

**Bowling Alleys
Ready to Roll
...page 9**



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**The Challenges
of In-Person
Learning
...page 18**

FREE

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

August 25 - August 31, 2020

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 557



PHOTO BY RAY GALLAGHER

Yorktown Spartans Crowned 10U GHVBL Champs

Members of the Yorktown Spartans 10U A-Division team pose after coming back from a 4-0 deficit, scoring three runs in the fifth inning and taking lead in the top of the sixth inning to win 5-4 and capture the GHVBL title against the Westchester Cardinals. Bottom row (left to right): Brayden Guss, Frankie Ofrias, Jayden Nunez, CJ Velardo, Nico Masillo, Jake Sgobbo; Middle Row (left to right): Luke Penna, Ryan Stephenson, Christopher Lanza, Jaden Renzo, Christian Maratos, Alex DiLorenzo; Top Row (left to right): Coaches Sal Renzo, Jeff Nunez, Peter Lanza, Tom Masillo.

Residents Confront Board on Proposed Sewer Plan

By Martin Wilbur

Shenorock and Lake Lincolnale residents held sharply divergent views on Somers officials' controversial plan to create a sewer district to serve those communities during a contentious and occasionally unruly public hearing last Thursday.

The town is moving through the public hearing process in hopes of scheduling a referendum for the \$62.2 million project before the end of the year, said Somers Supervisor Rick Morrissey. The project would include 986 parcels in the two communities, and when completed would divert 326,000 gallons of sanitary wastewater to the county sewer plant in Peekskill.

Town officials have expressed concerns about failing septic systems while hoping to prevent the further endangerment of the lakes, which flow into the Amawalk

Reservoir, part of the New York City watershed. Many of the homes had originally been summer residences decades ago and the current year-round volume of sewage threatens the watershed, Morrissey said.

"So, the time is now," said Joe Barbagallo, the town's consulting engineer on the project. "If the community does not support his project, you will lose the \$10 million in funding from the county, you will lose the \$1.3 million with the Army Corps of Engineers and you will see the degradation of the lakes and drinking water quality of the communities."

The \$10 million is part of the \$50 million in East of Hudson funds paid to Westchester by New York City in 1997 for water protection projects. In addition to a \$1.3 million grant from the Army Corps of Engineers, the town would borrow up to \$16.2 mil-

continued on page 2

Gas Station/Convenience Store Proposed on Rt. 6

By Rick Pezzullo

Just a few months after a controversial gas station with an accompanying convenience store was approved by the Cortlandt Planning Board on a congested section of Route 6 in Cortlandt, another gas station and store are being proposed across the street.

Palisades Enterprises LLC is seeking site plan approval to expand an existing Sinclair gas station at 2058 Route 6 from two pumps to six. The proposed 2,940-square-foot station on 1.7 acres will result in the removal of the former Popeye's Pub and in-

clude a drive-thru window.

"We are really replacing a gas station with another gas station," Ralph Mastromonaco, an engineer representing Palisades, recently explained to the Planning Board. "This will be a tremendous improvement to what you have there now. You have a gas station from the 1940s."

As was a major concern expressed during hearings with the Gasland project, which the Planning Board approved earlier this year, traffic issues were raised by several planners with the Palisades plan.

"It's a very bad, problematic

intersection, probably worse than where Gasland is," said Bob Foley, who cast the lone dissenting vote against Gasland. "It's going to be a challenge."

"We just approved a gas station across the street and now this is coming up. What is going on?" remarked planner Thomas Bianchi. "It's a dangerous situation now. We should try to assess the cumulative impacts along Route 6 as much as we can."

Mastromonaco said he doesn't believe the expanded station would add traffic in the area, maintaining customers who stop

continued on page 2



PHOTO BY RICK PEZZULLO

Existing Sinclair gas station on Route 6 in Cortlandt.

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City of Peekskill Welcome New Additions to City Hall

By Rick Pezzullo

The City of Peekskill has announced the appointments of Debra Petrosky as City Clerk, Jeanette Moore as Deputy Clerk and Cassandra Redd as Confidential Secretary to the City Manager, Mayor and City Council.

Petrosky joined Peekskill as Deputy Clerk in January 2020, continuing two decades of service in local government. Petrosky was previously the Chief Court Clerk for the Town of Newburgh and Senior Court Clerk for the Village of Monroe. She also

served as Secretary to the Superintendent of Highways, Town Supervisor, Deputy Town Clerk, and Water Administrator for the Town of Highlands.

Petrosky succeeds Pamela Beach, who recently retired after three decades as City Clerk.

"Debra has already proven herself an invaluable asset to the City and we are pleased to congratulate her on this promotion," said Peekskill City Manager Andy Stewart. "We are also excited to welcome Jeanette and Cassandra to City Hall. All three positions are instrumental to ensure the City

of Peekskill continues running smoothly and moving forward."

Moore comes to Peekskill following many years in justice court administration. Bilingual in English and Spanish, Moore was previously the Court Clerk for the Justice Courts in the Village of Mamaroneck and the Town of Newburgh, preparing dockets and handling all clerical responsibilities inside the courts.

Redd is a long-time Peekskill resident with deep roots in the community. Previously a Student Services Support Center counselor at Mercy College, Redd has

extensive experience in financial aid administration and received both her Bachelor of Science in Social Work and Master's in Public Administration from the institution.

Redd succeeds Lizette Erickson, who served as Confidential Secretary for more than a decade. Her primary responsibilities include coordinating meetings for the City Manager, Mayor and City Council, helping residents find answers to their concerns from various City departments, coordinating City Council agendas, and special projects.



DEBRA PETROSKY

Somers Residents Confront Board on Proposed Sewer Plan

continued from page 1

lion and seek a variety of state and federal grants and other money to complete the funding.

Work would be done in two phases. The first phase would place 103 parcel owners into the district at an initial annual cost of \$591 a year. Once the second phase is completed, which would bring the remainder of the parcels into the district, the yearly expense would cost up to \$1,187 per parcel. For those who do not connect, the annual assessment would be \$711 a year.

Continuation of the hearing at Reis Park came about five months after it was last discussed but did not quell the emotions for some in attendance. Residents in opposition expressed distrust of the Town Board and questioned its members' motivation for trying to bring sewers to a longtime rural area.

There was periodic interruption by

those in the crowd that was limited to 50 people because of the COVID-19 restrictions, although other residents listened from outside the fence.

"It will break my heart to see the dissolution and change of character of this most beautiful, unique and special place because there's nothing you're going to say to me and many others that I will talk to that will make me not believe that your agenda is for development," said Aspen Road resident Judy Rath.

Lake Lincolndale resident Marian Murtha said she was also suspicious of the board's ulterior motives and had no confidence that the estimated annual costs is all that the project would cost property owners.

"We did not sign up for this," Murtha said. "You're stuffing this down our throat and I'm sorry, there's just no nice way to say this, but this looks a whole lot like

you are building the infrastructure for the homebuilders and you want Lake Lincolndale and Shenorock to pay for it. Shame on you."

Other opponents derided the board for failing to adequately explore other possibilities, including Integrated Advance System septs, which would be far less expensive than sewers. Magnolia Drive resident Lisa Healy refused to address Morrissey by his name or title, continually referring to him as "Tricky Ricky."

"You have refused to look at any other options other than this huge, huge financial burden to these neighborhoods," Healy said.

Barbagallo told the residents that the IA system is not permitted in Westchester unless a septic system fails.

But proponents of sewers were also well represented. Lake Lincolndale resident Stephanie McQuaid Geiger, who identified

herself as a science teacher, said it's clear that sewer infrastructure the environmentally responsible option.

"Our septic systems are too densely populated for where we live," Geiger said. "We need to do this. I'm tired of having the conversation about if we should do this."

Michael O'Keefe, president of the Lake Lincolndale Properties Association, said the organization supports the plan because sewers are essential to protect the lake.

Shenorock resident Ed Barron said he intends to vote for the referendum.

"I don't want to wake up one morning and have my neighborhood smell like a sewer," Barron said. "So, I think we need to get this done."

The public hearing will resume on September 10 at a still undetermined time and location. Morrissey said that the referendum would be held 60 to 75 days after the board closes the hearing.



Work Completed on Mohegan Retaining Wall

Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater sits in a boat in front of the recently completed Mohegan Avenue Retaining Wall. The work included replacing 600 feet of retaining wall along the lake with modular precast blocks, as well as erosion- and sediment-control devices to protect the water quality of Mohegan Lake. The replacement work was done by Remus Industries, LLC of Ossining. The contractor completed the work under the projected \$936,000 budget and about three weeks ahead of schedule.

Gas Station/Convenience Store Proposed on Rt. 6

continued from page 1

in would just be driving by.

"When we do this, we don't think we'll be increasing traffic," he said. "The only real issue I see is behind the current gas station there is a slope that needs to be leveled."

"There's a lot of work that has

to be done," planner Steven Kessler remarked.

Preliminary studies for the project will include a crash history of the area and an analysis of installing a traffic signal at the off ramp from the Bear Mountain Parkway extension that is directly across the street from the gas station.

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State to Allow 'Low-Risk' School Sports to Return Sept. 21

By Martin Wilbur

Low-risk high school and youth sports will be allowed to proceed as planned with practices and games starting Sept. 21 but full-contact sports will remain limited to the practice field, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Monday.

Sports such as tennis, soccer, cross country, field hockey and swimming may resume competitions in four weeks as long as schools follow guidelines issued by the Department of Health, Cuomo said during a Monday morning briefing. Resumption of play for those sports will be permitted in all regions of the state, he said.

However, football, ice hockey, wrestling and rugby are among the sports that will not see game competition until at least Oct. 19.

Cuomo said as schools are ready to reopen to a wide variety of schedules and configurations around the state, officials want to be prudent about the sports that will be allowed to move forward and those that must remain on the sidelines for now.

"The fall is a big question mark," Cuomo said. "Many of the experts are suggesting there may be a second wave or recurrence, so phasing (sports) will allow us to watch it."

In addition, teams will be prohibited from leaving their region to play, he said. The state's defined 10 regions are the same as those used to track transmission rates around the state during the reopening plans, the governor said.

About a month ago, officers from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) agreed to delay the start date of the Fall 2020 sports season until at least Sept. 21. They also decided to cancel all fall regional and state championships. The decision came at the recommendation of the NYSPHSAA COVID-19 Task Force.

The task force recommended that if any sport could not be played, there would be plans for a condensed season during the second half of the upcoming school year. For example, the tentative condensed schedule showed that football would be played from Mar. 1 to May 8, while wrestling and ice hockey could have their season played between Jan. 4 and Mar. 13.

The announcement of the types of sports that will be played in competition comes a day after the state's lowest recorded infection rate. The Department of Health's statistics revealed that test results released statewide from Sunday showed a 0.66 percent transmission, or 408 positives from 62,031 tests administered. It marked 17 straight days where the statewide rate has been below 1 percent.

On Sunday, every region was between 0.1 percent (North County) and 0.8 percent (Mid-Hudson) except for Western New York, where there have been six consecutive days with at least a 1 percent positivity rate. Cuomo said the Western New York spike was attributed to several clusters, including a steel plant in Erie County, a food processing factory in Chautauqua County and multiple cases in two nursing homes.

Throughout the state, hospitalizations fell to 482 and there were seven deaths on Sunday. The three-day rolling average of deaths statewide was five.

