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Dies in  
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page 10**



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# The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER Examiner

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**...page 20**

**FREE**

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

June 18 - June 24, 2019

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 495



PHOTO BY ABBY LUBY

## Purple Power in Yorktown

Annual Relay for Life event at Yorktown Community and Cultural Center Friday night attracted hundreds of supporters. Story and photos, **see page 12.**

## Slater Faults Gilbert for Shabby Conditions at Some Town Parks

By Rick Pezzullo

Yorktown Supervisor candidate Matt Slater is pointing fingers at incumbent Ilan Gilbert for failing to address glaring issues in some town parks and not developing a plan for recreational projects.

As one example, Slater stood inside tennis courts at Shrub Oak Park which haven't been used since 2008 and currently have piles of concrete and other debris, along with fencing that has numerous holes from vandalism.

"It's chaos. There should be a plan to address it, even if it's a long-term plan," Slater said. "I don't fault the Parks Department. They're being told what to do."

It's the supervisor's duties to manage the day-to-day operations of the town. People deserve parks they can enjoy."

Gilbert, who has been in office for 18 months, refuted Slater's criticism, explaining the Parks Department, which has 17 employees, operates 31 parks, including two pool complexes consisting of seven different pools, 16 playgrounds, 12 tennis courts and has responsibility for an additional 20 municipal properties.

"To say that there is no plan is not accurate," Gilbert said. "We have a schedule for preparing our facilities for the season but of course this has been adversely af-

*Continued on page 2*

## Somers Community Rallies for Teacher Battling Cancer

By Rick Pezzullo

A teacher at Somers Intermediate School battling a rare form of cancer is receiving a lot of support from family, friends and well-wishers in the community.

On a GoFundMe fundraising page created last month by Dympna Carroll for Christine Camarra, 576 people who have formed Camarra's Crusaders have pledged \$52,165 to date for medical bills, travel expenses and other costs associated with Camarra's fight with an ovarian germ cell cancer that was diagnosed in March.

"You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only option you

have. You got this Christine," a supporter only identified as Betty posted.

According to information on the page, Camarra visited her doctor in May 2018 after having some discomfort and not feeling like herself. Some tests ordered by her doctor showed the mother of three girls, ages nine, eight and four, had a mass on her ovary. Surgery was scheduled and doctors were optimistic the mass could be removed.

However, following four surgeries and three cycles of intensive chemotherapy, Camarra was informed the cancer had spread, requiring more intensive chemotherapy at Dana-Farber Cancer Insti-

*Continued on page 7*



Christine Camarra with her husband and three daughters.

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# Slater Faults Gilbert for Shabby Conditions at Town Parks

*Continued from page 1*

affected by the unusual amount of rain this season. However, we have completed work on a number of the facilities and now that our seasonal workers have reported for duty, we will accelerate the rate of preparing our facilities for use by our residents."

Todd Orlowski, Yorktown's Parks and Recreation superintendent who is leaving in early July to join North Castle in a similar capacity, said from January through May his workers dedicated 1,100 hours to ensure the multi-million dollar Granite Knolls sports complex in Shrub Oak was up and running.

He also noted the tennis courts at Shrub Oak Park are scheduled to receive a \$130,000 facelift this summer, as are courts at Downing Park and Blackberry, which cost much less. Orlowski said the Shrub Oak courts were being utilized as a temporary staging area while work on a retaining wall at the playground was being completed.

"Things take time, that's what it is," Orlowski said. "I think the department has a lot on its plate. Like all departments, we have our constraints. I know how hard they work. In the last few years, we've accomplished a lot. The only things the supervisor and Town Board do is they are the ones that approve any budgets and



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

Matt Slater said holes in fence at tennis courts in Shrub Oak should be fixed as a safety precaution.

hire personnel. They don't get involved in the day-to-day work."

Slater said the town needs to better inform residents of improvements being planned perhaps in a timeline list posted on the town's website or on an interactive

map.

"Day one when I walk in, I'm getting every department head in a room and finding out a list of priorities. I'm going to rely on my department heads and their assessments until I can get a grasp

of what's going on," he said. "I don't pretend to know everything. Parks Department is being used as a construction crew. I'm not taking pride in pointing out deficiencies in our town."

Gilbert said his administration was the first in 15 years that allocated funding to add employees to the Parks Department.

"Government can't have its eyes all over the place. Government should be responsive to constituent concerns," Gilbert said. "To criticize government for taking an action on a concern is absurd."

Meanwhile, Slater said Yorktown should be doing more to provide information to residents and town employees that could calm concerns regarding the use of herbicides and pesticides at town parks and public buildings

"Private businesses have strict notification requirements and it is time our town government holds itself to the same standard," Slater said. "As a parent who often visits Willow Park with my young son I can understand the concerns neighbors have when they see and smell what appears to be chemical use in a kid or pet friendly place. Our local government can easily provide accessible information that not only preempts questions or concerns but ensures the public is indeed safe from harmful chemicals."



## How does Obesity put Women's Health at Risk?

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#### **Q: Why do people become obese?**

**A:** Obesity is now recognized as an energy storage disease that's hormonally based. It can develop when we eat large quantities of simple carbohydrates that break down fast to sugar, such as bread, pasta and white rice. In response, your body produces excess insulin to keep the right level of glucose in the blood – a condition called insulin resistance.

Excess insulin production is a serious problem because insulin prevents fat breakdown, so more food converts to fat, promoting fat storage. High insulin also reduces the efficiency of the brain hormone, leptin that tells your brain you should eat less. In women, there's an extensive, complex interaction between the hormonally based reproductive cycles and insulin system, so subtle hormonal changes have a greater effect on women.

#### **Q: Are obese women at risk for certain health problems?**

**A:** Absolutely. Most problems revolve around excessive production of insulin. Obese women have more difficulty conceiving due to problems ovulating, and are more likely to have abnormalities during pregnancy,

such as high blood pressure. Obesity is the number one cause of female infertility in the U.S.

Obesity also increases the risk of irregular or painful periods, high-birth-weight babies, gestational diabetes, and miscarriages. There's a greater risk of breast cancer, especially post-menopause. Sixty percent of cancers of the uterine lining are caused by obesity, as are a significant number of uterine fibroids. Obese women with cancer have a higher rate of mortality and recurrence because treatments, typically tested on non-obese people, may not be as effective.

#### **Q: What are the best remedies for obesity?**

**A:** Weight-loss (bariatric) surgery can work because it helps establish a new weight set point, which is the weight range your body is genetically programmed for and that it tries to maintain. However, you must also eat more protein and vegetables – foods that break down more slowly. FDA-approved medications help some people lose weight. We now know that the best treatment for obesity is multi-pronged. Beside surgery, I use medications, behavioral therapy, and special exercise machines that make it possible for anyone to run. Exercise greatly improves insulin resistance.

# Cortlandt Man Sentenced for Attempted Kidnapping

By Rick Pezzullo

A Cortlandt man was sentenced to seven years in state prison for the attempted kidnapping of a woman in Mount Kisco in January.

According to Westchester County District Attorney Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr., on January 5, a female victim was walking southbound on North Bedford Road (Route 117) in Mount Kisco about 11:35 p.m. when a vehicle stopped alongside her. The driver, Kyle Gregg, 24, offered her a ride and she refused.

A short time later, further south on North Bedford Road, the vehicle stopped adjacent to the woman again and this time the driver demanded she get in the car. When the woman refused, the driver pointed a handgun at her and again demanded she get in the vehicle. The woman ran away from the vehicle and the driver fled the scene.

Westchester County Police detectives determined the suspect vehicle had out-of-state plates and was possibly a rental car. Through further investigation, detectives were able to identify the driver as Gregg.

On January 7, a deputy sheriff from the Putnam County Sheriff's Department observed the same vehicle and picked up Gregg at a traffic stop. He was arrested later by Westchester County Police. A loaded .22-caliber handgun was recovered during the arrest.

Gregg was convicted of attempted kidnapping in the second degree and criminal possession of weapon in the second degree, both Class C felonies.

## State Police

June 7 - State Police from the Somers barracks arrested Becky J. Pfeifer, 49, of White Plains, for Falsify Business Records in the 1st degree, and Grand Larceny in the 4th degree, both class E felonies. Investigation found that while employed as a receptionist at Laser Luxury in the Town of Somers, Pfeifer allegedly falsified business records to reflect customer payments through the use of Groupon. Pfeifer

would then collect and steal cash payments for services the business provided totaling more than \$1,000.

June 8 - State Police from Stormville arrested Anthony Valerio, 61, of Mahopac, for DWI. He was traveling on the Taconic State Parkway in the Town of Yorktown 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.

June 9 - State Police from Cortlandt ar-

rested Phillip S. Christie, 24, of Peekskill, for DWI. He was traveling on North Division Street 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 Somers arrested Omar R. Turcios Fuentes, 24, of Peekskill, for Aggravated DWI. He was traveling on Route 202 in the Town of Somers when he was involved in a property damage motor vehicle crash. Investigation revealed he was under the influence of alcohol and

was subsequently arrested.

June 11 - State Police from the Somers barracks arrested Exondus Barnes, 21, and Dalton Daley, 21, both of Queens, and Isaiah Styles, 22, of Brooklyn, for Possession of a Forged Instrument, a class C felony, and Petit Larceny, a class A misdemeanor.

Investigation found the three subjects used counterfeit U.S. currency \$100 and \$50 dollar bills to purchase small items at

*Continued on page 28*



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# Cortlandt Justice Candidates Seek Upper Hand in Primaries

By Rick Pezzullo

In 2017, Kimberly Ragazzo made history when she became the first woman elected town justice in the Town of Cortlandt when she defeated 28-year incumbent judge Gerald Klein.

Two year later, Maritza Fugaro-Norton is looking to follow in Ragazzo's footsteps when she tries to unseat 12-year incumbent Town Justice Dan McCarthy in November.

However, before that showdown, Fugaro-Norton, who was endorsed by town Democrats, and McCarthy, a Republican, will be vying for the Independence and Working Families Party lines in primaries on Tuesday, June 25.

Fugaro-Norton, who has resided in Cortlandt for the last 14 years, has been a Court Attorney in the Westchester County Family Court for the last 12 years. She earned her law degree from Pace University School of Law in 2003 and obtained her undergraduate degree from Manhattan College in 2000.

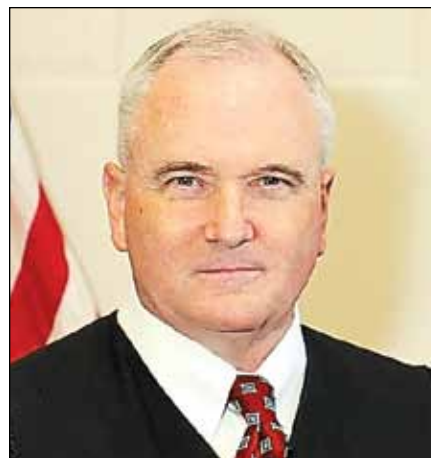
Admitted to practice law in the Second Judicial Department in 2004, her legal career began at the Pace Women's Justice Center where she represented victims of domestic violence and litigated all family law matters on their behalf. Her fluency in Spanish was an asset enabling her to assist clients in which English was their



Maritza Fugaro-Norton

second language. Following the Pace Women's Justice Center, she worked for a private law firm in Yonkers, handling a wide variety of cases including Matrimonial and Family Law, Criminal Law, Bankruptcy Law, Personal Injury Litigation and Real Estate transactions.

Born and raised in Yonkers, she graduated from Gorton High School. She was raised in a bilingual family as her mother immigrated from Venezuela. Her father, a local union member and former ice dancer, introduced her to figure skating at a very young age. She developed a love for the sport, and the competition, train-



Dan McCarthy

ing up to six days a week, including practices before and after school. She credits the focus and discipline that was needed to be a competitive skater with developing and instilling the work ethic that has helped her career.

McCarthy, who has lived in Cortlandt since he was five years old, was first elected to the bench in Cortlandt in 2008, succeeding his father, Daniel McCarthy, who served 30 years from 1977 to 2007. He handles a caseload of more than 600 new criminal and civil cases, as well as over 3,000 new traffic matters, each year.

