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

COVID-19 Breakdown:
Village of Ossining 3,436 (181)
Yorktown 3,397 (290)
Peekskill 3,341 (192)
Cortlandt 2,917 (175)
Somers 1,581 (142)
Croton-on-Hudson 652 (46)
Town of Ossining 495 (24)
Buchanan 213 (17)

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February 16 - February 22, 2021

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 582



PHOTO BY DAVID ROCCO

An Amtrak train collided with a Honda Civic Monday afternoon at the Riverfront Green in Peekskill.

Injuries Avoided as Train Strikes Car in Peekskill

By Rick Pezzullo

No injuries were reported after an Amtrak train struck a car attempting to cross the tracks Monday afternoon at the Riverfront Green in Peekskill.

Peekskill Police Lieutenant Jack Galusha said police received a 911 call at approximately 3:20 p.m. about a train colliding with a vehicle at the crossing.

Upon arrival, police found a Honda Civic with heavy front-end damage had been struck by an Amtrak train heading north from Grand Central Station to Poughkeepsie. An eyewitness told Examiner Media it appears the driver tried to travel through the barriers and signal lights towards the river.

The female operator of the Honda was

continued on page 2

Underhill Farms Developer Offers Park Access to Town

By Rick Pezzullo

The developer of a proposed mixed-use project on the former Soundview Preparatory School site on Underhill Avenue in Yorktown is offering town residents access to a park that is planned near an existing pond.

Paul Guilaro, president of Unicorn Contracting, told the Yorktown Town Board during a work session last week he would cover the estimated annual \$350,000 cost to maintain approximately three acres where the pond is located, and a walking trail and benches are envisioned.

"It's going to be very scenic and the focal point of the development," Guilaro said.

Underhill Farms is slated to consist of 165 units of market rate housing and 20,000 square feet on retail and office space. The

project will be built in two phases, with 80 townhouses/condominiums for purchase on the western side set to be included in the first phase. The second phase will have 85 rental apartments and 30 parking spaces

set aside for a new senior center that is planned on the neighboring Beaver Ridge Apartments property.

The Underhill Farms development is one of dozens of properties throughout the town that the Planning Department has determined would be suitable to be placed in a Planned Design District Overlay Zone. The stated purpose and intent of the

Planned Design District Overlay Zone, which the Town Board is currently considering, is to provide the town with "flexibility

continued on page 2



PAUL GUILLARO

Former Highway Super DiBartolo, Accomplice Indicted

By Anna Young

Former Yorktown Highway Superintendent and Ex-Chamber of Commerce President Eric DiBartolo could spend up to seven years in prison after allegedly working with an accomplice to steal about \$15,000 in merchandise from Home Depot at the Cortlandt Town Center.

DiBartolo, 59, and Cortlandt resident Tyrone Bass, 58, were both indicted Thursday and charged with one count of grand

larceny in the third degree, a class D felony, according to Westchester County District Attorney Mimi Rocah. Bass was a cashier at the Home Depot in Mohegan Lake.

The charges carry penalties ranging from probation to up to seven years in prison, she said.

"It's sad and disheartening to see someone who has been a respected elected of-

ficial and community member violate the public trust in this way," Rocah said. "These actions also have a corrosive effect throughout the area, undermining trust and confidence in government."

The pair engaged in a "scan and skip" scheme, Rocah said, in which DiBartolo, who is also the owner of a pet cre-

matory business in town, brought merchandise to Bass to check out, and Bass, on nearly two dozen occasions, completed the transactions without charging him for many of the items.

According to Westchester County Police, Bass would only ring up a small portion of the items DiBartolo left the store with. These items were primarily construction materials and tools, officials said.

On one occasion, DiBartolo had \$1,200 worth of merchandise

in his cart despite being billed \$89 for the items, police said.

The thefts occurred on 23 occasions in 2020, according to police reports, with the value of the stolen goods totaling \$14,479.78. Westchester County Police began an investigation at the request of Home Depot loss prevention personnel.

DiBartolo was arrested on Jan. 6, while Bass was arrested on Dec. 16. Both were arraigned in Cortlandt Town Court before Judge Maritza Fugaro-Norton.



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Supervisor Slater, Esposito Head Yorktown GOP 2021 Slate

By Rick Pezzullo

The Yorktown Republican Committee has selected its 2021 slate, with Supervisor Matt Slater heading the ticket.

Joining Slater, who is seeking a second two-year term and will likely face no opposition, are Town Board hopefuls Sergio Esposito, who is president of the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce, and Luciana Haughwout, a small business owner. Highway Superintendent Dave Paganelli is also running for a third four-year term and has no Democratic opponent.

"The Yorktown Republican Party is excited to present this dynamic team that we believe represents the best our community has to offer," Republican Chairman Kevin Byrnes said. "Our ticket personifies strong leadership, private sector success and a community first mindset. Every Yorktown resident should be excited about the quality of our candidates."

Despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, Slater highlighted economic



2021 Republican-endorsed candidates (L-R:) Sergio Esposito, Matt Slater, Dave Paganelli and Luciana Haughwout.

growth in town, promoting key initiatives to combat climate change and holding the line on taxes.

"It is an honor to walk into Town Hall every day and serve the community I was raised in," Slater said. "The past 14 months have brought unprecedented challenges to this town, but I am proud of how we managed them and put Yorktown in a position to comeback stronger than ever."

Esposito, who runs his own specialty business with a focus on information technology, is running for elected office for the first time.

Besides his role with the Chamber, Esposito has been an active volunteer for local sports clubs, serves as secretary of the town's Ethics Committee and is an active member of the Yorktown Heights Volunteer

Fire Department. He said one of his proudest contributions has been a partnership with Camp Sunshine to raise funds to help families with children that have life threatening diseases get help and counseling.

"I love this town and I want to do even more," Esposito said. "I raised my family here, grew my business here and want nothing more than to help foster an environment for families and businesses to experience the same successes I have. Yorktown is finally on the verge of greatness and I look forward to having a leadership role in this next chapter."

