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COVID-19 Breakdown:

Village of Ossining 1,136 (15)

Peekskill 1,070 (7)

Cortlandt 985 (14)

Yorktown 805 (24)

Somers 447 (11)

Croton-on-Hudson

217 (1)

Town of Ossining 165 (2)

Buchanan 45 (1)



pages
15-18

FREE

The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER & Examiner

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

September 29 - October 5, 2020

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 562

Leaders Seek Role in Ossining Response to Police Reform

By Rick Pezzullo

A group of 23 community leaders in Ossining has petitioned the Village Board of Trustees, seeking a seat at the table in the police reform process set forth by Governor Cuomo.

The leaders were responding to a decision by the Board of Trustees earlier this month to enter into a contract with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) to serve as facilitators for the collaborative process.

At a meeting with Mayor Victoria Gearity on September 1, NAACP President Aaron Moore expressed frustration that the village had issued a request for proposals and selected a facilitator without involving community stakeholders in the process.

"The village rushed out the RFP with a two week deadline for proposals. The decision to select the Police Chiefs to guide the police reform process appears to be a serious conflict of interest," Moore said. "Officer accountability is the key change we need at the Ossining Police Department.

Will having a police organization in charge of reform address that need?"

The letter sent by the community leaders on September 9 recommended that the Village Board consider the application of Matrix Consulting Group and asked to be a part of the interview process in reconsidering the initial selection of IACP.

In addition, the group asked that the mayor appoint a Collaborative Advisory Committee to guide the process and create the plan for reforming the Ossining police.

Pastor Shaun Jones of the Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church, one of those signing the letter, emphasized the importance of community involvement in the process. "The Ossining police interact with dozens of ethnic and cultural communities," he said. "Communities of color and the Ossining police Department already have a strained relationship. The village can begin to bridge the divide by listening to the expressed needs and feelings of the black and Hispanic community that believe that

a true reform process may be the difference between life or death for our sons and daughters after an interaction with the police."

"Without the trust of the community, no reform process can be effective," said Bishop Joan Whittaker, Pastor of HORAC Ministries. "I hope the village will do the hard work necessary to engage the people who have the greatest stake in a police force that is effective and respectful of the community it is sworn to protect."

Moore detailed the fundamental changes that the group wants the Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative to consider. In addition to officer accountability, they include include a policy for the use of force, demilitarization of the department, officer body cameras, empowerment of the Civilian Police Complaint Review Board, privacy protections, and transparency in the department's budget, hiring, and promotion policies.

"Ossining can, in its own way, lead the way by engaging

continued on page 2



Pastor Shaun Jones of the Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church was appointed to village Working Committee.

Former Somers Bus Driver Pleads Guilty to Drunk Driving

By Anna Young

A former Somers Central School District bus driver has pled guilty to driving drunk with several students in the vehicle last year.

Somers resident William Mendez, 62, appeared in Westchester County Court before Judge Melissa Loeher September 22 and pled guilty to Leandra's Law, a class E

felony related to driving while intoxicated with a child passenger. Mendez was a bus driver assigned to Somers Intermediate School at the time of his arrest.

Around 4 p.m. on December 9, 2019, school officials had been notified by a parent that Mendez was "acting strange" while driving children home, the release stated. The district's director of transportation called Royal Coach Lines Somers Dispatch

to have the driver cease operations and drove to the location, where he was met by two Royal Coach employees.

Upon arriving at Stephanie Lane, Mendez was relieved of his duties and taken to Northern Westchester Hospital for evaluation, where lab reports revealed Mendez had a blood alcohol content level of 0.22 percent.

In conjunction with the school district

and the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, the New York State Police launched an investigation. Assistant District Attorney Michael D'Addario, Chief of the Pleadings Bureau in the Superior Court Trial Division, prosecuted the case.

Mendez was released on his own recognizance, according to the District Attorney's Office. His sentencing is scheduled for September 20, 2021.

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Leaders Seek Role in Ossining Response to Police Reform

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all stakeholders and winning buy-in from everyone affected by our local system of law enforcement,” the leaders stated in their letter. “The Board must recognize that this will be a difficult process whose success cannot be taken for granted. Involving stakeholders in every aspect of the process is an essential component of building a robust and lasting Collaborative.”

In a letter to the Ossining community last week, Gearity stated “The Village recognizes this undertaking as an opportunity to affirm our values and strengthen com-

munity relations with law enforcement.”

“We believe Black Lives Matter and we support our local police force. These positions are not mutually exclusive. In fact, they are both essential for a healthy and safe community,” Gearity stated. “Ossining is unique among Westchester communities in our approach to responding to the executive order. The Village Board determined that engaging a facilitator with expertise in law enforcement, and the ability to convene diverse community stakeholders, is the best approach for creating the plan to improve our local police department.”

“Ossining benefits from having an engaged, diverse community made up of individuals and groups that are dedicated to advancing justice. The foundation of our police department is community policing,” she continued. “Essential for the success of Ossining’s Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative is engaging community stakeholders that have confidence in the process. To ensure the voices of Ossining’s diverse community are heard, the working committee will include representation from all disenfranchised groups.

“We are aware of the risks involved with this work. We risk falling into the

trap of polarized rhetoric that minimizes complex history into choosing one side or another,” Gearity stated. “We risk our staff’s ability to move forward on the initiatives already on their plate which require their attention and are of importance to other stakeholders in our community. We risk apathy from the amount of incidents of negative police interactions we see in the country. We risk alienating our local police force. We are also aware that this is an opportunity to strengthen our community—building greater trust between marginalized community groups and local law enforcement.”

Self-Storage Facility Proposed For Former Toys “R” Us Building

By Anna Young

After sitting vacant for over two years, the former Toys “R” Us building in Jefferson Valley could soon be redeveloped into a self-storage facility.

Plans submitted to Yorktown officials from Hanlon Architects in July calls for the construction of a CubeSmart Self Storage on the 3.6 acres of land. The 45,000 square-foot building, located at 621 Bank Street near Route 6, would require a zoning amendment to make the facility a main

use in the C-1 zone.

A CubeSmart Self-Storage facility is being proposed in the vacant building that formerly housed Toys ‘R’ Us in Jefferson Valley. Photo Courtesy of the Town of Yorktown.

The zoning currently allows for self-storage when there is an established main use, planning officials said. The code further states that self-storage facilities can only be conducted in a space served by loading docks and accessed from portions of the building not visible from the main frontage of the site.

Despite the code, officials believe it’s time for that to change.

“Self-storage, like many businesses, is evolving,” Yorktown Planning Director John Tegeder said during the Town Board’s Sept. 8 work session. “The product, in terms of how the buildings are constructed, has evolved from what we used to expect to much more well-designed and interior loaded self-storage facilities.”

He added that building wouldn’t look like a mental warehouse, but instead something with nice architecture on each

street front. Tegeder noted a high quality facility would likely entice more customers to use it.

Officials agreed amending the town code to allow for this use would be an appropriate step forward to fill the storefront. The building was made vacant in 2018 when Toys “R” Us shuttered its doors after the retailer filed for bankruptcy the year prior.

Councilman Vishnu Patel said the project would be a nice addition to the town, while Councilwoman Alice Roker explained the zoning should accommodate the type of

use self-storage facilities offer.

“People use self-storage very differently than they used to use self-storage 20 years ago,” Roker said. “It’s a different animal today than what the code provided for.”

A draft of the text amendment is expected to go before the Town Board Tuesday night. Once reviewed, officials will send it to all other boards for comment, and eventually subject to a public hearing. The proposal also requires an amended site plan approval from the Planning Board.



Immunotherapy: A Game Changer in Cancer Treatment?

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Q: What is Immunotherapy?

A: Your immune system is a network of cells, tissues, and organs that work together to keep you healthy by defending your body against harmful invaders. Immunotherapy is a cancer treatment that uses your immune system to thwart cancer cells. Immunotherapies are often used in combination with traditional chemotherapy medications to boost the effectiveness of those regimens.

Q: Are there different types of immunotherapy treatments?

A: Yes. The first, called “checkpoint inhibitors,” are drugs that help your immune system respond more strongly to a tumor by blocking the proteins that keep T-cells from killing cancer cells.

Another type of immunotherapy, “adoptive cell transfer,” boosts the natural ability of your T-cells to fight cancer. In this treatment, T-cells are taken from your tumor, and those that are found to be most active against your cancer are grown in large batches in the lab, and then eventually returned to your body to fight off the cancer.

Next are “monoclonal antibodies,” which are immune-system proteins produced in a lab. These antibodies are designed to attach to specific targets found on cancer cells. Some monoclonal antibodies mark cancer cells so they will be better seen and destroyed by the immune

system. Another immunotherapy agent is a vaccine called “BCG” that is instilled directly into the bladder to attack very early bladder cancer.

Who is a good candidate for immunotherapy?

A: The best candidates for immunotherapy are patients whose disease may have a genetic component. We test for a number of things to see whether a patient’s particular tumor may be due to a genetic cancer syndrome. Those types of tumors seem to have better susceptibility to immunotherapies. Whether or not immunotherapy is used alone or with other treatments is determined on a case-by-case basis.

What are treatments like?

A: Immunotherapy can be administered intravenously, orally, topically (for very early skin cancers), or intravesically (directly into the bladder). How often and how long the patient receives immunotherapy depends on the type of cancer and how advanced it is, the immunotherapy agents themselves, and how the patient tolerates and responds to the medications. Exciting new uses of immunotherapy agents are seen on a regular basis, says the doctor. They’re really making their way through the treatment of many different types of cancers now. This is the cutting edge of oncological care.

Schools and Businesses Close after COVID-19 Exposure

By Anna Young

Schools and businesses in Westchester and Putnam counties were forced to take action last week after reportedly being exposed to COVID-19.

Health officials in both counties are warning residents to monitor their symptoms after coronavirus cases were linked to Fox Lane High School, Somers High School and Pace University. In Putnam County, two restaurants and a grocery store were also exposed to the virus.

In a letter sent to the district last Thursday, Bedford Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joel Adelberg stated that someone in the Fox Lane High School community tested positive for COVID-19. The person tested positive on September 21, but the district wasn't notified about the case until Thursday.

"The person is currently isolating, and due to federal health privacy laws further information about their identity cannot be released," Adelberg said. "Those students and staff that were potentially exposed to the individual have been notified or are being contacted separately."

Those exposed to the individual are required to quarantine for 14 days from the last exposure date, which was September 16. Adelberg noted that the number of those potentially exposed is slim due to the school following a hybrid instruction model.

While the school remained open, Somers Central School District officials closed the high school on Thursday and Friday to clean and disinfect after someone unknowingly sick with coronavirus entered the building on September 22.

Superintendent of Schools Raymond Blanch also sent a letter to the community on Thursday explaining the district is working with the Westchester County Department of Health to identify any students or faculty members who were within six-feet of the sick individual for more than 10 minutes.

Those exposed must quarantine for 14 days from the last exposure date, Blanch stated, adding that COVID-19 tests should be administered five days after their last exposure.

