects of acupuncture in a group setting. Register: [hyinhealth@gmail.com](mailto:hyinhealth@gmail.com). On the last Tuesday of the month from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Eating Disorder Support Group, led by a LCSW and clinical nutritionist will be held. Discuss and resolve issues around relationships with food. Info/register:

[hyinhealth@gmail.com](mailto:hyinhealth@gmail.com) or [www.hyinhealth.com](http://www.hyinhealth.com).

**Taconic Postcard Club:** The club will meet at the Yorktown Museum, 1974 Commerce St, on the top floor of the Yorktown Community & Cultural Center. At 6:30 p.m. - meet & greet/buy, sell & trade Postcards. At 7 p.m. Robin Goldsand and John Curran will talk about "Peekskill's Jewish Community in the 1900s." Free and open to the public. Info: Yorktown Museum at 914-962 2970.

## WEDNESDAY, NOV. 27

**Senior Benefits Information:** A Senior Benefits Information Center is available every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Somers Library. If you can't visit the library in person, you can leave a message on the SBIC helpline at 914-231-3260 or e-mail us at [SBIC@wlsmail.org](mailto:SBIC@wlsmail.org) with your name, number, a time to call between 9a.m. and 5p.m. and whether your interest is in Medicare services or other benefits. A counselor will return your call within two business days. SBIC will not meet on days the Somers schools are closed due to snow.

**New York -Presbyterian Programs:** Several programs have been scheduled for the coming days at New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital, 1980 Crompond Rd.

**POUND Program:** POUNDTM Fitness Program, a 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics isometric movements and poses, is offered at Theatre and Dance Arts 131 Bedford Rd. Katonah. Drop in or weekly discount rates are available. The program is being provided on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturdays at 11:45 a.m. Call Peggy for more information at 914 960-4097.

**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.firsthebrew.org](http://www.firsthebrew.org).

**Live Performances:** Live ticketed performances are being held at The Winery at St. George, 1715 E. Main St., Mohegan Lake. Tribute, theatrical, cabaret, independent and famous acts perform. Info: 914-455-4272.

## THURSDAY, NOV. 28

**Yorktown Jewish Center Courses:** Several courses have been scheduled for the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. The Talmud class is held on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. The Rabbi's class will be held on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. The Talmud class meets on Thurs-

days at 10:30 a.m. The Rosh Chodesh class (for ladies only) is conducted on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. This class is for discussion and learning and no knowledge of Hebrew is required. This class is for discussion and learning, and no knowledge of Hebrew is required. Info: 914-245-2324 or [www.yorktownjewish-center.org](http://www.yorktownjewish-center.org).

**Acting Classes:** Four All Theater Company will be conducting acting classes every Thursday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Field Library, 4 Nelson Ave., Peekskill. Class size is limited. Info: 914-737-1212,

## FRIDAY, NOV. 29

**Toys for Tots:** The Marine Corps Reserve's Putnam/Northern Westchester Counties Toys for Tots is getting underway. For more information call coordinator Bill Lewis at 845-528-7987 or send an e-mail to [MAHOPACT4T@YAHOO.COM](mailto:MAHOPACT4T@YAHOO.COM). For drop off locations visit [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org) and click on drop off sites. On weekends only, unwrapped toys are being accepted at the Jefferson Valley Mall. Checks, made payable to the Toys for Tots Foundation, are also being accepted. Mail checks to 44 Somerset La., Putnam Valley, NY. 10579.

**Coloring For Adults:** It's not just for kids, and it's the latest craze. Join our adult coloring book club at the Somers Library Meetings will be held in the conference room every Friday from 10:30 am to noon. Relax, color, and socialize for free. Materials are provided or you may bring your own color pencils and coloring books. Registration is not required. Info: 914 232 5717.

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

**Jewish Center Services:** At the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Friday night Sabbath services begin at 6:15 p.m. And Sabbath services on most Saturdays will be held at 9:15 a.m. on most Saturdays. After the services Rabbi Sternstein conducts a learning session based on the Torah portion of the week. Light refreshments are served and everyone is invited to join us as we share in the warmth, knowledge and friendship within our congregation. Info: 914-245-2324

**Temple Beth Am Services:** A Friday night Shabbat services will be held at 8 p.m. at Temple Beth Am. Temple Beth Am is located at 203 Church Pl. Yorktown. For information, please call our Rabbi at 962-7500 or email him at [rabbiiw@optonline.net](mailto:rabbiiw@optonline.net).