Haughwout is also a small business owner with extensive experience in commercial business development. She is President-elect of the Brookside Elementary School PTA. Her husband Rick is an active member of the Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corps and they are raising their three young children near Sparkle Lake.

"Yorktown is an amazing community to live, to work and to raise a family," Haughwout said. "These were the exact reasons

my husband and I decided to raise our family here. I am excited and honored to be given this opportunity to serve my neighbors and can't wait to meet people along the campaign trail."

Since taking office in 2014, Paganelli, a former town councilman, has been lauded for his successful management of infrastructure projects, such as the Mohegan Avenue retaining wall and storm responses. He also has successfully grown the Highway Department's fund balance while upgrading the department's aged fleet.

"I am very proud of my record of success and look forward to serving the residents of Yorktown for another four years," Paganelli said. "As Highway Superintendent my focus is always ensuring the safety of our residents while protecting taxpayers. I believe my record reflects these priorities which I will always put first."

The town's Democratic Committee has endorsed three-term Councilman Vishnu Patel and former Supervisor Ilan Gilbert to run for the two available Town Board sets in November.

Panas Senior Wins Second at Regional Research Competition

Walter Panas High School senior Amal Shibu, a science research student, won second place at the Westchester-Rockland Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in the medicine and health category.

Shibu gave a 12-minute PowerPoint presentation followed by five minutes of questions from judges, and placed in the local speaker session at the virtual event on Jan. 30.

"Amal has worked hard in the program for the past four years and demonstrated a lot of grit to complete her project, given that COVID-19 made data collection more challenging," said Frank Tamweber, the science research teacher.



AMAL SHIBU

Her research, the "Relationship Between Caregiver Stress and Patient Depression Score in Alzheimer's Disease," focused on the mental health of caregivers and how they're affected by the long term effects of Alzheimer's disease in patients.

Shibu said her research was inspired by her aunt and grandmother.

"When my grandfather was diagnosed, I noticed the differences in how they were affected," she said. "While my grandmother got anxious and overwhelmed, my aunt got frustrated and stressed."

The impact of a long-term disease like Alzheimer's on family caregivers was interesting and personal."



A Frigid Fundraiser

Brave souls more than cooled off in the frigid Hudson River Saturday by taking the Headless Horseman Plunge to benefit Ossining-based Gullotta House, which was founded in 2015 to help any Westchester resident facing a hardship. More than \$30,000 was raised for the non-profit organization.

Developer Offers Park Access

continued from page 1

in land uses which bolster economic development by providing not only a diverse array of commercial businesses, but mixed-use residential and commercial parcels to both provide abundant job opportunities and contribute to the local tax base."

When asked about the Overlay Zone, Guillaro said it sounded like it would be "more user friendly," while Planning Director John Tegeder reiterated his stance that

the property was suited for the Overlay Zone, stressing if the site remained residentially zoned it was "unlikely" the pond would be open to the public and the historic home would be repurposed for community use.

"The Overlay Zone makes sense for this project," Tegeder said.

If constructed, Underhill Farms is expected to generate about \$1 million annually in tax revenue. Guillaro said 300 trees that will be cut down will be replaced.

Injuries Avoided as Train Strikes Car in Peekskill

continued from page 1

not injured and an initial report from Amtrak officials was all occupants of the train also avoided injury.

Galusha said Peekskill Police contained the scene until MTA Police arrived and commenced their investiga-

tion. Local firefighters and ambulance corps members also responded to the scene.

By 4:30 p.m., the train was able to depart and the car was taken away on a flatbed truck. The mishap caused some delays throughout the day on the Hudson line.

Westchester Reaches Grim Milestone of 2,000 COVID-19 Deaths

By Anna Young

As active coronavirus cases continue to drop in Westchester County, the area experienced a grim milestone last week: 2,000 total virus deaths since the start of the pandemic.

The county reported six more deaths on Sunday, bringing the COVID-19-related death toll to 2,021. In the last week there have been 50 virus deaths, with 346 fatalities since Jan. 1.

County Executive George Latimer said during a briefing last Thursday that the loss of any loved one is incalculable.

"Had COVID not been on the scene, that loved one would still be alive," Latimer said. "2,002 other groups of families have gone through that same experience and they know that however ill their loved one might have been, that COVID contributed to their death. And in some cases, the stories are tragic with people under the age of 40 dying with their whole life ahead of them."

Coronavirus cases increased by 496 on Sunday, bringing the total number of positive cases to 101,511 since the start of the pandemic. There are now 7,297 active cases, a decrease of 1,386 over last week.

Active cases haven't been below 8,000 since Dec. 8.

"We had peaked up through the holiday season that pushed those numbers up very high," Latimer said. "We almost hit the 12,000 active cases marker and fell just short of that and now we're on the downslope and we're happy each passing day if we have less infection than we had two weeks ago."

The county's daily positivity rate is 4.24 percent, with 11,694 tests administered Friday. Overall, more than 1.92 million COVID-19 tests have been dispensed in Westchester since March.

As of Feb. 9, there were 489 virus patients in Westchester hospitals, a nearly 15 percent decrease over the last few weeks. Hospitalizations were approaching 600 earlier this month.

"The numbers are going down," Latimer said. "We are encouraged that the infection rate is not as high as it was."

As of Friday, Westchester County has directly administered 37,670 vaccines to eligible residents since the County Center became a distribution site on Jan. 13. The county Department of Health and Westchester Community College sites have inoculated about 7,000 individuals.

Putnam County's total caseload reached 7,878, with 34 additional positive cases recorded on Sunday. The county's daily positivity rate is 3.93 percent, with 865 tests administered on Friday.

Putnam currently has 540 active cases, a decrease of 125 over last week.

There have been 84 coronavirus-related deaths since the start of the pandemic, state data shows. Two people died from the virus last week, with 17 fatalities recorded in 2021.

Statewide there were 8,316 new positive cases on Sunday, with the daily positivity rate measuring 3.54 percent. New York's positivity rate on the seven-day rolling average was 3.83 percent, the lowest since Nov. 29, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said, which

marks 37 consecutive days of infectious declines.

