

Honor Memorial Day

Pages 14-16

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The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER Examiner

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

**Hen Hud
Knocks
Brewster,
Advances
to Final 4...**

**See Sports
Pull-Out**



May 21-May 27, 2019

SMALL NEWS IS

Ossining Robotics Team Competes in World Championships



For six of the last eight years, the Ossining High School O-Bots team has made it to the World Championships of the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition. Twenty-one club members made the trip to the championships in late April. "This year has been even more beyond our dreams than any other year because a lot of our success has really been from our robot's performance," said senior Kellen Cooks, a robot driver and member of the mechanical team. "We're really showing the balance between the ways that we spread STEM into our community and the quality of our robots and what we do inside this classroom as well." Students also attended conferences about team organizations and scholarships, as well as the Innovation Faire, whose exhibitors included companies like Ford, GM, NASA and SpaceX. OHS science teachers Mark Scinta and Michelle Portillo, and mentor Ken Ocheltree, led the team in Detroit. The O-Bots excelled at both regional competitions leading up to Detroit: the Hudson Valley Regional, which they helped create a few years ago; and the New York City Regional, where the team won an Industrial Design Award for the quality of the robot's design and its effectiveness.

Hen Hud Teacher Wins \$100,000 in Jeopardy! Tournament

By Rick Pezzullo

Hendrick Hudson High School science teacher Francois Barcomb put the district on the map last week when he won the 2019 Jeopardy! Teachers' Tournament and the \$100,000 top prize.

Calm, cool and collected, Barcomb, 50, who has taught 14 years in Hendrick Hudson, outlasted 14 other educators during the two-week competition.

Barcomb, who resides in New Paltz, dominated the two-day finals portion of the tournament against two other finalists. He built up a commanding lead last Thursday by earning \$20,400 and remained steady on Friday to finish with a total of \$41,600---\$9,600 more than the runner-up.

"It was fun, exciting and stressful to watch Francois compete. He regularly



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

Francois Barcomb is all smiles after being congratulated by Jeopardy! host Alex Trebek.

referenced the district and his colleagues, and he represented the district as an outstanding professional," said Hendrick

continued on page 2

Rainey Social Media Post on Shelter Foes Ripped by Vesce

By Rick Pezzullo

Fallout from a recent critical Instagram post by Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey aimed at opponents of the Jan Peek Homeless Shelter has entered the political arena.

Former councilman and mayoral candidate Vincent Vesce criticized Rainey for comments he made on Instagram last month where he took issue with a 10-year-old girl speaking at a Common Council meeting and taking a stance against a former plan to relocate the only homeless shelter in northern Westchester from North Water Street to 851 Washington Street.

In his post, Rainey also took aim at members of the resident's group Peekskill



Andre Rainey

Safe & Strong for supporting the girl.

"They clap and give a round of applause when a child speaks of how bad homeless people are and how dangerous and scary grown man are," Rainey stated.



Vincent Vesce

"I'm wrong, as a mayor, for calling them ignorant, so I'll save that comment/opinion to myself when I'm OUT of office I guess. In the meantime, I'll teach my child the power of helping the homeless

rather than teaching my child how bad they are. I guess I'm a different kind of parent."

Vesce, who served with Rainey on the council and is looking to limit Rainey's run as mayor to one two-year term, called Rainey's remarks "unprofessional."

"I am aware of the comments the Mayor made and actually couldn't believe what I saw. It's one thing to disagree on issues or voice your opinion on social media but it is quite another to outright attack your constituents for simply stating their opinions in what was a respectful manner, especially when one of those constituents is a little girl," Vesce remarked. "This is just another example of the unprofessional

continued on page 2

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Rainey Social Media Post on Shelter Foes Ripped by Vesce

continued from page 1

and immature behavior demonstrated over and over by this Mayor. Given his personal history and the language and lyrics used in the so-called music he produces, I suppose none of us should be surprised by this recent unprovoked and disgraceful outburst against a mother and her young daughter. It's just another clear example of why Peekskill needs a change in leadership."

"As you know, there is more to being Mayor of Peekskill than showing up for photo ops or ribbon cuttings, and having the city's PR firm promote you, and another to fully understand what it means to provide sound municipal governance over city operations and provide the community with leadership that they can be proud of, not embarrassed by," Vesce added.

Rainey responded to Vesce's criticism last week by saying he stood by his post.

"Peekskill people remember that the last time someone named Vesce was Mayor of Peekskill, crime went through the roof, downtown was a ghost town, and homeowners were taxed to the max. Vinnie Vesce is the legacy of a patronage machine that focused on handing out jobs to friends and family members instead of making Peekskill the best that it can be," Rainey said. "The voters want Peekskill to move forward, and that's what we are doing in my administration. Peekskill is Westchester's hottest community right now, with development everywhere you look, taxes going down, and a sense of pride we haven't seen in this beautiful city in 50 years."

"And that's because I'm determined to be Mayor for all of Peekskill—not just a small group of people who want to control the rest of us for their own personal benefit, and stoke fear, distrust

and divisiveness in this community. That's what I said on Instagram, and I stand by it. Peekskill deserves better, and I'm determined to make that happen," Rainey added.

During a board meeting last month, the mother of the 10-year-old girl confronted Rainey about his post. He did not respond to her. Others also ripped him, including Brian Dee, a local businessman, who said, "I thought you were a stand-up dude. To call all of us ignorant, that will come back to bite you in the butt later."

In March, Caring for the Hungry and Homeless of Peekskill (CCHOP), the non-profit organization that runs Jan Peek, announced it was abandoning plans to move the shelter to Washington Street and was seeking an alternative location.

Rainey indicated last month he was aware of the new property CHHOP was considering but refused to reveal

the location, instead urging residents to monitor CHHOP's website, which has made no mention of the site being pursued.

Rumors have circulated in the city that the property that has been identified is on Lower South Street, owned by the Tutor Perini Corporation. Local businessman Louie Lanza recently confirmed to *The Northern Westchester Examiner* he was one of several investors currently involved in a land deal on Lower South Street.

The Jan Peek House homeless shelter has been located on North Water Street since 1988.

Rainey and Vesce, along with Common Council and Westchester County legislator candidates, have been invited to attend a candidate's forum being held by the Peekskill NAACP on Thursday, May 23 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Peekskill High School.

Hen Hud Teacher Wins \$100,000 in Jeopardy! Tournament

continued from page 1

Hudson Superintendent of Schools Joseph Hochreiter. "We're all very excited for him!"

"Congratulations to Francois!," said Board of Education President Barbara Pettersen. "The district was well represented by his outstanding achievement on Jeopardy. We all are very

proud of him!"

In the early rounds of the tournament, the May 8 episode was screened in the Hendrick Hudson High School auditorium, with all proceeds donated to Alex's Army, an effort to support high school student Alex Figueroa and her family as Figueroa undergoes

cancer treatment.

Jeopardy! flew Barcomb to Culver City, California to film the 2019 Jeopardy! Teachers Tournament.

"Jeopardy! was very good to us, paying for our flights, hotel rooms and a small stipend," Barcomb said prior to his winning performance.

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Peekskill Man Charged with Assaulting Officer with Beer Bottle

By Rick Pezzullo

A Peekskill man was charged with assaulting a police officer after throwing and striking the cop with a beer bottle during a foot chase last Wednesday afternoon on Diven Street.

