

"The October Storm" at Hudson Stage
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The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER Examiner

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



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October 5 - October 11, 2021

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 615

Nurses Demand Contract from NY-Presbyterian/HV Hospital

By Rick Pezzullo

Since December 2018, an estimated 260 nurses employed at NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt have been seeking a new contract.

Frustrated from stalled negotiations and weary from working shifts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic with reduced staff, approximately 40 nurses, joined by several area elected officials, rallied outside the hospital September 30 to put pressure on hospital administrators to reward their dedication and hard work.

"Nurses need to be put in a position to give quality service," said Kate Gregorio, a maternity nurse who works in the same unit where she was born. "Patients are suffering and we as nurses are suffering."

Renee Mauro, who maintained staffing levels at the hospital were below its own operational standards, said beside adequate staffing, nurses were looking for fair wages and guaranteed retirement benefits.

"They want to extend this as long as they can," said Mauro, a maternity nurse for 25 years.

Albert Liberatore, a representative from



PHOTO BY RICK PEZZULLO

Nurses outside NewYork Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt.

Teamsters Local 456, contended hospital officials should treat nurses "like heroes, not zeroes."

"These nurses risk their lives every day," he said. "Give these essential workers what they deserve—a fair contract."

Peekskill Councilwoman Vanessa Agudelo also lambasted hospital higher-ups for not reaching a deal with the nurses.

"The way you have been treated by this hospital is abysmal," Agudelo said. "You shouldn't have to choose between your well-

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Lakeland School Superintendent Lyons Abruptly Resigns

By Rick Pezzullo

Lakeland Superintendent of Schools Dr. Brendan Lyons abruptly resigned last week after only 14 months heading the largest school district in the region.

The Board of Education officially accepted Lyons' September 30 resignation at a special meeting Saturday morning by a 7-2 vote. Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Dr. Karen Gagliardi switched into the role of Acting Superintendent of Schools until an Interim Superintendent is appointed.

"We trust that our Lakeland community will work together to make this time of transition as seamless as possible for everyone," Board of Education President Adam Kaufman stated. "Our focus is, and always will be, the well-being of the children of this district."

In his farewell letter to the community, Lyons stated he was departing "to tend to family matters and pursue other opportunities."

"It has been with great pride that I have served as your Superintendent these

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Examiner+ Digital Newsmagazine Launches; Online Subscriptions Available

Examiner Media unveiled a new digital newsmagazine last week, offering readers free and paid subscription options to its new premium coverage.

The digital newsmagazine, Examiner+ will be published on the emerging Substack e-mail newsletter and website platform. Differentiating the newsmagazine from Examiner Media's print and website publications is pivotal, said Digital Editorial Director Robert Schork, the former editorial director of the award-winning Westchester Magazine and 914INC.

"As an established group of trusted local newspapers, Examiner Media's roots and connections run long and deep in our community," Schork said. "We're looking to leverage those local connections and expertise to expand our service platform beyond traditional 'hard' news coverage with our newest offering, Examiner+."

Readers can envision a Time or Newsweek magazine journalistic treatment for local news compared to, say, a New York Times or Wall Street Journal report in distinguishing the unique approach of Examiner+.

"By approaching the reporting, writing and delivery of our stories in that way, we're combining all the visual bells and whistles and the editorial sensibilities that a magazine-style treatment can bring to bear," Schork said. "This means going deeper, wider and longer in the storytelling while employing quality color photography, infographics and other multimedia elements when appropriate. Our goal is to inform, enlighten, and hopefully, have a little fun along the way."

Subscribers to Examiner+ will enjoy exclusive content delivered directly to their inbox several times a week, including in-depth news reports of important issues; local lifestyle pieces on topics ranging from food and dining and home and garden to the arts and entertainment and more; insightful

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Examiner Media, an award-winning local news publisher since 2007, is the first existing print and web newspaper in the world to start a new publication on the Substack platform. After winning a \$75,000 cash advance from Substack this spring, Examiner Media started a pilot version of the publication this summer and invested further in the project, hiring full-time reporter Bailey Hosfelt and a new team of veteran freelance contributors.

Subscribing to Examiner+ provides readers with an opportunity to receive premium local content while also investing in the future of independent local journalism more broadly, Publisher Adam Stone said. If Examiner+ is a revenue success, other newspaper publishers can follow the new model.

"We couldn't be more excited to broaden our journalistic horizons into the newsmagazine space," Stone said. "Our ambitious goal is to blaze a new trail in local journalism, decoding the best way to finance professionally-reported, fact-checked local journalism in the digital age. With enough reader revenue support over the next year, we'll be able to trumpet a new way forward to the industry for community newspapers across the country and the world."

Hamish McKenzie, a writer himself, co-founded the California-based Substack in 2017 and announced the company's million-dollar investment in the Substack Local program in April. The program is designed to accelerate the launch and success of

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Comptroller Insists GOP Chair's Budget Claims Don't Add Up

By Rick Pezzullo

One of the hallmarks of Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi's 30-year administration has been the town's financial record, but Cortlandt Republican Committee Chairman Daniel Pagano is charging the picture isn't as rosy as painted.

Pagano, an attorney who took out a two-page ad in this week's newspaper to illustrate his contentions, claims the town has been running deficits nine of the last 10 years, resulting in withdrawals from its reserve account to balance the budgets.

"Our elected officials have intentionally misled the public regarding the financial condition of the town," contended Pagano while announcing the Republican slate of candidates will also be running on an independent line called Cortlandt United.

"Rising taxes and decreasing net financial position of Town of Cortlandt is evident and NOT transparent by the current administration," Pagano said.

However, Town Comptroller Patricia Robcke countered Pagano's criticism, stressing his claims don't add up as evidenced by a recent Moody's credit upgrade that noted, "The rating also reflect the town's robust and growing tax base."

In response to Pagano's deficits remarks, Robcke explained the budget document in general does not show "running deficits."

"The annual budget projects what the town anticipates receiving in revenues and spending in the year ahead. It projects current year expenses and revenues and the past two years' actual data. The

financial statements show increases and decreases in fund balances on a fund level," she stated.

As far as Pagano's claims that the town's fund balances have decreased by \$8.6 million for the last 10 years, Robcke said that was false, maintaining Cortlandt maintained a stable fund balance, with increases in years 2013, 2016, 2018 and 2019.

She explained the change in fund balance is due to capital fund expenditures. "Bond anticipation notes were secured for these capital projects in 2020. Capital fund balance will be replenished when the town bonds for these projects in the future," Robcke stated.

Meanwhile, in addressing Pagano's claims that town taxes have gone up 25 percent the last several years, Robcke said a financial report available on the town's website clearly shows "a continually increasing tax base and rate increases over the past 10 years to be 14% in total or only 1.4% annually on average."

Puglisi also made reference to the town's financial standing in a statement she posted on the town's website last week.

"On average only a 1% town tax increase, low town debt, met the New York State tax cap every year, filled vacant positions, purchased new vehicles and equipment and at the same time more than tripled our fund balance (the town's saving account) over the years, and will continue this fiscal responsibility for this budget, as well," Puglisi stated. "So, I am pleased to tell you I leave the town in excellent financial shape when I retire at the end of December 2021."

Lakeland School Super Abruptly Resigns

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past 14 months, as we navigated the ups and downs of the pandemic. I couldn't be prouder of our community working together to ensure a full return to in-person learning this September," Lyons wrote. "Whatever the future may hold, please remain unified in service to the children of Lakeland."

Lyons had raised the ire of many parents of his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and not mandating in-person learning last year. He also took flak from some circles for implementing Critical Race Theory.

Save Our Schools (SOS) for Westchester Children Founder/CEO Angela Barone Sculti maintained Lyons' resignation "must be a wake-up call for school administrators across Westchester, namely, that parents will not stand by as their children are taught to hate America and hate one another, by viewing their fellow students as oppressors or oppressed."

"We will remain vocal in Lakeland and other communities which permit the teaching of Critical Race Theory in all of its various forms," she stated. "Today's vote and announcement on the resignation of the superintendent affirms the efforts of the community members and parents who have been fighting for transparency to ensure that the children of Lakeland Central School

District will not be indoctrinated."

"I congratulate the 1,100 district residents who signed a petition against the teaching of Critical Race Theory in all of its various forms in Lakeland. Regrettably, the Superintendent failed to listen to the communities' concerns and even denied what 1,100 community members understand – that implementing a radical teaching/learning paradigm — Critical Race Theory and its multiple forms, including, among others, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education will fundamentally change how our children think, learn, and make life-changing decisions," Barone Sculti continued.

Judy McLaughlin, Chairwoman of the Lakeland Chapter of SOS, added, "I want to truly thank the diverse men and women of the Lakeland Central School District community, who united to stand up against Critical Race Theory. Together, we were able to bring truth and transparency to the Lakeland Board of Education. Together, we will be supporting the Lakeland Central School District going forward. We ask all school district communities to join the SOS team because we still have a great deal of work to do."

Dylewski Appointed New Police Chief in Peekskill

By Rick Pezzullo

A longtime member of the Peekskill Police Department was appointed the new chief of the police force last week.

Leo Dylewski, who joined Peekskill Police in August 2020, replaces Don Halmy, who announced last month he was retiring after less than three years as chief.

"I'm humbled and honored to give back to the community that has given so much to me," Dylewski told the Common Council on September 27 at City Hall with several fellow officers, family and friends in attendance. "I have deep ties to this community."

Dylewski attended the Westchester County Police Academy after being hired by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection Police in 1999. Throughout his career in Peekskill, he has been community oriented, specializing in helping the youth throughout the city. In 2004, he became a DARE Officer and in 2005 began working with the Community Policing Unit. Soon after became a trained Juvenile Officer.

Appointment to those positions collectively forged a strong and positive relationship within the Peekskill City School District where Dylewski taught and mentored youths for more than 15 years.

Following his reassignment to the Patrol Division, he continued his outreach to the

public, building strong ties throughout the community. In 2014, after being promoted to Sergeant, he maintained a presence within the department's youth and community programs coordinating the City's DARE and GREAT programs. He also served as the commanding officer of the Auxiliary Police Program.

In 2017 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and played a vital role in the implementation of the DARE program for the Town of Cortlandt. In 2019, he was reassigned to Lieutenant Patrol Commander tasked with maintaining the day-to-day operations of the Patrol Division.

Dylewski has served as President of both the State of New York Police Juvenile Officers Association and the Westchester County Youth Officer's Association and continues to sit on those boards. He earned a bachelor's degree in Community and Human Services from SUNY Empire State College in 2013 and a master's degree in Public Administration from Marist College in 2016.

"My key goals include implementing the recommendations outlined in the Police Reform mandate, which includes strengthening and fostering strong community engagement, expanding services to those who suffer with mental health related issues, and advanced training courses for our officers," he said.

Nurses Demand Contract from NY-Presbyterian/HV Hospital

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being and a patient's well-being. It's been far too long. Thank you for putting your livelihoods at risk."

NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital issued a statement pledging their support of the nursing staff.

"As we continue to navigate unprecedented challenges associated with the pandemic, the well-being of our team is paramount to us---their safety and the safety of our patients and the community is always our top priority," the hospital stated. "We value our dedicated nurses and their continued contributions to the numerous regional and national recognitions our hospital

has received for clinical excellence and outstanding patient outcomes. Our goal in the ongoing negotiations for a first contract with NYNSA is to reach a fair agreement that recognizes the remarkable work our nurses do every day."

Cortlandt Councilman Dr. Richard Becker, a cardiologist formerly affiliated with the hospital, expressed optimism a deal will get done.

"I do believe in the end the administration will do the right thing," he said. "We need to make sure our nurses are paid equitable across the region. They are skilled workers, they are dedicated workers and they put their lives on the line for us."

Examiner+ Digital Newsmagazine Launches

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See special print section supplement inside for excerpts of newsmagazine articles from our pilot publication.

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COVID Cases Decline as Officials Hope Delta Impact Lessens

By Martin Wilbur and Rick Pezzullo

A noticeable drop in the number of COVID-19 cases locally and throughout the state has officials hopeful that the summer surge fueled by the Delta variant may be waning.