"Thanks to New Yorkers' actions — like wearing masks, maintaining distance and making smart decisions — hospitalizations and the positivity rate continue to head down, and the holiday surge is in our rear-view mirror," Cuomo said. "The vaccine is the weapon that will win the war against COVID, and we have the infrastructure in place to administer hundreds of thousands of more shots as soon as supply is available."



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

There were 107 additional COVID-19-related fatalities, bringing the statewide death toll to 37,118.

Statewide hospitalizations stood at 6,593, a decrease of 295 over the previous day, and down 29 percent from the post-holiday peak. Across New York there have been 1,529,769 positive coronavirus cases since the start of the pandemic.

Restaurant Curfew

Closing times for New York restaurants and bars will extend one hour as the state continues to see a decline in coronavirus

hospitalizations and infection rates.

As of Sunday, restaurants and bars throughout the state can close at 11 p.m. instead of 10 p.m. Cuomo said the decision is based on recent science and data, explaining that it's important to adjust with the virus.

"The infection rate and hospitalizations have continued to significantly decline," Cuomo said last Friday. "We will continue to follow the science and react accordingly. If we keep the infections down and vaccinations up, we will continue to stay ahead in the footrace against this invisible enemy."

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New Castle Police Reform Recommendations Go to the Public

By Martin Wilbur

Increasing trust between the police and the public, promoting greater transparency and a more effective response to mental health emergencies are key areas of focus in the series of seven proposed New Castle police reform recommendations.

Town residents had their first opportunity last Thursday to comment on the suggestions from the Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Committee. The diverse set of community stakeholders, which first convened in November, formulated the list during their eight forums.

Last June, Gov. Andrew Cuomo's mandated that all municipalities in the state with police departments submit a report to the state by Apr. 1 outlining improvements to their agencies in the aftermath of George Floyd's killing.

Committee Chair Jeremy Saland said the group looked at local policing issues, and in some cases will also be advocating for the county or state to make changes.

"This has certainly been a collaboration to say the least, people with diverse backgrounds in terms of their ethnicity, diverse backgrounds in terms of their careers and experiences, so this has been pretty exciting for the Town of New Castle," Saland said.

Two of the recommendations directly aim to enhance trust between the police and citizens through the creation of an office of community advocate and establishment of a

chief's advisory board.

The community advocate would be an independent office, which would eliminate anonymous public complaints, which are problematic for the complainant and the officer because of limited ability for follow-up.

A chief's advisory board would be comprised of four to seven members from a wide cross-section of the community to address policing issues. Saland said the advisory board, which would meet semiannually, is to help police make sure best practices are being followed and to help create a stronger bond with the community.

Some of last week's discussion centered on what might be the best method to deal with calls for help with mental health situations. The goals are to maintain the health and welfare of the person in need of help and to approach the situation as being as helpful as possible.

It is an issue the committee identified as critical for the town.

"That sounds pretty basic but what we have seen, not necessarily here but across the U.S., there are times when people are in a mental health crisis or have mental health issues are known to a police officer or mental health responder, thing have very quickly spiraled out of control," Saland said.

At last Thursday's forum, resident Jay Chase Tyler said he didn't think the recommendation went far enough in addressing the recent problems of police responding to mental health-related calls.

He said lethal weapons should not be used unless every single attempt at de-escalation has failed.

Officers should only serve as backups for social workers or other mental health professionals, Tyler said.

"A good guy with a gun, for the lack of a better term, is not a good way to address a mental health emergency," Tyler said.

Police Chief James Carroll said the town's police department has access to the county service of bringing someone specially trained around the clock seven days a week, although there could be a lag in response time.

Other recommendations include use of community surveys to help identify areas that can be improved or changed, particularly if information can be derived to help marginalized communities, and to clearly define the role of the Town Board in its capacity as police commissioners, including holding a semiannual meeting to review the department's performance.

Another recommendation is collecting demographic information on traffic stops that do not result in a ticket. The information would include race, gender, age and ethnicity.

While the committee reached consensus that the data would be valuable to have, there had been extended discussion during recent committee meetings to clearly define the purpose and the parameters of its collection.

Saland said its purpose would be to identify if there are any trends occurring and to help the department and the town understand

the officers' perception of who they were stopping at the time it was happening.

The chief's advisory board would determine the method of data collection.

The final recommendation is to post key police department policies on the town's website.

This Thursday evening the committee will discuss the initial feedback it has received on the recommendations before reconvening another public input session on Thursday, Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. The Town Board is tentatively scheduled to adopt the final report on Mar. 2.

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County Police Reform Task Force Releases Recommendations to BOL

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County's police reform task force issued its report to the Board of Legislators last Tuesday that makes 51 wide-ranging recommendations intended to improve policing by county officers and their relationship to the public.

Key recommendations from the Police Reform and Reimagining Task Force include joint de-escalation training with the Department of Corrections, increasing training for procedural justice, cultural diversity and bias-related crimes and incidents and expanding the use of specialized personnel when responding to calls involving a mentally-ill person.

Additionally, the 38-member task force, comprised of a wide variety of stakeholders, called for county legislators to create an Office of Police Accountability to investigate allegations of officer misconduct and an open disciplinary process and introduce a shared body camera database with local departments to lower the cost of data storage to encourage wider use of officer body cameras and dashcams.

Other recommendations include a request to implement Project ABLE (Active Bystander for Law Enforcement) to train officers as to how to handle a situation if they see another officer doing something wrong and a proposal that all police departments in the county receive accreditation by the state, said task force Co-chairman Mayo Bartlett. The report also

proposes to push the state for legislation to make accreditation mandatory.

Only about half of the county's law enforcement agencies are accredited and that number drops to about 25 percent statewide, he said.

Bartlett said the nearly eight months it took for the group to complete its report highlighted that the county Department of Public Safety had many strong qualities, but it wanted to ensure that best practices are followed and address any improvements that should be made.