Overall, Cuomo said he was pleased with how the vast majority of New Yorkers

have been handling the pandemic and took the opportunity to fire a shot at the federal government. He repeated arguments that the Trump administration failed to realize that travelers were bringing the virus to Kennedy and Newark airports from Europe, which "ambushed" the metropolitan area.

"We've been doing a great job in keeping control of the virus," he said. "Congratulations to the people of New York. It wasn't rocket science; it just took the nation a long time to understand it. We're



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

dealing with a virus. It's a question of science, not politics."

In Westchester, there were 477 active cases reported through Sunday and about 30 hospitalizations, said County Executive George Latimer. Fatalities in the county were up to 1,449, but between July 24 and Aug. 24, there had been just six COVID-19-related deaths, he said.

Putnam County's weekly update showed there are 11 active COVID-19 cases and no hospitalizations. The death toll remains at 63.

STORE UPDATE

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Election Task Force Issues Voting Recommendations for This Fall

The Board of Legislators' Election Information Gathering Task Force came out with its list of recommendations last week for improving voting in Westchester County this November.

The 21-page report called for expanded early voting hours, a multimedia campaign to encourage early voting, multilingual video instructions for how to vote by absentee ballot and changes in procedures to increase the number of available workers.

Other proposed changes include drop boxes for returning absentee ballots, information-sharing partnerships with community organizations, technology investments to help streamline opening and recording of mailed ballots and improvements to the Board of Elections website.

It also addressed what went right and wrong during the June 23 primaries as election officials dealt with unprecedented events relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were changes to deadlines and absentee voting procedures, difficulty in recruiting and training poll workers and lack of availability of many regularly used polling locations.

The task force was created by Board Chairman Ben Boykin (D-White Plains) in response to problems that emerged

during the primary elections. It gathered information from more than 100 comments from the public and committee meetings with voter advocates and the Westchester County Board of Elections Commissioners.

"The Board of Elections faced an extremely difficult set of circumstances in June because of COVID," said task force Co-chair Catherine Borgia (D-Ossining). "We have to assume the situation will be similar this fall, but voter turnout will be much higher. Although the Board of Elections has the sole power and responsibility over the conduct of elections, we hope the information and recommendations we've assembled will be helpful."

"The impact of the pandemic on the June primaries was something no one could have been fully prepared for," added Co-chair Vedat Gashi (D-Yorktown). "However, we still have more than 10 weeks before early voting begins in the general election and the experiences of the June primaries to learn from. This report pulls together what we've learned since June and I hope the information and recommendations will be valuable to the Board of Elections going forward."

Read the full report at <https://westchesterlegislators.com/images/Newsroom/2020/eigtff-final-report.pdf>.

Executive Orders, Legislation Signed to Help Voters Cast Ballots in Nov.

By Martin Wilbur

Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed five executive orders on Monday that makes voting safe and easy for New Yorkers this fall in the midst of a pandemic.

The actions, executed four days after the governor signed significant election legislation, comes in anticipation of what could be a massive turnout for this year's general election. During the June 23 primary there were reports of hours-long lines at polling places throughout Westchester as a result of strong turnout but also because of a reduction of polling sites and poll workers caused by the pandemic.

Many of the primary results, particularly in elections that were reasonably close, took three to four weeks for the Westchester Board of Elections to certify.

"We want to make sure every vote is counted, every person is heard and that it's fair and right and complete," Cuomo said.

The orders mandate that the temporary illness option be extended to include any person who is concerned about contracting COVID-19 to be eligible to receive an absentee ballot; that all county Board of Elections send

a mailing to explain to the public the deadlines and methods to request an absentee ballot; and directs the Board of Elections to develop a new envelope to eliminate confusion about where to sign for the absentee ballot to be counted.

Furthermore, all Boards of Elections must take steps to ensure that the paper ballots are counted quickly and that each county's Board of Elections submit a staffing plan to the state by Sept. 20 to demonstrate it is prepared for the task at hand.

"If they don't have the staff, tell us, tell us before so you can get the staff because you will have to be able to count the ballots," Cuomo said. "We want to be able to tabulate the votes."

Last Thursday, Cuomo signed three bills into law that permits registered voters to immediately request an application for an absentee ballot rather than waiting until October; makes concerns about risk or fear of illness, including COVID-19, a valid reason to receive an absentee ballot; and guarantees that all absentee ballots without a postmark on the day after the election will be counted. Ballots with a postmark demonstrating that they were mailed on or before Election Day will be counted if received by Nov. 10.

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Election Integrity, Level of Service Focus of Saturday Post Office Rally

By Martin Wilbur

At least 100 demonstrators rallied outside the White Plains post office Saturday morning to call attention to the Trump administration's efforts to undermine the United States Postal Service less than three months before the election.

The protest, part of a nationwide effort called Save the Post Office Saturday, was organized by a collection of activist groups that want to ensure voters aren't disenfranchised by the expected rise in paper ballots for this year's general election because of the pandemic. Other rallies were held around the region at the same time, including outside post offices in Peekskill and Yorktown Heights.

Holding a variety of signs, protesters also advocated for millions of citizens and businesses who depend on the postal service to have their medications delivered on time and to help keep commerce flowing.

Mondaire Jones, the Democratic nominee in the 17th Congressional District, said that President Donald Trump and Postmaster General Louis DeJoy have brazenly looked to dismantle the postal service to make it harder to vote this fall. Hundreds of mail sorters have been taken out of service along with the removal of mailboxes, particularly in parts of key battleground states, he said.

"This is not a Republican or Democratic issue," said Jones, one of the plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed earlier this week against the administration over the issue. "This is an existential crisis that we face because of the occupant of the Oval Office, because he has

calculated that if he makes it more difficult for people to vote then he will be able to steal yet another presidential election."

Andrew Buder, a New Rochelle attorney and regional director of the New York Democratic Lawyers Counsel, said the postal service handles 417 million pieces of mail each day and employs more than 500,000 people, including about 100,000 veterans.

In the 2018 mid-term elections, about 42 million people voted by mail, and that number is expected to surge in this year's presidential election because of COVID-19, he said.

"Protecting our right to vote is absolutely essential to protecting our post offices to everyone at all times," Buder said.

Before the more than half-hour rally, several postal workers came out through the front door of the Fisher Avenue facility to applaud the protesters. One brought out bottles of cold water for those who showed up and stood in the hot sun.

The protests were held on the same day that the House of Representatives approved \$25 billion in funding for the postal service to help it handle the likely onslaught of ballots this fall. It is designed to prevent service reductions to the postal service, provide urgently-needed funding to respond to the stress on the service during the pandemic and protect its long-term viability.

Although it passed with unanimous backing from House Democrats and more than two dozen Republicans, it is unclear what the GOP-controlled Senate may do.

For those who attended the rally on Saturday, concerns ranged from receiving



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Democratic congressional candidate Mondaire Jones speaks to some of the roughly 100 protesters outside the White Plains post office last Saturday decrying the Trump administration's efforts to allegedly hamstring the postal service less than three months before the election.

medication and sending and receiving payments on time to concerns about whether millions of ballots will reach their destination.

White Plains resident Kenny Burr, second vice chair of the New York State Disability Caucus, said too many people are in jeopardy of failing to receive their life-saving medication on time if the postal service is hampered. As someone who is disabled, Burr said he has been working from home and depends on the mail to bring him what he needs for his job and his paychecks.

"Senior citizens and people with disabilities who aren't able to have the option of going

to the drugstore – luckily I don't have any medications that are absolutely critical to me being productive and active in society – but for many people this is life and death," he said.

Barry Graubart of Irvington, representing Moms Demand Action, was more focused on having a free and fair election.

"The idea of having our elections stolen, it undercuts everything that we're trying to do," Graubart said. "There is nothing more important that I can be doing today or any day over the next 70-some-odd days then to make sure we have fair elections."

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Examiner Awarded Best Editorials, Other Honors By Press Association

For the second straight year, The Examiner's editor-in-chief, Martin Wilbur, has won first place for best editorials in the New York Press Association's annual statewide Better Newspaper Contest, with a pair of other staff members also securing prizes, for feature writing and action sports photography.

In addition to Wilbur's first-place win in The Examiner's division for his Nov. 5, 2019, editorial on a local political issue, he also picked the honorable mention for a different editorial submission in the same awards category.

Examiner sports editor Andy Jacobs was also honored, winning third place in the best sports action photo category.

Former Putnam Examiner editor David Propper, now a Journal News reporter, won a third-place award for his feature article on the late Roger Ailes and an HBO mini-series, "The Loudest Voice," on the mogul's life.

The Nov. 5 editorial by Wilbur discussed the exploits of the Mount Pleasant Republican Committee, which was believed to be involved with the New York State Republican Party to scare voters with a mailer describing a local Democratic candidate, Francesca Hagadus-McHale, as a radical.

The New York Press Association has held its annual Better Newspaper Contest since 1930.

"Last week represented one of the all-time lowlights in local election campaign history," Wilbur's editorial began. "For



From left, Examiner Editor-in-Chief Martin Wilbur, publisher Adam Stone and former Putnam Examiner editor David Propper at the spring 2019 New York Press Association Convention in Albany. For the second consecutive year, Wilbur was awarded the top prize for editorials while Propper, now with The Journal News, captured a third-place award for his feature on the late Fox News founder Roger Ailes.

the first time in recent memory, a state political committee injected itself into a local political race." The piece later concluded this way: "And you wonder why there are so many uncontested races, even at the town and village level?"

Contest judges praised the editorial for its "strong defense of local official and calling out statewide organization

for its abuse of power and inappropriate involvement and criticism."

"While maintaining a local focus offers a mirror of devolved state of politics in the culture," the judges also said. "Standing up and naming a wrong. Ending question speaks to the erosion of democracy that these actions further."

As for Wilbur's honorable mention, judges praised his Mar. 26, 2019, editorial headlined "Mount Kisco Must Receive Promised Firehouse Upgrades After Error."

"Strong advocacy and defense of the community and calling out incompetence by firm," the judges said. "And also calling for action and resolution."

Jacobs, who won sports photography for the second straight year, was praised for a wrestling photo.

"The photo helps to illustrate and illuminate what many people love about the sport of wrestling," the judges said.

Propper, for his part, won for his feature on Ailes, the former Fox News titan who also ran a local paper with his wife in Putnam County.

"Wow, the judges wrote. "Fascinating story about how renowned slimeball Roger Ailes can even ruin a small town and a community newspaper."

Since 1930, NYPA members have competed in the statewide awards competition in the annual contest. The contest is designed to measure papers of similar size against one another in categories such as news, photography and

advertising.

A total of 173 newspapers submitted 2,918 entries, competing for awards in 64 categories. This year's contest is for work published in 2019.

First-place winners are presented with plaques while second- and third-place winners are provided certificates. The awards are usually announced and given out at NYPA's annual spring convention, either in Saratoga or Albany, but the event was canceled this year due to COVID-19. NYPA announced the winners this year in a two-day online event on Thursday and Friday of last week.

The competition was judged by members of the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association.



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Cuomo Urges Legislation to Hold Utilities Accountable in Big Storms

By Martin Wilbur

Gov. Andrew Cuomo plans to introduce legislation that would allow the state to crack down on utilities that have repeatedly failed to effectively restore power and communicate with the public following major storms.

The governor called on state lawmakers Monday to help pass legislation as soon as possible to hold the utilities accountable for poor performance that has become routine during and after a major weather event.

The main points of Cuomo's push would mandate properly functioning communications systems, levy significant fines against utility companies and revoke their ability to operate.