If a child or faculty member is identified as a close contact of the person who tested positive, they received a call from a contract tracer within 48 hours. The district also sent emails to families notifying them if their children have been identified as having contact with the individual who tested positive, Blanch said.

In Pleasantville, one Pace University dormitory building will be in quarantine for the next two weeks after 20 students tested positive for the virus.

After four students initially tested positive, the campus administered more than 600 tests with 16 more coming back positive, according to Jerry McKinstry, the campus' director of public affairs. With 18 of the 20 positive cases linked to students living in Alumni Hall, the county is requiring anyone residing there to quarantine, with those living off-campus potentially exposed expected to self-isolate at home. Additional tests will be conducted this week.

Students quarantining on campus will switch to remote learning and have meals delivered to their rooms, with residence hall staff on

hand to support those who are sick. Due to the exposure, buildings on the Pleasantville campus will undergo rigorous disinfecting and cleaning, McKinstry said in a statement on Friday.

"While this news is obviously unwelcome, we were prepared for it, and have taken actions to protect our students and the community," McKinstry said. "We are proud of the students who responsibly reported their symptoms and got tested, and we're pleased that the systems in place worked to help us confront this outbreak so quickly."

The Putnam County Health Department issued three advisories last week about a COVID-19 exposure in two restaurants – one in Mahopac, the other in Brewster – and a

Carmel grocery store. The advisory warns employees and patrons to monitor their health.

On September 16, an individual who tested positive for coronavirus frequented the ShopRite at 184 Route 52 in Carmel from 7 to 8 p.m.

Additionally, members of the public tested positive for the virus after eating at Eveready Diner at 90 Independent Way in Brewster on September 19 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and September 22 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Those who tested positive were insider the eatery, the advisory states.

Arturo's Tavern at 876 Route 6 in Mahopac was also exposed to COVID-19 on September 21 from 4 to 11 p.m. A post on the restaurants

Facebook page stated it would voluntarily close for 10 days to disinfect and clean.

"The health of our customers and employees is the most important thing to us," the post stated. "We're sorry if this causes any inconvenience to anyone."

Symptoms relating to the virus include, fever, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, or new loss of taste or smell. Other symptoms include, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

If you have any questions, contact your physician, the Putnam County Department of Health at 845-808-1390 or the Westchester County Health Department at 866-588-0195.

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Ribbon-Cutting Held for New Ossining Children's Center

On September 23, the Ossining Children's Center held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Rebecca and Arthur Samberg Building. The 2700-square-foot facility, located at 32 State Street in Ossining, will bring all of the Center's programs under one roof while meeting the growing need for infant, toddler, preschool and before and after-school care in the greater Ossining community.

Rebecca Samberg, of Ossining, cut the ribbon for the new building named for her and her late husband Arthur Samberg. Mrs. Samberg is a long-time board member of the Center and co-chair of the capital campaign that is raising the funds for the building project. "Art and I have always felt strongly that every child should be able to have the kinds of experiences that our children and grandchildren have had," said Mrs. Samberg. "This building will make those opportunities available to more children from our community."

The Center's new space enables more than 60 additional children to gain the skills necessary to thrive and succeed. The large state-of-the-art classrooms, indoor gymnasium, large indoor common area, and multiple outdoor recreation areas provide ample



Rebecca Samberg, of Ossining, cut the ribbon for the new building named for her and her late husband Arthur Samberg.

space for children to learn, grow and play while staying healthy and safe. "Though welcoming children back during a pandemic is challenging," said Assistant

Executive Director Claudia Weger, "our flexible spaces, along with outside entrances for every classroom, allow for social distancing without compromising

the integrity of our programs."

In addition to providing quality reliable childcare for working parents the Center is a key part of Ossining's efforts to revitalize

the downtown area. The Center will help to increase economic activity in the surrounding neighborhood and create jobs for local residents.

The Ossining Children's Center has been a fixture in Ossining for 125 years, helping families thrive, while maintaining partnerships with a range of community and cultural organizations. "The ceremony today is a testament to the interconnectedness and strength of our community," said Executive Director Howard Milbert. "We would not be here without the generous support of compassionate community members, our local elected officials, and our community partners."

The project was also awarded grants from New York State through the auspices of Assemblymember Sandra Galef and State Senator David Carlucci. OCC's \$17.8 million capital campaign to support the project has raised more than \$15 million to date. The campaign also includes an expansion of OCC's scholarship program to enable additional working families to enroll their children at the Center.

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Chappaqua School District Receives \$1.5M to Build Research Center

Chappaqua Central School District has received a \$1.5 million donation to build a Sustainability Research Center at Horace Greeley High School. The gift was presented by donor Catherine James Paglia of the Robert and Ardis James Foundation to Chappaqua School Foundation President, Tara Brandoff.

"My brother Robert James, Jr. was a proud graduate of Horace Greeley High School, Class of 1969, and it is a privilege for my family to make this donation in his memory. He would have been so pleased to know that future

Horace Greeley students will be able to pursue their dreams of scientific research in this state-of-the-art facility," said Catherine James Paglia of the Robert and Ardis James Foundation.

The Sustainability Research Center (SRC) at Greeley is designed to be a free-standing, 2000 sq. ft, climate-controlled, multi-zoned, glass research laboratory.

"This is an incredible donation from the James Foundation that will help bring to life a valuable educational facility," said Brandoff. "We are thankful that Catherine James Paglia's



(L-R:) John Chow, Assistant Superintendent for Business; Adam Pease, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction; Victoria Bayard Tipp, President, Board of Education; Ron Gamma, Assistant Principal, Horace Greeley High School; Catherine James Paglia, Secretary, Robert and Ardis James Foundation; Andrew Corsilia, Principal, Horace Greeley High School; Tara Brandoff, President, Chappaqua School Foundation; Christine Ackerman, Superintendent of Schools; Jane Kimmel Shephardson, Member, Board of Education / BoE CSF Liaison; Erik Kaeyer, Partner, KG+D Architects; Ryan Carper, Architectural Designer, KD+G Architects.

Byram Hills High Named National Blue Ribbon School

By Rick Pezzullo

Byram Hills High School in Armonk was one of 18 schools in New York State that was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2020.

The recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

"Congratulations to this year's National Blue Ribbon School awardees," said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. "It's a privilege to recognize the extraordinary work you do to meet students' needs and prepare them for successful careers and meaningful lives."

Nationwide, 317 public and 50 non-public schools were honored. The 2020 National

Blue Ribbon Schools Awards Ceremony will be held virtually November 12 and 13.

"Byram Hills High School is so successful because of the alignment between the expectations of the community, the professionalism of the faculty, and the engagement of the students," said Byram Hills Principal Mr. Christopher Walsh. "This is a tremendous honor."

Last week, it was announced that Byram Hills High School and Coman Hill Elementary School were selected as Recognition Schools by the New York State Education Department. The honor recognizes schools that are high achieving under New York's Every Student Succeeds Act Plan (ESSA). The designees represent 13% of New York State public schools.

passion for the environment is a match for this innovative project. The Chappaqua School Foundation looks forward to partnering with the Foundation and the District in this groundbreaking initiative."

The SRC will be an inclusive environment where students can conduct biological and ecological research year-round. "We are thrilled to receive this generous gift from The Robert and Ardis James Foundation," said Superintendent Dr. Christine Ackerman. "It is our responsibility to prepare our students to understand and address the impacts of

climate change on our global community. CCSD is responding to this growing area of post-secondary study and professional work by providing a high-quality education in the field of sustainability in our new facility."

The Sustainability Research Center has been made possible by the generosity of the Robert and Ardis James Foundation, The Chappaqua Schools Foundation and the Chappaqua PTA.

Construction on the project is anticipated to begin on July 1, 2021.



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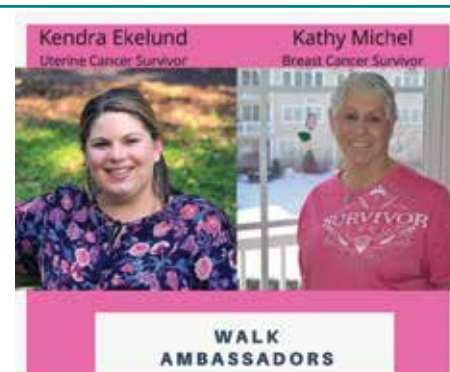
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Leaf Blower Law Unanimously Approved in New Castle

By Martin Wilbur and Abby Luby

After nearly three years of debate and revisions, the New Castle Town Board unanimously approved a law regulating the use of leaf blowers in town Tuesday night.

The full impact of the legislation will not take effect until next year because the use of gas-powered leaf blowers will be prohibited from June 1 through Sept. 30. The rest of the year, gas-powered blowers can still be used, including during the fall leaf season.

Supervisor Ivy Pool said passing the legislation to become law was a first step. "I believe that this local law, is reasonable, readily understood, and enforceable. It's a meaningful step forward, in our ongoing effort to demonstrate progress in reducing emissions and it addresses the noise and the quality of life concerns we have been hearing from residents who are working from home during the pandemic."

Initially, the town had looked to prohibit the gas-powered leaf blowers but received pushback from some residents and landscapers.

Officials are hopeful that more residents begin using the environmentally friendly and quieter electric and battery-powered blowers. However, the board recognized that the technology is still evolving and residents on larger lots and professional landscapers need more power than electric blowers can currently provide.

Councilman Jason Lichtenthal had reservations about the new law. "The



proposed local law has, unfortunately, been watered down in taking a small step in meeting its environmental goals. For a few months of the year, people will need to use electric leaf blowers most during the time when leaf blowers are minimally needed."

Some of the points of the legislation closely mirror New Castle's noise ordinance regarding hours of operation and maximum noise levels. Leaf blowers can be used from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Sunday and holidays.

Lichtenthal pointed out that the law didn't specify any upper limits for sound decibel levels for leaf blowers during the allowable

hours of usage. "Other domestic tools like lawn mowers kick up particulate and create significant noise pollution, which is not addressed," he said.

Deputy Town Supervisor Jeremy Saland sided with Lichtenthal that the resolution was imperfect. "But the town has the responsibility to take small steps with future laws on leaf blowers. Each of these steps may be a small block in a foundation that ultimately, for future generations, will have to be progressive and move towards a sustainable future," Saland said.

Town Board member Lisa Katz thanked the SAB (Sustainability Advisory Board) for their hard work in helping to craft the law. She

also thanked the opponents of the law saying, "Your comments on this made it a better law than initially proposed. I expect that the law will evolve, and I think this is a good start."

SAB member Rand Manasse thanked the town for its persistence and thoroughness. "It's been a long process and makes the legislation all the more important to limit the use of these devices that adversely affect the health, environment and quality of life of the residents of the town," Manasse said.

Exemptions from the law include the Chappaqua School District's and the town's recreational fields and tennis courts, tennis courts at country clubs, homeowner associations and swim clubs, golf courses and cemeteries. The law also states that use of motorized leaf blowers may be permitted on certain properties where there is a safety concern as determined by the town administrator.