"We have endeavored to make sure that we are going to leave the Westchester County police department on a better footing than it is right now, and so 20 or 30 years from now when young people ask what happened in Westchester County with respect to policing, they will look and see that not only did we look at reforms that were required but we truly enhanced the concept of reimagining what police should be," Bartlett said.

Although there has been cultural competency and implicit bias training previously and the department uses body cameras and dashcams, the task force wanted to ensure trust with the community, said Co-chairman Leroy Frazer.

"There's an underlying theme of training, transparency and accountability and we sought to make the proper suggestions, that we can reach our goals and we can make sure that the police throughout Westchester are able to step up and have



Westchester County Executive George Latimer spoke during a press conference last week where the Police Reform and Reimagining Task Force released its report containing more than 50 recommendations in hopes of improving policing.

the relationship with the community, that there is a relationship of trust and there's a relationship of understanding," Frazer said.

County Executive George Latimer pointed to how the county had already created a task force to look at its policing before Gov. Andrew Cuomo delivered his executive order last June mandating all communities with departments complete and submit a report to the state.

"We want to do better and we want to take the basis of what's good of what we do, and the things that may not be good and improve and show a path to the future, and to do that, to have a multiplicity of

experiences around the table was important to us," Latimer said.

Other recommendations of note are to have the Department of Public Safety's website in multiple languages; develop a clearer description of the role that county officers play in Mount Kisco and Cortlandt, communities that receive police service from the county; and for the department to establish a stronger media presence, said task force member Blanca Lopez.

Public Safety Commissioner Thomas Gleason said the department welcomes recommendations that could result in positive changes.

"I believe our department, as an accredited agency, can serve as an example for other departments in our training, our professionalism and our policies and our procedures," Gleason said.

The report will now be reviewed by the Board of Legislators, which will hold public hearings on the document. Lawmakers will make any needed revisions before the county sends the completed report to the state by Apr. 1, said Board Chairman Ben Boykin (D-White Plains).

"In the end we will adopt a plan that will make Westchester a better place and that's really our most important job as legislators, to leave our county a better place when we leave than when we first took office," Boykin said.

The public may read the report at <https://www.westchestergov.com/images/stories/pdfs/police-reform-report.pdf>.

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Support for Vulnerable Populations at Heart of State Budget Forum

By Martin Wilbur

Appeals to Westchester's state Senate contingent to help the county's most vulnerable residents and the organizations that serve them was the focus of last Thursday's live-streamed budget forum.

The state legislature has begun deliberations on Gov. Andrew Cuomo's \$192 billion executive budget for Fiscal Year 2022. New York is facing a budget deficit of about \$15 billion as state officials hope that relief from Washington will arrive this year.

Close to 40 speakers over two hours highlighted the direst concerns facing many residents and pleaded for help as tens of thousands of low- and middle-income families have been ravaged during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tom Gabriel, president and CEO of United Way of Westchester and Putnam, said Cuomo's failure to include the 211 call center in his proposed budget will have severe consequences. The center connects residents in 24 New York counties to the programs and services they need.

In 2020, referrals ballooned in the region because of the pandemic to 4.9 million, up from 1.8 million in 2019, Gabriel said. He requested about \$2.8 million for the call center.

"Without help, 211 will not be able to help your constituents for much longer," Gabriel told the six senators. "We want to continue to be the safety net for New Yorkers but we need our partners in government, like you, who always have sustained support and made good on our priorities."



State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins hosted a state budget forum last week on the Fiscal Year 2022 budget. The second forum is Tuesday evening from 5 to 8 p.m.

Irvington resident Kamran Saliani said with more than 40 percent of New York residents facing food insecurity and Cuomo having cut Medicaid by \$2.2 billion in 2017 and underfunded schools in 2019 by \$3.9 billion, it is time to ask society's wealthy to contribute more.

She said components of the Invest in Our New York Act, a package of six bills that includes taxing capital gains at the same rate as earned income, instituting a billionaire's tax and adopting a more progressive income tax on those earning more than \$300,000, is estimated to raise as much as \$50 billion.

Theo Oshiro, deputy director and managing executive director of Make the Road NY, which assists the immigrant population, also called

on the legislature to enact funding for excluded workers and COVID-19 housing relief along with the Invest in Our New York Act.

"Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers that are ineligible for unemployment benefits, largely due to immigration status or incarceration, have now gone 10 months without any support," Oshiro said. "They can't wait any longer. The fund for excluded workers bill would deliver long overdue relief."

Ossining resident Lutonya Russell-Humes, the executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle, said more funds are needed to go toward basic needs of food, shelter, educational and essential support services.

She called on the legislators to restore \$5 million for Advantage Afterschool, which provides social and emotional support to youngsters whose families have faced unemployment, underemployment and eviction because of COVID-19, pass the Childhood Poverty Reduction Act and ensure that every child has access to high-speed internet access for remote learning.

"I understand the constraints of the state's budget; however, I ask that we don't balance the budget on the backs of our most vulnerable," Russell-Humes said.

Other speakers addressed more equitable education funding, support for the arts and programs for the elderly.

State Sen. Peter Harcham (D-Lewisboro), one of the senators who attended the forum, said the needs are great and the resources stretched, but pledged to ensure that any federal relief funds supplement, and not supplant, state funding.

State Sen. Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers) said the contingent is dedicated to helping the population that needs the most assistance.

"We all know, those of us on this call, what a tough year this has been and what a tough budget situation we are presented with," Mayer said. "As advocates, you have done an extraordinary job of making your voices heard and I think we have much to be proud of for being there to listen."

A second forum is scheduled for Tuesday from 5 to 8 p.m. Registration to testify is at full capacity, but those who are interested can e-mail testimony to the delegation at westchesterdelegation@nysenate.gov. The forum will be live-streamed on Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins' Facebook page.

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P'ville Parents Concerned District Lagging for In-Person Instruction

By Lindsay Emery

Parents vented their frustrations to the Pleasantville Board of Education last week, dissatisfied that the district's reopening of schools for in-person learning hasn't progressed as well as several neighboring districts.