While many of the utilities from Long Island and throughout the lower Hudson Valley struggled, Con Edison has taken the brunt of the criticism. Local and state representatives have recited the repeated failures to provide reliable information once Tropical Storm Isaias passed on Aug. 4, the slow restoration process and its inability to prepare in advance.

"Why is it every time there's a storm the utility companies are so slow in their response? Why?" Cuomo asked. "We pay for the utility companies to provide a service. They're not doing us a favor. This is what we pay for. We don't pay just to have the utility companies function on a nice day. The essence of what we pay for is be ready for a storm, be ready to handle the storm, give me information when my power goes out and get my power on quickly."

Cuomo said that under current state law a power company can be fined no more than \$100,000 or .02 percent of its gross operating revenues for a single incident. He wants to see the potential for heavier fines that would force utilities to properly prepare for storms with adequate manpower and better coordination rather than brush aside the current fines as the cost of doing business.

"We have to change the law, change the amount of the penalties so the penalty is actually a penalty," Cuomo said.

The threat of losing an operating certificate without years-long court battles and having mandatory communications systems in place that operate during storms must also be part of any legislation, he said.

His proposal came four days after a 13-hour joint hearing held by the state legislature's Energy and Telecommunications, Environmental Conservation and Local Government committees. The lawmakers took testimony from the Public Service Commission (PSC), utility representatives and municipal officials.

State Sen. Peter Harkham (D-Lewisboro) said that he's been dealing with Con Edison and NYSEG since 2008 and there has never any improvement after a power outage.

"Unless we're talking about wholesale reformation of the business model and really systemic changes in the way that the utilities plan for storms, their incident command structure, their communications, we will continue to have no credibility with our constituents or their customers,"



One of the many roads in the area that was blocked following Tropical Storm Isaias on Aug. 4. There has been a torrent of calls from officials at every level of government pressing the state to get tough with the utilities which repeatedly underperform following major storms.

Harkham said.

A chorus of other legislators and officials repeated that Con Edison routinely places greater emphasis on profits and shareholder returns, which helped to explain why it took several days after the storm before sufficient manpower arrived. Then when they were in the area, many stood around waiting for

direction from Con Edison, said Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti (D-Pleasantville).

"Clearly, Con Edison learned nothing from previous failed responses because Con Ed's most recent response was another management fiasco," Abinanti said. "Your response today, it would cost too much to do better, confirms that Con Edison prioritizes profit over public safety."

New Castle Supervisor Ivy Pool testified last week that the erroneous estimated times of restoration infuriated her and many of the town's residents. Con Edison sent out a text message in error on Friday, Aug. 7 stating that the remaining 3,000 residents without power would have it restored by 11 p.m. that night. But the message should have only gone out to 400 customers.

Then when the original estimated time of restoration of Aug. 9 at 11 p.m. came and went, there were still more than 2,000 customers without power.

"As Con Ed customers we've grown accustomed to false hope and dashed expectations but this egregious and even insulting error was really too much for residents to bear," Pool said.

Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner said Con Edison, Verizon and Altice need to have a joint agreement or emergency arrangements for the removal and pruning of trees that have the potential to impact their lines.

"The big three need to work together during blue sky days to improve the condition of the existing infrastructure," Feiner said.

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Obituaries

Joan Capone

Joan A. Capone, a Yorktown resident, died Aug. 21. She was 79.

Capone was born Feb. 16, 1941, in the Bronx to Joseph and Adele Forzano. On Oct. 24, 1971, she married Jim Capone at Holy Family Church in the Bronx. Joan and Jim lived in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn where they had their two sons until they moved to Yorktown in 1989.

She is survived by her husband, Jim; two sons, Jimmy and his wife, Karina, and John and his wife, Trina; her brother, Robert Forzano; and four grandchildren, Maxim, Evan, Keira and Roman.

Glenn Fine

After a prolonged illness, Glenn Fine of Yorktown, died Aug. 20. He was 50.

Fine was born in New Rochelle to James and Susan Fine on Aug. 4, 1970. He earned his doctor of chiropractic degree from Life College in Atlanta.

He is survived by his mother, Susan; brother Brad (Pamela); sisters Melissa (Patrick) and Staci; as well as five nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father, James Fine.

Family and friends will honor the life of Glenn on Saturday, Aug. 29 from 12 to 1:30 p.m. at Yorktown Funeral Home.

John Freeman

John Freeman died peacefully on Aug. 15, surrounded by his family, in his home in Yorktown. He was 70.

Freeman was born Aug. 7, 1950, in Liverpool, England. He attended Brighton Polytechnic, where he met his wife, who was an American student studying in the U.K. They were married in England and then moved to the U.S. Freeman worked at New York Presbyterian Hospital for 35 years.

He loved listening to music with a sketchbook in his hand, drawing everything around him. He left many pictures, finished and unfinished, for his family to enjoy.

Freeman was preceded in death by his parents, John and Kate. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Babbette, and his son and daughter, John and Julia. He is also survived by a close and loving family in Liverpool, which includes four siblings, Lynn Halliday, Roy Freeman, Pat Rafferty



John Freeman

and Jeffrey Freeman, and their spouses and 12 nieces and nephews.



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FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

In the Matter of a Proceeding Under Article 10 of the Family Court Act
BABY BOY SMITH (CIN#) Docket No. NN-1568-20 F/U No. 130968

**A Child Under Eighteen Years of Age Alleged
To be Neglected by LISA SMITH,(Child Neglect Case) Respondent.**

NOTICE: PLACEMENT OF YOUR CHILD(REN) IN FOSTER CARE MAY RESULT IN YOUR LOSS OF YOUR RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD(REN). IF YOUR CHILD(REN) STAYS IN FOSTER CARE FOR 15 OF THE MOST RECENT 22 MONTHS, THE AGENCY MAY BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO FILE A PETITION(S) TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO COMMIT GUARDIANSHIP AND CUSTODY OF YOUR CHILD(REN) TO THE AGENCY FOR THE PURPOSES OF ADOPTION. IN SOME CASES, THE AGENCY MAY FILE BEFORE THE END OF THE 15-MONTH PERIOD. IF SEVERE OR REPEATED CHILD ABUSE IS PROVEN BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE, THIS FINDING MAY CONSTITUTE THE BASIS TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO COMMIT GUARDIANSHIP AND CUSTODY OF YOUR CHILD(REN) TO THE AGENCY FOR THE PURPOSES OF

ADOPTION. UPON GOOD CAUSE, THE COURT MAY ORDER AN INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE NON-RESPONDENT PARENT(S) SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A RESPONDENT; IF THE COURT DETERMINES THE CHILD(REN) SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM HIS/HER HOME, THE COURT MAY ORDER AN INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE NON-RESPONDENT PARENT(S) SHOULD BE SUITABLE CUSTODIANS FOR THE CHILD(REN); IF THE CHILD(REN) IS PLACED AND REMAINS IN FOSTER CARE FOR FIFTEEN OF THE MOST RECENT TWENTY-TWO MONTHS, THE AGENCY MAY BE REQUIRED TO FILE A PETITION(S) FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THE PARENT(S) AND COMMITMENT OF GUARDIANSHIP AND CUSTODY OF THE CHILD(REN) FOR THE PURPOSES OF ADOPTION,

EVEN IF THE PARENT(S) WERE NOT NAMED AS RESPONDENTS IN THE CHILD NEGLECT OR ABUSE PROCEEDING.

A NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT HAS THE RIGHT TO REQUEST TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT CUSTODY OF THE CHILD(REN) AND TO SEEK ENFORCEMENT OF VISITATION RIGHTS WITH THE CHILD(REN).

BY ORDER OF THE FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT(S) WHO RESIDE(S) OR IS FOUND AT [specify address(es)]:

LISA SMITH (Mother)
Last Known Address:
128 South 12th Avenue, Apartment 2
Mount Vernon, New York 10550

A Petition under Article 10 of the Family Court Act having been filed with this Court, and annexed hereto

YOU AND EACH OF YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to appear virtually before this Court at 131 Warburton Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10701, on SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 at 9:30 o'clock in the morning afternoon of that day to answer the petition and to be dealt with in accordance with Article 10 of the Family Court Act.

Upon your failure to appear as herein directed, a warrant may be issued for your arrest and/or the Court may proceed to Inquest and hearing and determine the petition as provided by law.

Dated: July 24, 2020

_____/s/_____
Clerk of Court

Bowling Alleys Ready to Roll After Five-Month Shutdown

By Abby Luby

For Steven Giordano, the Governor's Aug. 14 directive that bowling alleys could begin opening their doors last week was a much-needed shot of welcome news.

Even though Jefferson Valley Lanes on Hill Boulevard in Yorktown and all bowling centers in New York State can operate at just 50 percent capacity, it's something of a lifeline for Giordano and his family, owners of the facility for 25 years.

"This is like starting up a car that's been sitting idle for five months," said Giordano, the food and beverage manager at the 24-lane bowling center. "Things could break, so we're checking out the air conditioning, the lanes, to make sure everything is running properly."

Jefferson Valley Lanes returned Monday with a soft opening and Giordano and his family will gauge reaction. The capacity limit allows for up to 80 people.

"June would have been a better time to open when a lot of other businesses were opening," Giordano said. "Now with the new guidelines we will have to make sure kids aren't running around, everyone will have to wear masks, parents will need to



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

Cortlandt Lanes is one of the area bowling alleys that has opened its doors after being closed for five months because of the pandemic.

be more observant, we can't police everyone."

With only 12 lanes active, players will bowl in two-hour blocks. Jefferson Valley requires bowlers to call to reserve a lane, he said.

Cortlandt Lanes on Crompond Road opened last Wednesday with only 19 of its 38 lanes in use, leaving every other lane vacant, said General Manager Richard Fernandez.

Along with masks and social distancing, reserving a lane is advised. Time limits on lanes have not been established, he said.

"It's a new world but it's not going to be forever," said Fernandez. "We have to be willing to give a little to

get back to normal."

Bill Diamond, president of Diamond Properties, which houses Spins Bowl within Grand Prix New York at its Mount Kisco complex on North Bedford Road, said it was critical that bowling facilities be allowed to reopen in time for their fall leagues. Without the leagues, which Giordano estimated accounted for roughly half of his business, the bowling industry in New York could have faced extinction, Diamond said.

"Operations have been closed for five, six months already, and if bowling proprietors were to lose their busy season, which is September to April, then there

would be no coming back, and most of the second- and third-generation businesses would be wiped out," Diamond said. "Operating under these conditions is not ideal, but at least the industry has a fighting chance to survive."

One of the many guidelines for bowling alleys will be equipment disinfection, including balls and shoes that are rented. Spins Bowl is introducing its "Squeeki Ball" system, which uses heat and ultraviolet light to sterilize bowling balls and will be making it available to the entire industry, Diamond said. Specialized lighting equipment will also be used to sterilize helmets for its go-kart racing, he said.

At Cortlandt, sanitizing will be accomplished with a fog machine that mists disinfectant on all surfaces.

"That includes where bowlers sit, the snack bar, the restrooms, anywhere hands can touch things," Fernandez said. "When customers leave the lanes, we wipe everything down and hand sanitizers are at the desk. We want to help people stay safe."

Sanitizing is nothing new at Jefferson Valley Lanes. Giordano said the bowling alley will continue its stringent cleaning guidelines where shoes are sprayed with Lysol and the balls are cleaned. After

playing, bowlers will be asked to leave the bowling balls and rented shoes at the lane so staff can sanitize.