Peekskill police officers Ronald Stroh and Christopher Colucci were conducting a quality of life check on the 900 block of

Diven Street at about 1:25 p.m. on May 15 when they observed Clarence Boyd, 35, in public possession of an open container of alcohol.

According to police, Boyd tried to flee after Stroh approached him. During the pursuit, Boyd tossed a glass beer bottle at Stroh, striking him in the head and causing a laceration.

Boyd was apprehended on Diven Street near the intersection with North Division Street, and when he physically resisted arrest, he was tasered by one of the officers.

Stroh was transported to New York Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital for treatment. Boyd was evaluated by Peekskill Volunteer Ambulance Corps personnel at the police station and was

found to have not sustained any injury.

Boyd was charged with assault in the second degree, a Class D felony, resisting arrest and obstructing governmental administration, both Class A misdemeanors, and possessing an open container of alcohol, a City Code violation. Following arraignment, he was remanded to Westchester County Jail.

Police Blotter

State Police May 12

State Police from the Cortlandt barracks arrested Luis K. Urbina, 43, of Philipstown, for Endangering the Welfare of a Child, and Criminal Obstruction of Breath, both class A misdemeanors. On May 11, troopers were dispatched to Sprout Brook Road in the Town of Philipstown for a domestic dispute. Investigation found Urbina strangled the victim who was lying in bed with two children. Urbina was arraigned in Town of Kent Court, and released on his own recognizance by Judge Curtiss. An order of protection was requested on the behalf of the victims and granted by the court. Urbina is next scheduled to appear in Town of Philipstown Court on June 12.

State Police from Cortlandt arrested Manuel A. Valle, 50, of Peekskill, for Aggravated DWI. He was traveling on Welcher Avenue in the City of 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 Jared A. Malfer, 34, of Cortlandt, for

Two Wrong-Way Drivers Arrested on Saw Mill

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County Police arrested two wrong-way drivers in separate incidents in Pleasantville and Bedford on the Saw Mill Parkway in the early morning hours of May 14 and charged them with driving under the influence of alcohol.

In the first incident, at about 1:10 a.m., the wrong-way driver crashed into another vehicle near Grant Street in Pleasantville, according to police. The wrong-way driver was traveling northbound in the southbound lanes in a 2013 Honda Civic when he collided with a 2011 BMW, seriously injuring himself and the other driver.

Police said the wrong-way driver, who was identified several days later as Christopher Meehan, 52, of the Bronx, because he did not have identification with him, had a strong odor of alcohol on his breath. He had to be extricated from his car by the Pleasantville Fire Department and

Aggravated DWI. He was traveling on the Bear Mountain Parkway in the Town

of Cortlandt when he was involved in a one-car motor vehicle crash. Investigation

revealed he was under the influence of alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

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continued on page 19

Special Olympics at Their Finest in Somers Tournament

By Abby Luby

To the ordinary observer, they are high school basketball players rushing down the court, dribbling the ball, passing it off, shooting to score. You barely notice the players who step a little unevenly or hesitate slightly when throwing the ball.

These particular players are on the Special Olympics team at Somers High School and although they have a learning or physical disability, their reflexes are quick and their energy keen. On May 15, they played competently at their end of season tournament at Somers High School.

"This is what's known as a unified tournament," said Katy Faivre, Special Olympics Coordinator and Coach for Somers High School and Middle School. "We are combining kids from the high school basketball team with the special athletes. There are six teams, eight kids on a team and two kids on each team are from the special Olympics team."

Including students with intellectual and physical disabilities in a regular classroom is not a new idea. Faivre believed that integrating general high school team members with Special Olympic youngsters would improve their game. The Somers High School Special Olympics team is a small part of the New York State Special Olympics.



PHOTOS BY ABBY LUBY

Players that competed in Special Olympics game at Somers High School last week.

"Most Special Olympics are adult leagues," Faivre explained. "But ours is a Pioneer League and is the only school-based league in New York State. It was started by parents about 15 years ago and today the league has 18 teams from schools in Westchester and Putnam Counties. We play competitively and the program is completely supported by the district."

The tournament was at the Somers High School gym, which was divided into two playing courts with two Special Olympic basketball games happening simultaneously. Debra Ann Carfagno watched her 17-year old son Ralph barrel down the court. Ralph has been in the Special Olympic program for years. Carfagno marveled at how the Special

Olympic kids were so interactive and competitive.

"Ms. Faivre is a great teacher and has made each and every one of these kids feel they are part of the team," she said. "They want to be involved and have a true sense of individuality and self-esteem."

In 1968, Eunice Kennedy Shriver founded Special Olympics. Today, the world-wide organization funds year-round training and competitions to five million children and adult athletes with intellectual disabilities and physical disabilities.

Faivre said that the Special Olympic unified teams in Somers include bowling indoor soccer, floor hockey and basketball, all with weekly practice and weekly games. "I started working with the



same group of kids about five years ago and know them quite well," said Faivre.

The teams have attracted many volunteers who are high schoolers and coaches. "The volunteers have made the Special Olympics team a competitive, inspiring these kids to play at or above their level, outside their comfort zone. These games push them a little bit to play to the best of their ability," she said.

As the tournament reached the halfway mark, Carfagno acknowledged Faivre's commitment. "Ms. Faivre has made it work. She listens to them, communicates with each one of them. She instills the belief that they are part of something and they are respected," Carfagno said.

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Paramount in Peekskill to Host Miss NY Competition in June

By Rick Pezzullo

For the first time, the 2019 Miss New York and Miss New York's Outstanding Teen competitions will be held at the historic Paramount Hudson Valley Theater in Peekskill in June.

The 55th annual Miss New York Scholarship Organization announced last week that the 2019 Miss New York Competition will be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 8. The finals will be preceded by two preliminary nights of competition at the Paramount on Brown Street.

"We are absolutely thrilled to have the Miss New York Competition in the City of Peekskill. The community members, business owners, and city officials have been such a joy and pleasure to work with over the last few months, as we ironed out the competition details," said Mack Hopper, Chairman of the Miss New York Board of Directors, "We look forward to building on this partnership with the community and making Peekskill the official home of the Miss New York Competition for years to come."

Over the last six years, the competition has been in various parts of the state, including Staten Island and Buffalo, where four of the last seven Miss New Yorks were crowned who then became Miss America.



Miss America Nia Franklin

In June 2018, Nia Franklin from Brooklyn won the competition and three months later claimed the coveted title of Miss America and a \$50,000 scholarship with her opera singing and "New York grit."

Her first runner-up, Rahmeka Cox, assumed the title of Miss New York 2019 when Franklin took on the role of Miss America. Since then Cox has advocated for kidney transplants by sharing her family's personal story with the matter



Miss New York Rahmeka Cox

and promoting her social impact initiative It Only Takes One.

"The City of Peekskill is ready to welcome the Miss New York Organization with open arms," said Deborah Milone, President of the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce. "We are so excited to be the host home of the 55th anniversary celebration of the competition and hope to be for future competitions. We have several businesses and community leaders

who are providing sponsorships and volunteering their time to help make the event a success. It has been our pleasure to assist a program that empowers young woman and provides scholarship money."