McCarthy graduated from Hendrick

Hudson High School. He received his B.A. in History from Fairfield University in 1981 and his J.D. in 1985 from the Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, Touro College School of Law, where he graduated with honors as a member of the Law Review. He began his career as a trial attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Westchester County, where he represented individuals charged with felonies who could not afford to retain counsel.

Prior to being elected in Cortlandt, McCarthy served as Acting Village Justice of Buchanan, handling all aspects of the court calendar for approximately four years. He subsequently served for eight years as the Buchanan Village Attorney, ensuring compliance with local, state, and federal laws.

As a private attorney, McCarthy, along with his father, formed The McCarthy Law Firm, PC, further contributing to the already thriving small business community in Cortlandt/Croton. He and his father focused on trials and litigation in federal and state courts, handling cases involving Civil Rights, Defamation, Personal Injury, as well as Estates and Real Estate transactions. His continues to practice law at his office in Croton-on-Hudson.

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**Decisions, decisions, decisions.** That is just what Maddie Lyle, an eighth grade student at St. Augustine School, in Ossining, New York will have to make when she enters Somers High School in the fall. Dance has always been Maddie's first love since the age of two when she began studying pre-ballet and creative movement at the Westchester Ballet Center for the Performing Arts in Yorktown Heights, New York. As she studied throughout her early years, she showed great interest and ability. She developed into an advanced level student of ballet and modern with her teachers Rose-Marie Menes and Tami Horowitz.

It was also at this time when she began to play soccer, lacrosse, and basketball. Over the years, her coaches have noticed her improvements with her athletic abilities thanks to her training at Westchester Ballet Center. Her quickness and agile movements, developed within the studio, transformed her level of play. She developed strong muscle tone, and learned how to properly stretch. Dance also helped Maddie to improve her reaction time, especially when making transitions from offense to defense on the field and court. Maddie has performed yearly at the Yorktown Stage. She has danced in the ballet *Sleeping Beauty* and *Coppelia*. She has also performed with Lightning Basketball (Brewster, New York), Somers Lacrosse (Somers, New York) and with her travel club, Prime Time Lacrosse (Cross River, New York).

Who says ballet and sports don't mix? Maddie Lyle has shown that they do.



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- Rebecca M.



# Stone to Retire as Lakeland Schools Superintendent

By Rick Pezzullo

Lakeland Superintendent of Schools Dr. George Stone will be leaving the district next year, ending a 10-year run.

Stone, 68, announced at the June 6 Board of Education meeting he had submitted a letter of resignation with intentions to retire on June 30, 2020. He earns an annual salary of \$264,900.

"The Lakeland community is by far the finest I have been a part of in my 46 years of public education and I appreciate all of the support I have received," he said. "I'll be leaving the best job in the best place I

have ever had. My heart will break leaving here. My biggest regret is I won't be able to see everything finished that I started. The district is certainly a model not only in our area, but in our state and in our nation."

Board of Education President Denise Kness said Stone has worked "tirelessly" for the district since coming on board in 2010 and is widely respected for his knowledge and leadership.

"The Board of Education is confident that Dr. Stone's endless energy and commitment to the Lakeland students, staff, faculty, parents and residents in our com-

munity will remain strong," Kness said. "I've learned from him you can never be satisfied with how things are and always be willing to improve. When you make a mistake, you own it. Always give credit to those who do a good job around you."

The board will discuss next steps for the superintendent search process at its July 11 meeting.

"We're looking forward to our continued partnership in the coming year and know that his commitment to helping our students succeed is as strong as ever," Kness said.



Dr. George Stone

# Second Annual Hope for Youth 5K Race & 3K Walk June 22

The HOPE for Youth Foundation (HFYF) is holding its 5K Cross Country Race and 3K non-competitive walk at a new course on the grounds of the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center in Garrison on Saturday, June 22. This event raises funds for HFYF and for a Memorial Scholarship in the name of Bill Sherry, a former teacher at Lakeland Copper Beech Middle School and a race timer.

The 5K race will begin at 9 a.m. at Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, 1350 Route 9, Garrison. The 3K walk, which is non-competitive, will begin immediately fol-

lowing the start of the 5K race. Participants should enter at Graymoor's main entrance 40 Franciscan Way and follow signs to the registration area which opens at 8 a.m.

Every registered runner and walker will receive a bib, T-shirt, medal, bagel and banana. To register, go online at <https://bit.ly/2019HOPE5K>. Registration fees are \$20 in advance and \$30 on the day of the event. Registration is free for those who raise funds for HFYF.

Proceeds from the foundations fundraising efforts go to help children with life-threatening illnesses and children

with physical and mental challenges. Recent beneficiaries have included more than 32 worthwhile regional children's organizations such as Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Hudson Valley, Gilda's Club, Camp Horizons Inc., Friends of Karen, Children's Hospital Fund at Westchester County Medical Center, and Hillside Food Outreach. In addition, the Hope for Youth Foundation gives eight scholarships to deserving graduating high school seniors.

HFYF was founded in 1986 by WHUD Weatherman and former educator Jim

Witt, who is noted for his annual long-range weather forecast calendars featuring photographs of the Hudson Valley. Witt has formulated a complex system that relies on historic weather patterns in order to predict what the weather will be like years, even decades, ahead. The precision of his forecasts over the past 40 years has made him a successful, charismatic and eerily accurate weather prophet. Witt is also a former high school science teacher.

Learn more about Hope For Youth Foundation at [www.hfyf.org](http://www.hfyf.org).

## SAVE THE DATE!

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## Guest Commentary

### Pride and Vince Lombardi

By John Vorperian

This June is LGBTQ Pride month and the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots which sparked the Gay Liberation Movement. In a way professional sport can act as cultural mirror. That endeavor's figurative reflection allows sociologists and sports historians to study and comment on whether our society may be progressing with tolerance.

It's fitting to look back at 1969, and in particular, view the status of pro football in our Nation's capital. The National Football League was celebrating its 50th season as a professional circuit. Sadly, the last time DC football fans saw their club win the NFL Championship was 1942. From 1955 with its last winning season, mediocrity and losing ruled Washington. Washingtonians were praying for a football miracle. Those devotions were answered as the franchise landed legendary Packer coach Vince Lombardi.

Ten years before, Lombardi came to the NFL's doormat Green Bay. A long-time losing squad, St. Vince in his very first season coached the Pack to a winning record. From '59 to '67 the Packers were perennial winners who garnered five NFL Championships. Lombardi radically altered the team's culture to one hungry for victory. The devout Jesuit-trained Lombardi made amply clear bigotry had no place on his team. In his climb up the coaching career ladder, Lombardi, as an Italian-American had encountered

intolerance. He told his charges if he ever heard a biased comment you were gone. "You can't play for me if you have any kind of prejudice."

Football operations meant getting the best players regardless of race, color, creed or sexual orientation. The Fordham alum ignored the unwritten and arbitrary quota on Black players and freely recruited athletes. In 1960 when the Board of Directors questioned his system Lombardi told the 45 members in a one-time meeting "You guys run the business end...I'll run...football operations." The Board never questioned him again.

Lombardi let it be known businesses in Green Bay and those on the road would have to serve all Packers or get no Packers. Oneida Golf and Riding Club employed Oneida Tribe members as caddies but would release them in the summer and hand out the jobs to local teenagers. Lombardi publicly berated the club pro for this discriminatory practice and insisted Native Americans be used year-round. "If they're good enough for spring and fall, they're good enough for summer."

In 1965 interracial marriage was a hot button issue. When a Black player told Lombardi of the player's pending nuptials to a White woman, the Head Coach responded "You know what, I don't care who you marry, as long as you keep the Green Bay Packer team clean, your nose clean, and play good football." In an unsuccessful attempt to halt the marriage, the NFL

Commissioner personally met with Lombardi. The Pope of Green Bay firmly rebuffed the League's Titan's request.

Washington coaxed Lombardi out of retirement, gave him total authority over all personnel and football operations along with a 5% ownership share in the team. Lombardi came to a crew that had three gay players, running backs, Ray McDonald, David Kopay and tight end, Jerry Smith.

The 6' 4" 248 lbs. McDonald was Washington's 1967 number one draft pick. A selection made by owner, Edward Bennett Williams. The back's two season statistics were subpar. Lombardi was rooting for McDonald to improve and make the squad. In a coaches meeting Lombardi told his aides to work with McDonald and work him hard. Lombardi also made it known, "And if I hear one of you people make reference to his manhood, you'll be out of here before your ass hits the ground."

The player who had a turnaround season in Lombardi's prejudice free clubhouse was Jerry Smith. Lombardi repeatedly told the pass catcher he was being judged by his on-field performance. Smith had been in the NFL for four years and with Lombardi's positive approach was named an All-Pro in 1969. And as what happened in Green Bay occurred in DC, the 1969 Washington team posted a winning 7-5-2 record. There was no next season for Lombardi as he fatally succumbed

to colon cancer in 1970.

In 1975, after his NFL career Kopay became one of the first gay athletes to publicly announce his sexual orientation. Smith never openly declared such. In 1986, he passed away due to complications from AIDS.

Why did an old-fashion football coach like Lombardi have such an open mind and promote tolerance? Lombardi's brother Harold was gay. Lombardi viewed gays as a group that deserved respect like Blacks, Native Americans, and Italians, in fact like all of us.

Lombardi's daughter Susan Lombardi told journalist Ian O'Connor for ESPNNewYork.com, 'My father was way ahead of his time. He was discriminated against as a dark-skinned Italian American when he was younger, when he felt he was passed up for coaching jobs that he deserved. He felt the pain of discrimination and so he raised his family to accept everybody, no matter what color they were or whatever their sexual orientation was...'

Indeed, Vince Lombardi was ahead of his time. Here's hoping this 1960s Football Icon's philosophy and practice becomes even more prevalent in 2019.

*John Vorperian, a sports historian, was a contributing writer to The 1966 Green Bay Packers published by McFarland Press. He also hosts BEYOND THE GAME, seen at [www.wpcommunitymedia.org](http://www.wpcommunitymedia.org).*

## Somers Community Rallies for Teacher Battling Cancer

Continued from page 1

tute in Boston, Massachusetts.

"Christine is going to fight this battle not only for herself but for her three beautiful daughters and her devoted husband George (5th grade Somers Intermediate School teacher)," Carroll stated on the page.

"Christine has a difficult fight ahead and will need all the support we can give. We are hoping to provide some financial support for Christine, George and their girls to help alleviate the stress

of mounting medical bills, travel expenses and hardships that will arise."

In Camarra's own words, "Life is precious, and I don't intend to give up now. I've got three little girls watching me daily and I will continue to show them that I am a fighter."

The post stated the Camarra Family has been overwhelmed by all the love, meals and prayers that have been pouring in over the last year. To donate, visit GoFundMe and search for Camarra's Crusaders.



Troop 911 BSA newly minted Eagle Scout Jesse Schlanger celebrated his recent achievement with his parents, grandmother, great-grandmother and scout master. Yorktown Councilman Vishnu Patel presented a certificate of achievement on behalf of the town. Schlanger's Eagle Scout project involved designing and building a new garden at Yorktown High School.

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## Op-Ed

# Yorktown's Tree and Woodland Preservation Law of 2019

By Linda Miller Ph.D.

Doesn't Yorktown already have a tree law? Why do we need another one?

Yes, Yorktown does have a tree law, enacted in 2016, but it's weak and ineffective. It can't do what it was supposed to do: achieve a fair and workable balance between the rights of property owners to use and develop their property with the need to protect the critical environmental functions of trees and woodlands. It should be repealed and replaced with a law with clearly stated goals and the teeth to enforce those goals.

Advocates for a Better Yorktown (ABY, a grassroots advocacy committee) offered an initial draft of a new, stronger tree and woodland protection law for the Town Board's consideration. In the course of reviewing this draft, it became apparent that there were major differences of opinion between and within the Town's advisory boards on what the tree law should regulate or if such a law was even necessary. In order to move forward toward a better tree law, the Town Board set up an ad hoc tree law committee tasked with hammering out a compromise between these divergent viewpoints. The committee consisted of representatives of the Planning Department, Engineering Department, Planning Board, Conservation Board, Tree Conservation

Advisory Committee and ABY.

The resulting work product: \$270 PRESERVATION OF YORKTOWN'S TREES AND WOODLANDS is a compromise incorporating the committee's diverse expertise, viewpoints and experience. The law has been simplified, while still remaining true to its stated intent of balancing tree and woodland protection with the property rights of owners.