SAB Chairman Steve Wolk had previously said members of his board studied the issue of the harmful effects of gas-powered leaf blowers and the large amounts of greenhouse gas emissions that the machines produced. He said some people don't believe the law goes far enough but there is no perfect legislation and this is a step in the right direction.

"The changes will be minimal as residents recognize that commonly accepted aesthetics take a back seat to health concerns, and the new look of cut grass left on the lawn becomes the look of people who care about the environment and realize that they get the

continued on page 11

★ ROOFING
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Letter to the Editor

Failing Septic Systems Are Contaminating Somers Groundwater

Septic systems are now leaching contaminants into our drinking water in Shenorock and Lincolndale, the areas in the proposed Somers Sewer District No. 2. The facts show that there are too many private septic systems on these R-10-zoned properties. We have 673 septic systems in Shenorock (0.46 square miles) and 316 in Lincolndale (0.37 square miles). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says that more than 40 septic systems per square mile is considered high density. By my math, that means that anything over 18 systems in Shenorock and 14 in Lincolndale is high. Shenorock

has almost 37 times more than that and Lincolndale has over 21 times more.

Septic tanks, especially the many old ones that are here, leach contaminants into our drinking water. Lake Lincolndale is a barometer for what's seeping into the groundwater that we drink. A 2020 Syracuse University/Upstate Freshwater Institute study found caffeine and sucralose (Splenda) in the lake. These chemicals get into the lake only through the groundwater, and they get into the groundwater only through septic systems. Their presence in Lake Lincolndale indicates that these systems are now leaching contaminants

into the groundwater, our drinking water.

There is always opposition to plans for new sewers wherever they are proposed, and the opposition always makes the same points no matter where the project is: taxes will go up, there are cheaper and better ways to do it, property and quiet will be disturbed, uncontrolled development will follow, there are hidden agendas, and so forth. But North Salem, Yorktown, Bedford and New Castle have already moved ahead on their sewer projects. Somers has potential access to \$10 million in funding toward solving these problems and it should not be wasted.

We can't keep pumping sewage into the ground while pretending that it won't pollute our drinking water. Public sewers represent progress in sanitation, hygiene, epidemiology and environmental conservation. They increase property values. They demonstrate community spirit.

I urge you to vote yes for clean water. I urge you to vote yes for the establishment of Somers Sewer District No. 2.

Michael Schwarzschild
Lincolndale

letters continued on page 8

Obituaries

Julio Montero

Julio Humberto Montero, a resident of Montrose, died September 18 at Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt, a day after his 75th birthday.

He was born September 17, 1945 in Manizales, Colombia to Julio Montero and Zoila Montero Perez. He was the third of nine children and is survived by his siblings Leonor Arbagi, German Eduardo (Ed) Montero, Pilar Webster, Clara Montero, Augusto (Gus) Montero, Carlos (Chuck) Montero, Christina Bradford and Roberto (Bob) Montero. He and his family immigrated to the United States from Colombia in 1954 and settled in Sleepy Hollow, NY. He was later naturalized as a U.S. citizen in 1964. He was a graduate of Sleepy Hollow High School, Columbia University and the Teachers College of Columbia University. He joined the Army in 1967 and was honorably discharged as a Sergeant in 1969.

In 1974 he met his beautiful wife Barbara Lee Montero (nee Treptow). They were wedded the next year and remained happily married for the rest of his life. He was the proud father to two sons and daughters-in-law: Daniel (Jesse) Montero and wife Anne Farmer Montero, and Andrew Lee Montero and wife Gabriele Simmons Montero. Throughout most of his career, he worked for various BOCES programs at the intersection of education and technology. He pioneered the introduction of computers and the Internet to local schools and retired as Director of Management Information Systems at Rockland BOCES in 2006. In his retirement he enjoyed extensive travels, wine, fine dining and time with family and friends.

In addition to the aforementioned family members he is survived by his three cherished grandsons, Paul (10), Damon (8) and Andreas (4).

Eleanor E. Scogna

Eleanor E. Scogna, a resident of Carmel, died September 21. She was 83.

She was born October 20, 1936 in New York City, to Fridolin and Margareta Scholl, and was stepdaughter to Marie Scholl. She married the love of her life, Albert A. Scogna, on November 8, 1959 in Hawthorne. He predeceased Eleanor in 2012.

She worked for many years at The Singer Company, Stamford, CT. Family was the most important thing to Eleanor. She and

Albert were blessed with four children; Vincent (Nancy), Holly Rinaldi (Louis), April Griffin (John) and Gary, as well as seven grandchildren; Vincent, Christian, Julia, Ella, Conner, Jack and Ryan.

She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends at her Long Beach Island, NJ beach house. She belonged to the Community Crafters at the Mahopac Library where she enjoyed knitting and crocheting scarves, blankets and hats that were donated to families in need.

Correction

In last week's article about Pleasantville's mask requirement for people who use its athletic fields, John Vamossy's role with the Pleasantville

FC was incorrect. His role with the organization is that of board member. The Examiner regrets the error.

Kosher Deli Pop-Up Shop in Yorktown

In honor of the upcoming holiday of Sukkot, Chabad of Yorktown is proud to host a Kosher Deli Pop-Up Shop!

The menu features a completely kosher, authentic NY Deli experience! Mouthwatering, generously stuffed, corned beef and turkey sandwiches and knishes, along with matzah ball soup and rugelach, will be served.

The one-day shop will be open on

Tuesday, October 6. All orders will be take-out, and will be available for pickup from Chabad's Sukkah at 2629 Old Yorktown Road in Yorktown Heights between 3 to 6:30 pm.

To view the complete menu and to place an order, visit www.ChabadYorktown.com/Deli. Orders must be placed and paid for in advance, by Monday, October 5 at noon.

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Letters to the Editor

Supporting Candidates Who Will Fight to Lower Taxes

We need to lower our taxes, but there are good ways and very bad ways to do it.

More than 70% of our property taxes in Yorktown go to our schools. We need excellent schools – we don't want to cut programs. Though the 2% cap has held down local taxes, we need the State to take over a larger share of school budgets – a GOOD WAY to lower our property taxes. Inexplicably, Assemblyman Byrne, has not supported proposed increases in aid to our school districts in each year's budget.

A GOOD WAY to lower our state taxes (if you are not a multi-millionaire) would be for millionaires to pick up a larger share of the tax burden. Incredibly, Astorino

and Bryne oppose a small increase in millionaires' tax rate.

Four years ago, Trump's plan to lower tax rates on corporations might have seemed like a good idea to stimulate the economy and stock market. But the benefits didn't trickle down to most people and (even before the pandemic hit) led to a \$1.9 trillion dollar deficit which we, our children and grandchildren will have to pay off with interest. To help fund the cuts he took away our State and Local Tax Deductions – REALLY BAD IDEAS.

As county executive, Astorino placed a similar burden on us by borrowing money to pay for ongoing operating expenses,

(which trashed the county's credit rating), and for 8 years, Astorino did not give county workers raises – HORRIBLE WAYS to reduce taxes!

I am voting for Mondaire Jones for Congress, Pete Harckham for State Senate, and Stephanie Keegan for State Assembly because they will fight for us – we the hard-working people of NY – and not for the interests of millionaires and giant corporations.

Mary Jane Kilian
Yorktown Heights

Astorino Has the Qualities Needed to Fight for His Constituents in Albany

I've known Rob Astorino for over 20 years. He is a good, honorable person who only wants the best for his community.

Rob has always been accessible and ready to help whenever called upon. We can count on Rob being fiscally conservative. He will be a good steward of our tax dollars, spending responsibly and not frivolously. He will fight against

the corruption in Albany. New York has the fifth most corrupt government of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. (<https://www.statista.com/>)

He wants to make sure our communities are safe. To this end, he will support law and order in our towns, so all families can feel safe and secure.

We need a man of integrity to fight for

us in Albany.

Rob Astorino is that man.

I urge you to vote for Rob Astorino for New York state senator.

Joan Lederman
Mount Pleasant Planning Board
Briarcliff Manor

Astorino Will Stand Up to Corruption

Former County Executive Rob Astorino has formally placed his name on the Rebuild New York line for State Senator. Rob will be running against one-term incumbent Pete Harckham and will fight to return our state to its former greatness through his commitment of core values. With the current chaos in our country and the destructive policies of our state legislature, Albany needs a true Patriot like Rob.

This Patriot will protect us by properly funding the police, who sacrifice all to ensure our safety. This Patriot will demand repeal of the "bail reform" laws, which empower

career criminals to wantonly endanger the good people in our communities. This Patriot will work to reverse the most heinous of all laws, the legalization of late-term abortion which permits the murder of an unborn child at the moment of death. This Patriot will not bow to political trends or be frightened by the mainstream media. And, most of all, this true Patriot will defend traditional American values: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, the right to bear arms and the right to life of the born and unborn.

We are at a "David and Goliath" moment

in history where we must rebuild our state. Rob Astorino is the one man who will face the corrupt "giants" in Albany. Many New Yorkers have already voted with their feet by leaving our beloved state. But, on November 8th we can begin to change that by courageously and confidently voting to support Rob Astorino as State Senator for the 40th District.

Anne M. Caramanica
Heritage Hills
Somers

Astorino Will Fight for Constituents in Albany

As a concerned voter and resident of the 40th District for many years, I am so pleased that Rob Astorino is running for State Senate and that I will be able to vote for him. He was such a great County Executive and cared so much about everyone. He managed County finances well and never raised taxes, as so many

politicians do. The State is in such trouble right now, both economically and financially, that it is of utmost importance to send someone like Rob Astorino up to Albany to help fix this mess and fight for us.

I do not know much about his opponent Peter Harckham besides the fact he voted for the law that eliminates cash bail for

violent criminals (which seems crazy to me). Replacing Mr. Harckham with Mr. Astorino, who we all know and trust, is a step in the right direction.

Linda Tavalacci
Hawthorne

Slater Has Proven to Be the Right Leader for Yorktown

This is a quick note of thanks to Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater. He has proven to be the right leader at the right time for our community. Since taking office he has faced so much adversity, from the terrible vandalism earlier in the year, to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and damage of Hurricane Isaias. Most Supervisors only deal with one such ordeal during

their tenure and Supervisor Slater has faced each with incredible professionalism and grace. His ability and willingness to communicate with the community provided such calmness during times of great uncertainty. Never before have we been provided with constant information by our Town. His leadership has been a breath of fresh air for our community, and

should we have more challenges ahead of us, I have full confidence that Supervisor Slater will handle them in the same manner we have seen all year. Thank you Supervisor Slater!

Marianne Violante
Yorktown Heights

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Obituaries

Sheila Fleitz Lux

Sheila Fleitz Lux, a resident of Mahopac, died September 23 at Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital in NYC after a short battle with cancer. She was 52.