Westchester reported that the active cases have fallen to 1,668 as of Sunday, a drop of nearly 500 cases from a week earlier. For the five-day period ending Oct. 2, the statewide positivity rate was less than 3 percent each day, the first time that has occurred since July.

"We hope that this is the trend, but we still have to see what happens as the weather gets colder, as we move indoors and the disease spread more easily indoors than outdoors," Westchester County Executive George Latimer said. "So we're by no means through the worst of this, but we are progressing ahead and we think these numbers are very encouraging."

There had been a late August high of 2,836 active cases. COVID-19-related hospitalizations in Westchester have dropped to 52 less than half of the 110 from late August.

Another encouraging sign is Westchester has reached an 89.1 percent vaccination rate. As of Sunday, there were 735,541 residents 18 years old and up who have received at least one dose of a vaccine, while 658,317 have completed the series, Latimer said.

In the region, Westchester had an infection rate on Saturday of 1.3 percent, the lowest in the seven-county Mid Hudson region.

Putnam County stood at 2.9 percent as the active number of cases has risen to 158 as of last week. There are two patients hospitalized in Putnam with COVID-19. Its vaccination rate is 83.6 percent, according to the state tracker.

The county vaccination sites at the County Center in White Plains and the it's the Health Department clinics in White Plains and Yonkers are not yet administering COVID-19 booster shots, Latimer said. There are pharmacies and health care providers around the county that are giving boosters.

Recently, Pfizer was approved to give a third dose to people 65 years old and up and for those who are younger but are immunocompromised. Booster shots for the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines have not yet been approved and vaccines cannot be mixed.

In Putnam County, the Department of Health is only giving boosters at its immunization clinics along with certain health care providers and pharmacies.

Peekskill, Neighbors Link Partner on Vaccinations

The City of Peekskill has entered into a contract with Neighbors Link to help increase the COVID-19 vaccination rate for Hispanic residents.

Under a professional services agreement unanimously approved by the Common Council on Sept. 27, the Mount Kisco-based immigrant advocacy organization will be compensated up to \$50,312 to implement a variety of outreach methods in the city now through June 30, 2022.

City officials have estimated that 40 percent of Peekskill's population is of Hispanic origin. City Manager Andy Stewart said almost 75 percent of city residents have received at least

one dose of a COVID-19 shot, leaving about 6,000 residents still unvaccinated.

"I'm really excited about this partnership," said Councilwoman Vanessa Agudelo. "They have a willingness to partner with community leaders to identify people who haven't received their shots."

Neighbors Link Executive Director Carola Bracco and Chief Strategy and Development Officer Laura Newman told the council they have already successfully assisted about 1,200 individuals get the COVID-19 vaccine.

"I have seen this one-on-one work is the most effective way for people to get vaccinated," Bracco said. "We have not come across many people who are adamantly opposed to getting vaccinated."

As part of its efforts, Neighbors Link will identify congregate events, community leaders and local vaccinated people to create peer-to-peer educational outreach and partner with Peekskill companies that have high numbers of immigrant employees to provide education to owners and possible vaccine points of distribution for workers.

Bracco noted Neighbors Link will also offer incentives to try to entice individuals to get the vaccine.

"I think the Neighbors Link proposal sounds terrific," said Councilman Dwight Douglas.

According to data provided by Westchester County, Peekskill has had 4,204 cases of COVID-19 since the pandemic started. There were 54 reported active cases in the city.

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Mt. Kisco, New Castle Must Pay Country Club Tax Cert Settlement

By Martin Wilbur

A recent settlement in a tax certiorari filed by the Mount Kisco Country Club will cost two municipalities extra money but avoids potentially costlier litigation.

Two weeks ago, the Mount Kisco Village Board approved a settlement with the 166-acre golf course that will see the village pay out \$88,435 to the club. Another \$118,611 will come from the schools and \$25,814 from Westchester County.

The Town of New Castle had scheduled a vote on its portion of the settlement for last Thursday night's meeting but that session was postponed.

The country club had challenged the village's assessments from 2017 through 2021.

According to an outline of the settlement from Village Assessor Roger Miller, 104 acres and 13 of the 18 holes are located in Mount Kisco but the clubhouse and all amenities are in New Castle. The country club's appraiser argued the property is worth \$6.5 million.

Under the settlement, the property was worth \$8 million for 2017 and 2018 and \$8.15 million for 2019 through 2021.

In the settlement, Mount Kisco was able to increase its allocation of the total value of the property from 30 to 35 percent for

the years in question and 40 percent in the future.

"The assessment for country clubs has changed and it's become very advantageous to the country club themselves," said Mount Kisco Village Attorney Whitney Singleton. "They're not taxed at their highest and best use; they're taxed basically on a contract that assumes people are just going to come, pay to play on the golf course and leave, and really that's not a reality for golf clubs. That's not why people go there."

The settlement comes on the heels of last year's court decision in favor of Sleepy Hollow Country Club against the towns of Ossining and Mount Pleasant. In that case, the appraiser for the Sleepy Hollow Country Club was the same one used by the Mount Kisco Country Club. That action reduced the value of Sleepy

Hollow Country Club to \$11.6 million to \$12 million.

The extent to which the Town of New Castle will be affected has not been made public. Assessor Josh Herman said the Town Board must first formally accept the settlement, then the details will be released.

Miller said for Mount Kisco, which negotiated in tandem with New Castle, it is preferable to avoid lengthy litigation.

"In our opinion this settlement is reasonable and favorable to a potential trial, given market conditions, the specifics of this property, and the methodology required for golf course valuation for tax purposes," Miller wrote to the Village Board. "It is additionally favorable given the increased allocation we were able to obtain for Mount Kisco."



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Columbus Day Celebration This Sunday in Mt. Kisco

The Italian American Club of Northern Westchester is having its annual Columbus Day Celebration on Sunday, Oct. 10 starting at 11 a.m. at 104 Main St. in Mount Kisco. The celebration will be followed by an Italian Feast. The celebration will last until 5 p.m. All are welcome.

The celebration will include the Legato Latino Club and music by "Pancetta e Cioccolato." From 11 a.m. to noon at the Columbus statue there will be our dictation followed by Italian and Latino music and a car show, which will start at 10 a.m.



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Several Residents Remain Skeptical of Mt. Pleasant Zoning Proposal

By Martin Wilbur

Several speakers at a public hearing last week criticized Mount Pleasant's proposed rezoning of its downtown hamlets fearing a concentration of mixed-use developments would alter the town's character and negatively impact quality of life.

The Sept. 28 hearing on the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) on the form-based zoning code for the hamlets and the town's Comprehensive Plan update was preceded by a long-awaited presentation from planning consultant Patrick Cleary. He explained the rationale behind the proposed rezoning in the town's C-NR zoning districts, which are confined to the business hamlets of Thornwood, Hawthorne and Valhalla, and the form-based code, which stresses appearance over specific uses so the town can make its commercial centers more attractive.

Cleary said a key objective is to encourage and make it feasible for the current local commercial property owners to redevelop their properties. Town officials would prefer to entice as many of the current owners of small



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Mount Pleasant planning consultant Patrick Cleary delivers a presentation on the key issues covered in the proposed Comprehensive Plan update and form-based code being considered by the Town Board.

parcels to retain their land rather than sell to larger outfits.

"We need to encourage local folks to do these developments, not necessarily outside developers to come in and assemble a block to do a larger building," Cleary said.

One of the skeptical residents was Kensico Road resident Gloria Newman. Newman said her neighborhood currently has a small number of commercial uses and she feared that the proposal

could invite builders who would trigger an influx of new residents in areas that are relatively quiet today.

She also expressed concern that a development like the 70 Memorial Plaza project in Pleasantville, which she called "disgusting," would come to Mount Pleasant.

"Not all the residents, as we can see from the document, are aware of what's going on in this form-based code," Newman said.

"I would suggest to the town you go and make sure everyone is aware of what's going on because it would be a tragedy for some people to come back later and then you're saying, 'See, we sort of told you.'"

A critical decision facing officials is whether the Town Board approves building heights of three or four stories in the hamlets. Cleary said that if the board agrees to a fourth story, the architecture would call for a top floor that is recessed. However, three-story limits are more likely to attract a larger developer to assemble properties, he said.

Hawthorne resident Jim Russell said development of the hamlets threatens the town's single-family home districts. He urged the board to update the Comprehensive Plan, which hasn't been done since 1970, and eliminate consideration of the form-based zoning.

"An integral part of the form-based zoning is bringing in so-called affordable housing, and also what can be called low-income housing, and increasing the population density of these hamlets, and that wasn't really addressed in this presentation," Russell said. "I think the impetus for this has come from the (town's) Industrial Development Agency

and not from some groundswell of public opinion within the town."

Cleary said the zoning proposal would be beneficial to the community.

"By putting the development in the hamlets, we are protecting the residential neighborhoods in the community," he said.

Conservation Advisory Council Chairman Steven Kavee responded that there is no incentive for a developer to build large quantities of affordable housing, although one of the town's challenges is to find a way to incorporate workforce units into the housing stock.

Kavee, a supporter of form-based zoning, said it's a tool to encourage growth in specific areas of town. The town should also be focusing on green building standards.

"The form-based code portion of the Comprehensive Master Plan is one good step that we hope will encourage growth along transportation corridors, increase housing diversity with well-executed design, and most importantly, incorporate green building construction," he said.

The hearing was adjourned until the Town Board's next regular meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 12.

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An Evening With Bestselling Author Zakiya Dalila Harris This Thursday

Castle Conversations events are back! Manhattanville College is kicking off a new year of the popular program this Thursday at O'Byrne Chapel with an evening with Zakiya Dalila Harris, author of instant bestseller "The Other Black Girl," in conversation with Lauren Christensen, senior staff editor at The New York Times Book Review.

Harris's premiere novel speaks to issues of representation and power in the world of publishing.

Harris quickly rose to fame this summer with her debut book, a hit with readers, national news media and book critics alike. Harris has a masters of fine art from The New School. She worked for three years in publishing in New York City before writing her book.

Christensen was previously an assistant editor at Vanity Fair and an associate editor at Harper's BAZAAR. She has degrees in English literature from Oxford and Princeton.

Castle Conversations are public events at Manhattanville where creators and thinkers come together to talk about issues at the heart of the cultural zeitgeist.

This Thursday's program begins at 7 p.m. with a book talk and Q&A followed by a book signing at 8:15 p.m. Copies of the book will be sold for those who would like to purchase.

The event is free and open to the public.



Zakiya Dalila Harris, author of The New York Times Bestseller "The Other Black Girl," will be part of a program this week at Manhattanville College to discuss her novel.

Masks are required.

Manhattanville College is located at 2900 Purchase St. in Purchase.

Bonding Approved for Senior Project at SUNY Purchase

The Board of Directors of Westchester County's Local Development Corporation (LDC) voted last week to approve tax-exempt bond financing for the development of a senior learning community on the SUNY Purchase campus.

Financing for the project would be about \$385 million with a limit of \$400 million. The vote took place at the LDC's Sept. 28 meeting.

"We are very pleased to provide tax-exempt bond financing for this exciting and innovative senior living development to be built on the SUNY Purchase campus," Count Executive George Latimer said. "I applaud the Purchase Senior Living Community and the Building Trades of Westchester for negotiating a project labor agreement as part of this project. As Westchester County's senior population continues to grow, it is important that we have communities such as this so our seniors can remain in the county."

Last month, the LDC amended preliminary approval of the issuance of the tax-exempt bonds. Project developer Purchase Senior Learning Community LLC sought an increase due to higher construction costs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We want to applaud SUNY Purchase and all of the team for moving this project forward. It's a great project and one that will be a great addition to the County for many years to come. We appreciate the intergenerational model, and we hope it is a model for the rest of the country," said LDC Chair Joan McDonald.