## SATURDAY, NOV. 30

**Putnam Valley Shabbat Service:** Looking for a modern Shabbat service steeped in Jewish tradition? Come to Temple Israel of Putnam Valley, a Conservative Egalitarian Synagogue situated on beautiful Lake Peekskill. Our inclusive, community-lead services start at 9:30 a.m. on Saturdays and are held in Hebrew and English. Enjoy a comfortable atmosphere where participation is appreciated and afterwards stay for our delicious Kiddush lunch. Services are free; Family Memberships are \$250 per year and include High Holiday Services. The synagogue is located at 140 Lake Drive in Lake Peekskill. For more information call 845-528-2305.

**Yorktown Shabbat Morning Services:** Chabad of Yorktown, 2926 Old Yorktown Rd., holds services on Saturday mornings. They are easy-to-follow services with Hebrew/English prayer books, a friendly environment and no affiliation is necessary. Kiddush luncheon follows the services. Services begin at 10 a.m. For more information visit [www.ChabadYorktown.com](http://www.ChabadYorktown.com).

**Ossining Farmers Market:** The Ossining Down to Earth Farmers Market is now being held outdoors on Spring and Market Streets. Customers old and new will find delicious produce, pasture-raised meat, poultry, and eggs, breads, baked goods, and much more. For a full list of our markets and vendors, visit [DowntoEarthMarkets.com](http://DowntoEarthMarkets.com).

## SUNDAY, DEC. 1

**Holiday Services:** St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 2405 Crompond Rd, Yorktown, invites you to temper the hectic pace and busyness of the holidays by attending a series of special Sunday Advent sermons by Pastor Dave Dockweiler. The sermons are entitled Slowing Down for Hope; Slowing Down for Peace; Slowing Down for Joy; and Slowing Down for Love. This Advent sermon series will begin on Dec. 1 and continue the next three Sundays: Dec. 8, 15, and 22. Services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Christmas Eve services will be conducted at 4 and 9 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please also visit us on the Web at [www.standrewsyorktown.com](http://www.standrewsyorktown.com).

**Hart Library Exhibits:** Photography by David Rocco - construction of the new Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge and demolition of the old Tappan Zee Bridge will be held in December at the John C. Hart Memorial Library, 1130 E. Main St. Shrub Oak. The reception is slated on Dec. 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. Also, see artwork from Lakeland elementary school pupils in the showcases inside the library this month.

**Somers Library Exhibit:** Paintings by Mike Russ are on display in December at the library. A reception is slated for Dec. 14



# Happenings

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from 1 to 4 p.m. Info: 914-232-5717 or [www.somerslibrary.org](http://www.somerslibrary.org).

**Messiah Sing-Along:** The New Westchester Symphony Orchestra program will be held at 3 p.m. at the Briarcliff Congressional Church, 30 S. State Rd., Briarcliff Manor. The cost is \$15. Bring your own score; score rentals will be available. Info: [newsymphony.org](http://newsymphony.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.

## MONDAY, DEC. 2

**Ribbon Cutting:** Join the City of Peekskill for a ribbon cutting celebrating its new ChargePoint electric vehicle charging stations at 11 a.m. at Riverfront Park. For more information contact the City of Peekskill at 914-737-3400 or visit [www.city-ofpeekskill.com](http://www.city-ofpeekskill.com).

Family Game Night: The program will

be held on Dec. 2 and 9 at the Ossining Public Library, from 7 to 8 p.m.

**Musical Munchkins:** The Yorktown Musical Munchkins meet on Mondays from

9:30 to 10:15 a.m. at the Yorktown Stage Theater in room 12. The program is for older babies up to the 1's. Free trial classes are offered. Info: 914-771-7000 or [www.musicalmunchkins.com](http://www.musicalmunchkins.com).