"The Peekskill Business Improvement District is delighted to have our thriving downtown play host to the Miss New York Organization, their outstanding contestants, and their supportive families" said Bill Powers, Executive Director of the Peekskill BID. "The competition allows us to showcase Peekskill's vibrant, diverse community and all it has to offer from fine dining to art, from history to entertainment."

Both Franklin and Cox will be featured at Miss New York finals, along with several other former titleholders, and will be available for autographs at the downtown Peekskill gazebo on June 8, from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m., with the reigning Miss New York's Outstanding Teen, Cayla Kumar, and the 39 candidates vying for the titles of Miss New York 2019 and Miss New York's Outstanding Teen 2019.

Miss New York 2019 will receive a \$10,000 scholarship, advance to the 2020 Miss America Competition, and spend a year of service dedicated to the state of New York and advocating for her personal social impactful initiative.

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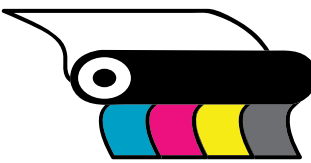
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Veatch Fund to Award Seven Student Music Scholarships in June

Graduating high school seniors from seven high schools will be honored on Friday, June 7 at Yorktown's Town Hall when The Justin Veatch Fund presents each of them with a \$1,000 music scholarship.

The 6 p.m. program will include a keynote address from Mark Barden of Sandy Hook Promise and will also be attended by State Senator Peter Harkham and Yorktown Supervisor Ilan Gilbert. The public is invited and refreshments will be served.

The 2019 recipients are Kathryn Czerwinski of Peekskill High School, Francis Fedora of Croton-Harmon High School, Edward Fiscella of North Salem High School, Scott Murdock of John F. Kennedy Catholic High School, Michael Sottile of Mahopac High School, Stephanie Tateiwa of Harrison High School and Kian Tortorello-Allen of Fox Lane High School.

Scholarships began in 2009

The Justin Veatch Fund Music Scholarships honor the legacy of Justin Veatch, a Yorktown High School senior who died from an accidental drug overdose in 2008. The 2019 awards bring to 42 the number of \$1,000 scholarships awarded by The Fund since it began the award in 2009. "This year we had 20 applications for six planned awards," says

Jeffrey Veatch, President of The Fund and Justin's father. "Our scholarship awards committee had a tie in voting for the sixth recipient, so we decided we would award a seventh this year."

One of the awards will be dedicated to the memory of former Yorktown Supervisor Al Capellini. Also new this year, is the fact that five of the awards have been fully sponsored. Those sponsors are the Yorktown Small Business Association, Tricy Cushner and family, Alan and Ellen Marzelli, Graham Keenan and family and the law offices of Joseph J. Tock. Each sponsor is invited to attend the awards program and will be presented with a framed photo of the metronome award that will include their names on the inscription.

Local 2019 Recipients

Kathryn Czerwinski is graduating from Peekskill High School and has been accepted to attend Berklee College in Boston in the fall. Kathryn's focus is as a vocalist but she also performs on guitar, violin, piano and drums. Kathryn's talent might have been seen as quite unlikely as a young child because she was born 75% deaf in both ears. Kathryn said she began studying music in fifth grade with the encouragement of her dad. She said there was something about music that gave her joy and she has taken advantage

of that in writing and performing music. She has been involved in the Peekskill High jazz ensemble and a mainstay in the highly regarded A cappella group The City Singers.

Francis Fedora will graduate from Croton-Harmon High School and attend Yale University this fall. Francis is a cellist whose Bach performances and personal compositions profoundly impressed the scholarship committee. Francis will pursue physics and math at Yale, but plans to audition for the symphony orchestra and continue his music education at every opportunity. In describing Francis, his Greenwood Music Camp teacher spoke of "the goodness of his heart and willingness to put others before himself" in recounting Francis' actions in the wake of a community member's death. That same teacher went on to call Francis "the glue that holds our community together."

Scott Murdock is graduating from John F. Kennedy Catholic High School and will attend Stevens Institute of Technology in the fall. Scott specializes in drums and percussion but also plays guitar and bass. His keen interest in the artistic and technical aspects of music puts him in the music producer's realm. Scott sees his future role in music as anything from the sound guy in a theatre to a Grammy nominated record

producer. He's performed multiple years as co-principal percussionist in youth symphony performances at Lincoln Center and achieved a near perfect score in the NYSSMA All-State Jazz Drum kit category.

Michael Sottile is graduating from Mahopac High School and is considering enrollment in Pace, Marist or SUNY Albany for the fall. He specializes in piano but also plays bass and sings. Michael's musical journey has taken a slightly different route than many. Michael started by performing the compositions of artists he admired like The Beatles, The Doors, Billy Joel and Elton John. As he perfected his versions of these songs he began to perform them in public at open mics and in other venues. Michael says in college he will continue his piano studies and hopes to develop his improvisational skills in jazz.



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Letters to the Editor

Rezoning of Property in Jefferson Valley will Cause Problems

To the Editor,
TIME FOR ACTION!

Rezoning property from single-family homes to 150 one and two-bedroom rental units to be built on 19.3 acres is on the agenda of the Yorktown Town Board.

A massive, negative impact on the Jefferson Valley Community will occur if the Yorktown Town Board approves the rezoning, known as Summit Hill Property. The 150 Rental Unit Proposal is earmarked for development on the property between Hill Boulevard and Lee Boulevard bordering Route 6n.

Parking at DeCicco's, the Post Office, etc., is already a major problem. This proposal will bring an additional 200+ cars into the area creating a bigger nightmare than we already have. The building of multi-family developments away from mass transit is not visionary planning. We are developing without strategy which threatens to further congest the very character of the area.

The increase of school age children will affect our school taxes as well as add to the traffic congestion with the additional school buses. Jefferson Valley homeowners are financially invested in our community

and do not want to see their property values go down and their taxes go up!

The ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES of approving these 150 rental units will cause 19.3 acres of trees to be decimated and be replaced by asphalt and steel. We will not hear birds chirping and no longer see squirrels, chipmunks and critters. Removing these trees will result in the erosion of soil which will cause additional major flooding in the surrounding areas. This will only contribute to the ongoing water run off problem which has still not been resolved. One of the respon-

sibilities of the Yorktown Town Board is to protect the conservation and preservation of our natural landscape and prevent irreversible environmental damage. Preserve and conserve before it is too late!

It is up to the Yorktown Town Board to protect our community. It is up to us, as voters, to see that this massive multi-family rezoning is NOT approved.

IT'S TIME TO TAKE ACTION!

Louise DeMarco
Brian Sillik
Jeanne Troiano

Newsletter from Yorktown Supervisor is Very Informative

To the Editor:

Just wanted to say how impressed I am with the e-mail newsletter Lanny Gilbert, our Town Supervisor, sends out. Many weeks I cannot get to – or stay throughout – Town Board meetings, and I don't know where else I would get important information about town government.

For example, I've learned through the newsletter that:

- the Granite Knolls sports fields are now open
- significant progress is being made about the algae bloom in Lake Mohegan
- applications for dog licenses can now be submitted online

• the Town Clerk has initiated a mobile office.

Through the newsletter I've also realized how many interesting things are going on in Yorktown. Although I'm an "empty nester," I think it's terrific that we have a Kids Fishing Derby coming up this month – something I wouldn't know without the

newsletter. And, I was able to alert friends with young children about it.