Born on July 17, 1968 in Peekskill, she was the daughter of James and Sheila (McCarthy) Fleitz. Growing up in Cortlandt, she attended St Columbanus Parochial School and Walter Panas High School, before heading to SUNY Cobleskill, where she studied Early Childhood. She started working at the Blue Book in Jefferson Valley in 1989 as an administrative assistant and during her 31 years there she worked her way up to Sales Support Manager. Along the way she made many friends and was a valued employee, highly thought of by both the company owner and her coworkers.

In 2006, she married her best friend and the love of her life, Rob Lux. They settled in Mahopac. Always a caring and selfless personality, she became involved with Rob's life in the fire department, and went out of her way to help anyone in need, even strangers. In 2007, Rob and Sheila welcomed their beautiful daughter, Regan Kathleen, and their life was complete. Mrs. Lux loved being a mother, and life revolved around Regan! A wonderful and proud mom, she could be found everywhere with Regan - at school and church events, watching the St Patrick's Day parade, planting her garden, and cheering Regan on at her sporting events.



Sheila Fleitz Lux

Sheila, Rob and Regan traveled to events near and far! Every summer the family made a trip to their "happy place" on the Connecticut shore. On each of these adventures, Mrs. Lux could be found taking "selfies" with her family and friends. Always included was one with a goofy face....so there was always something to smile about! Whether holidays with her actual family, outings with her "girlies", walking the rescue dogs on Sundays, or swimming in the pool in their yard, She always made sure it was "family first".

Mrs. Lux leaves behind her loving husband, Rob, and daughter, Regan, who she adored. She was predeceased by their parents, James and Sheila Fleitz and George and Margaret Lux, as well as Rob's sister and brother-in-law, Mary and John Apon. Surviving siblings

are; James (Mary), Joseph, Kathleen and Kristine Fleitz, and Kerriann (Arthur) D'Angelo. Additionally, Rob's siblings: Eileen (Nikolas) Nelson, Carol Lux and Michael

Connelly, George Lux, Jr and Maureen Lux. Many nieces and nephews who loved their Aunt Sheila also survive her.

Charles Travis

Charles Martin ("Chuck") Travis, a resident of Cortlandt, died September 17 at the Bethel Nursing Home in Croton-on-Hudson as a result of injuries sustained from a fall earlier in the year. He was 75.

He was born in Peekskill on December 20, 1944 to Charles H. Travis and Mary Travis. He was predeceased by his spouse, Frances Lounsbury Travis. They were married for 43 years until her passing in 2016. He is survived by his two daughters, Frances Gaichin and husband Stephan W. Gaichin of Cortlandt, and Patricia Rice and her husband Robert Rice of Poughquag, NY. He is also survived by four grandchildren, Robert C. Rice of Poughquag, NY, Bryana M. Sampson of Cortlandt, Adam C. Rice of Poughquag, NY, and Dustin C. Rice of Poughquag, NY. Other survivors include his brother Wayne Travis and partner Amy Allen of Hastings-on-Hudson, nephews Christopher and wife Melissa of Fairfield, CT, Kyle Travis of Fairfield, CT, Daniel Travis and his wife Chiyo of Bristol, VT, two great-nephews, Joseph and Jackson of Fairfield, CT, and cousin Philip Martin and his wife Liz Martin of Hyde Park, NY.

Mr. Travis was truly a loving and caring

husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend.

He graduated from Lakeland High School in 1962 and served for the bulk of his career through his retirement in various capacities such as General Forman with the Highway Department of the Town of Cortlandt, utilizing his gifts for mechanics, engineering, project management, and common sense towards the betterment of the town infrastructure and mentoring of co-workers.

He was a man of faith and dedicated believer in The Lord and that Christian loving, giving, and loyal nature shown forth throughout his life toward his family and friends who will miss him very much. Among his many interests were traveling the country, his various pet dogs and cats over the years, family history, American history, mechanics, engineering, vintage automobiles and trucks, and trains with the history of the NY Central Railroad of particular interest. He had a tremendous sense of humor which was enjoyed by all who knew him.



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Obituaries

Joseph DeLanoy

Joseph J. DeLanoy, a lifelong resident of White Plains, died September 20. He was 89.

He was born September 21, 1930 in White Plains to Percy and Helen DeLanoy. He served in the United States Navy during Korea and was a member of the American Legion Post 135. On July 20, 1954, he joined the White Plains Fire Department. He was promoted to Lieutenant on May 20, 1985 and retired June 11, 1989. After his retirement, he worked for the White Plains Dept. of Recreation September 13, 1953, then married his wife Lillian at St. John the Evangelist Church. She predeceased him in 2009. He is also predeceased by his two sons, James and William DeLanoy, three brothers and four sisters.

He is survived by two sons; Joseph Jr. (Fran), and Steven (Mary), daughter-in-law Joanne DeLanoy, eight grandchildren; Christopher, Gregory, Paul, Lindsay, Adam,



Joseph DeLanoy

Mallory, Carly, and Stevie Lyn, and seven great-grandchildren; Lily, Jack, Gavin, Katherine, Patrick, William, and Nora.

Barbara Jacobson

Barbara Louise Gennerich Jacobson died September 18 at home in Heritage Hills in Somers. She was 93.

She is survived by her husband, Dale Gordon Jacobson and her daughters Susan Jacobson Mattson (Tom) and Ann Jacobson Butera (Larry Rubin), grandchildren Christopher Mattson, Kelsey and Austin

Butera. She was preceded in death by her sister Patricia Gennerich Cusack and nieces Kathy Cusack and Jackie Cusack.

She grew up in White Plains and attended Southern Seminary secretarial school. She married Dale in 1950 and they spent their child rearing years in Chappaqua.

Maxine Townsend

Maxine Oliver Townsend, formerly of Ossining, died September 3 after a long battle with Alzheimer's. She was 80.

She was born October 30, 1939, in a log cabin in Mebane, North Carolina, to the late Margaret Lily McCullum and Ernest Compton, the second of three children born of this union. As opportunities arose in the north, her mother, affectionately known as "Ms. Margaret" moved Maxine and her siblings to Ossining.

After assisting her mother as a mother's helper, Maxine was encouraged to excel in education in the Ossining Public School System. She graduated from Ossining High School, Class of 1957, and then secured an internship in a finance office in Manhattan. The exposure and success of her boss ignited her desire to pursue a career in business, and she later enrolled at Howard University in Washington, D.C., where she majored in Business Administration, sharing the halls with classmates Roberta Flack and Toni Morrison. She also earned a Master's in Business Administration from the University of the District of Columbia.

Maxine met the love of her life and future husband, Emory Tolson, Jr., while at Howard. To this union, two sons were born, but his sudden passing at an early age ended their five-year marriage. She later married Thomas Townsend and they had one daughter.

Maxine's extensive business career began as a division manager at the Hecht Company. She also served as Deputy Budget Director under the late Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry, and regularly presented to the U.S. Congress on budgetary issues. She was a trailblazer, usually serving as the first African-American woman in increasingly responsible leadership positions. She also served as Budget Director for the District of Columbia Department of Human Services, where she managed the largest governmental budget. In her final professional role, Maxine served as Finance

Director for the U.S. Peace Corps for three years in Cote d'Ivoire on the coast of West Africa.

An avid tennis player, history lover, and world traveler, Maxine's adventures included family and solo vacations to every continent of the world, except Antarctica. Throughout her life, service was always a part of Maxine's creed. She carried on the rich tradition given to her by her mother and grandmother who opened their home to family and friends for shelter, great cooking, and pearls of wisdom. She opened her home to runaways, cultural exchange students, and anyone in need. Her greatest joy was being active in the lives of her children and she was a zealous supporter of their interests in sports, academics and entrepreneurship, and later in their adult pursuits. Maxine was the champion of her neighborhood kids, inspiring and encouraging them in their pursuits and even assisting with college tuition, when needed. Her community service continued after retirement and she served as a member and trustee of All Saints Lutheran Church in Bowie, Maryland, as a Deacon at Mebane First Presbyterian Church in Mebane, North Carolina, and as a volunteer with community organizations, including the Mental Health Association of Prince George's County.

Maxine's parents and one brother, James D. Oliver, Sr., preceded her in death. She leaves to cherish precious memories her two sons, Todd Tolson of Silver Spring, MD, and Tracey Tolson of New York, NY; a daughter, Sabrina Kuhn and her husband Toussell of Dallas, Texas; two grandsons, Jamel Tolson and Isaiah Townsend; three step-children; one brother, Harold Oliver of Ossining; four sisters-in-law and one brother-in-law. She is also survived by one uncle, Thomas Vinson of Mebane, NC; many nieces and nephews, including Sheryl Oliver of Fayetteville, GA; special friends, Joan Levermore, Mildred Osborne, Yvonne Bert and Francine Vernon; special children, Kris Hunigan and Margot Brown; and many cousins and friends.

George Wolf

George Emerson Wolf died September 21. He was 86.

He was born December 25, 1933 in White Plains. He was preceded into death by his parents, Winifred and George, his brother, Raymond, and his son, Michael. Survived by his wife of 58 years, Monika, as well as children Christopher, George, and Diana, as well as grandchildren Leilani, Gabrielle, Zachary, Alex, and Renata.

Mr. Wolf was raised in Briarcliff Manor and joined the fire department at age 18. After a year of college, he joined the Air Force and served as a radio intercept operator. He was stationed in Tripoli and Germany, postings which allowed him to take trips by motorcycle when he had leave. He spoke very fondly of these trips and the sights he was able to see. Upon returning stateside, Mr. Wolf continued to travel and took a 12,000-mile road trip across the U.S. and Mexico with his good friend, Freddy. He would tell fond stories from this adventure for the rest of his life.

Mr. Wolf attended Manhattan College on the G.I. Bill and in 1962 he met Monika Theresa Romberger. They were married and started a family within a year. He had a lifelong love of cars, and started his career at General Motors. He loved working with people and excelled at selling cars and establishing good relationships with customers. George was passionate about serving in local fire departments. He was a lifetime member of the Briarcliff Manor fire department, serving for 68 years, and a member of Putnam Valley for 45 years. He described being a fireman as being about friendships and helping people. George was a trustee of the German American Club of Putnam Valley and a member of the Bavarian Club Edelweiss Westchester. He also volunteered as a driver at the Putnam Valley Senior Center, where he had a close-knit group of friends.

Known for his booming laugh, his compliments, and being a good listener, he lived life to the fullest.

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Kirby Commons Contract Moves Ahead in Mt. Kisco

By Abby Luby

A contract between the Village of Mount Kisco and Kirby Commons developers Gotham Organization and Charter Reality Development of Manhattan is moving forward. Once all approvals are granted for the \$130 million project, construction will start and is expected to last two years.

At last week's Mount Kisco Village Board meeting, Mayor Gina Picinich gave an update of where the project stands.

"We are working on a contract that will be binding. We want to make sure that the foundation we build on is strong and solid from one document to the next," Picinich said.