Phase 1 of the project is comprised of 220 independent living units, 18 assisted living beds, 16 memory care beds, underground parking, a separate assisted living and memory care building and up to 46 single-family and duplex homes, totaling about 552,000 square feet. The project will also include supporting infrastructure and property site improvements.

The project, which will be built in two phases, is located on about a 40-acre parcel located on the campus of Purchase College at 735 Anderson Hill Rd.

The LDC assists Westchester nonprofit organizations in securing tax-exempt bond financing benefits. These benefits are provided at no cost or risk to the taxpayers of Westchester County.

Since its inception in 2012, LDC has assisted nonprofit organizations in securing tax-exempt bond financing totaling over \$400 million.

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Westchester Initiates Mobile Crisis Unit to Respond to Mental Health Calls

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County is launching a mobile response team that will contain specially trained members to deal with people who are experiencing mental health and behavioral issues.

The initiative, called Project Alliance, will include 911 dispatch diversion training, enhanced training for EMTs responding to behavioral health calls, enhancement of a countywide behavioral health response line, crisis intervention team training and mobile response teams.

Police may respond alongside the personnel or the mobile teams will head out on their own depending on the nature of the call.

County Executive George Latimer said incidents in Westchester County and throughout the nation that were primarily mental health matters have had deadly consequences because first responders were not specifically trained in helping people with mental health issues.

"This is a bold step, it's an innovative approach, there are patterns of things that we're doing that other counties have adopted at various times and we hope to pull it together and make it work and work effectively," Latimer said.

The first three of what will be eight mobile units will launch in their respective communities before the end of this year – Mount Kisco, New Rochelle and Port Chester. Next year, the five remaining teams will serve the areas of Ossining, Peekskill, White Plains/Greenburgh, Mount Vernon and Yonkers. Each

team's territory will also include neighboring municipalities so the entire county will be covered when fully implemented, Latimer said.

Finding appropriate responses for calls that involve people suffering from mental health issues was a key recommendation from the county's Police Reform & Reimagining Task Force, one of 52 suggestions that the group issued last year. It followed former governor Andrew Cuomo mandating that all jurisdictions in New York State operating a police department examine their operations and submit a plan for improvement in the wake of the George Floyd murder in Minneapolis.

Representatives across multiple county agencies, including the Office of Community Mental Health, the Department of Public Safety, Emergency Services and the Department of Social Services collaborated on the plan.

Task force co-chair Mayo Bartlett said it will markedly improve services to get people the help that they need while preventing police officers from being forced to handle situations they may not be trained for.

"The beauty of it, in my estimation, is that it will permit every person who's in Westchester County, there will be available appropriate services, mental health services 24 hours a day, no matter where you live in Westchester County, and that when you make a call, and that call is regarding a loved one who may be in need of mental health assistance, that there will be trained 911 operators who will be able to properly route that call so that the appropriate services will be sent to your home," Bartlett



County Executive George Latimer announces last week the formation of trained mobile response teams to respond to mental health emergencies rather than relying on police to address crises.

said.

Others within county government said they believe Project Alliance could become a national model. It is patterned after a program developed in Eugene, Ore. more than 30 years ago called the Crisis Assistance Helping Out on the Streets, which seeks to help people with mental illness, homelessness and addiction.

Michael Orth, commissioner of the Westchester County Office of Community Mental Health, said critical resources for those types of issues have not been made a priority, in part because of the stigma of mental health issues. Community members with substance abuse issues and developmental intellectual disabilities often fail to receive the services they need.

"All this culminates in unmet needs, repeated calls to the police as well as an over-representation of people experiencing

a behavioral health crisis entering hospital emergency rooms, jails and shelters," Orth said.

Project Alliance also received support from county police. It will be a valuable tool for the police and the public, said Terrance Raynor, the county's deputy commissioner for public safety.

"The implementation of this project means mental health experts will employ their skill sets in the field where they have an immediate opportunity to assist a person in crisis," Raynor said. "Having a mobile response, the mobile crisis response teams in place, will free uniformed police officers to respond to other calls for service."

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THE POLITICIANS WON'T TELL THE TRUTH SO HERE IT IS: THE TOWN OF CORTLANDT BUDGET, A DECADE OF DEFICITS

TOWN OF CORTLANDT, NEW YORK Net Position by Component Last Ten Fiscal Years

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Primary government:										
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 53,354,170	55,439,761	56,331,960	56,519,875	54,230,205	53,892,881	54,544,570	54,507,066	55,235,224	56,646,805
Restricted	6,584,001	8,344,504	7,296,297	5,392,790	6,760,645	7,050,303	8,131,947	10,874,871	10,966,928	10,740,878
Unrestricted (deficit)	(67,433,520)	(68,120,526)	(67,082,358)	(12,435,466)	(8,659,713)	(9,198,564)	(7,769,947)	(4,868,227)	(2,768,751)	(541,225)
Total primary government net position	<u>\$ (7,495,349)</u>	<u>(4,336,261)</u>	<u>(3,454,101)</u>	<u>49,477,199</u>	<u>52,331,137</u>	<u>51,744,620</u>	<u>54,906,570</u>	<u>60,513,710</u>	<u>63,433,401</u>	<u>66,846,458</u>

TOWN OF CORTLANDT, NEW YORK Changes in Net Position Last Ten Fiscal Years

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Governmental activities Expenses:										
General government support	\$ 10,326,801	8,548,736	8,003,599	9,038,005	9,479,470	6,706,694	7,916,968	7,344,888	7,504,770	7,499,942
Public safety	3,321,392	3,068,049	2,940,184	2,912,926	2,783,883	2,651,572	2,638,189	2,301,858	2,491,102	2,525,725
Health	1,052,087	949,102	1,033,925	1,032,613	1,017,344	1,117,634	838,335	1,056,847	766,737	796,722
Transportation	7,054,020	10,573,615	8,636,790	8,554,633	8,208,194	9,187,620	10,490,811	10,866,697	7,629,644	8,159,125
Economic assistance and opportunity	1,086,431	1,108,512	1,027,108	1,093,026	1,022,775	844,603	937,365	902,430	1,030,479	890,511
Culture and recreation	6,093,604	7,455,219	6,666,182	7,222,273	7,281,571	6,579,896	6,391,835	6,496,403	6,322,241	6,135,245
Home and community services	16,069,407	13,299,577	12,870,139	14,727,726	13,413,242	14,226,045	13,213,205	13,529,853	13,097,127	12,733,023
Interest	275,560	258,882	230,749	242,772	194,300	205,785	246,016	276,059	310,592	361,560
Total primary government expenses	<u>45,279,302</u>	<u>45,261,692</u>	<u>41,408,676</u>	<u>44,823,974</u>	<u>43,400,779</u>	<u>41,519,849</u>	<u>42,672,724</u>	<u>42,775,035</u>	<u>39,152,692</u>	<u>39,101,853</u>
Program revenues:										
Charges for services:										
General government support	131,300	292,078	114,960	113,019	272,108	235,248	167,225	188,501	178,740	177,781
Public safety	715,288	1,098,316	991,992	682,827	678,978	716,196	538,224	609,848	496,162	485,960
Health	-	-	-	-	-	177,086	127,591	283,109	185,637	227,220
Transportation	-	-	-	-	-	18,509	18,771	18,741	17,677	20,332
Economic assistance and opportunity	5,244	70,382	71,600	65,647	78,991	-	-	-	-	-
Culture and recreation	187,040	1,220,967	1,109,151	1,027,922	1,446,778	1,260,109	1,222,022	1,126,808	1,272,781	1,308,824
Home and community services	7,902,115	7,712,586	7,387,643	7,739,379	7,471,925	5,890,864	5,506,842	5,351,811	4,821,413	4,635,177
Operating grants and contributions	796,546	983,448	938,786	1,031,509	1,048,879	1,588,718	1,068,793	2,175,227	1,434,749	913,435
Capital grants and contributions	84,522	413,322	50,000	542,450	5,764	592,264	261,357	3,410,811	607,009	661,353
Total primary government program revenues	<u>9,822,055</u>	<u>11,791,099</u>	<u>10,664,132</u>	<u>11,202,753</u>	<u>11,003,423</u>	<u>10,478,994</u>	<u>8,910,825</u>	<u>13,164,856</u>	<u>9,014,168</u>	<u>8,430,082</u>
Total primary government net expense	<u>(35,457,247)</u>	<u>(33,470,593)</u>	<u>(30,744,544)</u>	<u>(33,621,221)</u>	<u>(32,397,356)</u>	<u>(31,040,855)</u>	<u>(33,761,899)</u>	<u>(29,610,179)</u>	<u>(30,138,524)</u>	<u>(30,671,771)</u>
General revenues:										
Taxes:										
Real property taxes	21,485,788	21,964,110	20,391,573	21,001,443	20,606,632	20,463,864	20,474,159	19,175,396	19,804,782	18,705,250
Other tax items	2,078,092	2,105,811	2,036,891	2,320,172	2,229,762	1,806,876	1,686,679	1,704,409	1,566,215	1,542,016
Non-property taxes	6,486,505	5,725,539	5,010,015	4,774,377	4,569,059	4,512,662	4,596,327	4,402,768	4,128,373	4,070,698
Use of money and property	119,044	686,603	279,180	237,304	836,605	7,015	14,865	29,245	34,389	55,261
Fines and forfeitures	128,440	362,051	325,092	281,699	300,495	-	-	-	-	-
Sale of property and compensation for loss	3,500	-	-	919	7,616	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted State aid	1,673,617	1,487,551	1,320,098	1,652,176	1,395,844	1,239,051	1,037,232	1,294,987	1,188,670	1,173,763
Miscellaneous	323,173	256,768	327,447	693,032	3,037,416	199,111	195,521	83,683	3,038	37,188
Insurance recoveries	-	-	-	-	444	11,393	149,976	-	-	-
Loss on sale of real property	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(11,500)
Total general revenue	<u>32,298,159</u>	<u>32,588,433</u>	<u>29,690,296</u>	<u>30,961,122</u>	<u>32,983,873</u>	<u>28,239,972</u>	<u>28,154,759</u>	<u>26,690,488</u>	<u>26,725,467</u>	<u>25,572,676</u>
Change in net position total primary government	<u>\$ (3,159,088)</u>	<u>(882,160)</u>	<u>(1,054,248)</u>	<u>(2,660,099)</u>	<u>586,517</u>	<u>(2,800,883)</u>	<u>(5,607,140)</u>	<u>(2,919,691)</u>	<u>(3,413,057)</u>	<u>(5,099,095)</u>

THE POLITICIANS WON’T TELL THE TRUTH SO HERE IT IS: THE TOWN OF CORTLANDT BUDGET, A DECADE OF DEFICITS

TOWN OF CORTLANDT, NEW YORK
Fund Balances of Governmental Funds
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
General Fund:										
Nonspendable	\$ 159,913	172,275	512,908	197,097	153,978	180,324	204,996	260,527	208,335	142,271
Restricted	601,168	479,667	465,476	373,783	543,873	341,947	277,410	252,396	253,606	252,300
Assigned	898,916	939,123	1,012,572	972,478	909,100	859,334	860,042	862,319	1,049,302	1,161,3 IO
Unassigned	3,740,675	3,751,590	3,230,883	3,919,936	3,585,844	2,798,653	2,686,279	2,033,730	1,650,688	2,333,694
Total general fund	<u>\$ 5,400,672</u>	<u>5,342,655</u>	<u>5,221,839</u>	<u>5,463,294</u>	<u>5,192,795</u>	<u>4,180,258</u>	<u>4,028,727</u>	<u>3,408,972</u>	<u>3,161,931</u>	<u>3,889,575</u>
All other governmental funds:										
Nonspendable	185,828	218,395	285,717	306,471	169,556	220,397	260,904	323,706	250,886	176,684
Restricted	2,481,898	3,245,611	3,235,987	2,859,025	4,734,339	4,233,785	4,998,534	5,393,797	6,673,780	7,261,548
Assigned	9,659,132	9,653,336	8,364,461	8,373,956	7,997,134	7,327,532	7,699,245	10,822,457	9,284,097	8,185,409
Unassigned	(6,891,260)									
Total all other governmental funds	<u>\$ 5,435,598</u>	<u>13,117,342</u>	<u>11,886,165</u>	<u>11,539,452</u>	<u>12,901,029</u>	<u>11,781,714</u>	<u>12,958,683</u>	<u>16,539,960</u>	<u>16,208,763</u>	<u>15,623,641</u>
Total governmental funds	<u>\$ 10,836,270</u>	<u>18,459,997</u>	<u>17,108,004</u>	<u>17,002,746</u>	<u>18,093,824</u>	<u>15,961,972</u>	<u>16,987,410</u>	<u>19,948,932</u>	<u>19,370,694</u>	<u>19,513,216</u>