Guidance documents from the state Department of Health have been confusing,

and in some cases, contradictory, said Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter. The state Education Department (SED) has been collecting data from schools since September and hasn't updated its protocols since July so that the district can revise its reopening plan.

Fox-Alter said the state recently deferred sports and recreation to the counties, but has not done the same for the

academic program.

"That still stays up with New York State Department of Health and their guidance document is as clear as mud," Fox-Alter said.

In addition to a teachers' survey addressing whether they have received vaccines or have appointments to be inoculated, another survey will be sent out shortly gauging how many parents would feel comfortable sending their children back to school for expanded in-person learning.

Kindergarteners have half-day in-person classes either in the morning or afternoon five days a week. For grades 1-4, students are all remote on Mondays and alternate between full-day in-school instruction and a full-day of remote for the remainder of the week depending on their cohort. The middle school and high school follow a similar model.

Special education students and ESL learners come to school four days a week, Fox-Alter said.

During public comments at the Feb. 9 board meeting, many parents expressed disappointment with the district and its failure to reopen compared to some other districts.

Resident Patrick Donovan raised concerns about the lack of full-time return options for early learners and the absence of a substantive plan for reopening.

"I understand and support the desire to get teachers vaccines but we need to put what we need first," Donovan said. "And the fact is that what is needed, according to the superintendent, was not included in the call to action and that is troubling."

Donovan pointed out 19 districts that have either potentially canvassed or returned kindergarteners and other grades to in-person learning, including Chappaqua, Ossining and Mount Pleasant.

Chappaqua has had full-time in-person classes for grades K-8 since the start of the school year except for those families that opt for remote learning while the high school has followed a hybrid model. In Ossining, the district has been able to hold its pre-k and kindergarten classes in person five days a week since before the

holidays, according to the superintendent's office. Both of those grades are contained in their own building with sufficient space.

Parent Carly Souders said the American Pediatric Association states that three feet of social distancing is sufficient if there is satisfactory personal protection equipment, including mask wearing and adequate physical barriers.

"The science has been out there for a long time that transmission is not occurring nearly as much as adults and older kids and it doesn't feel like we have a very explicit list of what needs to happen in order for us to be able to go back to school full-time," Souders said.

Fox-Alter said the district is waiting to hear from public health officials about whether the three-foot rule for children is applicable to the school reopening plan. If that were the case, then the district would have more space to accommodate social distancing in the classroom.

For younger children, the district has ordered individual desks instead of tables that seat multiple students so that they can be more distanced, she said.

Resident Michael Busch asked the board about students' social and emotional welfare when they eventually return for full-time in-person instruction. Bedford Road School Principal Peggy Galotti said she has been working with the school psychologists to learn what resources can be introduced as soon as possible to address the needs of students before they return.

Pleasantville High School Principal Joe Palumbo said he has partnered with cognitive behavioral consultants and provided teachers with ongoing professional development around trauma-informed instruction.

Fox-Alter emphasized last week that the board wants to have as much staff and materials available for proper learning.

"We're taking this in a very intentional way, keeping everybody's health and safety first and foremost," Fox-Alter said. "We share the disappointment in what's going on, but the future does look bright and we're looking forward to it."

BRS Principal Galotti to Retire at End of School Year

By Lindsay Emery

Bedford Road School Principal Margaret (Peggy) Galotti will retire at the end of the school year after 15 years leading the school and 32 years with the district.

Earlier this month, Galotti wrote to the school's parents informing them of her decision.

"It is difficult to describe the magnitude of joy my BRS students have brought to my life," Galotti stated in her letter. "Each day their learning successes, pure innocence, and continuous giving to others reminds me how fortunate I am to be an educator. Their smiles, particularly in challenging times, always send a message of hope and happiness. Watching them grow as learners and most importantly kind and caring individuals will be a forever memory in my mind."

Last week, district officials praised Galotti's dedication to the Pleasantville community and the Bedford Road School.

Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter called her "the best elementary school principal, bar none," in the state.

Excellent leadership skills and deep knowledge of elementary pedagogy allowed Galotti to take on more roles, Fox-Alter said. Galotti, who started her career as a teacher at the school, became the curriculum coordinator, the assistant principal, and in 2006, was the best candidate to become its next principal, Fox-Alter said.

"For the past 15 years, Peggy has been an incredible leader," she said. "Her continuous passion for excellence is obvious and much appreciated and has been demonstrated through many child-centered initiatives such



This will be Bedford Road School Principal Peggy Galotti's final academic year in Pleasantville. She will be retiring after 32 years with the district.

as important social emotional learning work and implementing Strategic Plan initiatives."

Galotti said having one elementary school in a district is unique to the village and expressed her heartfelt thanks.

"I appreciate everyone on the screen and the entire Pleasantville community for the strength that they give me every day to do the job that I can do," Galotti said.

Board member Angela Vella said Galotti attended every high school graduation year after year and maintained connections with her students long after they graduated.

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State Senate Democrats Move to Repeal Cuomo’s Emergency Powers

By Martin Wilbur

Fourteen Democrats in the state Senate announced last Friday that they support a repeal of Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s expanded emergency powers from the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The legislators, which include two with portions of their district in Westchester, Sen. Alessandra Biaggi (D-Pelham) and Elijah Reichlin-Melnik (D-Nyack), said the powers were enacted by the legislature during the early stages of the crisis and are no longer needed.

“Without exception, the New York State Constitution calls for the Legislature to govern as a co-equal branch of government,” the statement read. “While COVID-19 has tested the limits of our people and state – and, early during the pandemic, required the government to restructure decision making to render rapid, necessary public health judgments – it is clear that the expanded emergency powers granted to the Governor are no longer appropriate.”

The governor’s authority to issue directives is due to expire on Apr. 30, but the group of 14 Democrats would consider doing it sooner and “as expeditiously as possible.”

Last Mar. 3, legislation was passed to significantly expand the Governor’s executive powers under an emergency declaration, including giving him the ability to issue directives, in light of the pandemic.



Gov. Andrew Cuomo received pushback from some Senate Democrats for the first time last week following new revelations about his administration concealing the number of nursing home deaths.