So kudos to Yorktown and to Town Supervisor Lanny Gilbert for delivering timely, helpful information to my inbox. Thank you!

Sincerely,
John Flynn, Yorktown

Better Tenant Protections are Needed in State

To the Editor:

The recent full-page ad in the Examiner paid for by "Taxpayers for an Affordable New York" was successful in its intent

to catch the readers eye and attention at a time when a more progressive State Legislature has the opportunity to pass truly equitable rent reforms that protect tenants. It is important to note that the current Emergency Tenant Protection Act (ETPA) is the only State law that explicitly protects tenants from arbitrary rent increases. Before commenting, I did a little research about who is this "Taxpayer" group: oddly their web page makes no mention of the Board or Membership of this group; however, one of their resource documents in the finest of print credits the NYS Realtors Association. So let's have truth in advertisement: this group is apparently nothing more than a front group for realtors and landlords. Most of us are taxpayers, and many of us struggle to find decent affordable rental housing in Westchester. Clearly this group is not representing our interests.

So let's get to the misstatement of "facts":

They say: Albany wants to expand NYC's rent system statewide. FACT: Rent stabilization and ETPA covers NYC, and municipalities in Nassau, Rockland and Westchester counties.

They say the law will not create a single new affordable apartment. Okay, that is true, however, the answer to the affordable housing crisis must include BOTH preservation of existing affordable units and new development.

They say buildings will fall into disrepair because owners cannot afford to maintain their properties. In fact, all residential buildings are monitored by local building inspectors who can fine owners for failure to maintain safe conditions. In addition, ETPA and Rent Stabilization laws do allow rent increases for substantial capital improvements.

They say jobs will be lost and investment in new housing will be discouraged. Not

having tenant protection laws leads to the loss of habitable affordable housing through redevelopment into "market rate" housing, which leads to homelessness and involuntary displacement. That's a high price to pay.

They claim the laws will drive up your property taxes or lead to service cuts. There is no unbiased substantiated evidence that this is true.

So in these days of "fake news" and hyperbole, I would like to caution your readers to not accept opinions of a special interest group as fact. Let the buyer beware! Tenants need more protection, not less. Let your State Legislators and Governor Cuomo know that you believe that there is an affordable housing crisis that requires better tenant protections.

Sincerely,
Melvyn R Tanzman

Letters Policy

We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. We will do our best to print all letters, but are limited by space constraints. Letters are subject to editing and may be withheld from publication on the discretion of the editor. Please refrain from personal attacks.

Email letters to rpezzullo@theexaminernews.com.

The Northern Westchester Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.

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Yorktown High Grad Makes History in Congress

Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a Yorktown High School graduate, made history again on May 10 by becoming the youngest U.S. representative to preside over the House of Representatives. The 29-year-old Democrat, who became the youngest woman elected to Congress last year, presided over the House for "special orders," which are speeches made after all legislative business is completed.



Albany wants to expand NYC's broken rent system **statewide.**



Albany's rent proposals aren't just a problem for New York City. **They're a problem for our communities.**

- ✗ They'll make it impossible for many owners to afford to maintain their buildings, causing them to fall into disrepair.
- ✗ They'll put thousands of local contractors out of work while discouraging new investment in affordable housing.
- ✗ Expansion statewide could drive up YOUR property taxes or cut services.

Call your State Legislators: Senate 518-455-2800 & Assembly 518-455-4100

We need Responsible Rent Reforms.

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Obituaries

William Masi

William Frank Masi, a former Somers resident, died peacefully May 10 at Candlewood Valley Nursing Home. He was 73.

He was born April 5, 1946 in Manhattan to Rose and Frank Masi. He was a member of the Army during the Vietnam War. He also worked for IBM and retired from there after 30 years. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, golf, football and baseball. He resided in Somers for 18 years.

Mr. Masi is survived by his former wife Rosemarie Masi and was the loving father to Gina Masi of Kent, CT, and Christopher Masi of East Hampton, NY. He was predeceased by daughter Lynette Rannekleiv of Shenorock, and sister Patricia Priori of New Jersey. He was also the devoted grandfather of Donald, Daniel, Jared, Alyssa and Leah, who he loved endlessly.

George Young

George Edward Young, a resident of Yorktown, died in his sleep at home May 16, surrounded by his family. He was 87.

He was born October 8, 1931 to Daniel and Elizabeth (MacIntosh) Young of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada. On May 4, 1957, he married Ellison (White) in St. Catharines, Ontario.

He is survived by his wife Ellison, of 62 years; two daughters, Deborah (Mark) Giordano, and Cheryl Frankild; three grandchildren, Mark Jr. (Kimberly), Justin, and Kyle; one great-grandchild Charli Grace, the love of his life, sister Mary Hunt of Nova Scotia; as well as many of Ellison's brothers and sisters, their families and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother John William, wife Beatrice; and sisters Theresa Hunt (Reggie) and Ann Marie Thurbide (Joe).

Mr. Young and his wife enjoyed family gatherings at their trailer in New Jersey for years where swimming, barbecuing, campfires, singing and a ton of laughs

were shared. He entertained all with his playing of the guitar and singing all the old favorites. The Yankees were also a favorite, along with a good boxing match. He was truly a devoted husband and a loving father/grandfather.

Barbara Vassallo

Barbara A. Vassallo, a lifetime resident of Ossining, died May 18. She was 67.

She was born April 28, 1952 in the old Ossining Hospital in Ossining. She grew up on 8 Garden Street in Ossining, with her parents, Joseph P. Williams (predeceased) and Elizabeth (Ludwig) Williams. She graduated from Ossining High School in 1970 and then went to nursing school and became a licensed practical nurse. She spent her entire career working with geriatric patients including Bethel Nursing Home and Briarcrest Nursing Home in Ossining. She also worked at Atria in Briarcliff Manor.

On November 11, 1973, she married Frank Vassallo at St Ann's Church in Ossining. They met when they were both volunteering at the Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps, where they had many friends and volunteered for many years. She also served on the board of directors as secretary for OVAC. In addition to OVAC, she was a member of Columbus Lodge, where served as secretary and former member of the Ossining Lions Club.

She was currently working with her husband as office manager in his accounting office in Ossining. She survived by her husband, Frank, daughters, Francine (Justin), Minadeo, and Dawn (Michael) Turco, and mother, Elizabeth (Betty) Williams. She was Lala to her three grandchildren, Oliver Turco, Joseph (JP) Turco and Ryder Minadeo.

Mrs. Vassallo was the kindest and most generous person who loved her family and friends. She will always be remembered as enjoying her favorite cocktail in a tall glass and telling people that she would "call them right back." She loved going to Yankees games, spending time with her

grandsons and going to her second home in Vero Beach, Fl. enjoying the sun and playing golf. She will be greatly missed.

Robert Blevins

A pillar of the Briarcliff Manor community, Robert "Bob" W. Blevins, died May 10, surrounded by family. He was 70.



He was born March 19, 1949 to Noah and Dorothy Blevins. He was known around town as a star athlete, setting many school records in both baseball and basketball. Mr. Blevins was a Life Member and Ex-Captain of the Briarcliff Manor Fire Department with more than 40 years of dedicated service.