TOWN OF CORTLANDT, NEW YORK
Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Revenues:										
Real property taxes	\$21,507,036	21,574,771	21,167,491	21,058,135	20,728,818	20,132,561	20,636,288	19,588,185	18,840,909	18,541,067
Other tax items	2,078,092	2,105,811	2,036,891	2,320,172	2,229,762	1,806,876	1,686,679	1,704,409	1,566,215	1,542,016
Non-property taxes	6,486,505	5,725,539	5,010,015	4,774,377	4,569,059	4,512,662	4,596,327	4,402,768	4,128,373	4,070,698
Departmental income	8,005,767	9,400,590	8,671,617	8,657,207	9,183,492	7,685,165	7,217,829	7,491,233	6,962,827	6,740,439
Intergovernmental charges	227,523	319,245	532,094	455,771	436,621	453,945	438,873	442,512	435,723	447,562
Use of money and property	145,700	531,250	166,938	133,356	126,557	110,059	134,082	166,987	188,120	240,272
Fines and forfeitures	128,440	362,051	325,092	281,699	300,495	283,196	256,474	297,964	207,721	170,710
Sale of property and compensation for loss	3,500			919	7,616					
State aid	2,494,436	2,611,142	2,214,813	2,559,278	2,295,760	2,202,861	1,958,599	4,061,088	2,538,148	1,956,581
Federal aid	60,249	273,180	94,071	666,857	154,727	367,462	223,145	1,330,182	535,514	178,633
Miscellaneous	147,643	256,768	327,447	693,032	3,037,416	854,014	319,891	1,506,846	70,663	578,852
Total revenues	<u>41,284,891</u>	<u>43,160,347</u>	<u>40,546,469</u>	<u>41,600,803</u>	<u>43,070,323</u>	<u>38,408,801</u>	<u>37,468,187</u>	<u>40,992,174</u>	<u>35,474,213</u>	<u>34,466,830</u>
Expenditures:										
Current:										
General government support	5,978,397	5,904,372	5,389,371	5,669,948	5,447,403	5,172,941	5,522,041	4,979,337	5,049,664	5,159,477
Public safety	2,620,916	2,561,582	2,503,824	2,350,205	2,272,322	2,254,855	2,142,017	1,967,825	1,977,857	1,980,684
Health	1,031,264	935,080	984,953	1,011,140	1,008,774	1,117,634	838,335	1,056,847	766,737	796,722
Transportation	4,275,569	6,059,694	6,052,005	5,707,543	5,574,072	6,099,102	7,219,385	5,223,321	5,179,991	5,864,795
Economic assistance and opportunity	622,794	769,825	744,308	696,218	660,365	674,003	655,397	624,851	732,825	676,108
Culture and recreation	3,495,112	4,992,275	4,579,165	4,715,734	4,544,291	4,625,220	4,653,237	4,594,313	4,435,707	4,425,896
Home and community services	10,709,164	9,183,678	9,445,863	9,287,194	9,625,509	9,514,532	9,260,924	8,713,374	8,093,729	8,141,925
Employee benefits	8,255,333	8,234,564	8,253,294	7,792,401	7,682,403	7,569,399	7,407,650	7,229,341	6,879,742	6,471,472
Debt service:										
Principal	811,908	883,181.	1,458,614	1,278,937	1,435,803	1,249,000	1,319,000	1,344,000	1,313,000	1,259,000
Interest	231,255	250,830	233,063	228,488	187,778	209,540	250,739	281,510	315,885	399,341
Capital outlay	11,747,851	4,547,232	1,444,568	3,954,073	6,031,900	1,234,715	1,310,960	4,399,217	871,598	1,309,669
Total expenditures	<u>49,779,563</u>	<u>44,322,313</u>	<u>41,089,028</u>	<u>42,691,881</u>	<u>44,470,620</u>	<u>39,720,941</u>	<u>40,579,685</u>	<u>40,413,936</u>	<u>35,616,735</u>	<u>36,485,089</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	<u>(8,494,672)</u>	<u>(1,161,966)</u>	<u>(542,559)</u>	<u>(1,091,078)</u>	<u>(1,400,297)</u>	<u>(1,312,140)</u>	<u>(3,111,498)</u>	<u>578,238</u>	<u>(142,522)</u>	<u>(2,018,259)</u>
Other financing sources (uses):										
Payments to escrow agent	(2,539,397)									
Bonds/premim/installment debt issued	3,410,342	2,513,959	647,817		3,231,705					
Bond anticipation notes redeemed from appropriations					300,000					
Insurance recoveries					444	286,702	149,976			
Transfers in	4,556,217	3,196,723	3,740,942	3,107,446	2,425,436	2,830,055	3,504,271	2,670,879	2,929,151	2,898,311
Transfers out	(4,556,217)	(3,196,723)	(3,740,942)	(3,107,446)	(2,425,436)	(2,830,055)	(3,504,271)	(2,670,879)	(2,929, IS I)	(2,898,311)
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>870,945</u>	<u>2,513,959</u>	<u>647,817</u>		<u>3,532,149</u>	<u>286,702</u>	<u>149,976</u>			
Net change in fund balances	<u>\$ (7,623,727)</u>	<u>1,351,993</u>	<u>105,258</u>	<u>(1,091,078)</u>	<u>2,131,852</u>	<u>(1,025,438)</u>	<u>(2,961,522)</u>	<u>578,238</u>	<u>(142,522)</u>	<u>(2,018,259)</u>
Debt service as a percentage of non-capital expenditures	2.1%	2.9%	4.3%	3.9%	4.2%	3.8%	4.1%	4.2%	4.7%	4.8%

Police Blotter

Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

Sept. 20: Patrol responded to a commercial area on Elliott Way at 9:44 a.m. on a report of criminal mischief to a fence at Senasqua Park. DPW was notified and a report was to be filed.

Sept. 21: Patrol responded to Scenic Drive West at 7:13 p.m. after a woman was heard screaming from an unknown location. The area was checked and it was

found to be people who were at a nearby playground.

Sept. 22: Report of a group of youths on Old Post Road South who had thrown what appeared to be crabapples at a vehicle at 2:40 p.m. The area was checked with negative results.

Sept. 22: Patrol responded to an area on Elliott Way at 6:24 p.m. for a report of a kayaker on the Hudson River in distress. The parties were located on the river and assisted to safety by another Westchester agency. The parties refused medical

assistance.

Sept. 24: Patrol responded to ShopRite at 1 p.m. on a report of two past larcenies of items from the store. There was no value available of the items stolen, but it appears to be the same subject(s) involved in both incidents. No report was filed at this time.

Sept. 26: Report of a group of motorcycles traveling at a high rate of speed on southbound Route 9 at 2 p.m. The area was canvassed with negative results. Ossining Police Department was notified.

North Castle Police Department

Sept. 24: A Pheasant Drive resident reported at 9:01 a.m. that while getting her child on the bus for Coman Hill Elementary School earlier this date, a gold Mercedes SUV sped through the school bus stop sign while her child was getting on the bus. The complainant wanted this to be made a matter of record in case the same vehicle does it again in the future.

Sept. 25: A party arrived at headquarters at 9:39 a.m. to request that we take possession of and destroy three pellet gun revolvers. Inventory was secured, documented and placed into a temporary evidence locker.

Sept. 25: Report of a loud party occurring on Washington Avenue at 6:46 p.m. The responding officer reports a

mariachi band was playing, but has since ceased and is vacating the residence. Matter adjusted.

Sept. 27: A Bayberry Road resident reported at 8:34 a.m. that he believes he has a rattlesnake inside his vehicle at the listed location. The responding officers reported no snake was present; condition unfounded.

Pleasantville Police Department

Sept. 25: Criminal mischief was reported at 11:52 p.m. after an outer front door was broken on Pleasantville Avenue. The matter is under investigation.

Sept. 29: A suspicious person was reported on Manville Road at 6 a.m. The matter is under investigation.

Sept. 30: A 39-year-old man was arrested at 12:14 p.m. on a warrant from other districts. The suspect was turned over to another agency.

Yorktown Police Department

Sept. 29: Victor Toribio, 27, of New York City, was charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration and several traffic infractions at 5:40 p.m. following a stop on Route 6 for traveling through a red light.

Obituary

Charles Vilarino

Charles J. Vilarino, a Yorktown Heights resident and a foreman for the Yorktown Highway Department, died Sept. 24. He was 58.

He was born Dec. 31, 1962, in Brooklyn. He is survived by his wife, Lena; his mother, Anna; his two daughters, Marisa and Alyssa; his brother, Manny (Katherine); two sisters, Ann Marie Macchia (Tony) and Dolores Pogact (Joseph); several nieces and nephews; and his beloved dog, Thor. He was predeceased by his father Manuel.

His friends were extremely cherished by him. Charles was an avid softball and hockey player and Mets and Giants fan, and most important to him was his family.



Charles Vilarino

Three Arrested in New Castle in Stolen Car Chase

By Martin Wilbur

A Danbury man and two accomplices were taken into custody last Wednesday afternoon in New Castle after county police were alerted that there was a stolen BMW being driven in Mount Kisco.

On Sept. 29, at 1:10 p.m., the Real Time Crime Center at county police headquarters issued an alert that the vehicle, a 2011 BMW sedan reported stolen by a Waterbury, Conn. resident, was traveling on North Bedford Road in Mount Kisco, according to county police. As county police officers responded, a parking authority employee who heard the alert reported that he had observed the vehicle in a gas station at North Bedford Road and Barker Street.

When an officer pulled into the gas station, the driver fled, even though the vehicle was being fueled at the time, police said. A gas station attendant was knocked to the ground and the gas pump hose was torn away from the pump. The attendant suffered cuts and bruises.

The driver fled the wrong way on North Moger Avenue and onto Route 133. The driver and two occupants abandoned the vehicle at Route 133 and Garey Drive in New Castle, police said.

Westchester County and New Castle police officers established a perimeter and began a search. A female passenger was quickly taken into custody.

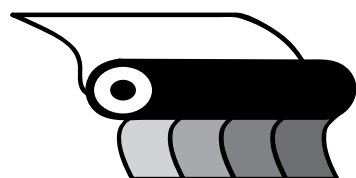
County Police Officer Brian Tierney and his tracking canine Genesee, a bloodhound, commenced a track from the stolen car that took them down Garey Drive, into a backyard and adjacent wooded area, and then into the backyard of another Garey Drive home. Two men were found hiding in a patio area and were taken into custody.

The driver, Brandon McLaughlin, 27, of Danbury, Conn., was charged with second-degree assault and third-degree criminal possession of stolen property, both felonies; reckless driving, a misdemeanor; and seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, both violations.

The passengers, Orlando Martinez, 36, of Waterbury, Conn., and Diane Patterson, were each charged with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. The possession charge was lodged against all three suspects because several glassine bags of a narcotic substance containing fentanyl was found in the vehicle after it was impounded.

Martinez and Patterson were booked at the Mount Kisco county police precinct and released on their own recognizance. They are due in Mount Kisco Justice Court on Nov. 4.

McLaughlin was held overnight pending arraignment in Mount Kisco Justice Court.