Now the residents of Yorktown get a chance to weigh in at a public hearing on Tuesday, July 2nd.

So how does the proposed 2019 revised law improve on the current 2016 tree law?

- The current law mentions the word "woodlands" only once and after that makes no attempt to regulate or protect them. In contrast the 2019 revision lives up to its name and intent by protecting woodland ecosystems as well as individual trees. The new law defines a protected woodland in terms of size, but also its vegetation layers, i.e. groundcover, shrub understory and canopy trees.

Research shows that the diversity of vegetation in woodlands, organized into these layers, is crucial to the myriad environmentally and economically valuable functions woodlands provide. For example, woodlands help moderate flooding,

droughts and downstream water pollution by reducing water runoff and soil erosion; promote water infiltration and ground water recharge; trap a significant share of carbon dioxide to help counter climate change; provide habitat for a wide range of wildlife.

- The 2019 revision applies to all trees and woodlands in Yorktown, even those on Town-owned land. The current law exempts the Town from adhering to its own law, leaving trees and woodlands on approximately 4,000 acres of Town-owned land unprotected.

- Certain permits and mitigation plans must now be referred to the Conservation Board and Tree Conservation Advisory Committee for their expert input. Why not take advantage of these resources?

- Mitigation requirements have been strengthened for larger, higher impact projects, especially in woodlands. The law in no way prevents lawful development, but insures that the impact of unavoidable tree and woodland loss is reduced.

- The permit application process has been streamlined. The Administrative Permit route has been reinstated especially benefiting homeowners. In some cases, the new regulations eliminate the need for multiple Town permits for the same work.

- Protection is provided for trees on steep slopes to help prevent water runoff and soil erosion. Also there is a minimal regulation of tree removal in a five ft. buffer zone on the perimeter of residential lots one acre or less. This protects the function of trees as visual and sound buffers and their importance in determining the character of our neighborhoods.

What hasn't changed?

- Permits are still not required to remove dead, diseased or dangerous trees, invasive species or in emergency situations.

- The number and size of individual trees (less than 10) that can be removed without a permit is the same as in the current law.

- Large, old specimen trees are still protected.

What's your vision for Yorktown? Do you see our Town as a community that values trees and woodlands for what they add to our quality of life and for the important ecological and economic services they provide? If you answer, "Yes," then it's important that you come to the public hearing on July 2nd to support the new, stronger law. Tell the Town Board what you want for Yorktown's future.

*Linda Miller is a member of Advocates for a Better Yorktown*

## Letters to the Editor

# Thumbs Up to Tree Law, Thumbs Down to Solar Power Law

To the Editor:

The Yorktown Town Board is planning public hearings for Tuesday July 2 on a new tree law and a law on solar power systems. I support the new tree law. It is important to maintain woodlands for our quality of life.

I also support the installation of solar power systems. Many homeowners in Yorktown have already taken that step.

However, I find some provisions of the solar law to be disturbing. The proposed law provides for the installation of large solar arrays in residential districts. This provision is to the profit of an out-of-state corporation from Colorado, but not for Yorktown homeowners.

We do not have to wait for the passage of the solar law to know what its effects will be. The Colorado corporation has

already presented plans for large solar power arrays in northern Yorktown between Foothill and Lockwood, and along Underhill Avenue. On both sites, the solar developer plans to clear-cut forested areas of their trees for a total of 29 acres.

The plans for the Underhill site are particularly distressing. The area overlooking Underhill is on slopes of 15 to 25 percent. The trees serve to hold the soil in place to prevent erosion and to lessen water runoff.

Underhill Avenue is a gateway to Yorktown Heights. Large-scale solar power systems placed where they are planned will be antithetical to the natural setting. The Town of Yorktown Comprehensive Plan makes it clear that "Yorktown has a valuable scenic beauty and retains important elements of its rural character." To our south, the Town of North Castle does not permit large-scale solar power systems in residential areas for good reason.

We have sufficient commercial zones, roof tops, parking lots, deforested agricultural land, town-owned non-park land, and dormant recreational

sites, which may be used for large-scale solar installations. Placing large-scale solar farms where there are no trees will maximize carbon reduction. Placing large-scale solar farms in residential zones poses a threat to all of our neighborhoods.

If we think that our existing laws and regulations, including the new tree law, will protect us from the clear-cutting excesses of the corporation from Colorado, we have to think again. One of the provisions of the proposed Yorktown solar law says, "All ordinances, local laws and parts thereof inconsistent with this Local Law are hereby repealed." In other words, there will be no recourse.

I plan on speaking at the July 2 public hearings, in favor of the tree law, but in opposition to the solar proposal as it is written. It will permit environmental damage, supposedly in the name of clean energy. I urge others to attend these hearings and to state their opinions. The Town Board meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 363 Underhill Avenue.

Sincerely,

**PAUL MOSKOWITZ**  
Yorktown

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## Letters to the Editor

### Write-in Catalina on Conservative Ballot June 25

#### To the Editor:

On June 25th Conservative voters will have the opportunity to cast a ballot to choose their party's candidate for Westchester County Legislator for District I. I write to you in strong support of Frank A. Catalina.

Frank was a two term Mayor of Peekskill and you all have witnessed Peekskill's transformation under his leadership. What you may not know is that Frank was one

of my earliest supporters when I began my political career by running for Mayor of Peekskill in 1982 and he has been a steadfast loyal supporter and friend for over 35 years.

Political parties have an important place in our system but when personal vendettas interfere with choosing the very best qualified candidate, you the registered Conservatives, must take a stand and not let the 'Bosses' dictate who gets to run. So on June 25th, WRITE

IN FRANK A. CATALINA IN THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY BALOTT.

Frank has been endorsed by the Republican and Independence Parties in this race and had previously earned the endorsement of the Conservative party in his three mayoral elections. I've known Frank Catalina for years and he is an honest man who has possessed strong conservative principles throughout his lifetime.

The Conservative Party belongs to the

people who live, work, raise their families and pay taxes in Legislative District 1, and you should be the ones who choose their candidate on June 25th.

I urge you to support FRANK A. CATALINA on June 25th by showing up at your normal voting place to WRITE IN his name. I personally thank you for your support.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE E. PATAKI

### Legalizing Marijuana Would Be a Bad Decision

#### To the Editor:

I am horrified that legalizing marijuana has been embraced so enthusiastically in our area.

I'm all for decriminalization, but that's not the same as making it legal and readily available.

Do we really need another drug that kids can get hold of to get high? The fact that proponents are counting on the "over 21" rule to keep it away from kids is truly laughable - does it work with alcohol? Does '18 or over' work with vaping when 5th graders are vaping??

And what's to stop a kid from finding their own parents stash that's supposedly hidden? Does that work with oxy?

Then, I hear that cities can "opt out." That's great, because I've never heard of anyone driving to another town to get high. And then drive home. A Perfect storm.

For Lisa Tane to say "it's out there and people use it" is a poor argument.

I fear this decision will come back to haunt us.

JOAN SIREFMAN

### Yorktown Would Benefit from a New Leader

#### To the Editor:

Yorktown's local economy is sputtering during a time when we are seeing record job growth across New York State and locally in Mohegan, Cortlandt and Peekskill.

Last month New York State announced it has the most private sector jobs ever. Neighboring towns are attracting transformative projects while Yorktown can't even maintain its local parks!

We need a leader who will break Yorktown's anti-growth and anti-business reputation. Just recently The Journal News, in comparison to neighboring communities, depicted Yorktown as a community in search of ideas. In other words: rudderless.

Matt Slater is running to be Yorktown's next Town Supervisor. Anyone who speaks with him sees firsthand his thorough knowledge, vision and desire to make Yorktown relevant once again. His smart growth approach will provide the balance many of us in Yorktown want of protecting the integrity of our community while aggressively pursuing new economic opportunities that will thrive in our town.

Yorktown MUST grow its commercial tax base which stands as the lowest in Westchester County. Slater has proven himself willing to listen, learn and act on new ideas that will benefit the business community and ultimately help taxpayers who continue to struggle living in the highest taxed county in the nation. It is time for new leadership in Yorktown and I for one am very excited and enthusiastic to have Matt Slater leading the charge for the next chapter of our town.

The time for talk and "idea's" is over.

RAYMOND ST. JOHN  
Yorktown

### Letters Policy

We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. 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 Northern Westchester Examiner Editor-in-Chief Rick Pezzullo at rpezzullo@theexaminernews.com. The Northern Westchester Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.

### Croton Democrats Surprised by No Opposition

#### To the Editor:

The Croton Democrats were very surprised to learn from the Board of Elections that our candidates for the Village elections this fall will be running unopposed once again. Mayor Brian Pugh and Trustee Sherry Horowitz will be joined by Mr. John Habib as the only candidates on the ballot for Village of Croton offices in 2019.

I said that we were surprised by the lack of challengers because the "Croton United" faction in our Village have been publishing a constant barrage of critical accusations and complaints on social media and in the local press. Why rail against the actions of the Village Mayor and Trustees, a group of people who have been doing their best to

deal with the needs of the community, now and in the future, unless you have a different plan of your own and a way to enact it?

We are all entitled to our own opinions. I would not criticize anyone for that. However, if your goal is truly to be of service to your fellow Village residents why not calmly and thoughtfully point out your differences with the policies of the Village Board and suggest what you consider to be a better way to proceed?

Wouldn't that be a positive change going forward? Wouldn't that be what we should expect from a group that calls itself "Croton United"?

RICHARD MASUR  
Chair, Croton Democratic  
Committee

### Zoning Changes a Work in Progress in Croton

#### To the Editor:

I am the chair of the working group in Croton-on-Hudson considering possible zoning changes in the Municipal Place Gateway and North Riverside areas. Discussion of changes is still a work in progress and subject to further resident input on Tuesday, June 18th at 7:30 pm at the Harmon Firehouse.

Here is some relevant background information:

As it relates to potential new, non mixed-use housing zoning, there are essentially only three areas possibly affected. One is the 2.3-acre Katz property, which is across from the Post Office parking lot.

The other two areas are the area from Zoller's south to High Street and the area around the former hardware store. Both these latter two areas are fully built up so any zoning changes would only impact

them if, at some point in the future, the owners of the properties decided to tear down the existing buildings and redevelop them, which might never happen. Existing zoning limits buildings in all three areas, and throughout the Village, to 35 feet. This will almost certainly remain unchanged.

As most Croton residents know, the Village just concluded a village wide survey to obtain the input of residents. A summary and the complete results can be found here: [www.crotononhudson-ny.gov](http://www.crotononhudson-ny.gov)

Because, by definition, compromises never fully satisfy everyone, they can always be attacked from multiple directions. In this case, modest compromises are, in my view, the best way to respect all our various goals.

Very truly yours,

PAUL F. DOYLE



# Putnam County Mourns Loss of Beloved Judge Reitz

By David Propper

Known for his outsized personality and positivity that was simply infectious, Putnam County Judge James Reitz's sudden death Friday left a gaping hole with those who knew and admired him and his work.

Reitz suffered a fatal heart attack while presiding over a case at the county courthouse in Carmel Friday morning and was rushed to Putnam Hospital Center where he was pronounced dead. He was 57.

A lifelong Putnam resident and a graduate of Carmel High School, Reitz, who lived in Mahopac with his wife Barbara, began his career on the bench as a Carmel town justice in 1996 and then ran successfully for county court judge in 2007, where he has served since. He was well known for his work on Drug Treatment Court, which received national attention for helping drug addicts recover and lead better lives. He had also been an acting NYS Supreme Court justice.

His death has led to an outpouring of grief with endless dignitaries stressing how important Reitz was to the county.

County Executive MaryEllen Odell, who was friends with Reitz and had known him for most of his life, said she was heartbroken over his death. She called him a pillar in the community and his "everlasting impact cannot be measured."

"It's a terrible loss," Odell said. "And he'll be known as a legend for everything



Judge James Reitz

he did. There wasn't a person in this county who wasn't touched by Jimmy."

District Attorney Robert Tendy said he was so shocked and distraught over Reitz's death, stressing it was difficult to verbalize what Reitz meant to him and Putnam. He called him a great judge and a great friend who cared about every one of his cases.