He was a dedicated husband and father, sports enthusiast, and a bear through and through. Most importantly, he was a family man who took immense pride in his children.

Gloria LeVine

Gloria LeVine (nee Silver) died May 14 at her Somers home surrounded by family members. She was 89.

From her birth on May 26, 1929 to her death, she nourished the people around her with love, intelligence, personal strength and caring. She was a teacher, lifelong learner and a woman ahead of her time.

Issam Sammy Ishak

Issam Sammy Ishak, a resident of Yorktown, died May 13. He was 31.

He was born August 13, 1987 in Yonkers. He is survived by his parents Ghassan and Rana Ishak, his brothers Naim wife Danielle and their son Jonathan, Daniel, Christopher fiancé Kristin and brother Josef. He was cherished and loved by his family and many friends.

Sammy brightened up the room with his unforgettable smile. He always lived life to the fullest and had no regrets. He loved making jokes and putting a smile on everyone's face. He was always there when anyone needed him no matter when.

His passion was playing poker as he had inspirations to be a professional poker player. He was the biggest New England

Patriots fan, loved the Yankees and loved hanging with his friends and watch wrestling.

He cherished his family and his three-year-old nephew who he loved with all his heart. Heaven has gained one of the best angels. He will forever be missed.

Harold Travis, Jr.

Harold G. Travis, Jr., a resident of Peekskill, died suddenly May 13 at New York Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital. He was 93.

He was born in Peekskill on January 25, 1926 to Harold and Violetta Travis. He was predeceased by his father Harold G. Travis, Sr.; mother Violetta Travis (Spock); brothers Frank Travis, George Travis, Bill Travis, and Elsworth Hann; sisters Edna Travis, Agnes Conklin, and Joan Burrows; Jeffrey Travis, and his loving wife of 50 years, Grace Travis.

He is survived by his daughter Grace (Skip) Thornell; sister Lorraine Turner; aunt Sophie Gordineer; grandchildren Robert Rodino, Nikki (Chris) Cowart, Jessica (Jeremy) Sinclair, and Ursula (Chris) Gallagher; great-grandchildren Christina Rodino, Kayla (Gordon) Darby, Anthony Rodino, Hayley Cowart, Jake Cowart, Evan Cowart, and Hunter Gallagher; and great-great grandchildren Sophia, Skylar, and Amelia Darby.

Bernard Garber

Bernard Michael Garber, "Mike," a longtime resident of Heritage Hills in Somers, died May 14 after a long struggle to recover from an aortic dissection he suffered in December 2018. He was 72.

He was born January 3, 1947 to Bernard A. and Dorothy C. (Cavanaugh) Garber. He attended St. Mary of the Assumption Elementary School in Katonah (Class of 1961) and Archbishop Stepinac High School, White Plains (Class of 1965). He spent the next two years at St. Michael's College of the University of Toronto, then transferred to the University of Colorado, where he received his BA in Anthropology in 1969.

He enjoyed swimming, tennis, and gardening; he was an avid reader, gifted cartoonist, passionate supporter of pro-life issues, and a loyal friend to many. He recently retired from Southern Westchester BOCES

Mr. Garber is survived by his brothers, J. Brady Garber of White Plains, Clinton D. Garber of Somers, and Gregory F. Garber of Newtown, PA; his nephews Colby E. Garber and his wife, Rozie of Perkasi, PA; Jeremy B. Garber of Portland, OR, and his niece Tiffany N. Krzyzkowski and her husband Greg of Burlington, NJ, and three grand-nieces, Hayden Garber, Cassandra Garber and Riley Garber. His sister Mary Ellen Garber predeceased him in 2001.

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Businesses of the Week

By Abby Luby

Frothy cappuccinos, rich caffe lattes, and steamy Chai teas are just a few tantalizing drinks at the Dolce Vita Café which just opened in the hamlet of Yorktown Heights. Dolce Vita in Italian means “sweet life,” an appropriate name for a place that can treat your palate to enticing desserts and drinks. Complementing the many luscious libations are delicious traditional Italian cakes such as Tiramisu, Ricotta and Pistachio Cake, Cannoli, Tartufo Cake Cappuccino, and more.

The café's grand opening was Saturday, May 18 at 1877 Commerce Street in Underhill Plaza. Owners are wife and husband Anduela and Marsel Prela who purchased the storefront in December 2018. They spent about four months renovating the space that now accommodates about 50 people. It's bright and airy, especially when the floor to ceiling front window opens out to the sidewalk lending to a street café feel. Soft lighting, marble top tables and a few deep green velvet couches gives the café a relaxed atmosphere.

The café's soft opening was on May 7 and since then there's been a steady flow of customers. “Our busiest times are afternoons and evenings since our soft



Cappuccino and lattes are served at Dolce Vita Cafe, located in the Underhill Plaza in Yorktown.



PHOTOS BY ABBY LUBY

School in Yorktown and a baby boy just born on March 6. Marsel Prela owns a construction business and Anduela Prela teaches middle school in the Bronx. This is the couple's first venture into the restaurant business and helping them to run the new family owned café is Marsel's sister, Arta Prela.

The notion of opening a special eatery to imbibe a good cup of cappuccino along with a delicious dessert

opening,” said Anduela Prela. “We are getting a feel for when people like to come and what they like to eat. Some have asked for certain breakfast dishes such as grilled sandwiches. We want to respond to our customers' requests.” The Prelas originally opened at 6 a.m. but few showed up and they changed their hours to open at 8 a.m. and close at 10 p.m.

All pastries at the café are made by Bindi, an internationally known Italian dessert company whose Arthur Avenue distributor delivers to Dolce Vita once or twice a week. Traditional cakes on the menu include carrot cake, red velvet and cannoli. Also on the menu is Cassata, a traditional sweet from Sicily that is a

round sponge cake moistened with fruit juices or liqueur and layered with ricotta cheese and candied fruit. And what Italian styled café would be complete without several flavors of Gelato? Cold summer drinks include creamy frappuccinos, smoothies and flavored iced coffee.

Not everything on the menu is sweet. There are waffles, croissants and an Albanian pastry called Byrek, which is a rolled filo pastry filled with spinach and cheese. Byrek has its place at the café because the Prela family is from Albania. They have lived in Westchester for over a decade and are Yorktown residents. Anduela and Marsel Prela have a daughter in third grade at Brookside Elementary

came after the closing of TWIST Frozen Yogurt & Sweet Shop in Yorktown's Roma building. “We realized there was no place to go for a sweet dessert, especially a place that was kid friendly,” said Anduela Prela. “Dolce Vita Café is where you can meet a friend in the afternoon or have a nice dessert after going out for dinner.” Future plans may include some type of live entertainment to add a certain ambience. “But for now, the café as it is, has much appeal.”

Dolce Vita Café is open Monday-Sunday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. For more information, call 914-352-6464 or visit dolcevitacafeny.com/.