Food and beverage service will have some modifications, at least to start. Giordano said the snack bar will be open but the bar and lounge will remain closed. Alcoholic beverages will still be served, via a service window. For those wanting an alcoholic beverage, food will have to be ordered. Video games will be dark.

At Spins, which reopened over the weekend, there will be limited food choices for the first few weeks, but the full menu should return after that, Diamond said.

Giordano said he was uncertain how long Jefferson Valley could survive with the current guidelines. He will start with abbreviated hours but hopes to return to the normally-scheduled 9 a.m. to midnight timeframe.

Fernandez said he hopes to survive, but he has to get the word out that they have reopened. It may also be a challenge to convince some of the older players that populate many of the leagues to return at first.

"It will take a little time to get people back in, but it will happen eventually," Fernandez said.

Martin Wilbur contributed to this article.

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Marine Unit Conducts Increased Enforcement on the Hudson

The Westchester County Police Marine Unit recently conducted increased enforcement on the Hudson River adjacent to Croton Point Park in response to unsafe activity by operators of Jet-Skis and other personal watercraft.

Multiple summonses were issued for violations of navigation law, including operating recklessly near swimmers or boats; operating in excess of five miles per hour within 100 feet of the shore or anchored

vessels; and operating a personal watercraft after dusk. The increased enforcement will continue through Labor Day weekend and beyond.

"We want to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for people on the river whether they are boating, operating personal watercraft, swimming or fishing," said Commissioner Thomas A. Gleason. "Our enforcement on the Hudson was in response to community complaints as well as an

observed increase in unsafe activity by our Marine Unit officers."

The Marine Unit reminds boat operators that navigation law also prohibits weaving through congested marine traffic, jumping the wake of another vessel and "playing chicken."

County police will also continue to encourage social distancing on and along the river, including on boats that have tied up together in a group.

"We have received complaints that some people aboard these boats are moving back and forth among vessels without wearing masks or maintaining social distancing," Gleason said. "We remind everyone that the governor's executive order remains in effect and it requires people to maintain social distancing or wear a mask if they cannot."

Navigation law requires that all persons operating personal watercraft must have completed a boater safety course and carry legally required equipment.

Required Equipment

- Life jacket (required to be worn by all persons)
- Engine cut-off lanyard
- Sound producing device
- Visual distress signal
- Backfire flame arrestor
- Fire extinguisher (on waters under U.S. Coast Guard jurisdiction, which includes the Hudson River and Long Island Sound)

Operating Restrictions

- Operator must have completed a boating safety course.
- The minimum operator age is 14.
- Operation is prohibited between sunset and sunrise.
- Reckless operation is prohibited, including weaving through congested marine traffic, jumping the wake of another vessel and "playing chicken."
- Personal watercraft are prohibited within 500 feet of a bathing beach and swimming area.

Making a Statement

The members of CCoHope Indivisible participate in a national day of action sponsored by National Nurses United last Saturday, Aug. 22.



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Boy's Lemonade Stand Raises Funds for Research into Rare Disorder

By Lindsay Emery

Aayan Bilal, an incoming fourth-grader at Douglas E. Grafflin Elementary School in Chappaqua, was compelled to do something to help his younger brother.

His brother, Yonas, was diagnosed at two-and-a-half years old with the rare genetic disorder SynGAP1 Syndrome that is currently known to affect only about 500 people around the world. On July 25, Aayan raised \$381 by organizing a lemonade stand in downtown Chappaqua and donated the proceeds to the SynGAP1 Research Fund.

Aayan said that he wanted to help his brother and others afflicted with SynGAP1.

"I needed to do a lemonade stand because we only took donations because we needed money to pay the people to do the research for us," Aayan said.

Caroline Bilal, Aayan and Yonas' mother, explained that the study will search for treatments by investigating how certain types of mechanisms in the SynGAP1 gene help to regulate the gene and the SynGAP1 protein in the brain.

She explained that she had a healthy pregnancy with Yonas and his ensuing birth went well. However, doctors started noticing that Yonas, who is now eight years old, wasn't making an effort to crawl or pull himself up at about six months old. The most glaring symptom was a lazy eye.

She remembered the ophthalmologist asking if Yonas had issues with low muscle tone. When he was taken to the pediatrician, it was pointed out that Yonas couldn't sit independently and was slouching to one side.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

Aayan Bilal, a fourth-grader at Grafflin Elementary School in Chappaqua, organized a lemonade stand last month in his community to raise money for research for SynGAP1, a rare genetic disorder that has afflicted his brother.

"At that point he was about a year and we realized he was behind on all his other milestones too, including verbally," she said.

The family decided to start early intervention services – physical and occupational therapy, speech therapy, feeding and other related services. Caroline said there was also a concern that Yonas was intellectually disabled. Medical professionals were hesitant to provide a clear answer on that because children develop at different rates, she said.

Yonas was diagnosed with autism at about two years old after his low muscle tone and cognitive delays continued. Services were provided for Yonas related to autism, but it never appeared sufficient.

"We noticed there was something else going on because he didn't really fit the traditional mold of a kid on the spectrum," Caroline said. "For example, he sought out bodily contact and affection very actively."

At about that time, the family went to Montefiore to seek guidance from a pediatric geneticist, who formally diagnosed Yonas with hypotonia, which is low muscle tone. The geneticist had secured a grant to have a handful of children tested using Whole Exome Sequence (WES) testing, where scientists dissect small groups of chains of one's entire exome. A year later, the geneticist concluded that Yonas had the new and very rare syndrome called SynGAP1, which was discovered in 2009.

At the age of three, Yonas developed seizures, which are now mostly controlled. He currently attends Tappan Hill School in Tarrytown, where he is in an Applied Behavior Analysis program. He has a full-time, one-to-one aide for safety because of the hypotonia and the possibility of seizures.

This summer Aayan wanted to help the scientists who are researching SynGAP1 by establishing the lemonade stand to raise money. The stand was a success thanks to Aayan's friend Ari Perez-Hall and his family, who held signs and collected donations. Over just two hours, the stand raked in \$381 worth of donations and an online GoFundMe drive has doubled Aayan's initial goal of raising \$1,000 to \$2,000.

The Bilal family hopes to highlight SynGAP1 to the public because it is one of the few genetic syndromes that has been identified to cause autism. Other common symptoms include



Bilal pictured with his friend Ari Perez-Hall, who helped him with the fundraiser.

epilepsy, behavioral challenges, learning disabilities and sensory processing disorder.

"I think raising awareness is so important with this syndrome because if parents know that they have a child that is autistic and has this combination of symptoms, they could potentially test very specifically for SynGAP1," Caroline said. "It's very easy to just test for SynGAP1 and thus have a much better sense of how to actually prepare or plan interventions for their child."

To learn more about SynGAP1, visit <https://syngapresearchfund.org>.

To donate to Aayan's SynGAP fund, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y5xz8dkg>

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Letters to the Editor

Loss of H.S. Football Season in a Pandemic Can Be Learning Experience

Recently Ray Gallagher made a plea to Gov. Cuomo for news about fall sports for our high schools. In his piece he said that, "If we follow data, common sense and science, we would likely have a 100 percent chance of having a delayed high school sports season this fall, but..."

But what? If we follow data, we will keep our communities safe.

As a former educator I have always tried to help students find pathways through life's challenges. My high school students might have looked like linebackers but they were just kids and I was one of the adults in the room tasked with role modeling. Mr. Gallagher has chosen to set an example for our kids by talking about how hard it is for him to imagine a world without high school football.

Two of my boys played high school football and we were so excited for the valuable variety of skills and experiences

gained in those days. We worried about injuries, but never had to worry that they would bring home a deadly virus, one that could harm or kill them or their loved ones.

I know the pain and would not wish the death of a child on anyone. Nor would I wish that any child carries the responsibility because they participated in a game that led to someone's death. If, after all the considerations, there is no high school football season this year because the adults choose to follow data, common sense and science, we adults should present this as a learning experience rather than a grieving experience.

True leaders in the student, coaching and community populations can find other ways to work together. Our children can learn real leadership during challenging times by having teams meeting each other on the playing field to do good work. Friday night lights during normal years is a wonderful

time for many, but imagine if those kids brought their communities together on Friday nights, socially distanced, on those well-lit fields for different efforts in this different year. Teamwork can be engaging in community services such as food banks, mentoring of younger students and having discussions about rebuilding stronger than ever.

We the adults must lead by example by showing our kids that their lives matter more to us than games, that they can find new purpose and end up leaving a legacy that will last long after the lights have dimmed. WKe will help them grow stronger and more confident. They will see that we love them more than we hate missing games.

Let us lead rather than complain.

Stephanie Keegan
Somers

Somers Officials Doing Everything to Force Sewer District on Residents

Shame on Tricky Ricky and the Somers Town Board. It was abundantly clear that they have spent the last five months plotting and planning to push through the sewer district in Shenorock and Lake Lincolndale. On Aug. 20, they held a public hearing but put many restrictions in place to render it a completely different beast.

- Lack of proper notification. All public hearings require publication in a paper at least 72 hours prior to the hearing. They did not do this.
- Limiting the number of those who could attend in person. They hid behind the governor's mandate limiting public gatherings to a maximum of 50 people. People were turned away when the 50-person limit was reached. They had

to stand in the parking lot. The board knew this would happen. Why hold the meeting? To start the clock ticking and get a vote in place before the end of the year.

- Limiting public comment and questions to three minutes per person. There has never been a time limit at public hearings.
- A public hearing does not equal an informational meeting. Some questions were answered by the engineer at the end of the public comment without an opportunity to have a dialogue.
- When Tricky Ricky was pushed about the public hearing restrictions, he said it was really not a public hearing, "this is a special meeting" and "this is a continuation of the March meeting."

Well what was it?

The lack of collaboration and transparency by the board is disheartening. They said several times that as community members they want what is best for Shenorock and Lake Lincolndale. None of the board members live in these neighborhoods or support them in a meaningful way beyond this issue.

Please know that I don't necessarily oppose sewers; I oppose this plan. I encourage everyone to follow the money. The bigger the price tag, the bigger the benefits will be for certain parties, and it won't be the residents.

Lisa Healy
Lake Lincolndale

Time Running Short to Answer Questions About State's Power Needs

With the imminent closing of Indian Point, the following letter was e-mailed to Sen. Peter Harckham on June 10.

What actions are being taken to insure reliable available economic electric power after Indian Point shuts down completely next April? The governor and legislators have banned fracking, refuse to allow additional much-needed natural gas pipelines and Con Edison has ready placed a moratorium on new customers in Westchester. Are we going to be faced with Third World brownouts and blackouts

or limited electric service for lighting or cooking in our homes?

I haven't touched on New York City's electricity requirements to keep the lights on and the elevators operating. And please don't talk about the future of wind farms and solar which require online backup 24

hours a day by hydrocarbon-fueled power stations.

This will be a problem long after the virus is put to rest.

E. Patrick Mosman
Pleasantville

Harckham Has Supported the New York City Agenda in Albany

A vote for Peter Harckham is a vote for Bill de Blasio and the New York City machine, which now controls both houses of the state legislature. Harckham voted to authorize the controversial and dangerous cashless bail law, free college tuition to illegal immigrants and oppressive regulations that are driving business and citizens out of the state. Finally, he supported raising the salary of Assembly and Senate members and the governor, making Andrew Cuomo the highest paid governor in the U.S.

What we need in Albany is a tested leader, and Rob Astorino fits the bill perfectly.

As Westchester County Executive, Rob protected our neighborhoods from the federal government's attack on single-family zoning. While Rob honored the terms of the settlement, he ensured that our rights were protected.