Personally, when Tendy needed advice, he knew he could turn to Reitz. The two men spoke for the last time a week before his death and Tendy recalled Reitz was his usual upbeat, optimistic, encouraging self.

"He was a great a man, he really was. For the county, he was an unparalleled leader and example of what a person should be," Tendy said. "He was always trying to find the better way to do things."

Sheriff Robert Langley said in a statement Reitz changed people's lives through his passion for Drug Treatment Court and his widespread service in the community.

"This is a tremendous loss for our community, and he will be greatly missed by many," Langley stated. "On a personal note I am proud to say Judge Reitz was more than a judge to me, he was a friend who I respected and admired."

A celebration marking Putnam's birthday was held in the Historic Courthouse Friday morning by the historian's office, but word of Reitz's medical emergency soon spread quickly. Reitz's wife was at the ceremony, but left when she was alerted to his heart attack. Odell and Langley also jetted out of the historic courthouse when they heard the news and legislators on hand for the ceremony sat with distraught faces as they were getting updates on Reitz's condition from their phones.

Putnam Valley Supervisor Sam Oliverio, who was also at the birthday ceremony, said he had just seen Reitz earlier that morning. Oliverio recalled Reitz had the "brightest smile" and the two shook hands before going their separate ways.

"He was so loved and so appreciated for his sharp mind, easy nature, sense of acute fairness and his ability to speak on a level that everyone could understand," Oliverio said in a social media post. "His broad smile, incredible memory for names and his appreciation of the law

made Judge Reitz a true Justice among Justices."

Reitz is survived by his wife, three children and six grandchildren. Thousands attended his wake Monday at the Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services building in Carmel.

In lieu of flowers, the Reitz family has asked that donations be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Donations can also be made to Reitz family's GoFundMe page to help offset the unexpected funeral costs.

Former New York State Senator Terrence Murphy said in a statement Putnam "lost a giant" with the passing of Reitz. He and Reitz worked together to reduce drug use in the community, with Murphy involved in Reitz's treatment court program.

Reitz is a model for how elected officials should serve in New York, Murphy said, calling him "the ultimate public servant."

GOP committee chairman Tony Scannapieco said Reitz, a Republican, was loved by everybody and a person who died far too soon. Scannapieco first met Reitz when Reitz wanted to run for Carmel town justice in the 1990s.

Scannapieco said Reitz's heart "was as big as anything."

"I won't even say it's a sad day for the Republican Party, it's a sad day for Putnam County," Scannapieco said. "He wasn't just a good man, he was a great man."

## Obituaries

### Francesca Cerullo

Francesca M. Cerullo, a resident of Cortlandt, died peacefully June 9 after a 20-year battle with breast cancer, surrounded by her beloved family and close friends. She was 61.

Born in Caracas, Venezuela to Cruz and Desiderio DiSisto, she was raised in the Bronx before moving to Cortlandt, where she lived for 35 years. She served her community enthusiastically as a teacher in the Hendrick Hudson School District for 20 years.

Her beauty, humor, and love for life will be remembered by her family. She is survived by her loving husband of 39 years, Gaspare Cerullo, daughters Francesca Jacks nee Cerullo (Benjamin Jacks) and Cristina Cerullo (Gregory Gordon), granddaughter Nora Jacks, brother Desiderio DiSisto (Roseann DiSisto) and mother Cruz DiSisto.

### Dr. Louis Criscione

Dr. Louis R. Criscione, known as "Cris," a resident of Somers, formerly of

Harrison, died June 10. He was 93.

He was born August 29, 1925 in the Bronx. He was a medical doctor with a specialty in family medicine. He became the neighborhood doctor along with his brother Dr. Joseph Criscione and friend Dr. Sidney Simon and together they opened the Family Physician Center in the Bronx, practicing medicine from 1950-2009.

He was an avid skier in the winter and enjoyed boating in the summer with his beloved wife Joan, and three adoring children, Louis, Janet and Linda.

He was adored by grandchildren Christina, Jack, Jenna, Jaynie, Hawke and Dayna and great-grandchildren Kailan, Weston and Dylan. He was a devoted father-in-law to Russell, Jim and Christine and uncle to David, Joseph, Christopher, Ricky (deceased) Eric, Kim and Albert. He was truly loved and respected by all who knew him.

### Kenneth Sutton

Kenneth C. Sutton, a resident of Cortlandt, died June 4. He was 79.

He was born October 11, 1939 in

the Bronx to Wayne Sutton and Lydia Campbell. He is survived by his wife of 43 years Josephine Sutton. He is also survived by his daughter Lindsay D'Ascoli, her husband Robert, three children Gianna, Vincent and Emilia, his son David and his wife Clare, and their three children David Jr, Brayden and Roscoe.

### Robert Lowell

Robert E. Lowell, known as "Bob," a resident of Somers, died peacefully June 10 at his home with his loving wife of 57 years. He was 81.

Mr. Lowell was born in White Plains. He was a Marine veteran and proudly served his country with honor. He worked as a New York State trooper and Senior Investigator for more than 20 years. Upon retirement he was employed by NYSEG and later the Heritage Hills Golf Course.

He was the beloved husband of Agnes Lowell (née Gonsalves) and the loving father of Michael Lowell of Poughquag, NY and Amy Lowell-Comiskey (Daniel) of Brookfield, CT. He was also the de-

voted grandfather of Christina Merkle, Maryn Lowell, Nicholas Merkle, Jessica Lowell and Elizabeth Comiskey.

### Helen Marie Hess

Helen Marie Hess, a resident of Putnam Valley, died February 26. She was 75. Because she donated her body, the family did not have an opportunity for a traditional funeral. She asked that they gather when the weather was warm to celebrate her life, which they did on June 15.

She was born September 22, 1943 in Buffalo. She will be lovingly remembered by her husband of 52 years, Edward G. Hess, Jr., her five children, seven grandchildren, one great-grandchild and many dear friends. She had a passion for country line dancing, finding treasures at garage sales, playing Mrs. Santa Claus with her husband who played Santa, long walks and get-togethers with her family.

She was very friendly, and a social butterfly. She loved keeping physically

*Continued on page 17*



# Yorktown's Orlowski Also Named New Rec Super No. Castle Tabs Buchanan Official to Fill Administrator's Post

By Martin Wilbur

The North Castle Town Board looked to another Westchester municipality to find its next permanent administrator.

Kevin Hay, 45, who has served as the administrator in the Village of Buchanan since 2009, was unanimously appointed to the post last week. He will start in North Castle on July 29.

"I'm looking forward to coming in here and continuing to provide excellent services to the residents of the town," Hay said moments after the board made the appointment official. "I can't wait to get here and get started."

His salary will be \$165,000.

Hay said with Buchanan being a full-service village, he has experience in overseeing a wide range of municipal operations, including infrastructure concerns, the wastewater treatment plant, finances and human resources.

Before spending the past decade in Buchanan, Hay, who currently lives with his family in Carmel, was the assistant to the village manager in Hastings-on-Hudson for about two and a half years. His stint in Hastings came after he served that village as an intern while earning his master's degree in public administration at Mercy



Kevin Hay

College.

After graduating from Ithaca College with a degree in applied science, Hay worked as a restorative therapist at Westchester Medical Center before going to graduate school.

He said during that his internship in Hastings he realized that he enjoyed serving in municipal government, which has continued through his time in Buchanan.

"There are so many different areas to focus on and really, looking back, you're providing a great service to residents in your community, and I think in the Village of Buchanan they really appreciated the

services," said Hay, who grew up in Pleasantville and is a graduate of Pleasantville High School.

The more than six-week gap from his Wednesday evening appointment to his start date enables him to tie up loose ends in Buchanan.

"I wanted to be fair to the village," Hay said. "They've always been fair to me here. So, I'll wrap up as many ongoing projects as I can before moving over to North Castle."

Buchanan Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker said the village will start advertising for Hay's replacement this week.

"I am very sorry to see Kevin go. Not only was he responsible for day-to-day operations but he also became a big part of our Buchanan family," she said. "It's a great opportunity for him and I wish him the best."

Once Hay arrives in North Castle, he will be the first permanent administrator in nearly a year. The Town Board did not extend former administrator Joan Goldberg's contract beyond last September and asked her to vacate her office about three weeks before the Sep. 30 expiration of her contract.

Since early November, Patricia Dwyer, the former Pleasantville village adminis-

trator, has served as interim. Town officials had thought they had found a replacement by early May, but the candidate they were set to offer the position to informed them he could not take the job because of personal reasons.

## Town Fills Parks & Rec Post

Filling the administrator's post was not the only major appointment the Town Board made this week. It also approved bringing aboard Todd Orlowski as its new superintendent of recreation and parks, who currently holds the same position in Yorktown. Orlowski will take over on July 8.

The position was being filled by Jennifer Giusti since shortly after former superintendent Matt Trainor left the town to go to Pleasantville.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said the town is fortunate to have found two new outstanding public servants to fill two key positions.

"We're blessed with terrific employees and leadership in town," Schiliro said, "and these two gentlemen are not exceptions."

Giusti was also reinstated to her previous job as North Castle's senior recreation leader.

Rick Pezzullo contributed to this article

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# Yorktown Relay for Life Draws a Big Crowd at YCCC

By Abby Luby

Several hundred people took part in the 14th Annual Relay for Life of Yorktown Friday night. While events formally started at 4 p.m. at the Jack DeVito Memorial Field behind the Yorktown Community and Cultural Center on Veterans Road, walkers and cancer survivors took to the track as early as 3:30.

This year's Relay set a goal of \$130,000. Five days before the event, more than \$78,000 had been pledged. Since 1985, Relay for Life events in the United States have raised more than \$6.3 billion.

The opening ceremony featured American Cancer Society volunteer and event lead Kristina Iennaco. "We are very excited to bring the community together to fight cancer," Iennaco told a crowd of several hundred people. Yorktown Town Supervisor Ilan Gilbert later joined on stage with other town officials.

Iennaco announced the recipient of the "Key to the Relay Award" was the Yorktown Police. "This year the award goes to a person or group who has shown us all the true meaning of Relay For Life," she said. The Randy Zapakin Voice of Relay Award went to Jen Coppola. Zapakin, a Yorktown resident, was a longtime Relay for Life volunteer and emcee of the Yorktown Relay for seven years. He was killed several years ago when he was hit by a car while walking on a town road.

A poignant testimony about her own struggles with cancer was shared by 18-year-old Marlee Pincus, who was diagnosed with T-Cell Leukemia/Lymphoma during her first semester at Cornell last fall. In a wavering voice, she recounted her experience of first being diagnosed, how she had to leave school to be treated and how her academic career is still on hold. (She expects to graduate in 2022). She spoke of struggling with the fear of relapse and death, and expressed her gratitude to the support of her family and friends as her treatment continues. She and her father started a Facebook fundraiser for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and her goal was to raise \$1,800 in 18 days. When she said the fundraiser yielded more than \$18,000 to her surprise, there was a loud round of applause cheering her.

The Yorktown Athletic Association cheerleaders led a cheer to start the first lap for cancer survivors. 14-year-old cancer survivor Julianna Vano and her "Team Tough Cookie" - made up of her immediate and extended family - joined other teams as they walked the track. The traditional Luminaria Ceremony took place at 10 p.m., where names of those who lost their lives or who are now battling cancer were handwritten on white bags lining the entire track. The bags were lit and a moment of silence was observed. The Glow Stick Ceremony followed, accompanied by St. Patrick's Choir.