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Thank you, Councilman Vishnu Patel

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 Any active or retired Service Member will receive a hot dog w/topping for a quarter! With this ad. Limit one per customer. Offer good 5/25 through 5/27/19

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Nathan's

Beef Hot Dogs • Chili Cheese Dogs
 All Natural Drinks • Root Beer Floats

650 Lee Blvd - Food Court • (2nd floor)

TOWN OF YORKTOWN
REVISED SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE
FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 27 - 31
NO COLLECTIONS ON MONDAY, MAY 27
MEMORIAL DAY

RECYCLING

MONDAY collections will be on **Tuesday, May 28**
 TUESDAY collections will be on **Wednesday, May 29**
 No changes for regular Thursday & Friday collections

Kitchen Refuse
Monday & Thursday collection will be on: **Tuesday, May 28 & Thursday, May 30**
Tuesday & Friday collection will be on: **Wednesday, May 29 & Friday, May 31**

ORGANIC YARD WASTE FACILITY

2200 Greenwood Street
 Will be **closed** for the **Memorial Day Weekend**
 Closed: **Saturday, May 25 – Monday, May 27**

NOTE:
 Recyclables in Plastic Bags will not be collected!

Refuse & Recycling Department
 2279 Crompond Road (behind Police/Court)
 Questions? (914) 245-4438
www.Yorktownny.org/refuserecycling

Sansotta II 2008 Crompond Rd. Cortlandt Manor
 914 737-1100

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 Pasta Primavera • Oven Fried Chicken • Chicken Cacciatore
 Mussels Marinara • Chicken Picatta • Pasta w/Broccoli Rabe & Sausage • Sausage & Peppers • Teriyaki Pepper Steak (+\$50)

And Mixed green salad with choice of dressing • Cookie Platter
 Potato salad • Pasta salad • Cole slaw
 Mustard • Mayonnaise
 Rolls • Italian bread • Rice Pilaf
 Serving forks & spoons
 * add a full tray of vegetable medley for an additional \$25

The Old Mill Singers
 Present

Aspects of Love
 Directed by Peter Frost

Friday, May 31st 8pm
 Saturday, June 1st 8pm

Clear View School
 480 Albany Post Road
 Briarcliff Manor

Tickets \$15
 Seniors \$12
 Children \$5

www.oldmillsingers.org

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, May 21

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>.

Health Care Discussion: Long-Term Care Riders vs Chronic Illness Rider - Understanding the Differences will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Somers Library. Registration is required: call 914-232-5717 or come to the Reference Desk. The library is handicapped accessible.

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. 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 or www.hyinhealth.com.

Art Class: Botanical Drawing will be held on every Tuesday from today through June 25 at the Cedar Lane Arts Center, 235 Cedar Lane, Ossining. The \$185 cost includes materials for all the classes. To register visit: https://register.communitypass.net/reg/cat_program_class_detail.cfm?s&t&season_id=18796&program_id=976535.

Wednesday, May 22

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 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.

POUND Program: POUNDTMFitness 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.

Thursday, May 23

Yorktown Jewish Center Courses: A wide variety of courses are being offered at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Family Tensions in the Bible, led by Rabbi Stanley Urbas, is held on the first and third Mondays of the month at 11 a.m. Rosh Chodesh Studies for Women--led by Marsha Sternstein, is held at 7:30 p.m. on one Tuesday evening

per month. Talmud and Contemporary Issues-- led by Wendy Segal --is held on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Beginners Hebrew--led by Cantor Isabel Kopstein-- is held every Monday at 1:30 p.m.; contact the office for details. Advanced Hebrew-- led by Cantor Isabel Kopstein-- is held on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Ten Minutes of Torah--led by Rabbi Sternstein--- is held on Shabbat mornings at approximately at 10:30 a.m. Mishneh Torah (Maimonidean thought)--led by Rabbi Sternstein- is held on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. Info: 914-245-2324 or yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Community Kosher BBQ: Chabad of Yorktown, 2629 Old Yorktown Rd., invites the community to join a Community Kosher BBQ in honor of Lag Baomer at 5:30 p.m. The program will include crafts and music. The suggested donations are \$10/person or \$40/family. SVP: www.ChabadYorktown.com, or 1 914-962-1111.

Acting Classes: The 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.

continued on page 18

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Whether to Dust or to Leave it Where it Lies

If we are made from dust and shall return to dust, does that give us a pass to live with the stuff?

While dust is inevitable, it horrifies some of us, as though its presence on our furniture and floors tells the world something unflattering about us, not only as housekeepers, but as human beings. And some of us just don't give a damn.

I remember an interview long ago in The New York Times in which an eccentric artist said she hadn't dusted her apartment in over 30 years, saying that "after the first two years or so, you really can't tell the difference." That kind of empirical research really impresses me.

In the HBO movie "Grey Gardens," Jackie Kennedy Onassis' aunt and cousin, Edie Beale and her daughter, are depicted as living in absolute squalor in a neglected, ramshackle house with garbage strewn throughout and a hoard of cats and raccoons relieving themselves on the floor. When Jackie arrives to help remedy the situation and registers her shock at the condition of the property, Edie dismisses the condition of her living environment by saying simply that her daughter "hasn't been keeping up with the dusting."

Is inattention to dust the first degenerative step to chaos in the home? Maybe for some, depending on their mental attitude about it. But how do unkempt homes affect its occupants?

A recent survey revealed that 83 percent are happier in a clean house. The act of cleaning gives 57 percent of the population a feeling of satisfaction. Further, it shows that 38 percent of women and 24 percent of men experience stress living in a messy environment.

It would seem that, especially in these harsh times, dusting and cleaning can be therapeutic. Psychologists have found that there is a marked difference in mood before and after cleaning, just as with a therapy session.

According to Dr. Carol Nemeroff, professor at Lewiston-Auburn College at the University of Southern Maine, this psychological boost may be derived from biological programming to clean our nests.

"And, because we know that good hygiene leads to good health," she said, "cleaning may ultimately be related to a basic survival instinct."

Wow, get out that dust rag!

For those who don't mind living with a coating of dust on their furniture



By Bill Primavera

and appliances, it may be motivating to know that dust is composed largely of our own flaking skin cells. Now that we know what it contains and that it can cause real stress, does this explain the expression "uncomfortable in our own skin?"

Add to our skin cells other flaky stuff like fabric fibers, dust mite excrement, hair, pet dander, pollen, regular dirt, debris and microparticles, and you have a pretty nasty brew that can give people with allergies and breathing problems a real hassle.

But beyond the psychological and unhealthy effects of dust, it can do real physical damage to most everything it lands on, from furniture surfaces to computer keyboards and vents.

There are fancy and simple ways to get rid of dust. The fancy way is with an air purifier of which there are two types: those with fans that pull air through filters that trap the dust and those called electrostatic precipitators in which an electrical charge is applied to the dust drawn into the device and captured on oppositely charged plates. Both are available as

either portable units, which offer varying degrees of effectiveness, depending on the model, or as whole-house systems. Prices range from \$100 for a portable model to over \$1,000 for a whole-house system.

Among the houses I've listed or sold, I was aware of only a couple that had a whole-house air purifier system. So, unless people are plagued by allergies, I suspect that most of us dust with old-fashioned elbow grease, using either regular rags or one of those new magic dusters to which particles cling, such as the Swiffer Sweeper or Pledge Grab-It cloths. Because the latter option can be expensive, a regular rag can be made just as effective if dampened before use and shaken out frequently.

I definitely do not recommend a feather duster because it merely spreads the dust around until it lands again on the surface of things.

It's funny how the exploratory process can affect you. As I sit at my computer, I'm very aware and uncomfortable that between the keys of the keyboard is a lot of trapped dust. Are the raccoons soon to follow?