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- Former IT Analyst conducting piracy investigations for the Motion Picture Association
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- Current Member of the Yorktown Ethics Board
- Current Volunteer Firefighter with the Yorktown Heights Fire District
- Current Volunteer Fund Raiser for Camp Sunshine to benefit local children with life-threatening diseases — *raising over \$40k.*
- Former Volunteer with Yorktown Athletic Club

VOTE FOR SERGIO ESPOSITO ON NOVEMBER 2



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Obituary

Andrea Karl

Andrea Karl, a Putnam Valley resident and retired peer counselor at Support Connection, died peacefully Sept. 29. She was 64.

Karl leaves behind her husband of 38 years, Bill; her children, Andrew (daughter-in-law Courtney) and Julia and two grandsons, Ethan and Hudson. She is also survived by her sisters, Gail Tartaglia and Irene Stillman (brother-in-law Roger); her nieces Dawn Baxter, Laura Cox, Kate Stillman and Lauren Watson and their husbands; and numerous great-nieces and great-nephews.

As a mom, she worked a variety of jobs over the years to ensure that she was able to commit to Andrew and Julia's various activities. You may have met her through her work at Playcare, where she taught while her kids were going to preschool, or at Santos' Deli in Putnam Valley, Club Fit, StoneCrop Gardens, A Natural Touch or at any of the other positions she held over the years. She worked with pride, care and a smile in every aspect, all while putting her children's needs first.

Not only did she become a jack-of-all-trades while working, she also volunteered with a few different organizations as well. She lent a hand to the Putnam Valley Soccer Club as a secretary while Andrew and Julia played, and continued her duties as the Team Mom for Andrew's youth teams through high school. These soccer duties did not end there, however. She tirelessly drove both kids to all

of their summer development tournaments and camps, allowing them to pursue their dreams of playing at a higher level.

As her kids grew older and more independent, she began volunteering, and then working for Support Connection. You could say that this organization became her passion project. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2003 and had used Support Connection's services as a safe space to process that journey.

Andrew and Julia were none the wiser at home, as she remained the dependable woman we all know and love. Andrea was compelled to give back to such a beautiful charity and began volunteering in her spare time. This role eventually grew into her full-time position as a peer counselor for the last 15 years. Andrea used her strongest qualities of humanity and compassion to work with "her ladies" (as she called them), making sure they knew that they were not alone in their journeys. She made sure that each of them and their caregivers was heard, supported and provided with the information they needed. She would never end a phone call or visit without at least a little laughter or moment of light-heartedness. One will never fully know the extent to which her impact reached, but the stories of her actions, as told by those in the organization and the families that she worked with, will remain with us for a very long time.

As she continued to work with her ladies, she drew on their strength and her own to pursue physical feats in her 50s that she



Andrea Karl

and remained strong and steadfast in their commitment to each other. At their core, they loved one another and their family and friends fiercely. They watched lovingly as the children they raised became successful in each of their pursuits. As their children grew into adulthood, Andrea and Bill began traveling again, whether it was day trips or short vacations. They visited Vermont in the fall and Cape May in the summer, and in between, frequented upstate to play with their grandsons. They enjoyed their time together and reminisced about the trips to California and Canada they had taken in their younger years, as well as their family trips up and down the east coast. When all was said and done, one always had the other to rely on.

Andrea's love for her family, her sisters, her nieces and nephews, and of course, her grandsons, was widely known. She regaled everyone she met with an uplifting, and more often silly story that centered around these characters in her life. Countless nights were spent around a table, enjoying happy company with stories, love and laughter. And when Andrea became a YiaYia to her grandsons, she could talk and laugh for hours. Ethan and Hudson could do no wrong. She watched them grow with only love for them in her eyes and heart. They became the brightest stars in her life, her "superheroes" whose superpower was joy. There wasn't a single moment that YiaYia didn't oblige Ethan and Hudson's every whim (and whine) and that adoration was mutual.

would have never attempted before, even prior to her breast cancer diagnosis. After immeasurable hours of watching her children grow on a soccer field, and at the prodding of a dear friend, Andrea joined a local group of Mahopac women to play in the Goals for Hope soccer tournament. She would also go on to run the New York City Marathon in 2010, finishing in 4:31:24, the entire time with "Amazing Grace" emblazoned on her shirt and a huge smile on her face. Throughout these activities, her ladies were at the forefront of her mind; she thought of their fight, their strength, their personal marathons that they had to endure, all with such amazing grace.

Andrea and Bill were together for 40 years

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FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 11-15
***NO COLLECTIONS ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 11th**
COLUMBUS DAY

<div style="background-color: #ff0000; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;">RECYCLING</div> <p>DUAL-STREAM RECYCLING COLLECTIONS: Monday collections will be picked up on Tuesday, October 12th Tuesday collections will be picked up on Wednesday, October 13th All other collections will remain the same</p>	<div style="background-color: #0000ff; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;">KITCHEN TRASH COLLECTIONS</div> <p><u>Monday</u> Collections will be picked up on: Tuesday, October 12th <u>Tuesday</u> Collections will be picked up on: Wednesday, October 13th All other collections will remain the same</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

REMINDER: Recyclables in Plastic Bags will not be collected!

E-WASTE/TEXTILE/TIRE DROP OFF DAY
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13th
7:30AM – 2:30PM (In front of Police Station)
Bring your obsolete computer, TV, laptop, VCR, keyboard, cell phone, etc. Drop off bags filled with unwanted clothing, shoes, rags, towels, bed sheets, blankets, etc.
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Lawyer's First Novel Infuses Sexual Misconduct in Political Thriller

By Martin Wilbur

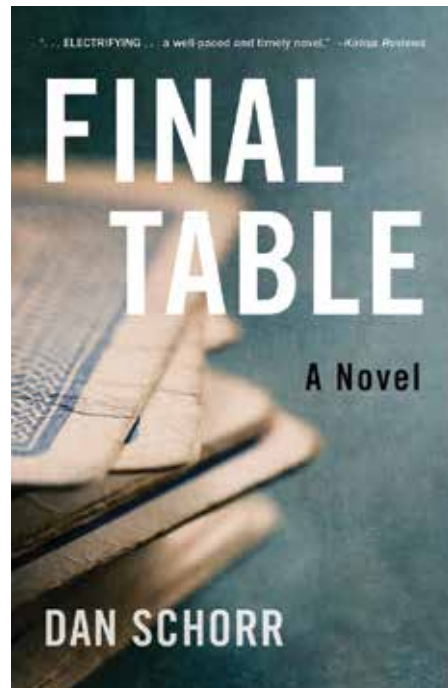
It had been a longtime dream of Dan Schorr to author his first novel. So when he sat down in early 2019 to make his literary debut, he turned to what he knows best.

Schorr, a former prosecutor in the Queens and Westchester district attorney's offices who specialized in investigating sexual assault cases, now operates his own law firm conducting sexual misconduct matters.

The book, "The Table: A Novel," is scheduled for release this week, an international political thriller that contains elements from a multitude of cases he's worked on professionally.

"I brought in all the experiences in my life," said Schorr, 48, a White Plains resident. "For instance, I lived in China teaching law for a year and that was a very surreal, interesting experience where I got to travel around to different countries, including North Korea, and experiences like that weigh into this book also, where there's this international crisis and high stakes poker tournament and sexual misconduct allegations and they're all woven together in this fictional account."

He worked on writing "The Table" for a year and was finishing just as the pandemic hit in March 2020. Schorr spoke with local authors about how best to retain a publisher, and was able to get Sparks Press to agree to take him on. The publisher was able to help him with editing and marketing, which has



been a tremendous advantage for him.

A book launch party is scheduled for this Thursday at the Scarsdale Library from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Schorr, who ran unsuccessfully for Westchester County district attorney in 2009, said the book is a fast-moving story about many of the topics that people have either experienced or read about regularly.

"Although I've been investigating sexual assault cases for over 20 years, this is very



"The Table: A Novel" authored by White Plains resident and lawyer Dan Schorr is being released this week, his first book. Schorr has more than 20 years' experience investigating sexual misconduct cases.

much focused on what's going on today in the #MeToo Movement," Schorr said. "A big part of the novel is how media is reacting to accusations, how social media is reacting to allegations and how the media and social media drive people's ability to make accusations and how people will

respond to that. That's a central part of the book that is very timely."

Don't expect Schorr to rest on his laurels and be satisfied with the publication of his novel. He plans to write a second book based on sexual misconduct cases at colleges, which his firm has much experience. It will be centered on college athletics and how universities and other organizations review accusations.

Schorr will also be doing a Zoom event later this month with Gretchen Carlson, the former Fox News anchor whose explosive sexual harassment allegations against the network's chairman Roger Ailes was one of the key catalysts of the #MeToo Movement.

Still, one of the common misconceptions is that people become victims of predators lurking in dark alleyways, as many people have a fear of stranger danger, Schorr said. However, victims of sexual assaults are most often violated by people they know who is a trusted person in their life and that person violates that trust, he said.

"I wanted to show people, based on my having investigated hundreds of cases of sexual assault how these cases generally play out, which I think is different from the stereotypes shown in fiction," Schorr said.

To learn more about "The Table: A Novel," visit www.danschorrbooks.com. It can be ordered through Barnes & Noble, Amazon and bookshop.org among other outlets.



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Letters to the Editor

Stewardship of Cortlandt’s Budget Has Left Town in Difficult Straits

I am going to stick to the facts and not the personal partisan politics of Ms. Slippen, in her attempt to fool and deceive the town residents last week. The strange thing is that she does not confront the issues I raised.

The Town of Cortlandt budget has been unbalanced and running deficits for the last decade. The fund balance is down close to \$9 million.

Cortlandt’s fiscal position has taken a sharp turn for the worse, starting in 2011. The town’s budgets have had deficits in nine of the last 10 years. As a result, the town has had to rely upon borrowing for annual expenditures, while the salaries of the elected officials have increased significantly.

See the chart below. Town of Cortlandt Fiscal Report 2020: Changes in Fund Balances of Government Funds

The Cortlandt Budget:
2011 Deficit: \$2,018,259
2012 Deficit: \$142,522
2013 Surplus: \$578,238
2014 Deficit: \$3,111,498
2015 Deficit: \$1,312,140
2016 Deficit: \$1,400,297

2017 Deficit: \$1,091,078
2018 Deficit: \$542,559
2019 Deficit: \$1,161,966
2020 Deficit: \$8,494,672
Town spending over revenue is \$18,696,753 over the last 10 years.

The town borrowed \$9,803,823 to pay recurring expenses during this time. That is not sustainable and costly. Imagine you spend more than you earn and keep putting the expense on your credit card.

At the same time, Cortlandt’s fund balance has been decreasing from \$19,513,216 to \$10,836,270. So, the Town of Cortlandt has used savings and borrowed to avoid balancing the town budget.

The Town of Cortlandt borrowed:
2016: \$3,231,705
2018: \$647,817
2019: \$2,513,959
2020: \$3,410,342

This borrowing to avoid either raising taxes or cutting spending is not sustainable. The problem is now the bill is larger and the town fund balance is reduced to half.

The current administration wants to bond further to replenish the fund balance. Will the interest on the bonds be less than

the interest on savings?

Ms. Slippen does not respond to these budget facts. She just denies them, says Puglisi is popular and says to ignore them. She provides propaganda without any reference to facts. So, all she is offering is propaganda rather than any truth.

I presented financial facts from the Town of Cortlandt’s own fiscal report. This is the current condition of the town’s budget; rather than deal with the truth or the present, Ms. Slippen looks back 30 years to argue irrelevant nonsense. She must look back 30 years for good news? Ms. Slippen ignores the present and the future and that is what matters today, not 30 years ago.

The last 10 years town taxes for the general fund have gone up 26.5 percent and the highway fund has gone up 14.5 percent. Town taxes alone in 2014 went up 11 percent in one year. The Town of Cortlandt has raised taxes nine of the last 10 years.

They kept the taxes lower by either borrowing or spending the town savings. That is not a solution for a 10-year decline.

Ms. Slippen’s claims that the town has

NEVER had a budget deficit at any point in recent memory and a growing fund balance is not truthful. The facts provided herein demonstrate the untruthful nature of her claims.