PHOTOS BY ABBY LUBY AND VISHNU PATEL



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## TUESDAY JUNE 25TH

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# MICHAEL TAWIL

FOR  
WESTCHESTER COUNTY COURT JUDGE



### Robert Prisco

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- Westchester County Assistant District Attorney for 32 years
- Chief of Local Criminal Courts and Grand Jury Division
- Chief of Major Case Bureau
- Deputy Chief of Homicide Bureau
- Tried to verdict: murder, attempted murder, kidnapping, robbery, burglary, assault and weapons possession cases.
- Violent Felony Coordinator
- Mental Health Court Coordinator
- Member of Criminal Justice Advisory Board

#### EDUCATION:

- Albany Law School, Juris Doctor, 1986
- Villanova University, B.A. Economics, 1983

#### BAR ADMISSIONS:

- New York State
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of NY

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### Michael Tawil

#### JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE:

- Town of Ossining Justice Court, 8 years
- Small Claims Part, Arbitrator, 5 years

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- 28 years of courtroom trial and civil litigation experience in NY Supreme, Appellate, and Federal Courts.
- Sole Practitioner, Westchester County
- Admitted NY State Bar, 1992

#### EDUCATION:

- Syracuse University College of Law J.D. 1991
- SUNY Albany B.A. Political Science, 1988

#### AFFILIATIONS & COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- New York State Magistrates Association
- Westchester County Magistrates Association
- New York Trial Lawyers Association
- Former Councilman, Town of Ossining
- Former Ossining Zoning Board of Appeals

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	(Vote for any TWO)			
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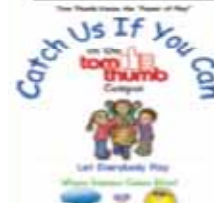
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# Somers Town Board Mulling New Entry Markers

By Neal Rentz

The Somers Town Board is considering replacing the signs welcoming people to town with granite entry markers.

Architect Phillip Ceradini met with the Town Board on June 13 to discuss his proposed design.

"The signs are greatly weatherworn," Ceradini said.

Ceradini is proposing that the new granite markers be eight feet high, with two of the feet placed in cement. The posts would have SOMERS blasted into the granite blocks and could have the date the town was established, 1788, he said. Ceradini said he was basing his design proposal on mile posts he has seen in New England.

Supervisor Rick Morrissey said the markers should have an elephant emblem placed on the top. Somers is known as the birthplace of the American circus.

The Town Board did not determine how many markers it wants to purchase. Morrissey suggested the four makers could be placed in town with one each at the north, south, east and west entryways.

Ceradini said though research he has done, the cost of purchasing each piece of granite ranged from \$800 to \$1,500 and was not counting the cost of carving the material.



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Architect Phillip Ceradini is working with the Somers Town Board to design entry markers for the town.

Town Attorney Roland Baroni told the Town Board if it wanted to place new makers on state roads it would need approval from the Department of Transportation.

Morrissey said the town should pursue

the idea of replacing town signs, which need upkeep and can be damaged by weather, with granite markers. "I think it's a great idea," he said.

Councilman Richard Clinchy said the town should seek feedback from residents

on how they would like the markers to look. Ceradini said he could do a mockup of the markers by using Styrofoam.

The Town Board is slated to hire Ceradini as the designer of the markers when it meets on July 11.

Police department raises

Also at last week's meeting, the Town Board voted unanimously, as part of the consensus agenda, to provide salary increases to Police Chief Michael Driscoll and members of his administrative support staff.

Driscoll will receive pay hikes of \$5,000 this year and in 2020. His administrative staff will receive \$2,000 raises this year and next.

None of the Town Board members commented on the salary increases at last week's meeting.

As stated on last week's agenda, "A review of department head and police administrative support staff salaries was conducted in an effort to establish a competitive salary scale to ensure the Town of Somers will retain its professional staff. The review included certain other Westchester and Putnam towns." According to the resolution, the salary increases would make the employees' pay more in line with the salaries of nearby towns.

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**Business  
of the Week**

By David Propper

Ed Kenney might well be into his 80s, but age hasn't made a difference as he continues to own Morning Star Trading Co. in Brewster.

For Kenney, it's been a long and winding road to his most recent endeavor in Putnam County, which has become a recognizable storefront along Route 6 on the border of Carmel and Brewster. It opened 22 years ago, providing customers with goods and items not necessarily found easily.

Originally living in Los Angeles as an actor in the 1980s for many years, Kenney then moved onto a Navajo reservation in New Mexico to help make fundraising videos for Franciscan priests. He lived there for five years.

While he was on the reservation, he collected Native American items and was convinced by his ex-wife to go to the Stormville flea market back in New York to try to sell some of the items. He ended up making a killing that day.

He continued to sell at flea markets for a few years before he saw the building where Morning Star currently occupies as up for rent and decided to take a gamble on opening a storefront. More

than 20 years later, he's still around.

He offers jewelry, mostly sterling silver, made by Navajo and Zuni Indians that is hand crafted. Additionally, he sells potteries, paintings, sculpturing, artifacts, moccasins and other items, many of which are connected to the Native American culture.

There have been challenges along the way; mostly competing against online behemoths like Amazon. But Kenney, 86, has diversified in the past years to offer items to customers they can't find online.

"A lot of places like me folded," Kenney said.

Kenney has lived in Mahopac – off and on – for 70 years and currently resides there.

He owned different businesses throughout the years, including a garden center and open- air produce stand in Mahopac in the 1960s and later on a seafood restaurant, which was also in Mahopac.

But Morning Star has been his pride and joy.

"I built my business on there's nothing in here from China," he said. "It's all hand made from New Mexico and Arizona."

## Morning Star Trading Co., Brewster



DAVID PROPPER PHOTO

Mahopac resident Ed Kenney owns Morning Star Trading Co. in Brewster.

# DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY TUESDAY JUNE 25TH

## ROBERT PRISCO

FOR WESTCHESTER COUNTY COURT JUDGE



### Robert Prisco

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- Westchester County Assistant District Attorney for 32 years
- Chief of Local Criminal Courts and Grand Jury Division
- Chief of Major Case Bureau
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- Mental Health Court Coordinator
- Member of Criminal Justice Advisory Board
- Member of the Raise the Age Committee

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- Albany Law School, Juris Doctor, 1986
- Villanova University, B.A. Economics, 1983

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- U.S. District Court, Southern District of NY

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## Obituaries

*Continued from page 10*

fit. Everyone who knew her will remember her for her healthy lifestyle. She was a fighter, and never gave up. She was a strong woman. Her caring and concern for others continued even after her death as she donated her body for medical research. She will be greatly missed, but never forgotten. She will be forever in the hearts of those who loved her.

### Anne Mary Minihan

Anne Mary Minihan, a resident of Ossining, died June 12. She was 74.

She was born April 22, 1945 in New York City to Vito Morea and Mary Dillon Morea. She was raised in the Bronx, graduating from St. Gabriel's grammar school in 1958, the Academy of the Sacred Heart of Mary (Park Terrace) in 1962, and then went on to attend Hunter College.

On August 8, 1964, she married Bill Minihan, to whom she was married for more than 54 years. They lived in the Chicago area for little more than a year, before returning to the Bronx (Riverdale) where their children were born: James, Anne, and Michael. On November 1, 1971 they moved into a house in Ossining through the assistance of their cousin Carol DiVico who was a Real Estate Agent in Ossining. This still was her residence at the time of her death.

In December 1989, she experienced kidney failure. Dialysis was extremely problematic and, so through the selflessness of her daughter who donated one of her kidneys, she received a transplant in August 1990. The cloud surrounding that silver lining was that the underlying cause of the kidney failure along with the medications taken to prevent rejection of the transplanted kidney took their toll and contributed to the general slow decline of Anne's health.

She was predeceased by her parents and her brother, James, who died in infancy. In addition to the children she is

survived by her daughter-in-law, Anna and son-in-law Christopher Shaw. Also surviving are the grandchildren, Olivia, Kristen, Ned, Mathew, Will, and Sean, each of whom she loved dearly.

Her Roman Catholicism was very important to her and Anne was very active in parish life. In addition to service in the Parent Guild, she was active in the CCD program teaching many children preparing them for the Sacrament of Confirmation. She also prepared many new parents by conducting Baptismal conference prior to the Baptism of their

children. She also worked in the Chaplains' office at the Westchester Medical Center, for many years.

### Evelyn Dolcimascolo

Evelyn Dolcimascolo, a resident of Ossining, died June 14. She was 79.

She was born March 16, 1940 to Joseph and Gertrude (nee Partelow) Pileggi in Ossining. She was predeceased by her devoted husband Paul in 2014 and her grandson Bryan Keith. She was a practicing nurse at Phelps Memorial

Hospital.

She is survived by her two daughters Donna (Scott) Eickler of Beacon, and Joni (Thomas) Hedglin of Saratoga, NY, son Paul Dolcimascolo Jr. of Charlotte, NC, three sisters Eleanor DeMilio of Carmel, Veronica Felicione of Ossining, and Valerie Coletti of Palm Coast, Fl, four grandchildren Nichole, Paul Thomas III, Christopher, and Scott Francis, three great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sister Estella Modesta and two brothers Joseph and Do



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# Mini Movers and Shakers Showcase Inspirational Business Ideas

Booked Parties, in partnership with the Jefferson Valley Mall, hosted a launch event June 1 promoting many of the area's leading young entrepreneurs for the first ever "Mini Movers and Shakers" celebration.

The event, which models a science fair format, allowed visitors to learn about new and emerging businesses and how they were started. It also gave participants a chance to see the evolution from an idea to a brick and mortar store, in the redesigned Jefferson Valley Mall. "We've seen a real transformation in the community, especially within the mall, which acts more like a community center for those around us, and by introducing these young and talented individuals, we can help connect them with the change agents in the area," said Heather Novak, Marketing Director for the Jefferson Valley Mall. "We like to think that we are also 'Movers and Shakers' as a growing business in the area, making a positive impact and generating excitement for future growth."

Speakers included local jewelry designer Samantha Auburn Levine from Auburn Jewelry, who began designing jewelry in high school and is now being featured in JCrew, as well as Octavia Ford, currently the Director of Volun-



Booked Parties, in partnership with The Jefferson Valley Mall celebrated its first-ever launch event for their "Mini Movers and Shakers" series, highlighting the accomplishments of many of the area's brightest entrepreneur.

teer Engagement & Partnerships for the Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson. Both speakers shared their experiences of entrepreneurship and the journey they've taken to become successful in their business careers.

"We are so excited to be part of this exciting event which allows some of the area's brightest and most accomplished young entrepreneurs to share their stories and connect with others in the community," said Meryl Lefkowitz, Direc-

tor of Marketing and Development for Booked Parties. "These young people are doing innovative things, perhaps motivated by the desire to make money or the goal of improving lives. They are inspiring individuals and it's exciting to discover and share their experiences, which can motivate others."

Booked Parties began spotlighting these young CEO's in their series "Mini Movers and Shakers" in 2018. The children range in age from kindergarten to

high school seniors and are a creative and energetic group, from towns around Westchester, Connecticut and New York City, who have become successful and savvy business owners, identifying niche business models. They have leveraged the power of social media to drive their brand recognition and business growth.

The event showcased young individuals along with like-minded young entrepreneur supporting businesses and invite members of the community to come out to meet, greet and hear from all of the amazing children who have been featured by Booked Parties over recent months. Breezemont Day Camp, located in Armonk, was the main sponsor of the event.



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# Action Items to Take After Completing Your Estate Plan

By Salvatore M. Di Costanzo

You finally did it! You met with an elder law attorney to put your affairs in order.

Like most people, however, you have done nothing with your estate plan since meeting with your attorney other than to file your documents with the rest of your personal papers. As I tell clients, your estate plan is an ongoing process, especially immediately following the execution of your estate planning documents.

Here are some of the more common oversights made after the drafting process is complete.

## Beneficiary Designations

Assets that pass outside of your will, such as life insurance, individual retirement accounts (IRA) and annuities, are disposed of by beneficiary designation. Often, beneficiary designations are overlooked. Where there is no designation, your assets may not be disposed of in accordance with your wishes. This can cause significant tax consequences if the account lacking a designation, for example, is an IRA.

Where an estate plan includes trusts or a dispositive scheme that is unequal, beneficiary designations should be customized by your attorney. Let's say your will contains trusts for your children if

they are under 30 years old. If you don't customize a beneficiary designation form to specify that that your life insurance or IRA should pass to the trust being created under your will, the account will be distributed to minor children. In effect, the purpose of your will wouldn't be accomplished.

If you have customized beneficiary designation forms, you need to work with your financial institutions to place them on file.

## Properly Safeguarding Documents

Your will and other important documents should not be placed in a bank safe deposit box. When you die, your safe deposit box is often frozen by the bank. If someone needs to probate your will, a court order must be obtained to open and examine the contents of the safe deposit box in the presence of a bank officer.

Instead, your attorney should maintain your original will and any trust you may have created. For your remaining documents, or all of your documents, if the attorney is not involved, you should consider a lock box or safe in your house. Choose wisely who has access, and when access is needed, there will hopefully be no obstacles.