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Crossword

- ACROSS
1. Gorgon slain by Perseus

7. "Criminal Minds" network

10. Its scale uses no black keys

11. Weeder's tool

12. Russian dynasty

14. Ore. neighbor

15. "What Kind of Fool \_\_\_\_"

16. "Losing My Religion" rock band

17. Where to find the art of Israeli self defense in Putnam, \_\_\_\_ Mahopac

19. Accessory for Sherlock Holmes

22. Volunteer's words

23. Pilgrim's destination

27. Dedicated lines

28. Tuna type

29. Rule out

30. You won't get "stung" at this Armonk restaurant

35. Web site address ending
36. Sharper

37. From, in France

38. Carolina river
- DOWN
1. Imperfection

2. Rock music style

3. Not bright

4. Italian article

5. Submarine detector

6. Oenophile's concern

7. Former French president

8. Spanish grocery

9. Jack-tar

13. Ms. Vance, to Lucy

17. Lock opener

18. Halfway

19. Used a cell

20. Chemical salt

21. Solar \_\_\_\_

24. Experimental area

25. Tons

26. One who cries "Uncle"

31. Clamor

32. \_\_\_\_ be good if

33. Certain neckline

34. Before, to Keats

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9
10							11		
12						13		14	
				15			16		
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19	20	21					22		
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## LEGALS

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW #2-2019 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**, that the Town Board of the Town of Putnam Valley duly adopted Local Law #2-2019 on November 13, 2019, a Local Law to override the tax levy limit established in the General Municipal Law 3-c for the fiscal year of 2020. **Sherry Howard Town Clerk Dated: 11-20-19**

**NOTICE FOR BIDS** The Town Board of the Town of Putnam Valley will receive bids for the following: ASPHALT LAID IN PLACE; HOT ASPHALT; COLD PATCH; BASINS; GRATES; FRAMES WITH LIDS AND RISERS; CRUSHED ITEM 4; WASHED CONCRETE SAND; BANK RUN; TOP SOIL; CRUSHED STONE; LIGHT STONE; GUIDE RAIL; LIQUID MAGNESIUM CHLORIDE; PIPE It is mandatory that all bidders complete the form referring to Sections 103a and 103d of the General Municipal law. Specifications, forms and other information available from the Superintendent of Highways. Bids will be received until **DECEMBER 10, 2019 at 02:00 PM**. All bids are returnable to the Office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley, New York 10579. Please put "HIGHWAY BID" on your bid envelope. The Town reserves the right to waive any irregularities or informalities in or reject any or all bids. **BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD Sherry Howard Town Clerk Town of Putnam Valley Dated: November 21, 2019**

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF 2020 PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN/DISTRICT AND HIGHWAY BUDGET PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**, that the 2020 Preliminary Town/District and Highway Budget was adopted as the final budget on November 13, 2019, as per Town Law Section 109. Pursuant to Section 108 of the Town Law, the salaries adopted of the Town Officials are hereby specified as follows: Town Supervisor \$ 75,366.20 Councilpersons, four @ \$15,000.00 each Town Clerk

*continued on next page*

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continued from previous page

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Dated: 11/14/19

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Supervisor Sam Oliverio at Soliverio@  
putnamvalley.com or mail to 265  
Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley,  
NY 10579. If you have any questions  
you can contact Frank DiMarco at  
fdimarco@putnamvalley.com or call my  
office at 845-526-3292

Please be advised that the next  
meeting of the Planning Board will be  
held at Town Hall, 265 Oscawana Lake  
Road on Monday December 2, 2019 for  
the purpose of considering the following  
applications: Regular Meeting Start Time:  
6:00pm **AGENDA PUBLIC HEARING**  
The following public hearings have been  
scheduled for December 2, 2019 at 6:00PM  
(or as soon thereafter as agenda conditions  
permit) at the Putnam Valley Town Hall,  
265 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley,  
New York, 10579. All interested parties are  
invited to attend and will be heard. A copy of  
the application materials and plans may be  
inspected during normal business hours at  
the office of the Planning Board Clerk, Town  
of Putnam Valley Town Hall. 1. **Filho  
Residence, - 135 Bell Hollow Road (TM#  
51.-1-4/File: 2019-0190)** The subject  
property consists of + 19.2 acres of land  
and is located on 135 Bell Hollow Road and  
within the R-3 Zoning District. The applicant  
is proposing to construct a swimming pool  
and terrace. A Site Development Plan, Major  
Grading and Wetland Permit and Wetland  
Mitigation is required. 2. **Perez, Octavio,  
Ridgecrest Road (TM# 83.56-1-5, 6 & 7/  
File: 2018-0187)** The subject property  
consists of ±2.72 acres of land and is located  
on Ridgecrest Road and within the R-1  
Zoning District. The applicant is proposing  
to construct a single-family residence.  
REVIEW 3. **Gan, Roy, - 560 Oscawana  
Lake Road (TM# 62.-1-37&38/File:  
2019-0206)** The subject property consists  
of + 3.58 acres of land and is located on  
560 Oscawana Lake Road and within the R-3  
Zoning District. The applicant is proposing  
to construct a single family residence on an  
existing parcel where a dilapidated residence  
will be removed. A Site Development Plan