She points to an improving town bond as significant. This indicates the town can keep borrowing but the trend in town finances will eventually put its bond rating at risk.

Finally, Ms. Slippen refers to a recent award from New York State. This award was for the quality of the fiscal report that I reference in this response, not for the fiscal planning by the Town of Cortlandt.

Councilman Becker and Creighton have been on the Town Board for years and they have not been able to fix this financial problem. It is time for a change.

We need to address the problem now and not kick the can down the road with borrowing, spending fund balances and leaving the problem for the next person. The current situation is only more expensive and difficult.

I, therefore, urge you to vote for the Cortlandt United Team. They do not believe in partisanship but civic service and transparency. Hiding problems does not solve them.

Early voting starts on Oct. 23 and Election Day is Nov. 2.

Vote Row C, Cortlandt United, for Laurie Ryan for supervisor, Tom Walsh and Warren Smith for councilman, Peter Marengo tax receiver and Kylie Bernard for town clerk.

Supervisor Puglisi is retiring, and I wish her well and thank her for her service to the community.

Daniel Pagano, Esq.
Cortlandt Manor

Daniel Pagano is chairman of the Cortlandt Republican Committee.

Lori Jacobs
Somers

A Change on the Somers Town Board is Overdue

Some Town Board members have been in place for over a decade, and this November, Mr. Cirieco and Mr. Faulkner are up for re-election after nine years, I believe.

They profess that they bring financial experience, but watching Town Board meetings for two years while they tried to form a sewer district under our nose, was very disappointing. When asked financial questions, they didn’t know the answers and never caught the financial errors; in fact, they seemed like they didn’t even know what was in the report. They voted on it, and thank God residents caught the errors and notified the comptroller. Something that would have affected so many financially should have been looked at better, not to mention that Mr.

Faulkner created a website to push his agenda with the pro-sewer residents. In my opinion, this was unethical and he should’ve been fired. Our Town Board showed the residents during this fiasco that there is corrupt government everywhere.

Thankfully Supervisor Morrissey is stepping down. He has over-commercialized our small, quaint town and now an apartment building on Route 100 is going up. Why is it okay for him to take healthy trees down in Bailey Park and residents can’t on their own property? Why did we lose Pepsi and IBM and why didn’t he do more to bring in major companies to help keep our taxes down? The board proposed putting a 7-Eleven into the historic district where there is too much

traffic. Why?

They have made changes to zoning laws for developments to go in and they allowed a night club on Route 118 to operate for years with illegal activity and excessive noise in a residential neighborhood. Why? Because the owner had connections and the board members didn’t care. We have a town code for a reason but nobody seems to enforce them.

We need board members who want to do right by the residents of this town and do things the right way.

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- U.S.Naval Research Laboratory Researcher
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Community Minded

- Parent, grandparent, Mahopac home owner for 16 years, STEM and local business advocate, and Keep Putnam Beautiful sponsor



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Early Voting Oct. 23 - 31

April's Goals for Carmel

Effective & Efficient Government

- Maximize transparency & public interest
- Ease tax burden on families & seniors

Business Growth

Expand water, sewer, and broadband to

- Support small businesses
- Benefit remote workers and students
- Keep seniors safe and connected in their homes

Sustainable Infrastructure

- Strengthen Infrastructure against severe weather
- Take advantage of climate smart grants
- Form a Sustainable Infrastructure Task Force

Digital Surveillance Data Policies

- Address how collected digital surveillance data is accessed, shared, and retained

Paid for by Friends of April Daly

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Gearing Up the Home for the Winter Months

Now that I live in a maintenance-free condo, all I have to do to transition from the summer and fall months to winter is switch the HVAC from air conditioning to heat. It's as simple as that, save to bundle up with warmer clothing when I step outside.

But when I was the owner of a single-family house, it was a much more involved process. I learned that it was best to give my home a once-over and tend to winter preparation tasks and repairs before the year's first frost.

Getting the exterior of a home ready for the cold winds, snow and ice is critical for keeping winter out and keeping it warm inside. By being proactive, one can lower a home's energy bills, increase the efficiency and lifespan of all components and make the property safer.

Frequency I have referred to Bob Vila, TV's famous home expert, for home maintenance details and I defer below to his expertise in preparing one's home for winter.

Windows and Doors

- Check weatherstripping around windows and doorframes for leaks to prevent heat loss. Replace weatherstripping, if necessary.
- Replace all screen doors with storm windows.
- Replace all window screens with storm windows. (This step and the one above



By Bill Primavera

were always the biggest chores of the year.)

- Check window frames for signs of rot or decay. Repair or replace framing to maintain structural integrity.
- Check for drafts around windows and doors. Caulk inside and out, where necessary, to keep heat from escaping.
- Inspect windows for cracks, broken glass or gaps. Repair or replace, if needed.

Lawn, Garden and Deck

- Trim overgrown branches back from the house and electrical wires to prevent iced-over or wind-swept branches from causing property damage or a power problem.

- Aerate the lawn, reseed and apply a winterizing fertilizer to promote deep-root growth come spring. (After a few years of this practice, I engaged a trusty lawn service to do the job, which is formidable.)
- Ensure rain or snow drains away from the house to avoid damage to the foundation. The dirt grade – around the exterior of your home – should slope away from the house. Add extra dirt to low areas as necessary.
- Clean and dry patio furniture. In my case, I stored it inside my garage to protect it from the elements.
- Clean soil from planters. Bring pots made



of clay or other fragile materials indoors. (I laugh as I write this because I remember that when I would bring in a big planter from my patio to the dining room, my cat, Mitsey, assumed that it was meant for her as an alternate litter box.)

- Dig up flower bulbs, brush off soil and label. Store bulbs in a bag or box with peat moss in a cool, dry place for spring replanting. (After a few years of toiling to do this, I just left them where they were in the ground and found that I lost very few of them. Why bother?)
- Remove any attached hoses and store them for the winter to prevent cracks, preserve their shape and prolong their life. Wrap outside faucets with covers

to prevent water damage. (How well I remember the house I had listed for sale where the owner forgot to detach his hose, only to have an interior water pipe burst through expansion and ruin an entire family room of the house.)

That about covers it. After all this is done, you as a homeowner will be justified in hibernating like a bear from household chores for the winter.

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

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White Plains Performing Arts Center to Celebrate First Production Back

By Bailey Hosfelt

It has been 21 months since the White Plains Performing Arts Center (WPPAC) put on its last musical production. "Masquerade!" which will premiere at WPPAC on Oct. 8, features stories and songs from Andrew Lloyd Webber's life and celebrated work and commemorates the performing art center's first Mainstage production since "Newsies" in January 2020.

"It's been a long time, and we couldn't be more excited to finally be back doing what we are meant to do – provide quality live entertainment to our community," said Kathy Davisson, general manager at WPPAC.

Described as a "funny and warm musical portrait and a concert for the theater," "Masquerade!" will offer the audience an intimate look at Lloyd Webber's five decades in the spotlight as one of the most successful musical theater composers.

With new and sometimes unexpected interpretations of Lloyd Webber's best-loved songs from "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Evita," "Cats," "Phantom of the Opera" and "Sunset Boulevard," viewers will hear familiar songs in a contemporary production.

"His music is infectious and dynamic, and the show celebrates the iconic songs we have all come to love through the years," Stephen Ferri, WPPAC executive producer and music director, and Antoniette DiPietropolo, director of "Masquerade!" said in a joint statement.

At "Masquerade!" audience members will experience some of the ways these musicals and songs were inspired from Lloyd Webber's creative mind.

"Think of it as an inside look into the mind of an iconic composer while experiencing all the hits from his biggest shows," Ferri and DiPietropolo said. "It's not like anything else you have seen, and we are excited to bring it to life this season at WPPAC."

After more than a year without performing due to the pandemic, they wanted to do something a little smaller for their reopening musical production.

"This premiere was the perfect way to welcome back our audiences for an exceptional night of theater featuring this legendary composer and his creative process," Ferri and DiPietropolo said.

For this show, it was important to provide an immersive experience for viewers by casting amazing talent from

New York City. "Masquerade!" features performers Brandi Burkhardt, Julian Decker, Andrew Foote, Rebecca Kuznick, Emily Royer, Cartreze Tucker, Aaron Burt and Shannon Rakow.

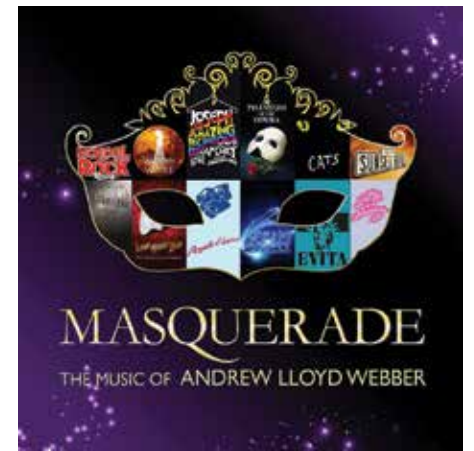
The cast boasts previous combined experience in Broadway and off-Broadway productions, television, film, national tours and regional theater.

"Masquerade!" is also choreographed by DiPietropolo, scenic design is by Christopher and Justin Swader, lighting design is by Matt Guminski, sound design by Don Hanna, projections by Kevan Looney and costumes by Antonio Consuegra. The stage is managed by T. Rick Jones.

"Everyone is on the same team supporting each other as artists to give an elevated performance and not just a concert of (Lloyd Webber's) work," Ferri and DiPietropolo said. "Being able to create this show together and hopefully give it a future life has been very rewarding."

Masquerade! premieres at WPPAC on Oct. 8 and runs until Oct. 24. Performance times are at 2 and 8 p.m. and tickets are available for purchase at www.wppac.org.

"Masquerade!" is the first live performance at the White Plains Performing Arts Center since the start of the pandemic. The celebration of Andrew Lloyd Webber's works opens this Friday, Oct. 8.



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Estate Planning for First Responders: What You Need to Know

By Alan D. Feller, Esq.

Staying away from crisis situations is usually the best method for self-preservation.

Police, fire and EMS personnel are tasked with the responsibility of moving toward emergencies and crises to protect lives. Risk of injury or death is a tangible concern. First responders' estate planning must take this level of risk into account.

One of the most important considerations for first responders' planning is the suddenness in which a catastrophic event may occur. Setting up insurance protection is a very important step. Disability and life insurance policies should provide accessible benefits, usually within a reasonable time frame, to cover immediate needs for loved ones. There are varying resources depending on whether the responder belongs to a volunteer or full-time professional organization.

Maintaining a detailed and organized record of available benefits will avoid

confusion. Insurance face amounts should be scrutinized because beyond immediate needs, the loss of a loved one or the end of a working life will put a tremendous strain on a family's financial well-being. Better to be over-insured than underinsured.

Executing advance directives such as health care proxies, living wills and powers of attorney is a basic step to ensure that someone can make decisions on your behalf should you be alive, but unable to properly communicate your wishes.

Creating a will or trust is also an intelligent step to organize your financial life for your loved ones. Younger first responders often choose their parents or siblings to be fiduciaries. First responders with children may want to plan how insurance proceeds or other available funds are distributed and held. Trusts as beneficiaries of insurance proceeds offer more comprehensive direction for a child's education and living expenses as they reach adulthood.

Beyond the here and now,

first responders also operate in environments that pose a danger to long-term health. Sound estate planning should also include the likelihood of exposure illnesses and contemplate the maintenance of one's mental health. Setting up your own health care professional team (primary care as well as any specialists that may be useful) to monitor overall health is vital.

Police, fire and EMS personnel have jobs that demand extreme physical and mental concentration. The stresses on body and mind are only now being examined thoroughly.

Depending on the circumstances surrounding the first responder's health concerns, there may be special government funds, settlements and local fundraising that provide a financial boost for a family. Expecting these types of funds to be available permanently is not realistic. Should health issues arise, long-term care planning and Medicaid planning provide avenues for protecting a family's assets while ensuring that the loved one

suffering from an illness is receiving necessary care.