Power of Attorney, Health Care Proxy  
Delivery of your power of attorney to your financial institutions is imperative. If you have a prior power of attorney, consideration should be given to revocation. In order to revoke a prior power of attorney, you need to deliver a new one to your prior agent and to any bank that holds the old one.

In most instances, financial institutions have their own power of attorney form. While not required by New York law, it is a good idea to complete your financial institution's form as well to avoid any unnecessary red tape.

Your health care proxy should become part of your medical files. Unlike the power of attorney, copies of a health care proxy should suffice. Make sure your agent has a copy and knows your wishes as well.

## Transferring Assets to Your Revocable Trust

If a revocable trust is part of your estate plan, you must attend to the transfer of certain assets to the trust for your estate plan to work properly. Usually, your attorney will transfer any real property to your trust. You need to personally attend to the transfer of your brokerage and bank accounts.

The purpose of a revocable trust is to avoid probate. Unfortunately, many people prepare revocable trusts and never attend to the transfer of assets or miss an account. In these situations, your will must be probated to administer these assets after your death, making the time and money spent on your revocable trust meaningless.

## Family Discussions

Finally, having a discussion with your loved ones regarding your planning, especially your health care decisions, is crucial. It serves no purpose to keep your affairs a secret, leaving your loved ones to figure it out after your death. If your children are your fiduciaries, you should introduce them to your advisers. They should be empowered with knowledge so that their job is made easier.

Salvatore M. Di Costanzo is a partner with Maker, Fragale & Di Costanzo, LLP in Rye and Yorktown Heights. He is an attorney and accountant whose main area of practice is elder law and special needs planning. Di Costanzo can be reached at 914-925-1010 or at [smd@mfd-law.com](mailto:smd@mfd-law.com). For more information, visit [www.plantodayfortomorrow.com](http://www.plantodayfortomorrow.com).

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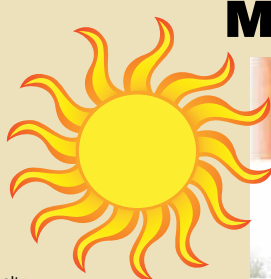
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# WBT's Summer Production Will Have You 'On Your Feet'

by Evelyn J. Mocbeichel

It's easy to imagine that the latest production at the Westchester Broadway Theatre (WBT) would be a rousing, exciting one simply by hearing the title, *On Your Feet*. Further peeking into the subject matter, learning it is the biography of singer Gloria Estefan and the Miami Sound Machine, it is assured a good time awaits theatre goers! Running now through August 4, this is the perfect family-oriented, summer entertainment show for audiences of all ages.

Based on the lives of the Grammy-winning husband-and-wife team Gloria and Emilio Estefan, the story starts with their humble beginnings in Cuba, with each family starting a new life in the United States. Gloria's family fled Cuba when she was a child and they lived in Miami where her mother cared for Gloria and her younger sister while their dad went off to the Vietnam War. Coming fairly close to covering Gloria's real-life biography, the WBT always manages to capture the essence of any storyline they recreate on stage. It's impressive how the set designers can switch from lush Miami scenery, complete with palm trees and ornate fountain, to the family's kitchen, offices of record producers and numerous other settings, with a seemingly blink of an eye. Even the bus

crash scene that severely injured Gloria, and was covered extensively in the news at the time, was effectively done on the WBT stage, wowing with its creativity of such an event.

The cast is large for this production and they are all full energy, with a 10-piece band on stage in the background, giving the show its big band feel and Latin musical flavor. The dance numbers and choreography are spectacular and the music is contagious, bringing back the songs that brought Gloria and the Miami Sound Machine into Grammy Award history.

Despite both Emilio and Gloria Fajardo (maiden name) coming to America without any real resources, their families survived the upheaval. They met later when Gloria was 17 and their combined talents enabled them to break through all barriers to become a crossover sensation at the very top of the pop music world. This production follows their rise to fame through raw talent and perseverance. From international superstardom to life-threatening tragedy, *On Your Feet* takes you behind the music and inside the real story of this record-making and groundbreaking couple who, in the face of adversity, found a way to end up on their feet. The story is based on an original

book by Academy Award winner Alexander Dinelaris (*Birdman*). All the music is by Emilio Estefan, Gloria Estefan and Miami Sound Machine, with lyrics by Gloria and Emilio Estefan. The show is directed and choreographed by Donna Drake, with musical direction by Bob Bray. This show features one of the most inspiring stories in music history and includes some of the most iconic songs of the past quarter-century; "Rhythm is Gonna Get You," "Conga," "Get On Your Feet," "Don't Want To Lose You Now," "1-2-3" and "Coming Out of the Dark."

The show's star, Maria Bilbao, as Gloria Estefan, is fabulous and convincingly making the audiences feel as if they were watching a flashback into the life of the real Gloria! Bilbao is multi-talented in singing, dancing, and acting, so it's easy to see why she was chosen to star in this fantastic production. Back in 1986 I had seen the real Gloria Estefan and the Miami Sound Machine perform when they entertained at the Walt Disney World 15th Anniversary celebration of the opening of the Orlando location. They were high energy, fabulous performers and had that audience also literally on their feet, listening to their music. Bilbao has captured that feeling, as did the rest of the WBT cast, proving another suc-

cessful WBT production is at hand! See for yourself and come home uplifted and smiling just by being in the audience of a terrific show.

Also starring in this strong casting is Jose Luaces as Emilio Estefan, Karmine Alers as Gloria Fajardo, Lauren Cosio as Rebecca, Michael Gorman as Phil, Sandy Rosenberg as Consuelo, Byron St. Cyr as Jose Fajardo. Other cast members feature: Featuring: Sydney Alise, Allyson Carr, Edgar Cavazos, Arthur Cuadros, Logan Epstein, Liesl Jean Jaye, Edgar Lopez, Felix Marchany, Sherena Medford, Tristan Miller, Natalia Nieves-Melchor, Nico Seidita, Alexis Semevolos.

Information: For Reservations: Call (914) 592-2222. The WBT is located in Elmsford, and there is no charge for parking. [www.BroadwayTheatre.com](http://www.BroadwayTheatre.com). Group Reservations: Discounts for Groups of 20 or More: Call (914) 592-2225. Luxury Boxes: Call (914) 592-8730 for private parties of six to 22. Enjoy dining and theatre in an elegant private box. Additional features include an expanded dinner menu, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, private powder room, and Luxury Box reserved parking. Show Times: Wednesday and Thursday and some Friday Matinees: Lunch: 11:30 am and Show

*Continued on page 28*



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# Some Invaders Strangle Our Landscape, Others Eat it Up

Ah, the ways of nature and how we roll with them on our properties can be challenging indeed.

Recently, I read an article on-line warning of nine plants we should never have on our properties because of their invasive nature, literally taking over the landscape. I was reminded that of the nine deadly sinners, I harbored three of them on my last property.

In order of viciousness in bullying their way into the landscape, they were: wisteria, bamboo and trumpet vine.

Wisteria was on the property when I arrived. Bamboo and trumpet vine, I invited in, the first because I thought it was beautiful and the latter to quickly cover an aging stockade fence.

On the same day, I read about how a different kind of predator, white-tailed deer, was removing everything from what is known as the underbrush of our woods and forests, threatening their survival.

On my property, deer relished my hosta, phlox and climbing geranium, as well as the leaves from the lower reaches of my weeping cherry, leaving naked

branches. Even though I sprayed everything the deer like to eat with Bobbex repellent, whose smell is so foul that it repels me as well, I sometimes failed to spray every 30 days during growing season. I would sometimes wake up one morning to find that my plantings had been eaten.

Too bad that these two phenomena, plant and animal, don't somehow cancel each other out, but that's just the way the balance of nature is tampered with.

Half of my 1.5-acre property was wooded and, when Irene and Sandy took down a swath of sugar maples, cherry and ash, almost a quarter-acre was laid bare. But nature, regenerative as it is, gave me a new,

dense thicket of samplings there.

There was one problem: they were all locusts. Deer gobble up maple saplings but eschew those of the locust because they are very thorny. I was aware that, if I want to have my woods repopulated with maple and cherry, I'd have to buy them from a nursery at a stage where they've already grown beyond a deer's eager reach.

To deal with the deer problem, I

fenced in my entire property, excluding the driveway which was then the property's only entry point. To deal with the invasive plants, I had another plan – containment.

When I first moved to that property, I fell in love with draping garlands of wisteria hanging more than 60 feet in the air, hanging from one tree to the other. It was gorgeous. But an arborist warned that all the host trees would soon be dead – and some already were – if I didn't cut the strangling vines off at their core.

Taking his advice, I was actually depressed viewing those hanging, dead vines with all the blossoms gone. I wonder what would have been the harm if the host trees died. I suspect the strength of the thick wisteria vines could have held the trees' carcasses up on their own.

From that point, I continued to allow wisteria to grow on my property, but I pruned the vines before they climbed into the trees. It was the same with my trumpet vines. When I planted the aggressive trumpet vines, I contained them by placing the roots within a large bucket so they didn't take over the property.

Some years ago, when I was visiting friends in Orange County, Calif., I was taken by the beauty of the bamboo that shielded their pool from their neighbor's property and I made a mental note of

wanting to have some of my own.

But I had already heard the stories of how it can invade a property to the point of destroying basement walls and pushing up driveway blacktop. Nevertheless, I chose to plant some on the perimeters of my property, having been assured by my landscaper that it was not the most aggressive variety. But that caution doesn't matter in some communities.

In Malverne, L.I., the town council passed a law making the planting of any bamboo variety a crime punishable by a \$350 a week fine until it is removed or 15 days in jail.

Imagine, while you might find the beauty of an invasive plant arresting, you can be arrested for planting it.

A journalist and publicist, Bill Primavera is also 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](http://www.PrimaveraPR.com)). To engage the services of The Home Guru to market and promote your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.



By Bill Primavera

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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](mailto:nrentz@theexaminernews.com).

## Tuesday, June 18

**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)

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

## Wednesday, June 19

**A Roof For A Veteran:** Attention all veterans. Miracle Home Improvements and Gas Roofing are partnering to replace the roof of one lucky winner. Send us a letter with a brief summary as why you need a new roof. You must live in Westchester or Putnam. The winner will be chosen on Sept. 3. Submit a photo and summary by e-mail ([miraclehome1@verizon.net](mailto:miraclehome1@verizon.net)) or through the regular mail at Miracle Home Improvements, 2010 Albany Post R., Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520.

**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 9 a.m. and 5 p.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:** POUND™ 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).

**Winery Events:** The Winery at St. George, 1715 E. Main St., Shrub Oak, will host a Bon Jovi Tribute performance today. Purchase tickets online at <http://www.thewineryatstgeorge.com/>. Info: 914-455-4272.

**Unexpected Navigation:** Navigating the Unexpected - Are you Ready? will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Somers Li-

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# Happenings

brary. Life happens and with significant life events comes stressful and emotional challenges. Be ready for any curve balls that life throws at us when least expected. Info: 914 232 5717 or somerslibrary.org.

## Thursday, June 20

**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 yorktown-jewishcenter.org.

**Mahjong:** Support Connection, Inc. announces the next session of their free monthly program "Mahjong, Coffee and Camaraderie." Will take place from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Support Connection office in Yorktown. 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.

**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.

## Friday, June 21

**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. At this special Shabbat service we will welcome Dr. Beryl Levinger, our longtime friend and teacher, to our bimah. Her topic will be "Words: Friends or Foes?" Temple Beth Am is located at 203 Church Pl. Yorktown. 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.

**Spotlight Theatre Musical:** "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," Broadway's hilarious musical, will be presented on weekends through June 23

by the Spotlight Theatre, Westchester's community theater, at the Julie Harris Theatre at the Clearview School, 480 Albany Post Rd., Briarcliff Manor. Call Brown Paper Tickets at 800-838-3006, the theater box office at 845-526-3461 or visit the theater Web site at www.stpny.com.

## Saturday, June 22

**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.

**Somers Shabbat Services:** Hebrew Congregation of Somers will hold Shabbat service at 9:30 a.m., followed by Lunch & Learn, a discussion of the week's Torah portion, on June 22 and 29. Kiddush luncheon will be served. First-year membership is free and includes High Holiday tickets. E-mail info@hebrew-congregationofsomers.org or call 914-248-9532 or more information.