Bill Primavera, a publicist and journalist, is also a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. (www.PrimaveraPR.com). To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

Happenings

continued from page 17

REB Talks: JA REB Talk featuring Jewish ideas worth sharing will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Am, 203 Church Pl, Yorktown. For more information call 914 962-7500 or e-mail rabbiw@optonline.net.

Friday, May 24

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 a.m. 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.

Temple Beth Am Shabbat: Temple Beth Am will "opens its doors to all who enter" for Shabbat on Fridays at 8

p.m. Our modern Sabbath service has a spiritually engaging and warm feeling while following traditional modes. All are welcome to our friendly sacred space. For more information, please call our Rabbi at 914-962-7500 or e-mail him at rabbiw@optonline.net.

Jewish Center Services: At the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Friday night Sabbath services begin at 8 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 or yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Saturday, May 25

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.

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.

Support Connection Yoga: Support Connection announces a free program, "Yoga: A Path Toward Wellness," will be offered at Club Fit in Jefferson Valley from noon to 1:30 pm. It is open to people living with breast, ovarian and gynecological cancers. To learn more or to pre-register, which is required, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Shabbat Services: The Hebrew Congregation of Somers will hold Shabbat services, followed by pot luck dinners at 6:30 p.m. Hebrew Congregation of Somers is a small, informal and friendly synagogue affiliated with the Reconstructionist movement. First-year membership is free and includes High Holiday tickets. E-mail info@hebrewcongregationofsomers.org or call 914-248-9532 for more information.

Urban Folk Jazz: Westchester Collaborative Theater, 23 Water St., Ossining, will continue its Jazz Masters series with a performance by the KJ Denhart Quartet at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. Seating is limited. Tickets, which are \$25, can be purchased online at: <https://wct19kjdenhart.brownpapertickets.com/>.

Sunday, May 26

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, May 27

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.

The Perils and Pitfalls of Owning a Co-Op

By Salvatore M. Di Costanzo

We have all heard a horror story or two about co-op ownership. These stories usually arise out of actions or inactions taken by the Board of Directors ("Board"). For instance, a Board might implement a policy requiring a percentage of the floor to be carpeted. Some Boards have reputations of rejecting applicants who desire to purchase a unit without a satisfactory explanation. Unknown to many, however, are the dire consequences that follow when a Board does not allow one to transfer their co-op to a trust.

Assume for a moment that you require long-term care, whether home care or nursing home care, and that you apply for Medicaid to cover the cost of your care. Further assume that you own a co-op as your primary residence. For Medicaid eligibility purposes, your primary residence is considered an exempt asset. That means that Medicaid cannot force you to sell your co-op or count the value of your co-op when determining eligibility. Moreover, unlike a house, which is considered real property, the law does not

allow Medicaid to place a lien against your co-op. Medicaid can, however, file a claim against your estate upon your death in order to recoup any benefits paid on your behalf. But Medicaid can only file a claim against your "probate estate."

Your probate estate consists of assets in your individual name (no beneficiary or joint owner) that pass under the terms of your Last Will and Testament. By way of example, if you own a co-op in your individual name and your Last Will and Testament leaves your co-op to your children, your probate estate includes your co-op. Whoever you have nominated to act as your Executor must probate your Will by going through a process in the Surrogate's Court. Once that process is commenced, Medicaid might file their claim, which could exceed the value of your co-op.

In recent years, Medicaid has become more aggressive in pursuing estate recoveries, thereby causing elder law attorneys to implement techniques to avoid estate recovery. A common technique is to transfer the co-op to a

trust since assets in trusts do not have to go through probate. Thus, by using a trust, you avoid probate, and by avoiding probate, there is no probate estate. Thus, you have defeated any Medicaid claim.

Enter stage right – the co-op Board. If you own a co-op in the geographic area that that this article reaches, there is a 50% chance that your Board does not allow transfers to trusts. This policy is detrimental to your estate and long-term care planning because, as noted above, it could result in the loss of your co-op after your death. Sadly, many Boards who do not allow transfers to trusts simply do so out of lack of understanding. In fact, I have had the opportunity to present to several Boards at their monthly meetings and after doing so, Boards have agreed to allow such transfers.

If you already own a co-op, it is important that you implement proper estate planning using trusts and other documents to preserve your estate if you fall ill. Prior to drafting a trust, you will need to find out if your Board allows transfers to trusts.

If you are someone who is looking to downsize and a co-op is within your sights, I hope this article brings insight into your decision-making process. You MUST find out if the Board allows transfers to trusts prior to entering into a contract to purchase the co-op. If you ignore this article, and the Board does not allow transfers, you may lose the value of your co-op.

Salvatore M. Di Costanzo is a partner with the firm of Maker, Fragale & Di Costanzo, LLP located in Rye, New York, and Yorktown Heights, New York. Mr. Di Costanzo is an attorney and accountant whose main area of practice is elder law and special needs planning. He is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and a frequent author and lecturer on current elder law and special needs topics. Since 2013, Mr. Di Costanzo has been selected each year by the rating service, Super Lawyers as a New York Metro leading elder law attorney. He can be reached at (914) 925-1010 or via e-mail at smd@mfd-law.com. Visit his practice specific website at www.plantodayfortomorrow.com.

Two Wrong-Way Drivers Arrested on Saw Mill

continued from page 3

was taken to Westchester Medical Center by the Pleasantville Volunteer Ambulance Corps, police said. He was admitted to the hospital with serious injuries.

The driver of the BMW suffered leg injuries in the crash and was transported to the Westchester Medical Center emergency room where he was treated.

The wrong-way driver was charged with Driving While Intoxicated, second-degree reckless endangerment and third-degree assault, all misdemeanors, police said. He will be required to surrender to county police following his release from the hospital.

A 36-year-old Brookfield, Conn. man

was arrested in connection with the second incident at about 2:30 a.m. County police said they received a report of a wrong-way driver traveling northbound in the southbound lanes in New Castle. Officers observed the vehicle, a GMC Envoy, near the Mount Kisco-Bedford border and were able to stop it at the Route 117 exit

in Bedford.

The driver, identified as Matthew Seiter, failed a field sobriety test after a strong odor of alcohol was detected on his breath. He was charged with second-degree reckless endangerment, a misdemeanor, and Driving While Ability Impaired and reckless driving, both violations.