Kirby Commons is a proposed, mixed-use/transit-oriented project that expects to create 123 construction jobs and sustain 52 new full-time jobs once completed. The project proposes 217 apartments and 53,000 square feet of retail and community space next to the downtown train station. Proposed amenities include a conference center, lounge, co-

working space, gym, a Zen garden connected to an interior courtyard, a rooftop green space including multiple seating areas, grills, and a fire pit.

In June, the Westchester County Industrial Development Agency gave the project preliminary approval for \$4.7 million in tax exemptions.

According to Trustee David Squirrel, the public will be able to weigh-in before the contract is either approved or disapproved. "There will be a full opportunity for Mount Kisco residents to provide their opinion to us. That goes without saying," he said.

Picinich said that the final, approved contract "will be made available to the public once negotiations are completed in executive sessions."

At a post meeting interview, Village Manager Edward Brancati said the village will also approve the 99-year lease before the Planning Board process can begin. If variances are needed, the project would have to go before the Mount Kisco Zoning Board of Appeals.

As part of the public comment, John Rhodes, Chairperson Mount Kisco's Conservation, Advisory Council, suggested that the construction plan be negotiated before the agreement is finalized because the village could lose much of its negotiating leverage.

Trustees also discussed the possible disruption during construction and the availability of parking for commuters, shoppers, and business owners.

"Among the very key concepts are that the

North Moger parking structure needs to be built first," said Picinich. "They [developers] will have to make sure parking is still available so disruption is not too great."

Mount Kisco resident Barbara Roppolo wrote in a question about the estimated 15 students generated by the development expected to attend the local public schools. "Can someone elaborate further on how they came up with only 15 students for all those [217] units?"

Brancati explained that the 15-student number was a conservative approach based on a formula used in the project pilot. "The cost per student is approximately \$30,000 and we want to make sure the development doesn't over burden the school district," he said.

The subject of a public hearing on October 5 is a proposed amendment to the Zoning Code itemizing the "Required Community Benefits" the village is asking of the developers. Those include 100% replacement of existing public parking spaces in their development on the South Moger Lot and the North Moger Lot. Other proposed benefits required by the village is the provision of 2,300 square feet of Civic Space as an interior community area within the building on the North Moger Lot, providing 15 affordable apartment units with rent set at 90 percent of Westchester County Area Median Income.

Notably, the diverse socioeconomic community of Mount Kisco, was not one of the 31 communities included in the county's 2009 affordable housing settlement with the federal government.

Leaf Blower Law Unanimously Approved in New Castle

Continued from page 6

added benefit of having a healthier lawn," Wolk said.

Board member Lauren Levin admitted that two or three years ago she wouldn't have voted in favor of the new law, but she has since changed her mind. "I think the technology has arrived for electric leaf blowers. I would also support a buy-back program from a budget line for town board special projects, and help our residents to offset these costs," Levin said.

A buy-back program or other financial incentives to encourage residents to relinquish their gas-powered blowers for electric or battery-operated equipment has been generally supported by the board.

Pool shed light on the bigger, universal picture of taking a role in cutting carbon emissions to slow climate change.

"This is actually Climate Week, 2020," she said. "Five years ago, 195 countries signed on to the Paris Agreement for Climate Change, a landmark for climate action. Along with the SAB, we agreed to locally uphold the Paris Agreement by taking proactive, meaningful steps to reduce emissions and demonstrate consistent progress over time. The town of New Castle has remained deeply committed to climate justice."

Pool emphasized the town's commitment to a robust implementation of the new law by coming up with an enforcement strategy that includes raising awareness for residents and the landscaping industry.

"Adopting the legislation is the easy part, the hard part is what comes next. Implementation. And that begins right now," Pool said.

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Croton-on-Hudson Certified as a Silver Climate Smart Community

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced last week that the Village of Croton-on-Hudson has been certified as a silver-level Climate Smart Community.

The DEC's announcement makes Croton-on-Hudson one of only seven silver-level communities, and one of only two silver-level villages, in New York State. In order to be certified, every community must show that

it has an active climate action task force that includes municipal and citizen representatives.

In Croton-on-Hudson, the Sustainability Committee has served as that task force. To reach silver-level certification, a community must earn 300 points by completing various climate actions.

"We appreciate the DEC's recognition of our village's contribution to New York's environmental efforts. The Croton community

has heeded the call to think globally and act locally when it comes to climate change," said Croton Mayor Brian Pugh. "With the help of the volunteers on the Sustainability Committee, the village has taken 43 specific steps to reduce or mitigate climate change. This includes enrolling in Sustainable Westchester's Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program and creating a community solar array on the roof of our Department of Public Works. Thank you to the Sustainability Committee, the village's professional staff, and local community advocates for making our progress possible."

"Our new community solar array, installed on the roof of our DPW building by Ecology Energy, serves 53 local households and prevents the emission of more than 100 metric tons of greenhouse gas – equivalent to taking 33 gas-driven cars off the road. This is just

one example of what we can achieve when we work together to protect our common home and build for a sustainable future," said Lindsay Audin, Chair of the village's Sustainability Committee.

Started in 2009, the Climate Smart Communities program provides guidance and technical support to local governments to take locally driven climate action. The first step communities take is to register by passing a pledge to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change. Currently there are 313 local governments that have passed the Climate Smart Communities pledge, representing more than 8.7 million New Yorkers. The certification program was launched in 2014 to document and celebrate the accomplishments of leading communities. Since 2014, New York State has designated 62 certified Climate Smart Communities.

New Kind of Gym Class



Smiles were as bright as the September sunshine as Mount Kisco Elementary School third-graders during a recent outdoor gym class. While playing games and competing in relay races, the students were able to get in a good dose of exercise and enjoy frequent mask breaks. "We spent a lot of time figuring out how to make boxes on the field to be able to incorporate mask breaks into gym class," said physical education teacher John DeFavero. "We're trying to be as creative as we can." The boxes ensure students are 12 feet apart when they take their masks off. In addition to relay races, the children played freeze tag with pool noodles, which helped to keep them socially distanced while still playing together and having a lot of fun.

Putnam Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day October 3

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day for Putnam County residents is on Saturday, October 3 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Fahnestock State Park, Canopus Beach Parking Lot, Route 301, Kent, NY. Pre-Registration is required. For more information call (845) 808-1390 x43150 or visit www.putnamcountyny.com and select "Special Wastes." To register by email, send your 3 preferred times (every 15 minutes

beginning at 9 a.m.) to PutnamHealth@putnamcountyny.com. A confirmation with a time will be emailed to you. If you do not receive the confirmation email within two business days, please call the above number. Please place all materials to be discarded in rearmost compartment or trunk of your vehicle. COVID-19 guidance must be followed including social/physical distancing and face coverings are required.

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The illustration above is an artist's depiction of the Indian Point property after the completion of major decommissioning work.

Indian Point Energy Center



Young Chappaqua Cartoonist Raises \$800 With Putnam County Fair Comics

Henry McEvoy, a 13-year-old cartoonist from and creator of Ducky Comics, celebrated his first 4-H fundraiser by promoting his comic strip at duck ponds, farmers markets, local businesses and online.

McEvoy aimed to increase awareness for his comic brand, which was founded in his home community of Chappaqua, and the county fair organized by Cornell Cooperative Extension, while also raising funds for New York State's 4-H Foundation.

Posters of Ducky Comics' first issue "Unexpected Events at the Putnam County Fair," were seen around Putnam, Westchester and Ulster counties during August and early September, featuring a QR code linked to a GoFundMe campaign.

When McEvoy's one-month fundraiser ended on Sept. 9, his efforts proved successful, with \$812 raised for 4-H.

McEvoy created the comic after realizing that this year's fair would be canceled due to COVID-19. He received support from multiple 4-H organizations, including upstate Clinton County.

"In times of adversity, creativity flourishes," said Clinton County Project Coordinator Logan Williams. "Henry's grand idea, to create a comic detailing the Putnam County Fair, was able to shine light and bring the joy of the fair to a wider audience."

"Henry's comic centered around the Putnam County fair made people feel



Henry McEvoy, pictured with his new ducklings, displays a Ducky Comics thank you note for 21 donors and the Putnam County Sheriff's office, who helped him raise \$812 for the New York State 4-H.

better, and it lightened our mood," said Dena Altavilla, 4-H Youth & Family Development program director for Putnam County. "He created something positive in this challenging time that we are all facing, and his comic brought the 4-H Fair family and community a bit of joy this year."

Ducky Comics released a follow-up



At Barton Orchards in Poughquag, N.Y., the first issue of Ducky Comics is posted by 13-year-old cartoonist Henry McEvoy of Chappaqua.

comic to 'Unexpected Events,' McEvoy said.

To thank everyone who donated, he made another comic with a larger duck force, a raccoon bunker and a rooster reporting for News 12.

Ducky Comics made a commitment to donate all proceeds to the New York State 4-H.

"4-H introduced me to people like me, who share a passion for chickens and ducks," McEvoy said. "My next comic will teach how to build a duck coop."

For more information about Ducky Comics or McEvoy's fundraiser, visit gofundme.com/f/4h-campaign-by-henry-of-ducky-comics.

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Annual Support Connection Walk Forced to Go Virtual

By Rick Pezzullo

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenge, to say the least, and for non-profit organizations such as Yorktown-based Support Connection, the hurdles have been trickier than ever.

"When COVID hit, we knew that one thing had to remain constant. We had to continue offering our support services without interruption," said Katherine Quinn, Support Connection Executive Director. "While we had to work remotely, throughout the pandemic, our Peer Counselors have worked tirelessly to offer support and continue programs such as educational webinars, mediation, yoga. More than ever, people need support as they navigate cancer in the age of the COVID pandemic."

Since Support Connection does not receive funds from any national cancer organizations, including Relay for Life, Susan G. Komen or Making Strides, it relies heavily on donations raised for its annual Support-A-Walk for Breast and Ovarian Cancer, a celebration normally held the first Sunday in October where thousands gather at FDR State Park in Yorktown.

However, due to the health and safety restrictions of the pandemic, that live event is not possible. Instead, Support-A-Walk is going virtual on Sunday, October 4 with a theme of "Walk With Us, Wherever You Are."

"For years, we have been helping people nationwide. Now, rather than just making a donation to the Walk, people throughout the country are able to walk in their own communities, regardless of where they live," Quinn said. "While



(L-R): Marlena Horton, Joan Franich, and Arlene Swankie, of team "River Walk Bosom Buddies."

we will miss gathering thousands at FDR Park, it is encouraging and exciting to see people's enthusiasm for walking in their own neighborhoods and, most importantly, supporting our mission."

The financial goal of the Walk, according to Quinn, is \$250,000. With its spring fundraising activities hampered by the pandemic, Support Connection is hoping for a major boost from those who have always been behind the Walk.

The Support-A-Walk has been an important event for us every year, but this year it's even more important," Quinn said. "I have great faith in the people who believe in us. Every donation and every dollar counts, so I am counting on our supporters to help us reach our goal of raising \$250,000 for the Walk. Anyone who donates can

continued on page 18

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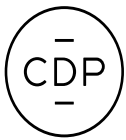
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Katherine Quinn, Support Connection Executive Director, displays what inspires her to be part of the Walk.