**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.

**Library Art Exhibit:** Throughout the month of June oil painting created by Mindy Yanish will be displayed at the Somers Library.

**Cooking and Wellness:** Support Connection, Inc. will hold a program "Cooking and Wellness: A Summer Retreat from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hilltop Hanover Farm, in Yorktown. The program 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.

**Adult Craft Program:** Create a summer seashell wreath in a program for adults that will be held from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Somers Library. Registration is required; please go to our online calendar at www.somerslibrary.org or call 914-232-5717.

**Independent Living Open House:** The Bethel Springvale Inn, 62 Springvale Rd., Croton, will hold an open house from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to 914-739-4404 Ext. 2204.

## Sunday, June 23

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

## Monday, June 24

**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.

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

**Movie Mondays:** "The Old Man and the Gun" will be screened at 6:30 p.m. at the Field Library, 4 Nelson Ave., Peekskill. Info: 914-737-1212 or peekskill.org.

# Yorktown Rehabilitation and Assisted Living Spring Fest

Yorktown Rehabilitation/Nursing Center and Yorktown Assisted Living Residence recently held their first Yorktown Health and Garden Spring Fest on its Cortlandt campus June 8. "This fun family event was held as our way of giving back to the community," stated Yorktown Rehabilitation and Nursing Center Administrator Keala Dolfo. "It was also important to let folks know that we are here for them and to share about all of the wonderful services offered on our large health care campus."

The well-attended event featured on-

air personality, Susan Browning, and the WHUD FAMILY FUN CREW broadcasting live with prizes and raffles! ... terrific food trucks, Rita's Italian Ices, entertainment with our guest event MC, DJ SERGE, and live music with the sounds of a great local band, "Nothin like Nashville."

The event also featured free health screenings and health information tables, activities for the kids including inflatables; a rock wall; planting activities; cheer demos; the Mohegan Fire Department; Peekskill/Cortlandt Amateur Ham

Radio Club as well as various local vendors, a plant and flower/herb sale with The Meadows Farm; a tree planting ceremony; Zumba/Yoga classes; and much more!! One of the highlights of the day included the exciting costume pet parade with prizes and fun for all!

"We want to thank all of our event participants and supporters; our hard working and dedicated staff; and all who came out to enjoy the day with us!" Dolfo said. "We look forward to continuing this annual tradition for years to come!"





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The U.S. Census Bureau is now recruiting thousands of Census Takers in your area. Nobody knows your community better than you! Visit 2020census.gov/jobs to learn more!

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## LEGAL NOTICES

**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 OF FORMATION AUTHENTIKA LLC:** Application for Authority filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 03/29/2019. Office location: WESTCHESTER County. LLC formed in Delaware on 03252019. SSNY has been designated as an agent upon whom process against it may be served. The Post Office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her is 399 West

continued on next page



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continued from previous page

Street, Harrison NY 10528. The principal business address of the LLC is 1214 West Boston Post Road #125, Mamaroneck, NY 10528. Delaware address of LLC is 16192 Coastal Highway, Lewes, Delaware 19958-2677. Certificate of LLC filed with Secretary of State of Delaware located at 401 Federal Street, Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF GO-LAB LAW, PLLC.** Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on May 31, 2019. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process

against it may be served. The Post Office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the PLLC served upon him/her is: 100 Fisher Avenue, Suite 118, White Plains, New York 10602. The principal business address of the PLLC is 248 West Street, White Plains, New York 10605. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

**NOTICE OF FILING COMPLETED ASSESSMENT WITH TOWN CLERK** (Pursuant to Section 516 of the Real Property Tax Law) **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the final assessment roll for the year 2019 for the Town of Putnam Valley, County of Putnam has been completed

by the undersigned Assessor, and that a certified copy will be filed in the Office of the Town Clerk on or about the 1st day of July, 2019 where the same will remain open to public inspection. The final assessment roll is also available for inspection online via a link from our town website at [www.putnamvalley.com](http://www.putnamvalley.com). **SHERYL LUONGO, Assessor Dated: June 3, 2019**

**Town of Putnam Valley Town Board Meeting June 19, 2019 6 PM** 1. Pledge of Allegiance 2. Departmental Reports 3. Supervisor's Comments 4. Proclamations for Putnam County Youth Award Recipients: Ryan Marsh and Luke Zadrima 5. Legislative Reports 6. School Reports 7. Board action on the petition presented by residents of Floradan Estates concerning the removal of the ban on new Improvement Districts. **Districts:** 8. Authorize Supervisor to sign a contract with Northeast Aquatic Research. 9. Appoint Claire Cassidy as Beach Monitor for Hilltop Estates. 10. Appoint Greg Scibior as a Lake Peekskill Beach Monitor. **Parks & Recreation:** 11. Personnel changes. 12. Refunds **Building Department:** 13. Daily Fee Report 14. Budget Transfers 15. Public Comment 16. Audit of bills

Notice is hereby given to interested parties that a Public Hearing will be held by the **Putnam Valley Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday June 27, 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 Held Over** 1. **Steger, Kurt, 330 Lake Drive, 83.66-1-2;** LP Request lot coverage and side yard setback variance for detached workshop. 2. **Cassar, Barbara, 39 Chippewa Road, 51.73-1-10;** R-3 Request a side, rear lakefront and lot coverage variance for proposed deck. New Application 3. **Perez, Octavio, 55 Ridgecrest Road- 83.56-1-5,6 &7;** R-1& LP Request for side and front yard setback variance for the construction of a single family residence. 4. **Barger Pond Park District, 49 Roberts Drive,-74.17-1-67 & 68;** R-1 Request variance for installation of dock under Town Code 165-27 D (1) & (2). 5. **Brown, Andrew, 21 Cove Road, 41.9-1-23;** R-3 Request side and rear lake variance for new deck. 6. **Coren, Lana, 182 West Shore Drive, 62.10-1-32;** R-3 Request side yard setback variance for generator and propane tank. **BY ORDER OF THE TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS WILLIAM MASKIELL CHAIRMAN**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CAM-EO HOME INSPECTIONS, LLC.** Arts of Org filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/6/2019. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served.



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Inspections LLC, 2 Ann Place, Valhalla,  
NY, 10595. Purpose: any lawful act or  
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# The Spheres of Influence That Impact Our Perception of Wine

We all enjoy exploring our interests in wine, hopefully expanding our knowledge and awareness of wine in the process. Whether it's settling in to our newest "favorite wine" or seeking out new producers or grapes, our ever-changing journey along the "vineyard trail" is marked with adventure and triumphs.

Wine has many spheres of influence along the vineyard trail. Each glass of wine that we enjoy is the end-product of numerous components that come together in a unique manner to satisfy our ethereal sense of pleasure.

These components are pure magic. At times they are purely visceral; at other times, highly subliminal. It depends on our willingness to be seduced and the skill of the magician at hand.

The spheres of influence that impact our visceral perception of wine are wide-ranging. They include: 1) the esoteric factors that winemakers consider in producing your glass of wine, from the terroir selected to the fermentation and aging processes utilized, each affects the body and balance of the wine; 2) the aroma and flavor components of your glass

of wine and 3) the subjective art of pairing wine with food.

The highly subliminal spheres of influence that impact our enjoyment of wine are numerous. They include: 1) the opinion expressed by a wine critic that shows up in the press or on a wine shelf talker; 2) the decision of an importer and/or distributor to purchase, and promote, one particular wine and not another; 3) the lottery that takes place when retail wine shops must decide which wines to display on their shelves and 4) the pervasiveness of social media with its influence on the public's wine preferences.



By Nick Antonaccio



As we experience each sip of wine from a wine glass, a parade of influencers permeates our senses.

The first sip is visceral. It carries the signature of the winemaker, who crafted his or her wine to please your palate. As the wine arouses your taste buds, it relates its heritage. The influence of the indigenous soil, climate and sun combine to create a distinct and unique perception of the wine.

The second sip is less visceral, leaning towards the subliminal. It may whisper of the long journey and the many hands

the wine passed through to arrive at this pivotal moment in its life. The winemaker, whose wine-stained hands crushed the grapes, aged the fermented juice and bottled it; the importer, who most likely traveled many miles to the winery to sample the wine; and the marketing agent, who crafted the compelling verbiage to tempt you.

The third sip is highly subliminal. It speaks volumes of the point-of-sale factors that may have influenced your decision to fork over the cash for the wine. It may have been the "cute" animal on the label, the compelling, ethereal description of the wine offered by the wine shop salesperson, or the seductive "Special Sale" sticker that lured you to the wine in the first place.

By the fourth sip your palate (and your brain) is begging you to hit the Pause button. But before you kill too many brain cells, you refresh your impressions of the wine and Tweet them to your Followers. Alas, this may have been a mistake. You have amassed a merry band of wine compatriots and all too soon you are barraged with comments by those who wish to share their opinion of the wine, those who feel compelled to recommend similar wines and those who want you to sign up for their wine blog.

You wisely put down your smartphone and savor the final drops from the bottle. You realize that each bottle of wine is a living, breathing organism, with a storied history and a unique personality. You look forward to immersing yourself in a new lifestory when you open the next bottle. As The Lovin' Spoonful sang: "Do you believe in magic?"

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member of the Wine Media Guild of wine writers. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at [nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com](mailto:nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com) or on Twitter @sharingwine.

## Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1. Virus
- 4. Basketball association
- 7. Navy ship intro
- 10. Article in Acapulco
- 11. Coat part
- 12. Website ranking technology, abbr.
- 13. Dentist qualification
- 14. Melanesian island
- 16. Where to enjoy "The good life" in Yorktown, \_\_\_\_\_ Cafe
- 18. Gold pocket watch, maybe
- 19. Goes with Spumanti
- 20. Workplace safety org.
- 24. Tailor
- 28. A stuffed tortilla that over indulged or new Mt. Kisco Bar
- 29. Online sales channel
- 31. Heat meas.
- 32. Affirmative vote
- 33. Shed tears
- 34. Part of U.C.L.A.
- 35. Go wrong
- 36. Envelope type

37. Prior to, poetically

### DOWN

- 1. Siddhartha Gautama
- 2. Throws into confusion
- 3. Naturally powered illumination
- 4. Common orange
- 5. "Good job!"
- 6. Pregnancy test, familiarly
- 7. Insurer for military personnel
- 8. Prescribed
- 9. Former French coin
- 15. Highest degree
- 17. Dangerous situation
- 21. Solid
- 22. Composer Berlioz
- 23. Kindle
- 25. Long stories
- 26. 1920s car
- 27. "Yeah, right!"
- 28. Skier's aid
- 29. Forked letter
- 30. Ballad's end?

|    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3 |    | 4  | 5  | 6  |    | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10 |    |   |    | 11 |    |    |    | 12 |    |    |
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| 16 |    |   | 17 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 18 |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 35 |    |   |    | 36 |    |    |    | 37 |    |    |



(Solution to puzzle on page 19)

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| 1  | B | 2  | U | 3  | G  |    | 4  | N | 5  | B | 6  | A |    | 7  | U  | 8 | S  | 9 | S |
| 10 | U | N  | A |    |    |    | 11 | A | R  | M |    |   |    | 12 | S  | E | O  |   |   |
| 13 | D | D  | S |    |    |    | 14 | V | A  | N | 15 | U | A  | T  | U  |   |    |   |   |
| 16 | D | O  | L | 17 | C  | E  | V  | I | T  | A |    |   |    |    |    |   |    |   |   |
| 18 | H | E  | I | R  | L  | O  | O  | M |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |   |    |   |   |
| 19 | A | S  | T | I  |    |    |    |   |    |   | 20 | O | 21 | S  | 22 | H | 23 | A |   |
|    |   |    |   |    | 24 | S  | 25 | E | 26 | A | 27 | M | S  | T  | E  | R |    |   |   |
|    |   |    |   | 28 | T  | I  | P  | S | Y  | T | A  | C | O  |    |    |   |    |   |   |
| 29 | W | 30 | E | B  | S  | I  | T  | E |    |   | 31 | B | T  | U  |    |   |    |   |   |
| 32 | Y | E  | A |    |    | 33 | C  | R | Y  |   | 34 | L | O  | S  |    |   |    |   |   |
| 35 | E | R  | R |    |    | 36 | S  | A | E  |   | 37 | E | R  | E  |    |   |    |   |   |

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Continued from page 3  
Coco Farms Shell Gas Station on Route 22 in the Town of North Salem. The three then received legitimate currency in change for the fraudulent transaction.