Crossword by Myles Mellor

1	2	3	4	5			6	7	8
9					10		11		
12							13		
				14		15			
16	17	18		19					
20			21			22			
23					24			25	
26									
27					28		29	30	31
32									
33					34				
35						36			

Across

- 1. Troubled
- 6. Time-zone letters
- 9. Snagged
- 11. Where birds congregate or Mohegan Lake rehabilitation center, goes with 10 down
- 12. Capped fighter
- 13. Philosopher David
- 14. Chose to participate
- 16. Pat, a wound for example
- 19. The wife of a Czar
- 20. Words of clarification, Latin
- 22. Put a new price on
- 23. More insignificant
- 25. Formerly poetically
- 26. Italian for coastline or Pleasantville restaurant
- 27. City near Provo
- 28. "Aha!"
- 33. Uncovered
- 34. Tertiary period
- 35. Golfer Ernie
- 36. ". . . with ____ in sight"

Down

- 1. Pretend, in a way
- 2. "The Way" of Chinese religion
- 3. Ger. is here
- 4. Stone or Bronze
- 5. Fuel supply regulator
- 6. Learned
- 7. Information exchange
- 8. Not yet an adult
- 10. See 11 across
- 11. Used twice, it forms a sympathy phrase
- 15. Béarnaise ingredient
- 16. Prepare for a bath
- 17. Chief of the fleet
- 18. Oregon State squad
- 21. Gunk
- 24. Great Lake
- 29. Environmentally minded, for short
- 30. Golf ball prop
- 31. Country stop-over
- 32. Guitarist Nugent

solution on pg 20

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Support Connection is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization. supportconnection.org

1	A	2	T	3	E	4	A	5	T			6	E	7	S	8	T
9	C	A	U	G	H	T						11	T	R	E	E	
12	T	O	R	E	R	O						13	H	U	M	E	
							14	O	P	15	T	E	D	I	N		
16	D	A	B				19	T	S	A	R	I	N	A			
20	I	D	E	21	S	T				22	R	E	T	A	G		
23	S	M	A	L	L	E	R					25	E	R	E		
26	R	I	V	I	E	R	A										
27	O	R	E	M				28	I	G	29	E	T	I	T		
33	B	A	R	E				34	E	O	C	E	N	E			
35	E	L	S								36	N	O	E	N	D	

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PUBLIC NOTICE: NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Cortlandt will receive and publicly open and read sealed bids for:
TOWN OF CORTLANDT REPAVING - 2019 CONTRACT NO. TE 2019.02 at the Town Clerk's Office (914-734-1020) located at Town Hall, 1 Heady Street, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567, at: 10:00 AM (prevailing time), June 13, 2019

The Contract Documents may be obtained at the Town Clerk's Office noted above starting on May 21, 2019 during regular business hours. A non-refundable Bid Deposit of fifty dollars (\$50.00) is required for each contract picked up at the Town Clerk's office. Checks should be made payable to the "Town of Cortlandt".

The Contract Documents may also be obtained electronically at <https://www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york> beginning on May 21, 2019. Registration is required to utilize this system.

Bids must be submitted in the form prescribed by the Contract Documents and received by the Town Clerk of the Town of Cortlandt no later than 10:00 am at the prevailing time standard on Thursday June 13, 2019. Bids must be sealed and

addressed to the Town Clerk at the above address and shall be designated as:

"TOWN OF CORTLANDT REPAVING - 2019" CONTRACT NO. TE 2019.02

Each Bidder must furnish, with his Bid, Bid Security in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the amount of the Base Bid. This security may be in the form of a certified check payable to the "Town of Cortlandt", a bid bond, or cash. In addition, each Bid must be accompanied by a properly executed non-collusion affidavit.

No Bidder may withdraw his Bid within forty-five (45) days of the bid opening.

This Contract is subject to the prevailing wage determination made by the New York State Department of Labor.

The Town of Cortlandt reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities therein, or to award the Contract to any Bidder if deemed to be in the best interest of the Town to do so.

A non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for 10:00 am, June 3, 2019.

*-Laroue Shatzkin, Town Clerk
Town of Cortlandt*

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE FEISTY WOMAN LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 3/27/19. Office location: Putnam County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of any process to **602 Williamsburg Dr., Mahopac, NY 10541. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF KESTELOO VENTURES, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on 4/5/19. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to principal business address: **1501 Half Moon Bay Drive, Croton on Hudson, NY 10520. Purpose: Internet Marketing.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF INSPIRED BY JESUS LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on 3/19/19. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to principal business address: **111 North Road, White Plains, NY 10603. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LLC. THE NAME OF THE LLC IS MARY DARRAGH MACLEAN LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Sec-

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retary of State of New York (SSNY) office on 4/16/2019. The County in which the office is to be located is Westchester. The SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail copy of any process against the LLC is: **Northwest Registered Agent 90 State Street, Ste 700 Office 40 Albany NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ORAINE PHOTOGRAPHY, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on 3/6/2019. Office location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as

agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **Oraine Photography, LLC, 406 Homestead Ave, Mount Vernon, NY 10553. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

FORMATION OF ELMSFORD CHICKEN, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/10/19. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to **Ashish Parikh, 100 Menlo Park Mall, Ste. 500, Edison, NJ 08837. Purpose: Any lawful activity.**

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY OF THE TAILORY, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/25/19. Formed in PA 2/18/14. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC on whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail copy of process to **Anthony Lopes, 3901A Main St., Ste. 203A, Philadelphia, PA 19127. The office address in PA is 1105 Tyson Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111. Cert. of formation filed with Kathy Boockvar, Acting Secy. of State, 302 N. Office Bldg., 401 North St., Harrisburg, PA 17120. Purpose: Any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE STYLE MIXX LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on February 11th, 2019. Office in Bronx County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY may mail process to **Nicole Hamilton-Wint, 3439 Fish Avenue, Apt 2C, Bronx, New York, 10469. Purpose- any lawful acts.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). The name of the LLC is: **Nate The Dog Man, LLC.** Articles of Organization were

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filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) office on: 02/14/2019. The County in which the Office is to be located: Westchester. The SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is: **415 South St, Apt 4A, Peekskill, NY 10566. Purpose: any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF UNDERPINNED LLC. Art. Of Org. file with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/16/19. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon who process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **118. N. Bedford Rd., Suite 100, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF QUILT-STONES, LLC. filed with SSNY on 4/25/18. Office in Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **126 Kelbourne Ave, Sleepy Hollow, NY Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF TIG & PEACH LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/2/2019. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designed as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, **545 Fowler Avenue, Pelham, NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIT SPORTS LOUNGE & GRILL LLC Art. of Org. filed with Sec. of State 04/11/2019. Off. loc.in Westchester CO. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process **Tracy Arce and Carlos Reyes,**

234 North Ave New Rochelle, NY 10801. PURPOSE: Any lawful business.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town of Putnam Valley has received a wetlands application from the following applicant: WT 08/19 Andrew Brown 21 Cove Road TM# 41.9-1-23

PUBLIC NOTICE: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village Treasurer of the Village of Pleasantville has received the Tax Roll and Warrant for the collection of taxes for the fiscal year 2019-2020. Payments will be accepted in the Finance Department on the Third Floor of Village Hall, 80 Wheeler Avenue, in said Village from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays as follows: Taxes and other assessments, if any, become due and payable June 1, 2019, but may be paid in two installments without penalty. The first installment may be paid without penalty from June 1, 2019 to and including July 1, 2019. The second installment may be paid without penalty from June 1, 2019 to and including December 31, 2019. To all first installment taxes remaining unpaid after July 1, 2019, five percent (5%) will be added for the month of July, and an additional one percent (1%) for each month or fraction thereof until paid. To all second installment taxes remaining unpaid after December 31, 2019, five percent (5%) will be added for the month of January, and an additional one percent (1%) for each month or fraction thereof until paid. On or before February 1, 2020 a delinquent list will be published.

SPRINT has modified wireless telecommunications antennas on an existing building located at 951 Main Street, Peekskill, NY 10566. The modification consisted of the collocation of antennas at a top height of approximately 86 feet above ground level on the building. Any inter-

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