Senate Republicans throughout the state have been calling on their Democratic colleagues for months to end Cuomo’s expanded executive powers. In light of the recent revelation in state Attorney General Letitia James’ Jan. 28 report that the administration concealed the number of nursing home deaths, have grown louder.

Cuomo’s assistant, Melissa DeRosa, reportedly admitted to Democratic legislators last Friday that the nursing home deaths were concealed because a hostile Trump administration would have used the Department of Justice to investigate the state’s handling of the crisis.

State Sen. Sue Serino (R-Hyde Park) is part of a large roster of Republicans who support a special session to remove Cuomo’s emergency powers. In a statement, Serino said the Cuomo administration’s “callous disregard” for vulnerable residents and their families is a “horrific new low.”

She renewed calls for a full and

independent investigation into the state’s handling of the crisis in the nursing homes.

“Hiding data on the deaths of more than 15,000 New Yorkers and denying their loved ones the answers they deserve for political reasons has to be Albany’s rock bottom,” said Serino, ranking member of the Senate’s Aging Committee. “This revelation has only strengthened our resolve to continue our fight for justice and accountability for these residents and their loved ones.”

Senate Republicans have unsuccessfully tried to advance 14 previous amendments to repeal the governor’s emergency powers without receiving a single Democratic vote.

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Obituaries

Joseph Drago

The family of Joseph Edwin Drago announced his passing on Feb. 10 at the age of 72. Eddie, as he was known to family and friends, lived in Pleasantville for the past 25 years.

He was the first-born son of Salvatore and Betty Jean (née Peterson) on Aug. 18, 1948, in Jersey City, N.J. Five years later the family moved to the Silver Beach area of Throggs Neck, the Bronx, where he was raised with his younger brother Salvatore.

As a child, he played the accordion, tutored by Vinny Roberts' studio and was a member of the St. Frances de Chantal CYO Sea Cadet Corps.

Summer holidays were spent in Waynesville, Ohio at grandma Alma Petersons' farm. At the county fair, he proudly took a blue ribbon for his floral arrangement.

After graduation from Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx, he entered the University of Dayton graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1970.

He taught junior high school but left teaching to follow a business career. He bought and sold jewelry, coins and antiques in the tristate area for more than

30 years. He owned his business at the Crosby Avenue Jewelers in the Bronx. He was a fair and decent businessman who educated himself about his products.

Aside from work, Eddie enjoyed going to the movies and completing The New York Times Sunday crossword puzzle.

Eddie met Ann Marie Hopkins, a registered nurse, at a CYO dance in Whitestone, Queens in September 1984. They were married the following year on Oct. 12, 1985. On Thanksgiving weekend in 1994 they moved to Pleasantville to start their family.

Three-year-old Patrick was adopted from Volsk, Saratov, Russia in 1997; 12-year-old John Evgeny and 11-year-old Marie Katerina were adopted in 1999. After the death of her brother, John, in 2008, Marie located her sister Natasha with the help of a video graphic reporter and friend named Ekaterina Ustinova in 2014.

When Eddie's vision failed and health problems progressed, he retired from his business and tutored students part-time. He attended the Mount Pleasant Community Center for lunch, met new friends and



Joseph Drago

attended social gatherings there with his wife.

He is predeceased by his son, John Evgeny, and his 16-year-old collie mix named Biscuit.

Eddie is survived by his brother, Salvatore and sister-in-law Mary; his children, Marie and Patrick; nieces Christine Folchi Zavadi and Jennifer Hopkins; and nephews Brian Thomas Folchi, Brian Patrick and Brendan James Hopkins. He is also survived by his wife, Ann Marie.

Due to COVID-19 and weather conditions, please do not send any flowers. The family received friends at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville on Feb. 15. A Mass of Christian Burial was scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 10 a.m. at Holy Innocents R.C. Church in Pleasantville. Burial followed at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne.

Anthony Bucello

Anthony P. Bucello, a Mohegan Lake resident, died Feb. 8. He was 73.

Bucello was born Jan. 24, 1948, in New York City to Paul and Elena Bucello. Bucello served honorably in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. On Mar. 5, 1972, he married Roberta (Marcy) Gray. He was a member of the New York City Police Department, retiring in 1986. He later worked for Michael Anthony Jewelers for 18 years.

Bucello was a man of a few words, but anyone who knew him knew his love was like no other. He enjoyed playing pool, but because he chose to spend his time with his family, he didn't do it often. His ultimate joy was being with his family and spending time with his grandkids whom he thought were the "best." He enjoyed working and fixing things around the house; he had the patience of a saint. He was a loyal, long-suffering Jets fan.

He is survived by his wife, Marcella; son Paul Bucello (Denise); daughter Marissa Lachowicz (Brian); brother Mario Bucello; a sister, Yolanda Bucello; five grandchildren, Julia, Anthony, Emily, Elena and Alexandra; and nephews, great-nephews, a great-niece and godchildren. He was predeceased by two daughters, Julie Ann and Marie Elena, and a brother, Paul.

Yvonne Rustico

Yvonne Rustico, a Mahopac resident and formerly a longtime resident of Yorktown, died Jan. 30. She was 96.

Rustico, who worked as a library secretary at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School in Yorktown, was born in 1924 in North Hartland, Vt. to Charles and Germaine Beaudette, later graduating from Buckley High School in Hartford, Conn. in 1942. She served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, attaining the rank of yeoman as part of the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVE).

In 1965, she married Salvatore Rustico in El Paso, Texas. Rustico will be remembered for being a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, a hard worker and a loyal friend. She loved singing and dancing, spending time with her family, playing poker and traveling the world. She was very passionate about helping others through her Shaklee business. Locally, she was a member of the choir at Grace Lutheran Church in Yorktown, the Mahopac Seniors and the Red Hat Society.

She is survived by her children, Joseph Krosche, of New Rochelle, Jeffrey Krosche (Anna) of Hartsdale, Peter Rustico (Barbara)



Yvonne Rustico

of Middletown and Lisa Kunst (David) of Hopewell Junction; 17 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild; and her sister, Elsie Urgo, of Glastonbury, Conn. She was predeceased by her husband, Salvatore, and her daughter, Lynn Hill.