All three subjects were arraigned before the Honorable Judge Aronian at the Town of North Salem Court, and remanded to Westchester County Jail in lieu of \$15,000 cash bail or secure bond.

**WBT's Summer Production**

Continued from page 20  
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# Panas Flames Out in NYS Semis



RAY GALLAGHER/JAMES VANDELDELDE PHOTOS

## Panthers Fall, 6-0, to Nationally-Ranked Williamsville East

The Williamsville East Flames, the state's top-ranked softball team (ranked nationally at No.18), proved too much for the Cinderella-like Walter Panas Panthers, the No.10 seed from Section 1, which suffered a 6-0 loss to the eventual NYSPHSAA champion Flames, who later completed a perfect season (27-0) at Harry J. Betar Jr. Recreation Park in South Glens Falls last Saturday with a 3-0 state title triumph of Section 2's Ballston Spa. Panas, led by Coach Dale Chappelle, left with its collective heads high, having secured the first NYS semifinal berth in school history and a prolific run to the Final 4... see Softball Notebook



## Sports

## Softball Notebook

# Historical Season Ends in State Semis for Walter Panas

## Panthers' Magical Runs Ends in 6-0 Loss to Eventual State Champ Williamsville East

By Tony Pinciario

As the Panas varsity softball team began preparation for the 2019 season, one thing was on the minds of seniors Gianna Servedio and Isabella Feraca.

"Ever since Bella and I became part of Panas softball one of our goals was always to win a section title," said Servedio, who will attend Hunter College in the fall and play also play softball. "This year we brought the energy we needed to make noise in Section 1 and compete along great teams."

Panas coach Dale Chappelle was confident, with seven returning starters, that his team would be a sectional contender. However, his team exceeded his wildest thoughts.

Servedio and Feraca were instrumental, as were their teammates, in leading Panas to the Section 1 Class A championship.

Even though Panas lost last Saturday

especially within its league, completed the regular season with an 11-9 record. The Panthers' record was deceiving because their league games included two each against Lakeland, Yorktown, Somers and Brewster.

The final regular-season record only earned Panas the 10th seed, but the Panthers knew they were better than their record indicated.

"In the regular season we hadn't found our groove as a team and we weren't as close with each other as we were towards the end of the season," said Feraca, who will attend the University of Rochester in the fall and also play softball. "Going into sectionals, we all were much closer than before and all our heads were in the same place. So, overall I think the chemistry of the team finally showed and proved we were a team to be reckoned with."

Panas faced a difficult road going into sectionals knowing that it would not play a home game because of its seed. Following the first-round win against Nanuet, the seeds held true and Panas would need to beat the top three seeds – Lakeland, Hen Hud and Pearl River – in order to win a title. The three teams each won 20 or more games.

"Being on the road gave us all the opportunity to rest and settle the butterflies," Feraca

said. "And, honestly, after doing so poorly at home, I think that we all felt more comfortable with the road and it let us focus more on what's ahead."

Panas accomplished what every softball team sets out to do in sectionals and states, put all three facets together -- offense, defense and pitching – and it resulted in a major run.

Bordenaro was outstanding in the circle, quieting opposing bats, while the offense produced timely hits and the defense was air-tight.

"Looking back on this run, there are so many clutch moments that helped us reach the next level," Chappelle said. "I can only describe it as magic. It seemed like we were playing better away from home and we embraced it quickly. And, it was always somebody new who stepped up. This is what makes good teams great."

Williamsville East solved Panas in a semifinal then went on to shut out



JAMES VANDEVELD PHOTOS

Panas girl's line up for introduction at states last Saturday morning prior to 6-0 NYS semifinal loss to Williamsville East.

Ballston Spa (Section 2), 3-0, in the final.

"They got the bat on the ball when they needed to and came up with big runs," said Servedio of Williamsville East.

Servedio, Feraca and their classmates -- Jenna Guevarez, Tahari Williams, Lexi Lorino, Sam Mills and Viola -- graduate soon, but the seniors' have left a lasting impact.

"This class is special," Chappelle said. "They really saved our program when they were in middle school. Our numbers were down and we were close to folding our JV team. But this class showed up and played for many years on the high school teams. I call them 'The Movement.' Who knew it would lead to this. It was just awesome and I'm glad they got to go out this way!"

"I couldn't imagine a better end," Feraca said. "Being in this program that used to struggle to have a winning season to becoming section and regional champs is

something that never would have crossed my mind. This season will definitely be remembered not only by the team but also by the school for many years to come."

Servedio agrees and is hoping for a repeat in 2020.

"We are so lucky to have come this far and proud to have been part of this amazing team," she said. "The future is bright! I'd love to see Panas back at states next year!"

Even though the season just concluded Saturday, Chappelle is excited about spring 2020.

"We return a lot of key parts, including the pitcher/catcher battery," said Chappelle of Bordenaro and catcher Kat Reynoso, not to mention slugging SS Julia Petrovich. "There are some big holes to fill in the lineup, but this recent run has brought a new sense of pride to Panas Softball and we look forward to facing that challenge."



Panas senior 2B Bella Feraca poses with state committee members after earning Player of the Game honors for Panas.

in a NYSPHSAA semifinal to eventual champion Williamsville East (27-0), it does not take away from what the state-ranked (No.4) Panthers accomplished.

The Panthers, who were seeded 10th, won four road games against, No. 7 Nanuet (6-0), No. 2 Hen Hud (4-1), No. 3 Pearl River (3-1) and beat intra-district rival and undefeated Lakeland, the No. 1 seed, 7-3, for the title.

Panas received a bye into the regional final where Olivia Bordenaro shut out Section 9 champion Minisink Valley, 2-0, and senior/centerfielder Bri Viola made the catch of the year, preserving a 1-0 lead in what can only be described as an historical season.

"I honestly thought we had the talent to compete for the sectional title, but the state semis, it never crossed my mind," said Chappelle as his team finished with a 16-10 record.

Panas, as a result of its tough schedule,

## Rebels Rockin' New Balance Games

(Right to left) Lakeland/Panas Rebels Patrick Abel, Kymanni Weston, Marlon Peak and Quintan Hodge finished the high school season with a blistering time of 1:34.23 in the 800-meter sprint medley relay at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor on the campus of North Carolina A&T in Greensboro, NC, setting a new school record when senior Abel anchored the last leg with a sizzling 48.7 400 split.





## Sports

# Increasing Summer Workouts Leads to Higher Standards



By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports  
Editor

## Direct Rays

By our high standards up here in the Northern Westchester/Putnam County region, the 2018-19 varsity high school sports season was not the banner campaign we're accustomed to in this neck of the woods, if, indeed, the measuring stick is sectional, regional and state championships. Sure we had some great runs from the tenacious Somers boys' soccer club, the awe-inspiring Lakeland field hockey society and baseball team, the record-setting Haldane football unit, the upstart Panas softball team and the stupefying Ossining girls' hoops program (among others), but by my count, we were a tad light this year, that's all.

After 30 years covering the Section 1 circuit, I do, admittedly, hold our student athletes to a very high standard because that's what they've delivered over much of the last three decades. Doesn't mean we didn't give it everything we had, because I saw with my own two eyes that we did indeed leave it on the field. Titles were just tougher to come by this year, which means there's work to do.

Because I'm used to doing a heck of a lot more running around, which I don't mind at all, when we're securing sectionals and hunting regional titles in the state tournaments. There just wasn't as much hunting this season, which means we gotta do better in 2019-20, gang. Championships are attained in-season, but they are woven in the off-season... including sizzling summer sessions! Don't spend the better part of the summer on your iPhone posting selfies while bingeing on Carvel... at least wait until you've worked your skill sets, run your laps on the track, crushed it in the weight room and swam a couple dozen laps to cool down. Then have at it!

So grab your gal pals, text your boys, do what you do but gather up and work on improving your skills, strength and stamina this summer. Don't wait for your coaches to assemble the masses in August. Assemble, instead, in mass for captain's practices and mini training sessions with like-minded souls, or you'll be the one trailing the pack and wondering what happened when your starting spot went bye-bye because a younger, sleeker model, who worked harder, blew past you.

"The days of sitting around all summer and doing nothing are long gone," Ossining



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

We need more championship moments like this during the upcoming 2019-20 season, so let's get busy this summer.

Coach Dan Ricci said from Cape May where the 2019 NYS champion Pride were upping the ante. "If you're not working hard, someone else who is will pass you by! With how competitive athletics have become, especially those trying to play at the next level, it goes without saying that student athletes need to continue to work on their skills and physical conditioning in the off-season, and that includes summers."

I'm not saying you can't enjoy your vacations. God knows most student athletes have earned a well-planned week or two away from the rigors... a chance to rest, replenish the system and enjoy time with family and friends (before camps officially re-open), but I need a few more championship road trips next year and I don't see that happening if we're sitting poolside increasing our waistlines while hoisting Bud Lights all summer (hello, pot, have you seen the kettle?).

Summer is a time for exploring new

things, for making new friends, for relaxing. It's a time when students get a two to three month break from the constant pressure of school and homework, allowing them to pursue new interests and pick up old hobbies, become more creative and expand their social horizons, which sometimes leads to dubious deeds.

As impressionable teen-agers, I can't tell you not to dabble with alcohol (that's your parents' primary responsibility), but I can assure you that it's just as much fun being together with your friends without alcohol as it is with it, and it hurts twice as much the next day when the bugle blows and reveille plays at 7 a.m. So make the right choices and like the Roman poet Horace said "Carpe Diem", my friends...

So, we've got a couple of family vacations planned, including a Bermuda cruise and our annual trek to LBI, perhaps my favorite place on earth. But before we bust our moves I've got pages to fill this summer, so we turn to the younger

generation in the hopes of checking out the future and giving youngins their moment in the sun. In that vein, The Northern Westchester/Putnam Examiner wants to feature the athletic exploits of your children this summer, so please feel free to email raygallaghersports@gmail.com with any photos and details from your travel baseball/softball games and lax tournaments this summer. Team shots with trophies, that play at the plate or the pile-up on the mound all make for unforgettable moments we hope you'll share with us each and every week, along with a brief recap of the events leading up. Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League action/recaps are welcome, so please hit us up every week with a happy recap...

P.S. please don't be that kid we read about every year that got behind the wheel during graduation celebrations and screwed up the lives of your loved ones with a death-defying choice to drive under the influence #Uber.



# Can't Clam Up Ballers Lax at Oyster Bay



## Ballers Ball Out on Long Island, Crowned Champs



Coaches Ryan Baker, Brandon Meyreles and Sean Carney led the 2026 Ballers Lax Club to a 7-2 championship victory in the Battle by the Bay on Oyster Bay Long Island last Saturday. 2026 team members hailing mostly from Yorktown, Somers and Hen Hud include (L-R) Sean Munnelly, Gianni Bernardi, Ryan Baker, Nick D'Andraia, Conor Morhart, Gavin Mooney, James Downes, Jayden Tyndal, Chase Reynolds, Ryan Donnelly, Jimmy Goff, Cheech Scalera, Michael Desiderio, Darrin Butler, Brett Kennedy, Tommy Carney, Aidan Mazzoni, Gavin Kelly, Brandon Meyreles, Evan Kurth and Dean Palazzolo. The 2024 Ballers team -- coached by Kyle Casey, Nicky Bonatibus and Antony Bucello -- did equally as well, going 4-0 on the day before procuring yet another Battle by the Bay title with a 5-3 championship win. Members of the 2024 team include Matt Cicinelli, Jake Lotz, John Desiderio, Luca Plogger, Jeremy Smith, Joseph Tornambe, Angelo Scarduzio, Nicholas Carducci, Dylan DelVecchio, Jimmy Lyons, Chris DeGiorgio, Ryan Aabel, Jack Salisbury, Nolan Faudar, Ryan Vogel, Edward Palumbo, Matt Risley, Nick Bucello and Justin Price. Email [ballersgm@gmail.com](mailto:ballersgm@gmail.com) for info about the club.



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