We need a leader, not a follower of Bill di Blasio and the New York City politicians who have made our entire state a more dangerous place to live.

Vote for Rob Astorino to restore good government and common sense to our state.

Dick DeLorenzo
Crompond

Correction

Due to an editing error, last week's Irish Eclectic column incorrectly identified firefighter John McNamara as dying from wounds inflicted by a mob during the July 1863 New York City draft riot. McNamara, a hero that day, survived. The person who died was seven-year-old Joseph Reed, whom McNamara rescued that day from immediate death at the hands of the mob. Reed's wounds proved fatal, and he died a few days after his rescue by McNamara.

Save Money By Cutting Your Carbon Emissions

By Michael Gold

Homeowners who want to save money can start by cutting their household emissions of carbon dioxide.

It's true! Cutting carbon dioxide can save you money, help you live healthier and improve the environment, all at the same time.

The three areas where you can accomplish this are: home energy use, driving and food consumption, according to John Rogers, a mechanical engineer and senior energy analyst with the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), an environmental advocacy organization, and co-author of a book, "Cooler Smarter: Practical Steps for Low-Carbon Living."

Let's start with heating and cooling your home. You can easily cut your energy costs by 15 percent simply by installing a programmable thermostat. A Honeywell programmable thermostat costs as little as \$23 at Berger Hardware in Thornwood. A Wi-Fi thermostat can cost about \$110.

A programmable thermostat allows you to set your home's temperature either warmer or cooler when you're out of the house or sleeping.

For instance, the programmable thermostat can be set to automatically adjust the temperature when you're going out every day and when you come home, so you don't have to constantly lower or

raise the temperature.

A Wi-Fi thermostat lets you use your smartphone to set the temperature even when you're out of the house.

NYSEG gas and electric customers can get a \$75 rebate on Wi-Fi thermostats that control your natural gas heating and central air conditioning systems. Con Edison customers can get an \$85 manufacturer's rebate for installing these devices.

Preventing air from leaking out of your home can save up to 15 to 20 percent on your annual heating and air conditioning costs, Rogers said. When air leaks, you're losing the energy the house is generating to either heat or cool the surroundings.

Caulk, seal and weatherstrip any seams, cracks and openings to the outside of the structure.

"You should seal the windows and add 30 inches of insulation in the attic," Rogers explained.

Making your home energy-efficient is the easiest thing to do in terms of lowering heating and cooling costs, he said. He suggests buying LED light bulbs, which can last for 30 years, Rogers said. LED bulbs cost more than traditional bulbs, but you'll save \$100 per bulb over its lifespan because LED lights use less electricity than traditional bulbs.

The U.S. Department of Energy's website explains that energy-efficient light bulbs, such as LEDs, use about 25

to 80 percent less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs. Using Energy Star-certified products can save a homeowner about \$75 in electric costs annually.

Driving is another major cost. An average internal combustion vehicle uses 4,500 gallons of gas over about 15 years. The higher your gas mileage, the lower your fuel costs. If you move from a 20-mile-per-gallon vehicle to a 40-mile-per-gallon vehicle, you obviously cut your gasoline purchases in half.

If you assume prices at about \$2 per gallon, you would, therefore, save about \$10,000 over the life of the car, Rogers said. If you go electric, you will lower the costs of operating your vehicle even further.

Fuel costs for electric cars are about half as much as gasoline cars, he explained.

As we have seen over the decades, gasoline costs can vary widely.

"Average U.S. gasoline prices between 2002 and 2017 ranged from less than \$2 to more than \$4.50 a gallon," the UCS website states, while electric costs have remained relatively stable.

What we eat has tremendous consequences for our health, wallets and the environment.

Beef is expensive, unhealthy and a killer for the environment. A pound of ground beef can cost \$4.70, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website. To

compare, a pound of boneless chicken breast costs about \$3.20, the bureau states. Tomatoes cost less than \$2 per pound and beans cost \$1.45 per pound. Bananas retail at about 58 cents per pound.

If a family of four cuts its beef consumption in half, it reduces its carbon emissions by three tons, equal to six months of driving.

Also, eating more whole grain foods is much better for your health than beef.

"We want people to see the opportunity (in cutting carbon emissions) to cut costs and live a healthier life," Rogers said.

Once you begin to make these changes, you will have the chance to embarrass your neighbors by telling them how much money you saved by going green.

I'm just kidding, but Rogers is serious.

"Talk to your neighbors. Talk to your government leaders. Tell them, 'These are things I care about. I want you to care about these things too.'"

For more information, visit uscusa.org/climate or purchase "Cooler Smarter - Practical Steps for Low-Carbon Living" to learn how cutting carbon emissions saves money.

Michael Gold has published articles in *The Washington Post*, *The New York Daily News*, *The Albany Times-Union* and other newspapers. Miriam Gold provided research assistance for this article.

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Remembering a Putnam County Suffragist – and So Much More

In the fall of 1917, Marjorie Lobdell Addis marched into Central Park in New York City carrying a banner and the list of enrollments for Putnam County Suffragists.

Alongside Mrs. C.A. Hopkins, Miss Kate de F. Crane, Miss May Fowler and her sister, Barbara Addis, Marjorie Addis was part of a local contingent of New York women fighting for their right to vote.

The Women's Parade for Freedom was considered one of the most important events in the Suffrage Movement and "the most striking and significant parade ever seen in New York City" according to The Brewster Standard.

This month marked the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment, and reflection on the women that worked tirelessly to further the equality and rights of women locally and nationwide puts Marjorie Addis at the forefront.

Born in Brewster on Sept. 11, 1890, Marj, as she was known to family and friends, was a 1907 Brewster High School graduate and earned her undergraduate degree from Smith College in 1911. She received a master's at the Columbia University School of Business and attended New York University Law School.

Addis' dedication to public service didn't stop with equal

voting rights for women. In 1918, while working for Edith Diehl as her secretary at the Woman's Land Army in Wellesley, Mass., Addis was called to federal service, appointed confidential secretary to Dr. H. W. Draper, assistant surgeon general of the United States Public Health Service, who was sent by President Woodrow Wilson to direct the campaign to stamp out the flu pandemic in Massachusetts.

In 1922, Addis came back to Brewster for good following the unexpected death of her father, Emerson W. Addis, publisher and editor of The Brewster Standard. Never one to back down from a challenge, Addis, along with her brother, dedicated her life to providing fair and honest news to her community.

In a 1976 interview with Jane McMahon of The Reporter Dispatch, she describes her early newspaper days when she was met with opposition from the Ku Klux Klan.

"They broke my window because we supported the repeal of Prohibition," she said.

Addis resigned from the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1939 after African American contralto Marian Anderson was turned away from performing in Constitution Hall because of her race.



SOUTHEAST MUSEUM PHOTO

An undated image of Marjorie Addis sitting at her desk in the office of The Brewster Standard.

In addition to running the paper, Addis represented the Village of Brewster and Town of Southeast as a founding member of the Women's Republican Club of Putnam County, a trustee of the Brewster Library, member of the District Nursing Association and supporter of the Southeast Museum.

Alexandra Johnson, Addis' niece and part-time Brewster resident, recalls fond memories of her aunt and of events in the village. She says her aunt rarely, if ever, reflected on the early days.

"She was humble, I never knew she was a suffragist and she never

spoke of her work with the Women's Land Army, Red Cross or Victory Gardens either," Johnson said.

"My Aunt Marj was an acquaintance of Eleanor Roosevelt, and one time Mrs. Roosevelt came to speak at the Wells Casino in Brewster," Johnson continued. "Aunt Marj told me to go sit on the sidewalk with my dog Taffy and wait because Mrs. Roosevelt loves dogs. So, I did, and sure enough, Eleanor Roosevelt walked down the path toward me, patted my dog on the head and chatted with me. I will always remember that day."

Current 16-year-old Brewster

High School junior Skye Johnson, along with her 13-year-old brother Samuel, can appreciate what their great-grandaunt contributed to the movement and her community.

"I'm proud to have such an interesting history to my family," Skye Johnson said.

"She obviously did something very important for women."

"The Brewster Standard, under Marjorie Addis' direction, captured the everyday lives of community members as well as the community's reaction to local and national events," said Southeast Museum Director Amy Campanaro. "This created the best gift a historical researcher could wish for, a complete picture of who we were as a community and how we rose to challenges."

Addis died on her 95th birthday in 1985 and The Putnam County Courier stated in her obituary "Miss Addis was known for her independent thinking and her strong principles, which were evident in her editorial policies."

Thanks to these principals, Marjorie Lobdell Addis contributed to many worthy causes, from women's right to vote, to responsible journalism and everything in between.

This article was supplied by the Putnam County historian's office.

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Pleasantville Yoga Teacher Transforms Yard into Community Retreat

By Madeline Rosenberg

For Pleasantville native Jackie Marra, teaching yoga during a pandemic means more than holding outdoor classes and avoiding packed studios. It's about creating a sense of community and an escape.

Marra, a former part-time yoga instructor who began teaching full-time in March, wanted her latest wellness effort to feel like a magical oasis. She lined her Pleasantville yard with printed rugs and pillows, adorned with vines and sunflower bouquets.

"I wanted people to step into the backyard and forget that we were in quarantine," Marra said, "forget that we couldn't hop on a plane anywhere and just be the escape that people needed."

Marra has been hosting socially-distant outdoor vinyasa yoga classes since early July. As restrictions eased and people felt comfortable gathering outside, Marra converted her childhood backyard into an outdoor yoga studio. She also hosts virtual classes over Instagram and now teaches hour-long outdoor sessions each week.

But this isn't how Marra expected her spring and summer

to go. Yoga wasn't part of the plan.

As the world abruptly changed in March, the 26-year-old left her job at a boutique travel company and moved home with her family. Marra's New York City apartment lease was ending, and as she settled back into Pleasantville, she wanted to give back to the community where she was raised.

Marra turned to teaching yoga, a practice she previously called a side "passion project," leading classes on a beach or a friend's roof. Now, Marra is running a business she launched in the isolation of March that has grown through the pandemic summer.

She started with Instagram Live classes that connected people stuck at home, tuning in from New York to Chicago to California. But Marra said she and her students craved in-person connection after months of virtual yoga, feeling isolated as their lives moved online.

"I wanted to hold space for people to come together, feel grounded, which has been such a challenge for most among everything going on this year," Marra said. "Just to be in the same space and feel everyone's energy is night and day compared to virtual. The in-person connection was so powerful."



Jackie Marra in her Pleasantville backyard where she has set up her outdoor yoga studio. Marra, who had been a part-time instructor, started giving lessons full-time in March.

Those who attended Marra's July "Yoga in the Yard" wellness event distanced across the printed rugs and flowed through yoga and guided meditation. Afterward, they scribbled in mindfulness journals, focusing on gratitude and self-nourishment, and created bath salts with essential oils, dried herbs and flowers. And it almost felt like normal.

"Once everyone's on their mats six feet apart and we're moving,

it really does feel like normalcy, besides the fact that I'm not walking around and offering hands-on adjustment for alignment and relaxation," Marra said. "It was just really powerful that we're still able to connect in that way."

More than bringing some normalcy, Yoga in the Yard created a sense of community, Marra said. People who have lived in Pleasantville for years connected for the first time and left her home

feeling refreshed from the two-hour reprieve. Marra plans to lead another wellness event in September.

"Attendees left literally glowing. Their smiles were huge," Marra said. "They were so inspired and relaxed, and it really was a true sense of community, which we almost didn't know we needed as much as we did until the event wrapped up."