All of the women planning the “mini-walk” have personal reasons for being committed to Support Connection’s mission. Swankie, a Buchanan resident, has been involved since she attended her first Walk in 1999 in honor of a close friend who had breast cancer. Sadly, her friend died before the next Walk, but Swankie has participated every year since in her memory. For years she has volunteered at the event’s “Survivor Welcome Area.” She also serves as a Community Ambassador, sharing Walk info throughout her community, and attends many other Support Connection events. Three years ago, when her niece was diagnosed with breast cancer, Swankie immediately referred her to Support Connection for help.

Franich, a Montrose resident, became involved through her long friendship with Swankie who recruited her to volunteer at the Survivor’s Welcome Area with her. Soon the event took on more personal meaning for Franich. She went through breast cancer diagnosis and treatment in 1997, but never considered herself a “survivor,” feeling other women went through more than she did. However, speaking with one of Support Connection’s Peer Counselors at the Walk, Franich learned that anyone who hears the words “you have cancer” is a survivor and deserves recognition and support. From that moment, Franich felt validated and has enjoyed attending Support Connection’s Celebrate Life Day for cancer survivors each year.

Horton, also a Montrose resident, was diagnosed with breast cancer in late 2018. She learned of Support Connection through a co-worker in the Croton Harmon School District where she teaches, and relied on Support Connection’s Peer Counselors and support group to help her through treatment and recovery. For last year’s Walk, Horton

was involved with a team “Croton Teachers Association,” which walked and raised funds in honor of district staff who had dealt with breast or ovarian cancer. She joined the River Walk ladies this year after meeting Swankie through a family connection.

To learn more about the Support-A-Walk, or to donate or participate, visit www.supportconnection.org/support-a-walk, or contact Support Connection: 914.962-6402 or walk@supportconnection.org.

Barbara Cervoni, Director of Services and Communication at Support Connection, contributed to this article.

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truly say that they are making a difference in the life of someone dealing with breast or ovarian cancer. That is quite powerful.”

Friends Marlena Horton, Arlene Swankie, and Joan Franich have all attended the Walk enthusiastically in past years and decided not

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to let the pandemic stop them from walking and raising funds.

Calling themselves the “River Walk Bosom Buddies,” the three are planning a “mini-walk” with local friends and family. They’ll start at Lent’s Cove Park in Buchanan and walk along river. Mindful of the need to follow all social distancing and safety guidelines, they are being careful not to plan anything that would require large groups to congregate. In addition to raising funds with a Team online fundraising page, they’ll sell handmade masks for \$10 each with all proceeds to Support Connection.

Proceeds provide funding for Support Connection’s year-round breast and ovarian cancer support services. Create your own tee-shirts and personal messages about your reasons for walking, then send photos to walk@supportconnection.org so Support Connection can share them online as part of the celebration.

New Ossining Trail Aims to Boost Young Learners' Language, Engagement

There will be a lot more skipping, hopping, wiggling, looking and learning in Nelson Sitting Park, thanks to a new "Born Learning Trail" the Ossining School District and the United Way of Westchester and Putnam installed last week.

Ossining district staff, Village of Ossining employees and the United Way of Westchester and Putnam spent a couple hours putting up the polls and signs – in English and Spanish – for the 10-station trail. They painted yellow, orange, blue and red letters and designs along the pathway to encourage activities.

One sign asks parents and caregivers to point to the letters "A," "B" and "C," which are painted in red, green, orange and blue on the adjacent walkway, and make the sounds each letter makes. Then they can ask children to think of words that start with those letters, and come up with rhyming words.

Other signs suggest activities such as hopping like a frog, walking backward, making each other smile and laugh, comparing geometric shapes painted on the path, playing hopscotch and telling stories.

The trails are part of a nationwide effort by Born Learning and the United Way to promote quality engagement, bonding experiences and learning opportunities for children five and younger.

"These trails are really designed to connect what kids learn in the classroom



Ossining School District staff, the United Way of Westchester and Putnam, and Village of Ossining employees pose for a photo after installing a Born Learning Trail.

with what they experience in the real world, and it's for early childhood education," Avery Zuvic, director of community impact for the United Way of Westchester and Putnam, told volunteers as they began the project.

The group split up into teams, with one pounding the poles into the dirt, another attaching the signs to them, and a third painting the designs on the pathway.

Roosevelt School teachers Bianca Iacono and James Langelotti painted. They were among the district staff members who responded to an email from district Community Schools Leader Megan Mastrogiacono, who organized the effort. The teachers, both of whom are new in Ossining this year, said they were happy to have a chance to lend a hand, meet new people and get more involved in the

community.

Superintendent Raymond Sanchez said the school district received permission from the Village of Ossining to put the trail in the park. The trail fits in well with the Ossining Basics Initiative, which the district and community launched four years ago to boost early learners' language and literacy skills so they arrive at school ready to learn. One of the Ossining Basics principles is "talk, sing and point," which is along the lines of some of the trail activities.

"Clearly you want kids to go to the park, but this gives them an opportunity to develop language while they're here," Dr. Sanchez said.

Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students at Park School, directly across from Nelson Sitting Park, use the park on a regular basis. The trail will be particularly helpful for pre-kindergartners who are working on their gross motor skills, said Melisa Stoller, assistant principal at the school.

"We are so happy that the Born Learning Trail is bilingual. It gives access to people who speak English and Spanish," she said. "It is also a great way for parents to support their children to build oral language, relationships, have fun and learn how we use our bodies to communicate with others."

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New Castle Historical Society Announces New Virtual Program for Fall

The New Castle Historical Society is launching a new virtual program *Food for Thought: A Tasty Exploration of Food, History, Culture and Community*. The program is intended to connect participants to the rich agricultural history of the area and examine the effect food has on our lives. Whether it's through family recipes and traditions past down from generation to generation, a new or re-discovered passion for cooking or baking, supporting local farmers and locally sourced foods, or an interest in the food traditions of other cultures, food has the power to connect all of us. A series of online lectures and discussions will be curated throughout the fall and into the

winter with historians and other individuals that will explore these and more fascinating food related topics. Programs specifically for children are currently in development.

Our first virtual program is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21 at 7:00 pm is *"Cooking by the Book: Celebrity Chefs, Cookbooks, and the Changing Landscape of American Cuisine"*. Food historian Sarah Wassberg Johnson will bring participants on a journey through America's cuisine as told by cookbooks. Along the way we'll meet celebrity chefs obscure and familiar from all over the country and across the decades. Spanning the late 18th century to the present, Wassberg Johnson discusses how

cookbooks reflected and influenced changes in home cooking in the United States. The lecture will be via Zoom, registration information can be found at <https://www.newcastlehs.org/events/>.

Sarah Wassberg Johnson is The Food Historian - author, speaker, educator, podcaster, and blogger on all things related to food history. A frequent interviewee of journalists looking for historical context, she was featured in all three episodes of The History Channel mini-series, "The Food

That Built America" and has been featured on NPR, the Atlantic, CNN, Atlas Obscura, and more. She has published in *New York History* journal and the *Agricultural History* journal and is currently finalizing edits on her book, "Preserve or Perish: Food in New York State during the Great War, 1916-1919," under contract with SUNY Press.

For information on this or upcoming programs, contact Jennifer Plick, Executive Director at director@newcastlehs.org or 914-238-4666.

New Director Appointed for Chappaqua Library

The Chappaqua Library Board of Trustees has appointed a new director to fill the vacancy created over the summer.

Andrew Farber, who has been the director of the Somers Library for the past five years, will take over the role on Oct. 19 for the start of his one-year probationary period. The board was expected to make his hiring official last week.

Farber has worked successfully with the Somers Library Board and the Friends of the Library to create and implement policies and programming for patrons and staff. He created a partnership with Heritage Hills and expanded the library's community outreach with local businesses and schools. F

Farber, who began his career as a young

adult services librarian, currently chairs the Westchester Library System Public Library Directors Association Technology Committee.

"Andrew brings to us an extensive IT background along with experience in management, budgeting, long range planning, grant writing, staff training programs and community outreach," said Chappaqua Library Board President Pamela Wright.

He takes over for Pamela Thornton, who served in the same capacity since 2007 before retiring in early August. Martha Alcott has been serving as the Chappaqua Library's interim director.

—Martin Wilbur

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Gov. Cuomo Adds Five States to Travel, Quarantine List

By Anna Young

Travelers from five additional states will now be required to quarantine for two weeks upon entering New York. Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced on Tuesday that five states — Arizona, Minnesota, Nevada, Rhode Island, and Wyoming —

have been added to New York State’s COVID-19 travel advisory list. No areas or territories have been removed from the advisory, according to Cuomo. “The virus’ spread across the country — new cases have increased more than 15 percent in the last 10 days— makes it all the more urgent that we stay

vigilant here at home,” Cuomo said. “That’s why New Yorkers need to continue wearing masks, socially distancing and washing their hands in conjunction with the careful enforcement of local governments.” The list, which now includes 33 states, Guam and Puerto Rico, requires individuals traveling

to New York from areas with significant community spread of COVID-19 to quarantine for 14 days. An area with a positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents over a 7-day rolling average or an area with a 10 percent or higher positivity rate over a 7-day rolling average

will be considered a hazard to New York. Some of those states include South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Texas, Virginia, Delaware, Alabama, Illinois and Tennessee. The quarantine order has been in effect since June 25, with rules regulations also being enforced by New Jersey and Connecticut.

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It's not your fault that you have osteoarthritis. There are many reasons why this disease afflicts people. Heredity can be a major cause of osteoarthritis. If a parent or grandparent had it, it may be passed down to you. Other reasons for developing osteoarthritis include:

- Being overweight (medical factors can impact this, not just over-eating)
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patients feel improvement quickly and can resume activities they hadn't previously been able to do because of the pain.

About Arthritis Knee Pain Centers

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CDC Guidelines Warn Against Halloween Activities Amid COVID-19

By Anna Young

With Halloween quickly approaching, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a set of guidelines that discourage partaking in traditional holiday activities considered a high-risk for spreading COVID-19.

With the coronavirus still widespread throughout the country, CDC guidelines group Halloween activities into lower-risk, moderate-risk and higher-risk categories. The health institute recommends avoiding activities, such as door-to-door trick-or-treating, indoor costume parties, trunk-or-treat events, and indoor haunted houses.

Other high-risk activities include: Hayrides or tractor rides with people who are not in your household, using alcohol or drugs that could impair your judgment, and traveling to rural fall festivals outside of your community if you live in an area with a high percentage of COVID-19 cases.

Some safer but still moderately risky activities include one-way trick-or-treating, where individually wrapped bags are lined up for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance. The CDC recommends leaving these goodie bags at the end of the driveway or at the edge of a yard. Those preparing such bags



must wash their hands for at least 20 seconds, the guidelines state.

Having an outdoor parade where people are distanced more than 6-feet apart, attending a costume party held outdoors where protective masks are used and people remain distanced, attending an outdoor, one-way walk-through haunted forest where guidelines are adhered to are also considered a moderate risk.