Married first responders can utilize spousal asset transfer exemptions. Medicaid rules allow qualified retirement accounts to remain exempt resources. These rules carry important implications for first responders who are municipal employees with 403(b) retirement accounts that require long-term care.

Putting others' lives ahead of your own requires a level of dedication and bravery that is truly special. First responders are recognized for their commitment and service to their communities. Taking some time to preserve their own well-being through thoughtful estate planning should be a priority.

Contact the professionals at Sloan & Feller today to explore estate planning options.

Alan D. Feller, Esq. is managing partner of Sloan & Feller Attorneys at Law, located at 625 Route 6 in Mahopac. He can be reached at alandfeller@sloanandfeller.com.

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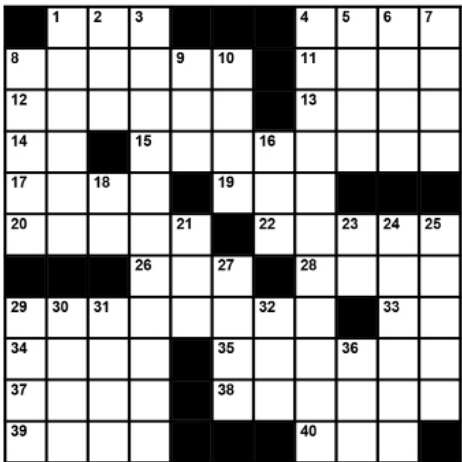
Crossword

Across

- 1. Clobber
- 4. 1996 Gwyneth Paltrow title role
- 8. Sends with a recommendation
- 11. Respectful address
- 12. Involve
- 13. "If ___ I had known"
- 14. ___ Monde (French daily)
- 15. Man's jacket feature
- 17. Othello's betrayer
- 19. Printemps month
- 20. Succumb to pressure
- 22. Irish poet or Yorktown accountant, RF
- 26. Khloe's sister
- 28. Sud's opposite
- 29. Pleasantville family hair salon known simply as "The Barber Shop," La _____
- 33. Prosecutor, abbr.
- 34. Jump on the ice
- 35. Having deep affection for
- 37. Place
- 38. Skin soothers
- 39. Capri, e.g.
- 40. Hither and ___

Down

- 1. Get close to
- 2. Frequently, for short
- 3. Shade close to azure
- 4. With happiness or sadness, for example
- 5. "Give that ___ cigar!"



- 6. W. African republic
- 7. Organic radical
- 8. Archeologist's find
- 9. ___ Grande (part of Texas' border)
- 10. Bridge triumph
- 16. ___ Mahal
- 18. Atlanta's state, abbr.
- 21. ___ Sedona
- 23. Hi!
- 24. Coward
- 25. Skate blades
- 27. Medical diagnostic procedures, abbr.
- 29. Indonesian island
- 30. Allies' foe in WWII
- 31. Fishing rod attachment
- 32. ___ manner of speaking

Answers on page 25



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continued on page 26

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Winter Wonderland Extravaganza Returns This Holiday Season

Westchester’s Winter Wonderland Drive-thru Holiday Light Extravaganza will return to Kensico Dam Plaza bigger and better than ever this holiday season with extended hours, thousands of additional lights, magical holiday animations and a live Santa.

Westchester Parks Foundation continues to re-imagine the eighth season of the popular holiday event while creating a safe and memorable experience the whole family can enjoy. Guests will be dazzled and delighted with 1.2 miles of holiday lights, larger-than-life displays, live characters and Santa, right from the warmth and safety of your own car.

The event is presented by the Westchester Medical Center Health Network.

“The holidays are such a special time to spend with family and Westchester’s Winter Wonderland Drive-thru Holiday Light Extravaganza provides families with a fun and safe way to celebrate,” said County Executive George Latimer. “I’m thrilled the Parks Department and Westchester Parks Foundation have found even more ways to make the event spectacular.”

Starting Friday, Nov. 26 at 6 p.m., the festive celebration takes place five consecutive weeks through Jan. 2, 2022. The event will be open seven nights a week starting at 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 5 p.m. on weekends.

Guests will be dazzled and delighted along the 1.2 miles of holiday lights with a new electrifying Elf Disco, a whimsical display of jubilant children from around the world, a breathtaking Peace on Earth LED display with animated trumpets and angels and two new 30-foot snowflakes to light up the largest holiday Christmas tree in Westchester. There will also be a bigger and better snowstorm central that the whole family can enjoy from the warmth and safety of your own car.

“Last year we debuted the drive-thru concept because of COVID and thousands of families came out to enjoy the reimagined concept,” said Joe Stout, executive director of Westchester Parks Foundation. “As a result, we decided to expand the drive-thru to include additional lights and displays to dazzle holiday participants even more.”

Holiday classics will be simulcast through each vehicle’s FM radio to help set the mood. Guests should allow 25 to 30 minutes to drive through the attraction. Additional attractions include favorite elves Ned and Albert, glittering angels of peace, a 50-foot dove, dancing trees, glowing snowballs, candy cane lane, a spectacular 100-foot light tunnel, Westchester’s favorite 40-foot Christmas tree,

Santa and friends and more.

Special event nights will include the official tree lighting celebration on opening night and a family-friendly festive way to ring in the New Year at Winter Wonderland.

Reservations are required to avoid additional surcharges. Tickets are \$25 off peak and \$35 peak. (There will be an additional cost for large passenger vans and limos; call for special reservations.)

There are also Wegman’s snack boxes available to enjoy for \$15 extra along the ride. Be sure to check the box when purchasing your ticket because they are not available for purchase on site.

Con Edison also returns as a platinum sponsor, helping to light up the sky at Kensico Dam Plaza for all to enjoy.



Santa will return this year to Kensico Dam Plaza for Westchester County’s Winter Wonderland Drive-thru Holiday Light Extravaganza starting Nov. 26. The event, which was introduced last year during the pandemic instead of the traditional Winter Wonderland celebration, features a 1.2-mile-long display of mesmerizing holiday lights through the park.

Supplemental Summons and Notice of Object of Action

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

Action to Foreclose a Mortgage INDEX #: 70410/2019 WILMINGTON TRUST COMPANY, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO CITIBANK, N.A. AS TRUSTEE TO LEHMAN XS TRUST MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-17 Plaintiff, vs FRANK O'CONNOR IF LIVING, AND IF HE/SHE BE DEAD, ANY AND ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF, CLAIMING, OR WHO MAY CLAIM TO HAVE AN INTEREST IN, OR GENERAL OR SPECIFIC LIEN UPON THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THIS ACTION; SUCH UNKNOWN PERSONS BEING HEREIN GENERALLY DESCRIBED AND INTENDED TO BE INCLUDED IN WIFE, WIDOW, HUSBAND, WIDOWER, HEIRS AT LAW, NEXT OF KIN, DESCENDANTS, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, COMMITTEES, LIENORS, AND ASSIGNEES OF SUCH DECEASED, ANY AND ALL PERSONS DERIVING INTEREST IN OR LIEN UPON, OR TITLE TO SAID REAL PROPERTY BY, THROUGH OR UNDER THEM, OR EITHER OF THEM, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE WIVES, WIDOWS, HUSBANDS, WIDOWERS, HEIRS AT LAW, NEXT OF KIN, DESCENDANTS, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, COMMITTEES, LIENORS, AND ASSIGNS, ALL OF WHOM AND WHOSE NAMES, EXCEPT AS STATED, ARE UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING THROUGH THE IRS JOHN DOE (Those unknown tenants, occupants, persons or corporations or their heirs, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, guardians, assignees, creditors or successors claiming an interest in the mortgaged premises.) Defendant(s). MORTGAGED PREMISES: 157 6TH STREET VERPLANCK, NY 10596 SBL #: 54.5 - 2 - 9 To the Above named Defendant: You are hereby summoned to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Supplemental Summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff(s) attorney(s) within twenty days after the service of this Supplemental Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this Supplemental Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York). In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. The Attorney for Plaintiff has an office for business in the County of Erie. Trial to be held in the County of Westchester. The basis of the venue designated above is the location of the Mortgaged Premises. TO Frank O'Connor Defendant In this Action. The foregoing Supplemental Summons is served upon you by publication, pursuant to an order of HON. Lawrence H. Ecker of the Supreme Court Of The State Of New York, dated the Twenty-Sixth day of August, 2021 and filed with the Complaint in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Westchester, in the City of White Plains. The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage upon the premises described below, executed by Frank O'Connor dated the August 10, 2006, to secure the sum of \$384,000.00 and recorded at Instrument No. 462490790 in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk, on the September 26, 2006. The mortgage was subsequently assigned by an assignment executed December 19, 2011 and recorded on March 26, 2012, in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk at Instrument Number 520813583. The mortgage was subsequently assigned by an assignment executed December 4, 2013 and recorded on February 6, 2014, in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk at Instrument Number 540133360. The mortgage was subsequently assigned by an assignment executed February 26, 2016 and recorded on March 8, 2016, in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk at Instrument Number 560683020. The mortgage was subsequently modified on March 6, 2017; The property in question is described as follows: 157 6TH STREET, VERPLANCK, NY 10596 HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS IN FORECLOSURE NEW YORK STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT WE SEND YOU THIS NOTICE ABOUT THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY. SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME. IF YOU FAIL TO RESPOND TO THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT IN THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION, YOU MAY LOSE YOUR HOME. PLEASE READ THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT CAREFULLY. YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT AN ATTORNEY OR YOUR LOCAL LEGAL AID OFFICE TO OBTAIN ADVICE ON HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF. SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE The state encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. In addition to seeking assistance from an attorney or legal aid office, there are government agencies and non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about possible options, including trying to work with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York State Department of Financial Services at 1-800-342-3736 or the Foreclosure Relief Hotline 1-800-269-0990 or visit the department's website at WWW.DFS.NY.GOV. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO LEAVE YOUR HOME AT THIS TIME. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO STAY IN YOUR HOME DURING THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO LEAVE YOUR HOME UNLESS AND UNTIL YOUR PROPERTY IS SOLD AT AUCTION PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO REMAIN IN YOUR HOME, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR PROPERTY AND PAY PROPERTY TAXES IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE AND LOCAL LAW. FORECLOSURE RESCUE SCAMS Be careful of people who approach you with offers to "save" your home. There are individuals who watch for notices of foreclosure actions in order to unfairly profit from a homeowner's distress. You should be extremely careful about any such promises and any suggestions that you pay them a fee or sign over your deed. State law requires anyone offering such services for profit to enter into a contract which fully describes the services they will perform and fees they will charge, and which prohibits them from taking any money from you until they have completed all such promised services. § 1303 NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. DATED: August 31, 2021 Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney(s) For Plaintiff(s) 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 The law firm of Gross Polowy, LLC and the attorneys whom it employs are debt collectors who are attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained by them will be used for that purpose. 69930

Crossword Answers

	B	O	P			E	M	M	A
R	E	F	E	R	S		M	A	A
E	N	T	A	I	L		O	N	L
L	E		C	O	A	T	T	A	I
I	A	G	O		M	A	I		
C	R	A	C	K		J	O	Y	C
			K	I	M		N	O	R
B	A	R	B	A	R	I	A		A
A	X	E	L		I	N	L	O	V
L	I	E	U		S	A	L	V	E
I	S	L	E			Y	O	N	

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continued from page 24

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& Codes: Robert Hughes, Pleasantville Building Inspector; Pricing Your Home: Donna McKenna-Edlund, Associate Real Estate Broker; Staging Your Home: Leigh Wilder, Professional Home Stager and Organizer; Closing Procedures: Robbin Sweeney, Real Estate/Elder Law Attorney. Sponsored by Donna McKenna-Edlund and Hans Weber, Associate Real Estate Brokers with Coldwell Banker Realty. Place: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 197 Manville Road, Pleasantville (lower level). Starting at 6 p.m. No Reservation Required. For more information contact Donna at 914-403-4237.