Ruth MacDonald

Ruth Snell MacDonald, 84, of Pleasantville passed away on Feb. 3 at Yorktown Rehabilitation & Nursing Center.

MacDonald was born June 11, 1936, in the Bronx to the late Howard Engall and Estella Copperthwaite Snell. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ervin Douglas MacDonald II.

Her credentials included a B.A., English/French from Houghton College; an M.A., Teaching English as a Second Language from Teachers College, Columbia University; and a certificate in botanical art and illustration from New York Botanical Garden.

Awards and accomplishments included Beaux Arts Exhibit, Woman's Club of Pleasantville, first prize in graphics, 1996 and 2005; Beaux Arts Exhibit, Woman's Club of Pocantico Hills, second prize in graphics, 1997 and 1999; 3rd annual Botanical Illustration Show, Denver Botanic Gardens, honorable mention, 1999; and Westchester County Federation of Woman's Clubs' 50th Annual Beaux Art Finale, second prize in graphics, 1996.

MacDonald was an accomplished botanical artist with numerous awards.

Constantino Procopis

Constantino "Cozz" Procopis, 90, of Mount Kisco, passed away on Jan. 31 surrounded by his family after a brief battle with COVID-19. Cozz was born in Mount Kisco on Aug. 4, 1930, to Athena and Steven Procopis. Cozz joined the Navy

She discovered her talent as an adult while working among the wildflowers and perennials in what used to be an old colonial road. The flowers were a palette and the intractable roadbed a canvas. She was a very active member of the American Society of Botanical Artists and the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators. One of her quotes was, "...art is a celebration – whether it is the beauty of the human spirit amid the vicissitudes of everyday living, or whether, as in botanical art and illustration, it is the transient beauty of a flower or even a pernicious weed."

She also had strong ties with Japan through her work as an executive administrator at Nippon Steel, U.S.A., located in New York City, as well as through her love of Japanese art. She said, "While I cannot claim the gifts of an artist like Hokusai, the celebrated Japanese wood-block artist whose favorite name was 'old man crazy about painting,' I would not mind being called 'old woman crazy about drawing.'"

She will be missed greatly by her friend and son, Hiko Watanabe, and his family, Francy, Taiji and Shunji.



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No. Castle Incumbents Schiliro, Reiter, DiGiacinto Aim for Re-election

By Martin Wilbur

The North Castle Town Board's three incumbents are all running for re-election this year but it remains to be seen whether they will have any competition.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro and two-term Councilman Barry Reiter were recently endorsed by the town's Democratic Committee, said its chair, Linda Fernberg.

Meanwhile, the board's lone Republican, Barbara DiGiacinto, said she intends to run for a third term on the board.

Schiliro, who was elected supervisor in 2013 following six years as a councilman, said key decisions will have to be made concerning several development proposals in town and ensuring North Castle remains on solid financial footing through the pandemic.

Road conditions, particularly pressing New York State to keep up with maintenance of the large stretches of state routes in town, must also be addressed.

"I love the job and I enjoy it, and to me it's the purest form of government, so to have the ability to make important decisions for the town and affect people's lives like roads or budgetary (issues), things like that, I don't think you really get any other opportunities serving the public sector, in public office, then at the town, village or city level," Schiliro said.

Working with the current board, Schiliro said he has been fortunate that its members are competent and professional who leave politics at the door even when there is disagreement on an issue.



North Castle Supervisor Michael Schiliro has once again been endorsed by the town's Democratic Committee for a run at a fifth term.

"I ask for an apolitical approach from all the members, and that's what we get," he said. "So there's never any decision based on a party line or politics. It's what each member thinks is best for the town, and that's the way it should be."

Reiter, who is in his eighth year on the board, said he's committed to preserving the town's AAA bond rating through uncertain times and improving its ball fields and athletic facilities, two of the key issues he'd like to focus on.

Contributing to decisions on development

projects such as the Eagle Ridge proposal near IBM and working closely with the town's emergency services are also critical, he said.

"I've given back, I'm a local businessman, I'm in town so it makes sense for me to be involved," Reiter said.

DiGiacinto, who also was elected for the first time in 2013, said she feels a responsibility to continue with several critical issues facing the town.

"The town's budget and also zoning applications that are before the board," DiGiacinto said of the most pressing concerns. "I think there are too many important issues that I would like to continue to work on."

Fernberg said the town's Democratic

Committee has not yet finalized its slate, leaving open a possibility that a second council candidate could emerge. She also said the committee is collaborating with the Mount Pleasant Democratic Committee to find a challenger to the District 3 Board of Legislators seat currently held by Margaret Cunzio. Cunzio, a Conservative, is the only non-Democrat on the Board of Legislators.

A message left for North Castle Republican Committee Chair Anita Cozza to learn if there may be additional town Republican candidates was not returned.

The petition period for candidates this year begins on Mar. 2, according to the Westchester County Board of Elections website.

Serratore Drops Out of BOL Race; Pleasantville Village Election Set

Mount Kisco Democratic Chairman William Serratore has withdrawn himself from consideration for his party's nomination for the District 2 seat on the Board of Legislators.

Erika Pierce, who recently stepped down as an aide to the district's current legislator, Kitley Covill, to run for the seat, said she is appreciative that Serratore has stepped aside, avoiding a primary battle for the seat. She said that she wasn't aware of another Democrat who might challenge her for the nomination.

"I am appreciative of all that Bill has done in the past, and knowing Bill, expect that he will continue to do great things in the future," Pierce said. "I look forward to all of us

working together for the betterment of our district and the county."

Serratore did not return a message late last week to explain his decision.

Covill announced last month that she did not intend to seek a third term.

Uncontested Pleasantville Election

Last week's petition filing deadline for the Mar. 16 village election passed with another uncontested race in Pleasantville.