If attending an outdoor haunted house where screaming is likely, greater distance between attendees is advised, according to the CDC.

Other moderate-risk activities can include, hosting a socially distanced

outdoor Halloween movie night with local family friends and visiting a pumpkin patch or orchard where health guidelines are followed and sanitizer is used before and after touching pumpkins or picking apples.

While costumes are a staple for Halloween, the CDC states a costume mask is not a substitute for a cloth face covering. A costume mask should not be used unless it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that covers the mouth and nose and doesn't leave gaps around the face, according to the CDC.

Furthermore, with the ability to breathe a concern, costume masks should not be worn over a protective covering.

While discouraged from engaging in typical Halloween festivities, the CDC offered a list of safe alternatives. Lower-risk activities include:

- Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them
- Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance, with neighbors or friends
- Decorating your house, apartment, or living space
- Doing a Halloween scavenger hunt where children are given lists of Halloween-themed things to look for while they walk outdoors from house to house admiring Halloween decorations at a distance
- Having a virtual Halloween costume contest
- Having a Halloween movie night with people you live with
- Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house

If you may have COVID-19 or may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, the CDC urges to avoid participating in any in-person Halloween festivities or giving out candy to trick-or-treaters.

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Beginning an Exploration of Modern-Day Italian Grapes



By Nick Antonaccio

The wines of Italy have been popular in the United States for decades. Until a few years ago, however, a select number of offerings dominated these wines. Many Americans are familiar with the "Italian Big Four" table wines, as I refer to them: Chianti, Pinot Grigio, Montepulciano d'Abruzzo and Prosecco. These wines are perennially the best-selling Italian wines. In the last twenty years, a new wave of wines has reached our shores and is beginning to gain a following. Primitivo and Nero d'Avola are increasingly popular reds, while Vernaccia, Verdicchio and Falanghina are the rising whites.

Over the last ten years, however, additional Italian wines - ones you've likely never heard of - have become available in your local wine shop. These wines come from producers who have farmed their land for generations, growing indigenous grapes that, historically, were sold and consumed locally. These winemakers tend to be small, multi-generational producers who farm organically. It is the current generation who has transformed the Italian wine industry from its mass-production, low-quality reputation of the 1960s and 1970s to

its current low-yield, high-quality reputation across the globe.

Older grapes that had fallen from popularity have been re-introduced; traditional wines have been improved and are competing more favorably in the world wine markets. Underscoring this movement is the marketing savvy young Italians have introduced to their elders: prices have declined and quality and diversity have increased - a perfect combination for the American market. These young winemakers, many of whose families have been producing wine for hundreds of years, are being afforded the opportunity for a sophisticated, formal wine education and are able to avail themselves of cutting edge techniques and the latest in technological equipment - all available through European Union subsidies that didn't exist twenty years ago.

As a result, Italy is undergoing a winemaking revolution that is enhancing the reputation of its traditional wines and creating an international stir with its "new" indigenous wines.

There are over one thousand indigenous varieties cultivated in Italy. Slowly, but surely, the wines of these grapes are becoming available on the shelves of your local wine shop.

If you've travelled to Italy in the past and enjoyed wines at local trattorias in the hills of Tuscany or at the numerous enotecas in

Piedmont or the Veneto, only to find that these wines were unheard of when you returned home, take heart. Be prepared to relive those special moments from your trip to the medieval hilltop town of San Gimignano through a glass of Vernaccia. Or your afternoon basking in the sun at a sidewalk café in Positano through a glass of Falanghina.

Haven't been to Italy? Not sure when you'll be able (and comfortable enough) to travel there after the heavy cloud of these continuing pandemic times lifts?

You now have the opportunity to gain a narrow insight into La Dolce Vita and a new perspective to understand Italian history and culture.

Allow me to introduce you to an expansive - but not expensive - array of little known Italian wines. My goal is to broaden your awareness and appreciation of these wines and perhaps find your new "favorite" wine.

Next week I'll reprise a multi-part series on these unknown grape varieties. I'll focus on select regions and offer profiles of the history of specific grapes as well as aroma and flavor profiles of each. Recommendations from local wine merchants will be provided to introduce you to praiseworthy producers.

Here are several of the grape varieties I'll be focusing on: whites - Fiano, Inzolia,

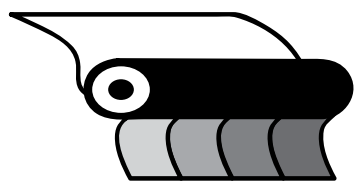


Grillo, Pecorino; reds - Aglianico, Teroldego, Uva di Troia, Lagrein.

Soon, these grapes-you've-never-heard-of may be embedded in your glossary of favorite wines. I'm sure you'll enjoy seeking them out when you once again browse the aisles of your favorite wine shop. Following the recommended COVID protocols won't seem so bothersome.

Nick Antonaccio is a 45-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years, he has conducted numerous 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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There Are Good Reasons Why Everyone Loves Mars

For all the good they do, all their old-timey-Tweeting of what's going on in our heads, sticky notes have a dark side.

Let me share this one with you that I found on my desk recently, in its all unpunctuated glory: Mars

That's it. I'm baffled, too.

Maybe I was thinking that Mars isn't the biggest, or the wettest. It's not the – how should I say this – ringiest, and doesn't have the most moons. It's not the “-est”-est of any of our solar system's planets.

What it has going for it, though, is it's fairly close, it's rocky, like Earth, is cool enough that it won't melt any robots we send there (I'm looking at you, Venus) and has an

atmosphere that's thin enough that astronomers can look straight down to its surface from many millions of miles away. All of that wouldn't have fit on that tiny yellow square.

For over 40 years, we've sent robots exploring, and there are nine active missions of one kind or another there now. Add in all the books, movies and stories about little green men. Everyone loves Mars. There are a lot

of reasons why people talk so much about living there someday.

Planets are among the sky's brightest objects, so they're easy to pick out. Watching them now is a subtle and simple thing that lets us look back through human time and connect with our countless generations of ancestors who looked to the skies to help push through their own difficult times, like we are now. With the naked eye and its deep red color, which comes mostly from iron oxide on its surface – the same stuff in the rust on your fence posts – Mars always stops me cold.

Through October, Mars is easy to spot in the east by mid-evening. If you need a hand finding it, head out this Friday, Oct. 2. That night, it rides the sky together with the just-past-full moon. They'll appear closer

together than the width of the outstretched finger you'll use to point them out to your friends.

On Oct. 13, Mars reaches opposition, the point when it's directly opposite the sun in our sky. This is the same arrangement as when the moon is full, only Mars is much farther away.

Like the full moon, objects at opposition tend to be at the brightest. So, it'll be an especially great night to try to have a look.

Imagine what the view is like from there, too.

Since we're looking at the fully lit face of Mars in our nighttime sky, anyone watching there – mostly robots we sent – have the darkened night side of our planet in their daytime



By Scott Levine

sky. The planet will stay bright and beautiful in our sky as autumn goes on. Remember, Jupiter and Saturn are still shining in the south.

Speaking of full moons, we have two this month. One on Oct. 1, and the other on Halloween night, Oct 31.

Mars is a lot like home, so maybe that sticky note was just a reminder of that, and a reminder to go look, just like the ancients

did. I hope you'll take a look, too.

Scott Levine (astroscott@yahoo.com) is an astronomy writer and speaker from Croton-on-Hudson. He is also a member of the Westchester Amateur Astronomers, who are dedicated to astronomy outreach in our area. For information about the club including membership, newsletters, upcoming meetings and lectures at Pace University, and star parties at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, visit westchesterastronomers.org. Events are free and open to the public. Please Note: All in-person club activities are suspended until further notice due to COVID-19 concerns.

Clear Skies



Full Moon
October 1



Last Quarter
October 9



New Moon
October 16



First Quarter
October 23



Full Moon
October 31

The phases of the moon for the month of October.



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THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

(F)all In! The autumnal, or fall, equinox took place last week. Autumn and fall are used interchangeably for the season between summer and winter, and both are used in American and British English. While autumn is older, coming into English in the late 1300's, fall occurs more often in American English. To celebrate the new season, the quiz words each contain the letters "all," as in fall.

1. fallible (adj.)

A) inactive

B) capable of making an error

C) tending to mislead

2. wallow (v.)

A) to indulge oneself

B) hit with force

C) go on strike

3. sally (n.)

A) a high point

B) a presentation

C) a rush forward

4. galling (adj.)

A) intensely stimulating

B) self-sacrificing

C) markedly irritating

5. allay (v.)

A) to set apart

B) reduce in intensity

C) form a connection

6. callow (adj.)

A) lacking maturity

B) free from excitement

C) misty

7. spall (v.)

A) to incite

B) break into pieces

C) extend across

8. callithump (n.)

A) an identifying mark

B) an inner impulse

C) a noisy parade

- ANSWERS:
1. B. Capable of making an error
 2. A. To indulge oneself to a great degree in
 3. C. A sudden rush forward or leap
 4. C. Causing extreme irritation or chagrin; mark-
 5. B. To calm or pacify (an emotion); reduce in
 6. A. Lacking adult maturity or experience; im-
 7. B. To break apart (ore, rock, stone, or concrete)
 8. C. A noisy boisterous band or parade

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Especially in a Pandemic, There's No Place Like Home

Judy Garland (as Dorothy Gale) said it best in "The Wizard of Oz:" There's no place like home. Never has that rung truer than during the past few months when all of us have been quarantined in our domiciles. And, if we must stay close to home, it's best that we enjoy being there.

Who at home cares if I don't shave or brush my hair? Who at home cares if I choose to stay in my pajamas all day? Even better, who cares (much less knows) if I choose to "veg" out and do absolutely nothing but enjoy doing absolutely nothing? As a realtor, it wouldn't be smart to stay home all day, especially at a time when city folk are clamoring to relocate from the teeming metropolis to the open spaces of suburbia which we enjoy in the area.

In a past generation, we didn't have the Internet to connect us to the world, both to our work and the encyclopedia of information at our fingertips. In the old days, we might have had to rely on crossword puzzles and private reflection to keep us from going mad, anchored to one location, but that is not the case today. As long as the Internet works, we are without walls or boundaries. But still, sometimes we might feel that we absolutely must transport our bodies to another place.



By Bill Primavera

This past weekend, after pretty much staying within the confines of our four walls for five months, we decided to venture out and take a one-day road trip. Fortunately, the options for one-day travel in our area are great, whether we choose to go north to the deep country, south to the city, or even east or west, no matter where they lead. We chose to go north to one of our favored destinations which is Hudson, New York, about an hour-and-a-half away. It's an old 19th Century whaling town which today is a lively center of antiques stores, cafes and other attractions to draw visitors.

We stopped at a roadside stand offering honey and fresh donuts. Maybe it's because we were hungry, but they were the tastiest donuts I can ever recall inhaling.

But by the end of the day of touring, we were happy to be back home where we could relax without having to worry about wearing a mask or maintaining our distance from other people.