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Playwright's Personal Experiences Part of Hudson Stage Production

By Martin Wilbur

Playwright Joshua Allen relies on his experiences of growing up in an apartment building on the South Side of Chicago for a thoughtful, yet humorous look at the characters who call it home.

"The October Storm," which will be presented by Hudson Stage over the next three weekends at Whippoorwill Hall in Armonk, is actually part of a trilogy of plays that Allen wrote that focuses on his own family and other families who came northward during The Great Migration, where millions of Black families escaped the Jim Crow South to cities in the north from World War I until about 1970.

Allen, a fourth-generation Chicagoan, said many of his descendants were part of The Great Migration.

"I've always been fascinated by it," said Allen, who has also directed "In Treatment" on HBO and "From Scratch" on Netflix. "We don't have a whole lot in my family. We don't have a whole lot in terms of diaries and first-hand accounts, and things like that, to have the kind of stuff that you can find on ancestry.com. So I would let my imagination go and see where it took me and where it led me."



Playwright Joshua Allen, left, who wrote "The October Storm," which will be presented by Hudson Stage for nine performances starting this weekend at Whippoorwill Hall in Armonk. Cezar Williams is directing the show.

The trilogy takes place on different floors of the building, and there are some glancing references to characters between the different plays. In "The October Storm," which takes place in the early 1960s, a troubled war veteran moves in and other residents become caught in an emotional whirlwind that threatens to change their lives forever.

Directing the play is Greenburgh native and current Yonkers



resident Cezar Williams, who said he is thrilled to be back in the theater after about a year-and-a-half of live performances being shelved. "The October Storm" is an excellent choice to resume live theater, he said.

Having grown up in an apartment building as well, Williams said Allen's story reminds him of many of his neighbors as well.

"The play has been a joy, it's an incredibly enjoyable play to

participate in," said Williams said. "It's funny, the people are relatable and humorous and it's just a good time. It's a lot of fun. We spent a lot of time rehearsing, so that's always a good sign."

Neither Allen nor Williams thought much about a career in theater and television growing up. While Allen always loved to write, he was a pre-med student at USC when he realized that he wasn't as strong in many of the more difficult science courses that are needed to become a doctor, at least compared to high school.

Instead, he had friends who were theater majors and decided to go in that direction. He moved to New York for five years and enrolled in the playwright program at Juilliard, which put him in contact with impressively talented people.

Allen moved back to Los Angeles about 10 years ago to also write for television.

"Writing is a more solitary process, which I like, but you collaborate, which is why I love working in theater; you get both," he said. "You get to be by yourself at the desk and work your things out and write it and you get to invite other people to collaborate with you. I love both of them equally."

For Williams, who has had acting credits on "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," "The Hudson Tribes" and "Shades of Blue," music was his passion growing up. But he switched to the theater while attending NYU as a business major after being disillusioned with what he described as drama in the recording industry.

Williams' wife also writes plays, and she asked him to direct one of her works, which he did and that sparked his interest in directing. He is the artistic director of The Fire This Time Festival and directed an off-Broadway production of "Dancing on Eggshells."

Hudson Stage will present nine performances of "The October Storm" starting this Friday evening at 8 p.m. There will also be performances on Oct. 9, 15, 16, 22 and 23 at 8 p.m. and matinees on Oct. 10, 17 and 23 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$40; \$35 for students and seniors. Student tickets are \$10 within 30 minutes of a performance, if available.

For more information and tickets, call 914-271-2811 or visit www.hudsonstage.com.

All audience members must show proof of vaccination or a recent negative COVID-19 test at the door to gain admittance.

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Don't Wait to See Your Physical Therapist

The past year-and-a-half has been very taxing, both mentally and physically. People are working from home now more than ever before due to the pandemic and it has taken its toll.

Physical therapy is a great option to alleviate some of these aches and pains and it may be easier to make an appointment than you think; it's called Direct Access and it takes some of the stress out of the process.

In the past, patients were required to see a physician and get a prescription to see a physical therapist. This understandably made it more difficult, due to this additional step, and most likely made people push off getting therapy due to the inconvenience.

But in January 2015, all 50 states adopted Direct Access (with certain restrictions from state to state), which allows patients to see a physical therapist without a prescription. Health care is expensive, as we all know, so if a patient can seek physical therapy services without excessive tests and referrals from specialists, costs can be cut significantly.

Understandably, there was some backlash from the medical boards when Direct Access was proposed. For one thing, it was argued that physical therapists did not have enough training to diagnose a patient's symptoms. Previously, PT students graduated with a master's degree.

But in January 2016, the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) made the doctorate in physical therapy the required degree for all students. That meant in addition to the four years of science-based undergraduate curriculum, a PT student now had to complete three to three-and-a-half years of graduate courses. These courses include neuroscience classes, pharmacology, cardiopulmonary and musculoskeletal disorders, prosthetics and orthotics, health promotion and wellness and much more. Combining this coursework with the continuing education that a physical therapist must complete every few years to

maintain their license ensures that the patient is getting the best, knowledge-based care possible to

diagnose and treat their condition.

Some frequently asked questions that arise when it comes to Direct Access usually concern finances. What will Direct Access cost me? Is it more expensive in the end?

Cost is always a concern when it comes to seeing a practitioner of any kind. The best approach to take before choosing a provider you want to see is to check your benefits. Make sure that your health insurance doesn't require a prescription for PT in the end. A very small percentage of health insurance companies do require a prescription, but it is not the norm.

There may be the requirement of a co-pay for your visit but by eliminating the physician visit, expenses are kept low. Almost all insurance companies will reimburse your PT visits under Direct Access for a set number of days or length of time depending on the state that you're in. For New York, you may see a physical therapist for 10 visits or 30 days, whichever comes first. After



By Katie Streeter

that, a patient may be referred to a physician for further assessment if their symptoms have not subsided or if a more aggressive course of treatment is required. At that time, if the patient needs further physical therapy, a prescription would then be required.

Times are tough and uncertain, but your health and physical well-being shouldn't have to take a back seat because of a complicated system. Direct Access has been a significant step forward in the health care world and allows for most everyone to take their health and recovery into their own hands and get back on the road to a pain-free life.

Katie Streeter is one of the physical therapist assistants that treats patients at ProClinix Sports Physical Therapy & Chiropractic office in Ardsley. For any questions regarding Direct Access, contact our health care administrative team at 914-202-0700 or at admin@proclinix.com.

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5 Questions Women Should Ask About Breast Cancer Surgery

Ask the Doctor

Ranjana Chaterji, DO

Breast Surgeon

Northwell Health Breast Care Center

Northern Westchester Hospital

The care and safety of our community during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is our top priority. We have put maximum safety measures in place to prevent exposure to the coronavirus by anyone who comes to the Hospital for emergency or scheduled care. Don't delay care. Please continue to wash your hands, wear a mask, and practice social distancing.



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Q: What stage is my cancer?

A: Breast cancer stages are represented on a scale of 0 to 4, with 4 being the most serious. Stage 0, also called ductal carcinoma in situ, means that your cancer is contained in a milk duct and has a low risk of spreading. Stage 4 breast cancer means the cancer has spread to other parts of your body. If your cancer is stage 4, seeking treatment immediately may improve your outcome and ultimate quality of life.

Q: How do I decide whether a lumpectomy or mastectomy is the best option?

A: More often than not, you will choose the type of surgery you feel most comfortable with. The survival data of lumpectomy with radiation is equivalent to that of a mastectomy, so we've learned that more surgery is not necessarily better.

Q: How soon does surgery need to be done?

A: Typically, we try to operate within a month of a diagnosis—you don't have to decide immediately. You can learn about breast cancer, understand your options, and then make a decision you're comfortable with. A woman's gut feeling is most important. My patients often ask me, "What would you do?" But it's not about me—it's what the woman wants and what makes sense for her, her family, and her life.

Q: How do I choose a surgeon?

A: Seek a fellowship-trained breast surgeon. These are surgeons who, after their residency, do a fellowship specific to oncologic breast surgery. At Northern Westchester Hospital, we work as a team to care for you through surgery, medical oncology, radiation oncology, genetics and plastic surgery.

Q: How can I find support during this difficult time?

A: Northern Westchester Hospital's Bruce and Andrea Yablon Cancer Health and Wellness Program provides supportive care and holistic treatments that complement medical treatment. You can choose free integrative medicine services, including reiki, acupuncture, massage, nutrition planning, fitness and exercise plans, mindful wellness and emotional support, and a survivorship program.

We also partner with Support Connection, a group that offers free emotional, social and educational support services to women and their families and friends affected by breast and ovarian cancer. I encourage my patients to take part in these programs, which are currently virtual. The support enables women to help each other and empowers them to become their own health care advocates.

**Learn more about Dr. Chaterji, visit
nwh.northwell.edu/Chaterji**

Arthritis Foundation

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A Road Map to New Wines From the Bottle Back-Label



By Nick Antonaccio

Having sought out new wines for several decades now, I've found that I prefer particular styles of wine and specific wine regions. This has certainly helped steer me in the right direction when I'm perusing the numerous offerings at my local wine shops. It has also helped me avoid spending cash on wines that might otherwise disappoint me.

What I've also deduced over the continuum of developing my instinctive behavior is that I tend to favor wines offered by select importers. How does an individual importer influence my wine purchasing decision? This is today's topic.

Over the past 20 years the universe of wine importing has broadened, from monolithic importers who controlled most of the wine purchased in the United States, to a sophisticated, focused group of smaller importers that supplement the offerings of the mainstream importers. Many of these "artisanal importers," if you will, have a passion for a particular style of wine or particular wine regions and vigorously pursue wines that express their passions. Their focus is on the small producers, who don't produce enough to garner the attention of the larger importers and who otherwise might not have the

opportunity to offer their wines to the American consumer.

Thus, certain importers' names have become synonymous with small producers who offer wines not otherwise available in the marketplace. These importers are passionate about a particular aspect of a wine, be it the underlying principles of winemaking, the expression of a unique terroir in the microcosm of a wine region or the discovery of a new sub-region that offers unique wines not yet mined by the large wine production companies.

If you like the new wines coming from the south of France, there are artisanal importers who have spent hours in the cramped, damp and poorly lighted cellars of family-owned winemakers, many of whom are fourth and fifth generation producers. These artisans now have the opportunity

to offer their finely crafted wines across the Atlantic to a consumer in northern Westchester.

If you like Champagne, there are artisanal importers who offer alternatives to the highly marketed

French mega producers, at prices that are competitive to the big Champagne houses.

If you like organic or biodynamic wines, there are artisanal importers who search high and low for small producers who have simpatico philosophies, bringing these wines into the United States and creating a new awareness of natural wines to the American consumer.

Who are these artisanal importers? Their names are right there in plain sight. You can usually find them by looking on the back label of your favorite wines. Using this research tool as your guide, new vistas will open as you seek out wines to enjoy.

Only the distributor's name is displayed on the back label, not the importer? Ask your local wine merchant for the name of the importer

who is represented by the distributor, or alternatively, check the distributor's or the winemaker's website. Once you've identified the importer, begin asking for their selections at your local wine shop. The likelihood is that you will be pleased with the representative wines.

Several of these artisanal importers are right here in our backyard. Their offerings may or may not be aligned with your preferences, but in the interest of supporting local businesses, I present them to you so you may experiment to find new wines.

South Salem is home to Serge Doré Selections, the eponymous house whose founder long ago traded constant toiling on hot, concrete pavements for traipsing through vineyard rows with sun-warmed



soil underfoot. He traded meetings in sterile office buildings for kitchen table tastings in the homes of multi-generational French winemakers. Today, his numerous offerings, primarily from nine French regions, have become popular with Americans seeking wines with unique bouquets, aromas and flavors.

In Mount Kisco, Polaner Distributors is a unique blend of distributor and

importer. They encourage consumers to "open your mind and taste." Their focus is to "comb the wine world to discover and launch tiny, up-and-coming producers."

For an expanded listing of consistently reliable niche importers, feel free to contact me via e-mail.

Nick Antonaccio is a 45-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years, he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member and Program Director of the Wine Media Guild of wine journalists. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.

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