and Major Grading permit is required. 4.  
**Putnam Valley Fire Station- Oscawana  
Lake Road (TM#72.20-1-7.12/File2019-  
0196)** The property consist of +/- 10.3 acres  
of land and is located on Oscawana Lake  
Road and within the R-2 Zoning District.  
The applicant is proposing to construct a  
Fire Station building +/-30,000 sq.ft. in size,  
with well and septic system, 127 parking  
spaces, stormwater management facilities  
and related site improvements. 5. **Putnam  
Valley Volunteer Ambulance Corp.  
(TM# 72.20-1-7.11/File2019-0204)** The  
applicant is proposing an amended site plan  
for improvements to allow shared access  
and parking with proposed fire station on  
adjacent property. The Planning Board will  
consider adopting a resolution declaring  
intent for lead agency for the Fire House and  
Ambulance Corp. project. **EXTENSION  
5. Juliano, Sam, -50 West Shore Drive  
(TM: 62.13-2-18 / File:2010-0073)  
APPROVAL OF MINUTES 6. Approve  
Minutes of November 4 & 18, 2019**

Notice is hereby given to interested  
parties that a Public Hearing will be held  
by the Putnam Valley Zoning Board of  
Appeals on Thursday December 5, 2019  
at 6:30 at Town Hall, 265 Oscawana  
Lake Road for the purpose of considering  
the following petitions and requests  
together with all other matters that may  
properly come before the Board at this time.  
**AGENDA New Application 1. Putnam  
Valley Volunteer Ambulance Corps., 218  
Oscawana Lk. Rd, 72.20-1-7.11; R-2  
Request lot coverage variance, and variance  
for additional road frontage. 2. Putnam  
Valley Fire Department, Oscawana  
Lake Rd., 72.20-1-7.12; R-2 Request  
variance for fire station cupola height,  
building and retaining wall side setback and  
sign size and illumination. An interpretation  
of the Zoning Code to determine whether  
variances are needed for stormwater outlet  
structure, refuse enclosure, sign setback  
and retaining wall heights. Request variances  
that are required from interpretation. 3.  
Krugman, Samuel, 22 Twilight Lane,  
62.11-1-44; R-3 Request front yard setback  
variance for construction of new screened  
porch. **BY ORDER OF THE TOWN OF  
PUTNAM VALLEY ZONING BOARD  
OF APPEALS WILLIAM MASKIELL  
CHAIRMAN****

continued on next page

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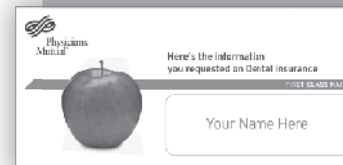
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(Solution for puzzle on page 20)

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10	A	M	I	N	O	R								11	H	O	E		
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# Crazies for Katie!

**Carmel  
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 to 9th-Place  
 Federation  
 Finish**



HAROLD TURK PHOTOS

Carmel High junior Katie Turk didn't disappoint a faithful Rams' cheering section full of the fabled "Carmel Crazies", which included six shirtless lads -- who braved the sub-40-degree temps and painted K-A-T-I-E-! on their stomachs -- who witnessed a ninth-place finish in 18:55.4, the second fastest time by a Carmel runner in school history, at the NYS Federation Cross-Country Championships at Bowdoin Park in Poughkeepsie. The Federation meet brings together New York's finest public, private and parochial high school runners, which included one of the nation's finest, North Rockland's Katelyn Tuohy, who won her second State Federation title (she would have three-peated the event if not for last year's snow cancellation). Tuohy set the pace and logged a blazing 17:02.5 over the 3.1-mile course to easily outdistance the 249-runner field, which included Brewster's Elsa Neubauer (inset with Turk), who placed 74th at 20:18.9



# Sports

# Volleyball Notebook

## Ossining, Hen Hed, Haldane Spill at Glens Falls, Final 4

By Tony Pinciario

The seeds for the emergence of **OSSINING** volleyball becoming a Section 1 power began to grow in 2016 when the Pride won the Section 1 Class AA title, Ossining's first volleyball championship since 1994. The Pride were upset in the 2017 Section 1 Class AA final by New Rochelle, but it was only an aberration.