So, what makes a great place to call home at a time when all of us are spending much more time there? Let me think about why and how we can all enjoy staying at home more as a pleasure than a restriction.

First, I would hope that we all live in attractive places where we can visually



enjoy our surroundings. An inviting home will have good chairs in which you can sit comfortably and good beds that will lull you to sleep.

There will also be things to look at.

In the case of my wife and me, we have spent a lifetime collecting things: little antique treasures that recall a past lifetime that was slower. We don't have a lot of clutter, but rather an edited collection of our favorite things. In my case, I like 19th Century oil portraits of "adopted" ancestors and antique playing marbles made of end-of-day glass. That glass

made "swirlies" where streams of colored glass left over from a glass factory's daily production when into these playing marbles with their twists and turns.

For years, my wife collected little boxes...pill boxes and other kinds of boxes made of porcelain and other materials.

Of course, there are television sets in every room to stay connected, and in our home, we purchased a good sound system to enjoy our favorite SiriusXM stations.

Actually, I should have listed first the accommodations to receive family and guests who currently can visit (with masks) to enjoy good company and lively conversation. It's what we've missed most since the pandemic set itself upon us, but fortunately there is Zoom and cell phones, but those don't fully take the place of being physically close.

Eventually there will be a vaccine and living will return to normal but, until then, we can count our blessings if we're staying healthy and can look forward to when we can enjoy closer contact with our loved ones and friends.

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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Some Recent Releases Worth Checking Out on the Small Screen

By Rick M. Pezzullo

As we head into the fall season, we are all starving for new movies and content. However, COVID-19 restrictions in New York have limited our access to movie theaters and major studios don't want to take the risk of releasing films without knowing that we are on the other side of this pandemic. Nonetheless, here are a few films from the summer that are certainly worth checking out.



By Rick M. Pezzullo

The King of Staten Island

This comedy/drama, directed by Judd Apatow, is a pseudo-biography of acclaimed SNL star, Pete Davidson. The film follows Scott Carlin, played by Davidson, as he attempts to find direction in his life and rebuild himself emotionally after losing his firefighter father to a hotel fire when he was young. As a result, Scott struggles with drugs, work ethic, and managing the relationships in his life. His life gets even more complicated when his mother, Marisa Tomei, gets romantically involved with another firefighter, played by Bill Burr. While certainly not a movie

to jobs that require them to put their life on the line. Overall, The King of Staten Island is a triumph for the comedy/drama genre and will have you laughing as much as it has you realizing the harsh reality of those affected by family loss. Rating: 9/10

Palm Springs

While romantic comedies tend to have most of us rolling our eyes at the cliches and predictability of the plot, Palm Springs certainly delivers an original concept. Nyles, who is played by Andy Samberg, has been stuck in an infinite time loop that has him repeating the same day and wedding for as long as he can remember. One night,

during one of the millionth reiterations, Sarah, played by Cristin Milioti, follows him into a cave that ultimately gets her stuck in the same time loop. Nyles and Sarah develop a close relationship as they bond over the hopelessness of their current situation and the regrets of their past lives. While the plot is ridiculous at the surface, the movie develops the few characters very nicely and had me laughing from start to finish. Samberg puts in a solid performance, while Milioti succeeds in portraying a relatable, yet charming counterpart. I found myself surprised by how much I liked this movie and found it to have a good balance of levity mixed with relatability to real-world problems and emotional hardship. Palm Springs won't cost you much if you already have Hulu and is the perfect date night film that won't make you vomit from terrible writing and overdone acting. Rating: 9/10

Emma

Released right before the pandemic began, Emma, based on the Jane Austen

book of the same name, is a period comedy/drama starring Anya Taylor-Joy. Emma Woodhouse is a wealthy woman living in England who likes to matchmake and interfere with her friends' love lives. While playing the role of Cupid, her hubris eventually gets in the way and causes her to harm many of her close relationships as well as blind her to potential love for herself. The film has a similar vibe to the critically acclaimed movie, The Favourite, due to its quick wit, talking and walking style, and extravagant costume design. There were moments when I felt I was getting a bit lost in the plot, but overall the film succeeded in being interesting enough to get me to want to find out what becomes of each character. I felt as though the movie was missing a standout performance, but nonetheless, it provides an entertaining ride through 19th Century England with a protagonist that you're rooting for to find true happiness. Rating: 7/10



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A Cornucopia Of Fall Flavors

by Morris Gut

Autumn is in full swing! The air is crisp, apples falling to the ground at area orchards just waiting to be picked. Trees putting on their annual Technicolor light show along highways and byways. Area markets selling their late season harvest of squash, apples, pumpkins, and hearty root vegetables. Restaurant kitchens are geared up with the best the season has to offer. There are many comforting flavors awaiting us at area markets and eateries right now. Follow Covid guidelines and Stay Safe...

Oktoberfest on a rail car in valhalla.

Personable owner Stan Chelluck operates this bustling vintage old stationhouse next to Valhalla's Metro North. Over the years, he has spruced up the railroad cars, facade and sweeping bar, and offers flavorful 'authentic rail car dining'. The kitchen, which serves an eclectic menu of American tavern specialties, will have a special Oktoberfest menu in effect all month: hearty Sauerbraten, Bratwurst, Wiener Schnitzel, Potato Pancakes, even a sampler platter, along with a selection of Oktoberfest & Pumpkin beers and Riesling wine. Portions are generous.

Valhalla Crossing Restaurant & Bar is located at 2 Cleveland Street, Valhalla, just off the Taconic Parkway and across from Broadway, Valhalla's main commercial strip. The restaurant is open Tuesday thru Sunday for lunch and dinner. Seasonal outdoor seating. Free parking. Phone: 914-682-4076. www.valhallacrossing.com

Oktoberfest brews at Wolf & Warrior, White Plains.

Wolf & Warrior Brewing in White Plains is the brainchild of Michael Chiltern, a micro-brewery and restaurant that features house-brewed beer, farm-to-table cuisine, and in-house roasted coffee. The daily larder is posted on big blackboards overlooking the bar area. I pop in from time to time and watch the actual brewing takes place on the lower level.

The main level is a long sprawling space designed in an understated brauhaus mode with unadorned tables and chairs. The walls are highlighted by brewing artworks and artifacts. There is a lounge area in the front as you enter. There is a popular outdoor beer garden in the rear where you can see hops growing. Seasonal sidewalk seating, too, on E. Post Road.

Wolf & Warrior holds the distinction of being the only brewer located in White Plains.

While there taste the flavorful sausages and brats, tacos and fixin's off the menu along with a couple of brews. I must say, the signature B127 NEIPA is a good one. We were told Oktoberfest Braufest brews and specialties will be available all month.

Wolf & Warrior is located at 195A East Post Road, White Plains. Open Tuesday thru Sunday. Municipal parking. 914-368-8617 www.wolfandwarrior.com

German specialties at Nadine's, Yorktown ZHeights.

Christian and Pamela Schienle along with son Jagger took over the former Jennifer's Restaurant and combined many of their German specialties with French/European classics. They have a spacious beer garden and offer such hearty dishes as: Roasted Pork Shoulder with potatoes and onions; Jagerschnitzel, Wienerschnitzel, Trio of Sausages, Sauerbraten, a Butcher's Plate, even Spatzle Mac and Cheese. Save room for the fresh Apple Strudel and Black Forest Cake. The Schienle family also operate Sel et Poivre, a long running French bistro in Manhattan.

Nadine's is located at 715 Saw Mill River Road, Yorktown Heights. Open 7 days. Check ahead for exact hours of operation. 914-962-4298 www.nadinesrestaurant.com

Hearty fall fare on the patio at Alex's Bar & Grille.

This restaurant could make a fine stop on your fall dining tour. Marking his 8th year, proprietor Alex Ahmetaj, a veteran of the restaurant-hospitality field, has updated the menu at Alex's Bar & Grille on North Broadway in North White Plains, a 120-seat restaurant and bar/lounge that offers big cuts of classic prime aged steaks and chops along with generously served Northern Italian/Continental fare.

Customers enter the multi-section dining room thru the inviting bar/lounge with its black industrial ceiling, banquets, and soft lighting. The handsome dining room is split into cozy sections with white tablecloths, colorful deVelleneuve impressionist paintings, and warming sconces. Mediterranean clay colored banquets and chairs compliment wooden walls and plush beige curtained windows. There is outdoor patio seating with heaters, weather permitting.

The menu offers such tasty appetizers as: Baked Clams, Pan-Fried Calamari with Hot Cherry Peppers, Jumbo Broiled Shrimp, Crab Meat Cocktail, and Clams on the Half



The Wolf & Warrior Brewing in White Plains, a micro-brewery and restaurant that features house-brewed beer, farm-to-table cuisine, and in-house roasted coffee.

Shell. There is a Cold Antipasti Platter, too. Fresh salads include: Burrata, Alex's Chopped Salad, Asparagus Vinaigrette, Fresh Mozzarella with Sliced Tomatoes; classic Caesar Salad, and Sliced Tomato and Onion. Warming soups include: Pasta Fagioli and Escarole with Beans.

Big bowl pastas include fine versions of Linguini ala Vongole with white or red sauce; Giant Shrimp Pasta; Fettuccine Alfredo with cream sauce; Gnocchi Bolognese with meat sauce; Penne ala Vodka, and Eggplant Parmigiana.

Hearty seafood, chicken and veal dishes include: popular Veal Parmigiana; Veal

Campagnola; fresh Sea Bass prepared in a variety of styles; Chicken Portabella with sliced portabella mushrooms; Veal Portofino, rolled with prosciutto and mozzarella served over rice with shitake mushrooms in a brown sauce; Lemon Sole Marechiara with clams and calamari; Chicken Scarpariello prepared on or off the bone; and Veal Saltimbocca with prosciutto, eggplant and mozzarella. The fresh Branzino prepared tableside is a delicious indulgence. Daily specialties augment the regular menu.

Carnivores will enjoy selections From the Grill featuring such big value priced prime cuts as: Ribeye Steak, Filet Mignon, N.Y. Sirloin Steak, Lamb Chops, Pork Chops with sautéed green and sweet peppers, and Veal Paillard, and hearty Veal Chop Valdostana. Addicting sides include: hash brown potatoes, creamed spinach, sautéed broccoli, and asparagus. To complement your meal there is a fine wine cellar.

Alex's Bar & Grille is located at 577 North Broadway, N. White Plains, N.Y. The restaurant is open 7 days a week from noon. Lunch is served Monday thru Friday: noon to 3 p.m. Main courses: \$14.95 to \$25.95. Dinner main courses: \$15.95 to \$54.95. Major credit cards. Proper casual dress. Free parking. Reservations accepted. Phone: 914-358-1444. www.alex577.com

Morris Gut is a restaurant consultant and former restaurant trade magazine editor. He has been tracking and writing about the food and dining scene in greater Westchester for 30 years. He may be reached at: 914-235-6591. E-mail: gutreactions@optonline.net.

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