Marra also offers private sessions and corporate yoga, and posts weekly schedules on her Instagram page (@flowwithjackie) for donation-based virtual classes and \$10 outdoor sessions. As she looks forward, Marra said she hopes to hold global yoga retreats once the virus subsides, combining travel, wellness and community.

But for now, Marra said she's glad to be living in Pleasantville again, the first time since high school, soaking up time with family and walks around town.

"It was scary to take on a new direction at first, and then I just knew it was right within me that I had to go along with this," Marra said. "I love Pleasantville so much, and it feels good to be able to give back to the community that gave to me my whole childhood. Yoga was my side passion project in pre-COVID times, and now it has turned into my everything."

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Want to Escape the Recession and Pandemic Blues? Think Pink!

After enduring the “blues” of a battered economy for the past few years, enduring “black” moods because many of us find ourselves in the “red,” or perhaps we’re “green” with envy of those doing better than we, why shouldn’t it seem appropriate to utilize the color metaphor to feel “in the pink” again? Specifically, with the color pink?

Physiologists and color psychologists say that pink in our living environment enhances mood and even improves our health, creating calm, feelings of security and actually lowering blood pressure. Just recently, The New York Times’ home section anointed the re-introduction of pink into our bathrooms, long banished since its heyday in the 1950s.

It’s funny because from the time I got into the real estate business, any bathroom with pink tile and fixtures was considered dated and a problem to be remedied by a new buyer. But now some house hunters are again seeking that retro look from the slaphappy days of the ‘50s when bathroom fixture manufacturers first learned to mix color into porcelain and went craziest with pink. And if retro isn’t to their taste, new

surface materials, tiles and glass, are again available in pink.

In the 1990s, we embraced the confident boldness of such hues as Tuscan gold and burgundy, right up to the early 2000s when our color choices retreated into the uncertainty of the recession with the tepid beiges and pale greens. Now we seem to want to color ourselves out of the neutrals and embrace pink once again as an antidote to these times.

The restorative powers attributed to pink have been out there for some time.

There were the stories of the prison wardens in several states who were experimenting with painting prison cells pink and even dressing inmates in pink prison garb. One jailer said that the color was chosen not to humiliate inmates by feminizing them, but to promote calm and make violence less likely.

Now pink is also being used more in hospitals, dentists’ offices and even in male locker rooms, such as at Iowa State University. Not only does pink resonate with our feelings of well-being, but the color reflects light in a very flattering way to inhabitants of a room. Note all the restaurants’ interiors painted pink? And,



it’s no secret why “Broadway Babies” always insisted on pink follow spots.

I have been a fan of pink for many years, sometimes enduring sarcasm from some of my buddies. I was most likely influenced by the prominent use of that color in my childhood home. My mother once told me that when she was a young girl, there was a trend that focused on the color pink, both in fashion and décor.

So, when my parents bought their first new home in 1954 and were given the choice of color bathroom fixtures, my mother selected pink. She didn’t stop with the bathroom, but extended the color’s use to our living room and dining room as well.

In America, we have been attracted to pink for centuries. When I was a summer fellowship intern at Historic Deerfield in Massachusetts, a living museum village with homes from the 18th and 19th centuries, my favorite room in any of the buildings was one with walls colored a delicate pink, which I was told was created by mixing brick dust directly into the plaster.

In my last home, an 18th century saltbox, the inside of one of the doors was the original paint, a rosy pink color created, I’m surmising, from ox blood and milk, a technique employed at that time.

Today we don’t have to mix our own pink shades to achieve better health and spirit. Just check out the Benjamin Moore palette of pinks ranging in all shades and whimsical names to match any mood, from Pink Fairy to Rosy Glow.

Any shade of pink is definitely not to be overlooked, especially in these dark, dreary pandemic times.

Bill Primavera, while a writer and editor, is also a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. (www.PrimaveraPR.com). His real estate site is www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com. To engage the talents and services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

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More Choices to Consider in Beverage Calories and Alcohol Content



By Nick Antonaccio

By Nick Antonaccio

I'm a proponent of the camp that promotes wine as a healthy beverage in spite of its alcohol content. The antioxidants and phenolic compounds present in red wine contribute to the

prevention and treatment of numerous health conditions, all of which have been well-documented.

However, in the interest of presenting a well-balanced wine column, I have in the past two weeks taken a right turn from espousing the benefits of wine.

There are negative aspects of consuming any alcoholic beverage, including wine, that can lead to harmful health (liver and brain damage) and social conditions (drunk driving, violent behavior) if not recognized and addressed.

I've narrowed the negative characteristics of wine to two factors: alcohol levels and calorie count. This week I'll focus on the dietary consequences of consuming wine – and other alcoholic beverages.

Here's a formula to assist you in calculating the caloric content of wine, followed by several examples of various wines and other popular alcoholic beverages. Feel free to clip it and carry it in your wallet or transfer it to the notes app on your smartphone for future reference.

The formula

- $\% \text{alcohol} \times \# \text{ounces} \times 1.6 = \text{calorie content}$.
- Sample calculation: 14 percent alcohol content times an average pour of five ounces times 1.6 equals 112 calories.

Examples

The following is a table of calories per typical serving (serving size varies per beverage):

- High-alcohol wine (dessert), five ounces: 220
- High-alcohol wine (13.5 to 15 percent alcohol): 112
- Moderate alcohol wine (10 to 13 percent): 92
- Low alcohol wine (5 to 9 percent): 56
- Standard lager beer, 12 ounces: 165
- Low-alcohol beer: 117
- Standard cocktail (no additional ingredients), two ounces: 124 (martini)
- Standard mixed cocktail, three-plus ounces: 250 (Margarita)
- Lower alcohol mixed cocktail, three-plus ounces: 83 (low-cal Margarita)
- Hard seltzer, 12 ounces: 100

Enjoying more than one – or two or three – of any of the above? Do the math and then push away that animal or plant protein burger and fries on your plate.

There are always exceptions to general guidelines. Not all wine is created equal. At times winemakers feel compelled to intervene. For example, using the above assumptions, a glass of chardonnay with moderate alcohol weighs in at 92 calories.

Yet a bottle of Champagne may be enhanced by a bit of added sugar to influence its flavor profile (paradoxically referred to as Extra Dry Champagne). This may increase the calorie count by 40 to 50 percent.

It is fairly obvious that several sectors of the alcoholic beverage industry have made concerted efforts to focus on the changing preferences of consumers for less alcohol and calories. The beer industry long ago branded the light beer category, for those trying to avoid (reduce?) a beer belly.

The spirits industry understands the American demand for light(er) alcoholic beverages. Skinny Girl cocktails are the latest trendy alcoholic beverage focused on the diet-conscious consumer. Do you enjoy a Margarita but feel guilty about the high calories? Try a bottle of Skinny Girl Margarita to keep your waistline trim(mer). It contains one-third the calories of the standard version served at tropical beaches.

However, the wine industry hasn't latched onto these marketing opportunities –

until recently. Enter Cupcake Lighthearted wines. The original brand has been popular for a number of years. In an attempt to capture the fledgling market demand for low-calorie, low-alcohol wines, this new line has just been rolled out.

The California lineup is produced from two unique sources. One from grapes

harvested at low brix levels, resulting in naturally lower alcohol and calories. The other from fermented grapes that are manipulated via a filtration system to reduce alcohol content. The blending of these wines results in the Lighthearted line of Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, Rosé and Pinot Noir.

Their profile? A marketing team's dream come true: only 80 calories, and less than one gram of sugar per five-ounce serving. The wines are 8 percent alcohol by volume, vegan, gluten-free and low carb. That puts Lighthearted in

direct competition with several beverage categories, including the hard seltzers that are currently the rage. The price? \$10 for a 750-milliliter bottle.

What is your beverage of choice? Regardless of the source and number of calories, always be mindful to drink in moderation.

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

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Back to School

The Challenges of in-Person Learning During COVID-19

By Joseph Lento

With the exception of New York City's public schools, all other large city school districts are opening using remote learning while thousands of smaller suburban districts are opening for in-person instruction.

The nation's leading doctors and scientists at the Centers for Disease Control with the support of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the White House have given very specific guidelines school districts must adhere to in order to open during this pandemic.

Schools provide students a myriad of services from sanitation to nutrition, safety, medical and educational instruction.

Most schools have a very high student-to-staff ratio with many districts sustaining new shortfalls in staffing due to COVID-19 making meeting CDC guidelines almost impossible to meet.

To examine this topic let's use the average of 1,000 students per school, which can be adjusted for a specific school and resources, but the ratios will be very close. You can find the size of a school and district on the state or district websites. Using this number are student-to-staff ratios.

1. Custodians: 250 to 1
2. Food service employees: 200 to 1
3. Transportation personnel: 40 to 1

4. School nurses and security: 250 to 1
5. Teachers: 34-50 to 1
6. Administrative assistants: 175 to 1
7. Administrators: 250 to 1

The ratio of school personnel to students is extremely imbalanced, which the pandemic has exposed.

So, what are the real challenges with returning to in-person learning during the pandemic?

With depleted resources (and the numerous additional resources needed) the uncertainty of schools being able to adhere to CDC and AAP guidelines is at best an uphill battle.

This ratio is comparable to going to a sporting event, concert or movie, each of which have been prohibited or severely curtailed. Opening schools during COVID-19 while keeping entertainment venues closed is contrary to the guidelines by the CDC.

Keeping your children safe in accordance with the guidelines set by the CDC and AAP will place an inordinate physical and financial strain on districts. For example, the Yonkers Public Schools will need nearly \$11 million to acquire the PPE supplies mandated by the CDC to reopen safely, and additional funding to hire staff.

New York State has about 700 school districts serving nearly three million students. Even using a conservative number

of \$2 million per school district for PPE supplies, New York State would need close to \$1.5 billion in funding.

These costs listed above might include repairs such as broken windows but would not cover the repair or installation of new portable HEPA air filter systems that are now required. The cost of a portable HEPA air filtration system per classroom costs about \$1,300. This does not include the costs for hallways, bathrooms, stairwells, gymnasiums, auditoriums or office spaces.

All aspects of a normal school day during this pandemic will drastically alter the length of time your child will be in school. In urban areas, temperature checks could result in long lines on city streets impacting student safety while disrupting traffic, work schedules and public services. Dismissal would also cause similar delays as students will have to be released in small groups.

In order to comply with social distancing mandates, students would be unable to access bathrooms as needed and will require adult monitoring. Schools do not have enough bathrooms to follow the mandated guidance for social distancing.

School reopening plans call for students to eat at their desks. How will custodians clean up meals without interrupting instruction and without hiring additional custodians? Serving breakfast and lunch to students

in their classrooms would be a logistical impossibility for many schools and disrupt learning time. Eating in the cafeteria would not meet social distancing mandates.

The school nurse would be limited to how many students can be seen and school safety officers would have to violate social distancing mandates to break up student altercations.

Many school reopening plans are calling for students to remain in one classroom all day requiring teachers to travel from room to room. Who will supervise students during teacher transition times?

Lastly, who will substitute for teachers when they will not expose themselves to such an environment of uncertainty?

Untold amounts of new resources based on CDC and AAP guidelines will be needed. The school day will have to be significantly extended and will impact the public at large while addressing a shortage in staffing concerns.

Isn't it more sensible, cost-effective and safe to keep schools closed until we truly have COVID-19 under control?