Ossining regained the Section 1 Class AA championship in 2018 and this year, made it two consecutive and three in the last four years.

The Pride won its first regional title and advanced to the NYSPHSAA Final 4 for the first time in program history last Saturday at Glens Falls. Even though Ossining lost its pool-play matches at the state final four, the Pride have established itself as a pre-eminent Section 1 power under the guidance of Coach Lauren Riccardi.

"The past two years have been really memorable for the girls, as well as myself," Riccardi said. "Winning the section championship is really amazing because all of our family, community and fans were able to be there to see it. It's also exciting because Ossining volleyball has done it four times, including three times in the past four years. It



Members of the Ossining volleyball team experienced unprecedented success in 2019 despite its Class AA Final 4 setback at Glens Falls.

shows the growth that our program is making and the direction that we are heading. This season was a dream come true. The girls had

so much fun and gave it their all."

Ossining rallied from two sets down to North Rockland, in the Section 1 final, to win, eliminated Section 9 champion Pine Bush, which had beaten Ossining in a 2018 regional, and rallied from 2-1 down to beat Section 4 titlist, Horseheads, in a regional final.

Along with a first regional title and state final-four trip, Ossining had an undefeated regular season, 24-0, and Oregon State-bound senior Mychael Vernon was selected an Under Armour All-American.

Vernon, along with classmates Kassandra Rodriguez and Brianna Culcay have left their mark on the program.

"Kassandra has been a role player who has had a great impact in accepting her role and adding positive energy and leadership to the team," Riccardi said. "She served 100 percent at the state tournament, which is something that was difficult for most players due to pressure and nerves.

"Brianna reached the amazing milestone of 1,000 assists in just two years as the starting setter," she added. "Brianna won the award at the state tournament for sportsmanship. She is a great player and will be missed. Mychael's first year on varsity was in seventh grade. Mychael has earned the All-NYS award since her sophomore and this year made first-team all-state. She hit both milestones of 1,000 digs and 2,000 kills in December. She is an amazing athlete and a phenomenal young lady. I can't begin to share the impact she has had on this team."

Riccardi, who is anxiously awaiting 2020, summed up the season as exciting and rewarding.

"It was full of ups and downs and a strong family-like closeness," she said. "We did more than play together, but also grew stronger and wise from the experience. It was one for the books with a happy ending!"

**HALDANE** is used to Glens Falls, its home away from home prior to 2013. In her fourth year coaching her alma mater, Kelsey Flaherty guided the Blue Devils back to a familiar place – the state final four.

Haldane won the Section 1 Class D title and overcame a two-set deficit to beat Section 9 titlist Mount Academy, returning to the state final four for the first time since 2013.

Haldane finished pool play with a 3-3 record, as did Panama (Section 6), forcing a tie-breaking set. Panama defeated Haldane to play in the state-title match.

"It was definitely nerve-wracking, but we battled back very hard to get to that point," said Flaherty, an impact player on Haldane's 2011 state-title team. "To be given the opportunity to go to a tie-breaker was a rush. Even though we did not make it to the finals, the girls are winners in my eyes. When they look back on this weekend, they will always remember the roaring fans, the grit it took to get there and the heart and hard work they put in all season. Coming in third place in New York is something to be proud of."

Flaherty, a 2012 Haldane graduate and coach since 2016, will miss her super six seniors –Olivia Monteleone, Grace Tomann (who will be playing at New Hampshire), Melissa Rodino, Sofia Viggiano and Sophia Immorlica and Taylor Farrell.

"Olivia has been on varsity since my first season here," Flaherty said. "Her leadership and poise on the court is outstanding.

"Grace has been a huge asset to the volleyball program. She is a great all-around player who fights for every point. Melissa has some of the best hands as a setter I've ever seen in this sport.

"Sofia has always had a positive attitude and can make just about anyone laugh. During some of our toughest games this season, she was able to make sure the team was up and smiling.

"Sophia has overcome some tough injuries and always kept the team's spirits up. Taylor was new to volleyball last year. She was able to pick up volleyball fast and learn the game. All six seniors will be missed and are leaving big shoes to fill."