Joseph S. Lento was honored with a national teacher award in 2014 for his work in the arts and in 1999 was named NYC Public High Schools Teacher of the Year. He also operates Maestro Music Unlimited.



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Back to School

Husband-and-Wife Doctors Write Children's Book on Coronavirus

By Martin Wilbur

In March, Lauren and Adam Block were among the millions of parents who saw in a very short time span how much their lives and the lives of their children changed.

Parents to a five-year-old and a pair of seven-year-olds, the Blocks – both of whom are doctors – wanted to help other families effectively explain why their kids were learning from home, couldn't see their friends or visit their grandparents.

In the spring the Blocks collaborated on a children's book, "Kelly Stays Home: The Science of Coronavirus," that explains in a simple and straightforward way the science behind the pandemic in a way that youngsters can understand. It has reached an estimated 13,000 readers.

They have followed it up over the summer with "Kelly Goes Back to School: More Science on Coronavirus," which delves into scientific concepts such as diagnostic and antibody testing, mask wearing, vaccine trials and contact tracing through clear language and illustrations.

"Their lives have been really upended by this pandemic. They've done school remotely from March until June, they weren't able to go to the camps with their friends, their family," explained Lauren Block, an associate professor at the Zucker

School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell and an internist, about why they wrote the books. "They don't know what school will be like in September so they had a lot of questions, how the virus spreads, what the symptoms are."

The books also explore why the virus spreads so easily, why handwashing and social distancing is important and many other questions that the Blocks' own children had.

Adam Block, an assistant professor of public health at New York Medical College School of Health Sciences and Practice in Valhalla, said that the books are presented to attract young children, but older kids and parents should be able to find it useful as well.

He said that for younger children, they have spent their pre-school years learning how to socialize, to share with their peers and how to be with adults that are not their parents. There is also the lack of positive peer pressure. The pandemic has created a massive disruption in that maturation process.

"So this is a fundamental change to their lives that we wanted to be able to express, why this is happening from a scientific perspective," Adam Block said.

Families must now also cope with dealing with much more uncertainty in



Lauren and Adam Block, who are both doctors, have written two children's books on some commonly asked questions youngsters may have on COVID-19. They are pictured with their three children.

their lives and the stresses that that can cause on a family, he said.

Longer-term negative impacts could be behavioral regression for some children,

and for those families who don't have all the resources, an increase in inequity, whether that be proper child care or tutors. For those families lucky enough to have a parent at home, because they have one spouse not working, or because one parent's work schedule allows them to help out during remote learning sessions.

"That is something we're sensitive to as a two-income family," Lauren Block said. "It has to be balanced between your careers and the everyday needs of your kids and their education."

When there are in-person classes, Adam Block said he is less concerned about children forgetting about social distancing, especially the younger students who may not have seen their friends in a long time.

"I don't think they're going to go to school and just go crazy," he said. "I think they are going to be supported by teachers that give them relatively strict guidelines on what they can do. So I'm certainly optimistic that it's going to work in a classroom environment."

A free PDF of "Kelly Goes Back to School: More Science on Coronavirus" can be downloaded at www.kellystayshome.com. It's also available for purchase on Amazon.com.



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A Spiritual View

By Rev. Beth Graham

My last day as pastor of Hillside Church is Sept. 13. As often happens during times of transition, I have become somewhat philosophical. As both a congregant and a pastor here for 34 years, I have been asking myself, what have I learned from 34 years in one place?

One thing I've learned is how to love – really love – the people of my church family. A church or synagogue community is much like a family. While you may pick the congregation you attend, you don't choose the members; so, just like a family, there are all kinds of people there whom you might not have otherwise known or befriended.

There are people who are easy to love, who are interesting and stimulating to you. These may become your deepest friends. However, there are also people who are more difficult to love, whom we find it harder to show patience and care towards. What I've learned is that everyone – no matter who they are – is unique and precious in God's eyes. We have a choice to judge and critique or to love. Everyone who has a difficult side also has a wonderful side, so it is up to us to search for it.

In addition, it is worthwhile to remember that we ourselves may also,



sometimes, be difficult to love. In Jesus' own words, "Judge not, that you be not judged...Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?" So let us love one another in humility and with generous grace this week.

I thank all of you for listening, and I am thankful and blessed to have been a part of the Hillside community in Armonk all these years. May God shine His richest blessings on you all.

Rev. Beth Graham is the pastor at Hillside Church in Armonk and is part of the Armonk Faith Alliance. The alliance also comprises Congregation B'nai Yisrael, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, St. Patrick's RC Church and St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.

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continued from page 20

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Examiner Sports

Somers Takes Pair of GHVBL Titles, Cops 9U, 12U Crowns Yorktown Spartans Crowned 11U Champs, Briarcliff Falls in 16U Finals

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor@Directrays

Young Max Grodio has never had a more tense moment in his nine years on earth. The bases were juiced, his Somers Red Storm team trailed Putnam Valley 1-0 and time was growing short in the home half of the fourth inning in the 9U B-Division Championship of the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League. The pint-size lefty went high for a fastball that crossed over his chest and gapped a bases-clearing triple to left center for a 3-1 lead, and the rest is history as Somers held on for a 5-2 title triumph over the visiting Miners at Reis Park.

"Grodio is one of the hardest working kids on the team," Somers Manager Gerg Fitts said. "He puts in the time and effort outside of our regular practices to get better. He has batted lead-off most of our summer season and today he came up big with the clutch hit with the bases loaded."

Somers RHP Christopher Azimi pitched 5+ innings for the win and reliever Evan Murolo mowed down the heart of the PV order for the save.

"It's an absolutely great group of kids," Fitts said. "Hard working, great teammates and they bring a positive attitude to the field each and every time they step on it. The best word to describe them is resilient. They never hang their heads!"

In Round 1 vs. Armonk Bobcats on Wednesday. Somers was down 3-0 in the sixth before tying the score the Red Storm's last at-bat before extras. Somers (12-8-1) went on for the win in dramatic, walk-off fashion when Johnny DeVito delivered the game-winning RBI.

Somers also trailed Shrub Oak in the semis Friday. Down 4-1 in the fifth, the Red Storm scored two in the bottom of the fifth and two in the bottom of the sixth for another walk-off win, 5-4.

"It was an exciting week for us and well deserved for my boys," Fitts said.

Putnam Valley's Johnny Dimechele tripled and scored for the Miners (11-5).

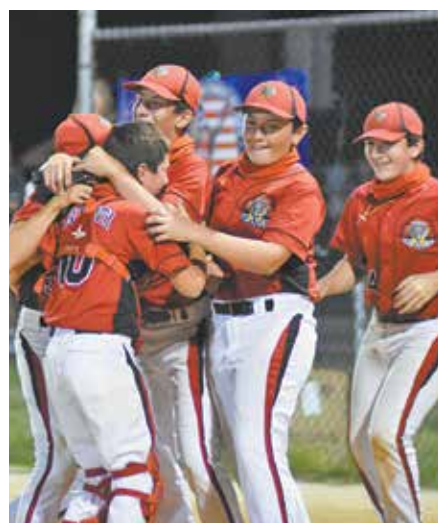
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Somers Red Storm's John Barbagallo flies high to avoid a tag and score run in 5-2 GHVBL 12U A-Division title triumph of the Westchester Academy Sunday night in Reis Park.



RAY GALLAGHER/NIKKI GALLAGHER PHOTOS



Somers' Dean Barlanti, Daniel Nikac, Lorenzo Dambrosio and Dillon Kuchinsky celebrate Red Storm's 5-2 GHVBL 12U A-Division title Sunday at Reis Park.



Somers Red Storm players and coaches celebrate their 5-2 GHVBL 12U A-Division title over Westchester Academy Sunday night at Reis Park.

Sports

continued from previous page



Somers 1B Evan Murolo doubles up Put Valley's Luke Delfico after snagging line drive in Red Storm's 5-2 GHVBL 9U title win over Put Valley Sunday.



Somers C Matthew Ringer slides safely as Putnam Valley 3B Braedon McCarty awaits throw in Red Storm's 5-2 GHVBL 9U title win over Miners Sunday at Reis Park.



Somers OF Max Grodio cracks the hit of the game in Red Storm's 5-2 GHVBL 9U title win over visiting Put Valley Sunday at Reis Park.



Somers Max Haran can't get under tag of Put Valley 3B Braedon McCarty in Red Storm's 5-2 GHVBL 9U title win over Miners Sunday at Reis Park.



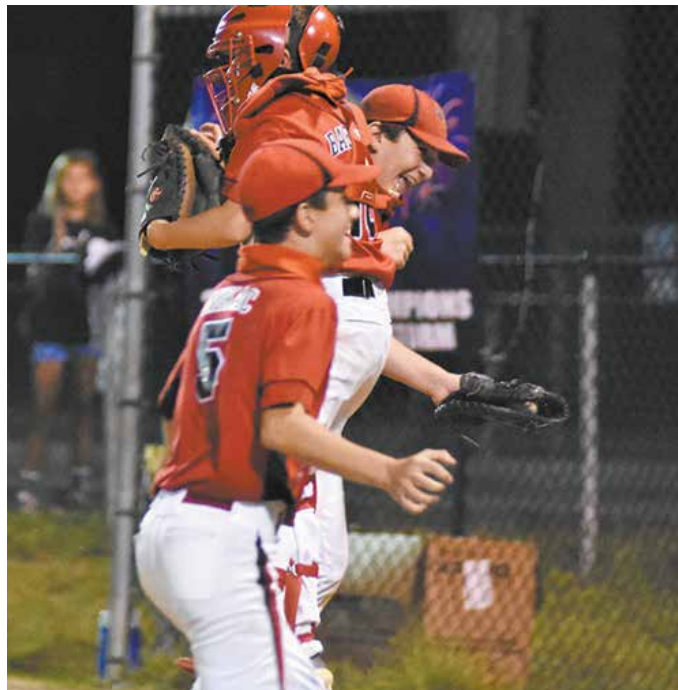
Red Storm players Giovanni DiFilippo, Evan Murolo and Braden Valderrama celebrate Somers' 5-2 GHVBL 9U championship win over visiting Putnam Valley Sunday.



Mahopac's Lorenzo Enchandy turns 2B en route to home run in Wolves 11U GHVBL playoff loss to Weston Wednesday at Sycamore Park.



Reality sets in for Somers' Evan Murolo, Braden Valderrama and Colin Biolsi as dream of winning 9U GHVBL title comes true after 5-2 win over Put Valley.



Red Storm players Daniel Nikac, Dean Barlanti and Dillon Kuchinsky celebrate Somers' 5-2 GHVBL 12U A Division title win over Westchester Academy.



Yorktown's Jaden Renzo singles to drive in a big run for Spartans in 8-3 opening round GHVBL 10U playoff win over host Put Valley Wednesday.

Sports



Put Valley's Brandon Maldonado slides in safe at 3B under tag of Somers' Giovanni DiFilippo in Miners' 5-2 GHVBL 9U title loss to Red Storm Sunday.



Yorktown C Christopher Lanza slaps a late tag on Putnam Valley IF Nicky Benedetto in Spartans' 10U GHVBL playoff win over host Miners Wednesday.

The 9U Red Storm wasn't the only team in town to pose with championship hardware. Late Sunday night, the 12U A-Division Red Storm did likewise in a 5-2 championship triumph of the Westchester Baseball Academy. Coach John Barbagallo's Red Storm had a feisty battle on their hands and they prevailed behind clutch hitting and solid pitching.

Somers Red Storm jumped out to an early first inning lead when Dillon Kuchinsky lined a double off the wall scoring Bret Kennedy. Westchester Academy tied the game in the second when Schmidt homered deep to center field.

The score remained 1-1 until the third inning when Somers rallied. Dean Palazzolo led off with a single. Kennedy followed with a single. After moving up to 2nd and 3rd Westchester Academy decided to intentionally walk Kuchinsky. Lorenzo D'Ambrosio rocketed a ball that took a wicked hop over

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Yorktown Huskers reached 8U GHVBL finals in their first year playing together.



Yorktown 1B William Wolfson reaches 3B safely in Huskers' 12-1 GHVBL 8U A-Division championship loss to Stars Academy Sunday at Legacy Park.



Yorktown IF Austin Koenitzer awaits throw in Huskers' 12-1 GHVBL 8U A-Division championship loss to Stars Academy Sunday at Legacy Park.



Yorktown 3B Brennan McDonald can't get tag down in time in Huskers' 12-1 GHVBL 8U A-Division championship loss to Stars Academy Sunday at Legacy Park.

Sports

continued from previous page

the second baseman's head scoring two runs to break the tie.

After a gutty start by P Kuchinsky he was removed after 2 1/3 innings due to back stiffness. John Barbagallo came on in relief and the lefty was lights out for 3 2/3 innings, the only run scoring against him was due to a balk.

"I'm so proud of these boys," Somers

Manager John Barbagallo said. "They have worked extremely hard preparing for moments like tonight. These boys have gotten so much taken away from them this year, they were not going to let this championship slip away.

"We've had a next-man-up mentality all year," he added. "We've dealt with some injuries, we lost Mathew Mignardi right before



Briarcliff 1B Dylan O'Malley takes throw as Yorktown's Matt Alduino slides back safely in Bears' 7-2 win over host Rebels Wednesday in 16U GHVBL.



Mahopac's Rocco Spirelli slides in safely in Wolves GHVBL 11U playoff loss to Weston Thursday at Sycamore Park.



Briarcliff C Jayden Amador has Yorktown's Ryan Campobasso hung up at the plate in Bears' opening-round upset of the host Rebels.



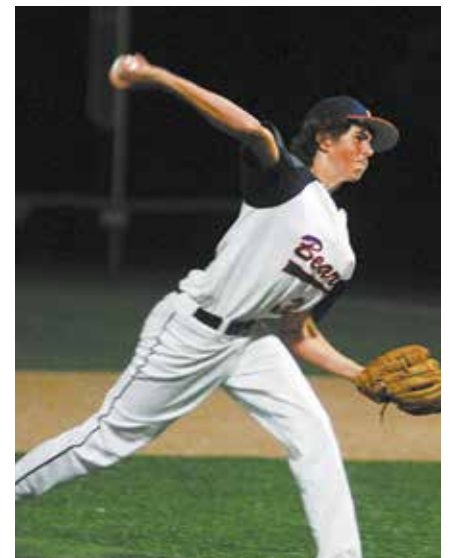
Yorktown IF Brennan MacDonald cheers on his mates in Huskers' 12-1 GHVBL 8U A-Division championship loss to Stars Academy Sunday at Legacy Park.



Giulian Greco (6) and Briarcliff Bears were all smiles after upsetting Yorktown in 16U GHVBL action Wednesday.



Yorktown P Christian Maratos pitched four strong innings and had two big hits to lead the 10U Spartans over Put Valley, 8-3.



Briarcliff P Evan Kurtz delivers in Bears' 7-2 win over host Yorktown in 16U GHVBL Wednesday.

the playoffs. We dedicated this postseason to him. We didn't get to go to Cooperstown, we shut things down in March after practicing hard all winter. These boys showed resiliency and maturity beyond their age. It has been an honor and privilege for me and my coaching staff."

In other GHVBL championship action, the seventh-seeded Yorktown Spar-

tans (10-6) were the talk of the town after posting a 5-4 championship win in the 10U A-Division at Flowers Park in New Rochelle Sunday. Visiting Yorktown defeated Put Valley, 8-3, in the first round before taking out New Castle, 3-2, in the semis. Against Put Valley, Christian Maratos and Alex Delorenzo both had two hits and an RBI to lead the Spartans. Jaden Renzo, CJ Velardo, Ryan Stevenson, Luke Penna and Frankie Ofrias also each had one RBI to support winning pitcher Christian Maratos and reliever Nico Masillo (save).

In the finals, Yorktown fought back from a 4-0 deficit, scoring three runs in the fifth and two more in the sixth to take the lead. Masillo fired a gem, going six innings while allowing one earned run. Yorktown C Christopher Lanza played outstanding behind the plate and had two hits, including the game-tying RBI. Alex



Briarcliff P Jack Manganello gets some credit from C Jayden Amador after getting out of a jam in Bears' 7-2 win over host Yorktown in 16U GHVBL playoffs.

Sports

Tip of the Cap to Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League



By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports
Editor@Directrays

David Zaslaw and company really came through when we needed folks to come through for us.

Zaslaw's Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League summer season ran its course last Sunday, providing thousands of kids from 8 to 18 the opportunity of a lifetime on ball fields all across the Hudson Valley, New York City and Western Connecticut.

From quarantine in March to masks throughout the summer, the youth of the region desperately needed the chance to get on the field this summer, and while COVID-19 restricted the way the games were contested, Zaslaw never lost the faith.

So on behalf of the players, parents and grandparents from across the region,

playing in the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League," said Paul Cotter, coach of the Mahopac 11U Wolves. "We feel like they did a great job keeping the players and families safe while enjoying the great game of baseball. It was a great thrill for the kids."

Believe it or not, from the first games of the season – as Connecticut opened recreation in late June – to last Sunday, the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League facilitated well over 3,300 games in Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, Orange, Fairfield and surrounding areas for more than 400 teams.

"Initially, it was very challenging as many towns and school districts were hesitant to open their fields to our kids," Zaslaw said, "but with a safe and responsible plan to keep kids, coaches, umpires and spectators safe, several towns opened their fields."

And the kids played baseball. A lot of baseball.

"We are so happy to be a small part of giving kids, coaches and parents a positive outlet for recreation this summer," Zaslaw said. "We felt like we wanted to have a full summer season, so we played deeper into the summer than ever and shortened the playoff tournament to make sure the kids were able to play as many games as they wanted to."

It was an endeavor like no other, a round-the-clock attempt to keep the flow going.

Luckily, we've had a fairly dry summer, so postponements were few and far between. Still, it's not easy getting more than 400 teams, coaches and umpires on the same page.

"Make no mistake, it was a round-the-clock effort," Zaslaw said, "but with great people like Tom Kienzle, Earl Berry, Gary Colorusso and Janet Kienzle managing our



Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League saved the day for kids from Somers to Red Hook and all points between.

fantastic fleet of umpires, and Jen Zaslaw working behind the scenes on the game schedules, results and standings, we managed to pull it together, culminating in an epic playoff tournament."

Epic, indeed: 340 teams ripped through six days with almost 50 playoff brackets ending last Sunday.

"We have never done anything quite like it," Zaslaw said. "We are both proud and lucky to have such great coaches and organizations that participate in the GHVBL. They make sportsmanship a priority and know that this is all about the kids."

With hopeful guidance finally coming from King Andrew Cuomo this week regarding the resumption of varsity, junior varsity and modified sports taking place this fall under the leadership of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, the GHVBL will maintain similar standards in an effort to keep kids on the field this fall.

"We are back at it next week as we prepare for a full fall season," Zaslaw said. "Baseball is one of the only games in town, and we will continue to work hard to give the kids a program they can be proud to be a part of."

**Direct
Rays**

So, again, on behalf of the players, coaches and parents, thank you, Mr. Zaslaw. You and your team have saved the day by providing a much-needed form of regularity and exercise for our youngsters.

"Hats off to Greater Hudson Valley for successfully pulling off a very much-needed summer travel baseball season," Putnam Valley 11U Coach Frank Weller said. "Their ability to pull together and implement such a compressive safety plan allowed kids to get back on the fields and have a small sense

of normalcy during a time that's been anything but normal!"

Don't just take it from me. Somers 12U Coach Greg Fitts concurred, adding, "I can't say enough about what the sport of baseball and the GHVBL has done for our boys and families this summer. During this pandemic, by getting this league up and running in a safe manner, we were able to provide our boys with a sense of normalcy. Coaching and watching these boys come to the field to work, play and compete has meant more to them, their parents and their grandparents than anyone could've ever realized."

Now, if we can just get them back in their classrooms.



RAY GALLAGHER/NIKKI GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Thanks to the efforts of David Zaslaw & his GHVBL team the boys of summer had championship moments like this.

here's my shout-out to Zaslaw: We couldn't have done it without you, pal. Thank God we did because being cooped up in quarantine all summer would have spelled doom for thousands of young ball players, who, instead, made the most of what could have been a lost summer.

"As a new team in the league, we couldn't have been happier or more fortunate to be

continued from previous page

Delorenzo scored on a passed ball for the go ahead run. Jayden Nunez Luke Penna also had a RBI for the Spartans, who knocked off the top teams in the standings in three consecutive playoff wins to secure the championship.

Christian Maratos, Jayden Nunez and Nico Masillo all pitched gems in the Yorktown Spartans playoff and championship victories.

"It's not how you start, it's how you finish," Yorktown Coach Masilo exclaimed. "It's absolutely unbelievable."

The top-seeded 8U Yorktown Huskers (14-4-1) lost their bid for an A-Division title

in a 12-1 loss to the undefeated No.2 seed Stars Baseball Academy at Legacy Field. Yorktown defeated the Renegades 11-7 in the opening round before toppling Warrior Baseball Academy 7-1 in the semis.

"I think we did alright for 12 boys, playing travel baseball for the very first time this summer," Yorktown Coach Josh Wolfson said. "In a span of six weeks we played 19 baseball games. Incredibly, we finished 14-4-1. The team started at the bottom, worked hard, learned how to play the game the correct way and made it all the way to the A-Division championship. Although we didn't finish with the win, I am so proud

of the effort that every one of the players gave all summer. I've coached baseball for 20 years and this summer was one of the most enjoyable seasons yet. Big things are to come for this group and all of Yorktown baseball."

After pulling the upset of the 16U tournament in a 7-2 win over the previously undefeated Yorktown Rebels last Wednesday, the Briarcliff Bears fell 5-4 in the finals to the Rye Greys Sunday.

"I'm very proud of these kids but they are a little beaten up over the loss," Briarcliff Coach Gregory Demilia said. "We're on to the fall now."

The Patterson Pirates fell to the FC Captains, 2-0, in the finals of the 13U B-Division.

The 12U Mahopac Indians (14-7) lost in the B-Division finals, 8-0, to the AYYA Rebels in Yonkers, but their mad dash to the finals included sterling shutout wins over Yorktown (10-0) and the Cortlandt Nationals (2-0).

The seventh-seeded Carmel Cubs (13-2) were narrowly nipped in the 10U B-Division finals, falling 3-2 to the Orange County Crush at Mombasha Park in Monroe. The Cubs reached the finals after a 14-1 win over third-seeded Armonk (11-8).



Dead Ringer!




**Somers
Looks Part
of Champs
in 5-2 GHVBL
9U Title
Win over
Putnam
Valley**



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Somers C Matthew Ringer nails Putnam Valley's Joey Rocco on a contested call at the plate in the Red Storm's 5-2 Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League 9U B-Division title win over the visiting Miners Sunday at Reis Park where the Storm posed with the championship hardware (inset)... see Sports

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