Not many coaches have the opportunity to coach at their alma mater, but Flaherty

*continued on next page*



JOSUE ACEVEDO PHOTOS

Hen Hud senior Callie Pidoriano knocks down point in Sailors' Class A setback at NYSPHSAA Final 4 match Saturday at Glens Falls.



# Sports

## Local Ladies Lead Way in Fall of 2019



By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports  
Editor @Directrays

And just like that the fall of 2019 is over for the local student athletes in and around the Northern Westchester/Putnam County regions, concluding with just one state title to our credit; that coming from the usual suspect, the incomparable Lakeland High field hockey program.

While Lakeland won its 10th NYSPHSAA title in the last 11 years with a 20-1-1 mark under distinguished 13-time NYS champion Coach Sharon Sarsen, there was plenty of other fine efforts for local coaches, parents and fans to be proud, especially along the volleyball circuit where Class AA Ossining, Class A Hen Hud and Class D Haldane all procured regional titles and reached the NYS Final 4 before being eliminated at Glens Falls. The trio of locals were part of a historical Section 1

*continued from previous page*

has made her presence felt. She had a good feeling that this team was Glens Falls-bound.

"The girls were driven, from the start of the season back in August," Flaherty said. "Being up at the state tournament, again, but now as a coach, was truly magical. Seeing it from the other side was humbling and I was and will always be proud to wear my Haldane blue."

Flaherty is already looking forward to 2020.

"I know what we are capable of competing against tough teams," she said. "I am excited for what next season's young talent will bring."

**HEN HUD** came into the 2019 season with one goal in mind, win another Section 1 Class A title, earn a berth in the state final four and then win the fourth state title in program history.

quintet sent to the Final 4 for the first time ever, joining Class C state champ Valhalla and Class B runner-up Ardsley. The Pride, Sailors and Blue Devils have built dynasty-like volleyball programs through dedicated coaches and driven student athletes worthy of major props, congrats to all...

Additionally, Carmel junior Katie Turk placed 8th overall in the NYS Cross Country championships on Nov. 16th and ninth in the NYS Federations last Saturday, running the second fastest time in school history...

Yeah, the ladies led the way this fall, and now we bring it all indoors where the hardwoods will shine bright at places like Ossining, where girls' hoops Coach Dan Ricci's nine-time defending Section 1 Class AA champion Pride will prance about the section with a bulls-eye bigger than the sun. As the Pride defend their fifth NYS title overall without three graduated D-I players – UConn's Aubrey Griffin, Seton Hall's Kailah Harris and Army's Jaida Strippoli –

# Direct Rays

they will be sought out by programs they have destroyed for much of the past decade. Sharp-shooting senior Julia Iorio is the lone returning starter for a Pride team that will take everybody's best shot this winter, and we'll be on top of it all beginning next week with our annual basketball preview edition for both boys' and girls' hoops...

Ossining is not alone, though, as many of the locals will need to reload, which means we could be taking some lumps this winter. We do like the Putnam Valley girls quite a bit this season, though a serious lack of depth and numbers in general could be a deal-breaker come playoffs...

**Giants GM** Dave Gettleman's gotta go, and he can take Coach Pat Schurmer with him. The Giants (2-9) are now are now 7-18 with this pair calling the shots, and 10-31 over the last three seasons, and they're every bit as bad as Dolan's Knicks. To boot, they've turned one of the best running backs

in the game – Saquon Barkley -- into a very ordinary player in what should be the prime of his career. The play calling lacks creativity, the O-line is a \$h!+\$how, the light at the end of the tunnel is dim at best, and I can't even clutch a moral victory from any of what I've seen other than the unsteady development of rookies QB Daniel Jones and WR Darius Slayton...

**In conclusion**, I used the phrase "Calls it Quits" in a Direct Rays headline last week regarding the resignation of Yorktown football Coach Mike Rescigno. It's a saying that oftentimes is used regarding a "settlement" or a "release from obligation". Rescigno, who resigned so he can spend more time with his family and to watch -- and maybe even coach -- his own kids down the road, would never quit on Yorktown. I certainly regret the headline if anyone took it wrong...

And now we patiently await Rescigno's replacement (there are several worthy candidates, we're told) in what could be a defining moment of Yorktown A.D. Rob Barrett's career. Good luck, my friend!

The Sailors went 2 for 3, winning a 15th sectional title since 2000, a ninth regional championship and returning to the NYS Final 4. On their way to Glens Falls, Hen Hud returned the favor in ending Cornwall's (Section 9) season in a regional semifinal. Last year, Cornwall upset Hen Hud in regional play.

Even though Hen Hud fell one step short of its third goal, the Sailors had a memorable season, highlighted by legendary Coach Diane Swertfager winning her 600th varsity match.

"Although it didn't end as we would have wished, this season meant the world to us, especially our seniors," said senior Captain Callie Pidioriano, who will continue playing volleyball in college. "We had great success this year despite losing a lot of talented girls last year who graduated. Being the team to

give Coach Swertfager her 600th win feels amazing. We were all so happy to share in that experience with her and make her proud just as she makes us proud."

Pidioriano will cherish the memories of her Hen Hud career, especially those shared with her classmates.

"Our seniors this year, Madisen Lupica, Caitlin Weimar, Natalie Urra, Julieta Antman, Ashanti Davis, Brunella Tissoni and myself have all grown so close over the years and being able to finish on such a successful note is a great thing for us," Pidioriano said.

"Thanks to Hen Hud volleyball, we have all made lifelong friends that we will always remember and cherish the memories,"

The seniors will be in the midst of their college careers next year when Hen Hud Volleyball begins 2020, but Pidioriano is excited for the future.

"I know they will pull through and work hard just as we did this year, and hopefully will be as successful, if not more, than we were," Pidioriano said.

With history on their side, the Sailors will give it a go, that's a given.

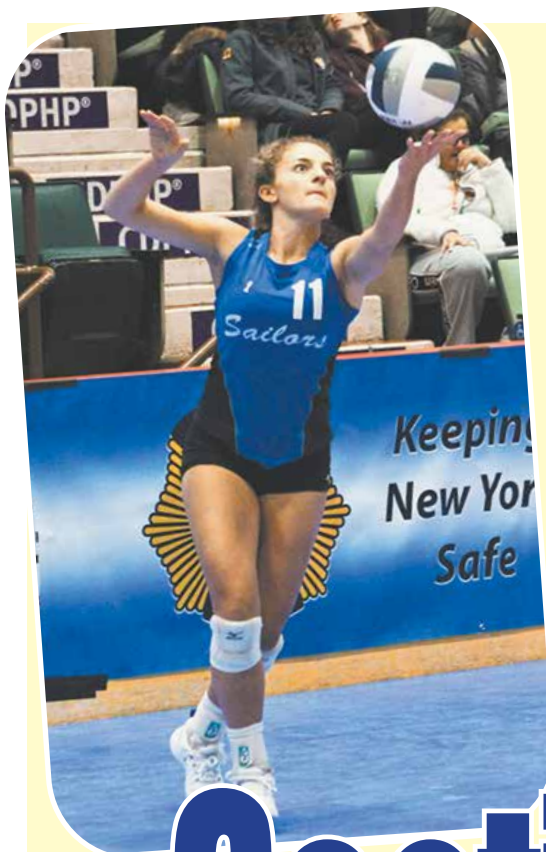


Classy Sailors concede match in Hen Hud's Class A Final 4 setback at NYSPHSAA championships in Glens Falls Saturday.



Hen Hud's Caitlin Weimar slams home point in Sailors' Class A setback at NYSPHSAA Final 4 match Saturday at Glens Falls.





## Record Five Volleyball Teams Challenge at NYSPHSAA Final 4's; Locals Fall Short of Title Dreams



# Section 'One'derful!



DINA BERTOLINE/JOSUE ACEVEDO PHOTOS

For the first time in history, five Section 1 volleyball champions — Class AA Ossining, Class A Hen Hud, Class B Ardsley, Class C Valhalla and Class D Haldane -- advanced to the NYSPHSAA Final 4 at historic Glens Falls, where only Valhalla and Ardsley advanced out of Saturday's round-robin pool play to earn a spot in Sunday's state championships where the first-time NYS champion Vikings were the lone Section 1 titlists. Among the locals, Caitlin Weimar was named to Class A All-Tournament team for the Sailors (inset photos), who came in unbeaten but met their match against eventual Class A state finalists Burnt Hills and West Irondequoit. Meanwhile, previously undefeated Ossining's finest season in school history concluded after getting swept by Baldwinsville, Connetquot and Mercy in pool play. Haldane lost a crucial tie-breaker to Section 6's Panama in its final match... see Volleyball Notebook