Mayor Peter Scherer will run for a fifth term leading the village. He will be joined on the ballot by Trustee David Vinjamuri and newcomer Michael Peppard. Trustee Joseph Stargiotti is not running for re-election.

--Martin Wilbur

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Obituaries

Thomas Melfi

Thomas Peter Melfi, a Putnam Valley resident and formerly of Yonkers, died Feb. 8. He was 55.

Melfi was born May 16, 1965, in Yonkers to Peter and Mary Melfi. He married Michele Amendola on July 30, 2006, with whom he had two beautiful daughters.

Melfi was a gentle, kind, loving husband and father. His family was the most important part of his life. He had a love of music and was a talented guitar player. He loved writing music and singing. He also enjoyed cooking and grilling for his family. He was a man full of love and compassion.

He is survived by his wife, Michele; two daughters, Amelia and Elena; mother-in-law Marie; sister-in-law Melissa; nephew Jonathan; a brother, Mark,



Thomas Melfi

and his family; and many loving cousins.

Patrick Scozzafava

Patrick Scozzafava, a Croton-on-Hudson resident, died Feb. 9 at home. He was 54.

He was born on July 26, 1966, in North Tarrytown to Angelo and Vera (Pulcini) Scozzafava. He loved playing cards and enjoyed spending time at the casinos. He was a people person and enjoyed spending time at local shops and restaurants and was always there to greet you with a big smile and a wave. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his beloved aunt and uncles, Rose and Norman Villeneuve, Frank Scozzafava and Patrick Pulcini. He is also survived by many loving cousins and friends. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his brother, Anthony, in 2009.



Patrick Scozzafava

Police Blotter

North Castle Police Department

Feb. 5: Caller reported at 1:39 p.m. that she struck a large pothole on Route 22 and now has a flat tire. She stated that she is on the roadway and can't find a safe place to pull over. The responding officer located the vehicle in the area of the listed location. Armonk Garage removed the vehicle.

Feb. 5: Report of a grand larceny by a Rose Hill Drive resident at 4:15 p.m. The complainant reported being scammed

through the cash app. The responding officer reported gathering information and secured a deposition. Report to follow.

Feb. 6: A caller reported wires sparking somewhere along Bedford Banksville Road between Hickory Kingdom Road and Brookwood Road at 5:52 p.m. 60 Control was notified and advised to dispatch the Banksville Fire Department. The responding officer confirmed observing wires sparking attached to Pole W82480, which appeared to be resting on tree limbs at the listed location

but still intact. Con Edison arrived on the scene and remediated the condition. Con Edison advised they may have to do further repairs this evening, which may result in a temporary power outage in the area.

Feb. 7: A Lafayette Avenue resident reported at 3:58 p.m. that a vehicle, described as a black Nissan Altima, is parked in her driveway and is playing loud music. The responding officer reported speaking with the vehicle's operator will be turning the music off. Matter adjusted.


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Westchester Med Center's Organ Transplant Team Operating in a Pandemic

The Transplant Center team at Westchester Medical Center successfully transplanted a liver in a patient who had recently recovered from COVID-19, demonstrating that appropriate, prospective organ recipients who have recovered from the viral infection can be safely considered for organ transplantation.

The publication detailing the transplant – which was performed in the midst of the initial pandemic surge – was published in the journal “Transplant Infectious Disease” with Dr. Abhay Dhand, director, transplant infectious diseases at Westchester Medical Center, as the report's lead author.

New York State is where organ transplant volumes fell dramatically during the early stages of the pandemic. This was due, in large part, to what the report described as “diagnostic and treatment uncertainties involving COVID-19 in recipients and donors.”

The subject patient was transplanted 71 days after the initial COVID-19 diagnosis and had an undetectable viral test for 24 days at the time of liver transplantation. Immunosuppression and other post-transplant treatments did not lead to COVID-19 reactivation, the report stated.

“Transplanting organs in recently-recovered COVID-19 patients can be challenging,” Dhand said, “and this was especially true during the earlier days of the pandemic, as we struggled to learn more about the virus and its resulting complications. Uncertainties with diagnosis, the involvement of multiple organs and



Dr. Abhay Dhand, director, transplant infectious diseases at Westchester Medical Center, wrote a report on how the center's Transplant Center team successfully completed a liver transplant on a patient who had recovered from COVID-19.

systems, prolonged viral shedding and immunosuppression were all weighable factors in our care decisions.

“In the end, we concluded that prospective liver recipients can and should be considered for transplantation after recovery from COVID-19, as long as the proper evaluation, donor selection and risk-benefit analysis is performed.”

WMCHealth physicians that contributed to the report include Dr. Roxana Bodin, Dr. David C. Wolf, Dr. Christopher Nabors, Dr. Rajat Nog, Dr. Thomas Diflo and Dr. Seigo

Nishida. Dr. Aaron Schluger also contributed.

Westchester Medical Center's Transplant Center is the only multiorgan transplant program in eastern New York State from New York City to the Canadian border. It is known to offer adult heart and adult and pediatric liver and kidney transplants, as well as liver and kidney living donor transplant services.

In addition to solid-organ transplantation, Westchester Medical Center also offers programs in bone marrow and corneal transplant.

Physicians or families seeking a

consultation regarding organ transplantation should call 914-493-1990 (kidney), 914-493-8916 (liver) or 914-493-7632 (heart) to schedule an appointment. For more information about the transplant services at Westchester Medical Center, visit WestchesterMedicalCenter.org/Transplant.

Tompkins Mahopac Bank to Offer Free Financial Fraud Workshop Feb. 17

In an effort to protect business owners from the perils of fraud in Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess counties, particularly while many remain in a remote or partially remote work environment, Tompkins Mahopac Bank will host a virtual workshop on “Financial Fraud and Data Protection for Your Business” on Wednesday, Feb. 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

While there is no cost to attend the informative talk, on the Tompkins Mahopac Bank website at www.mahopacbank.com by Monday, Feb. 15 in order to access log-in information.

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Guest Column

Senator Serino, it's Time to End Your Silence on Fair-Share Tax Proposals

By Michael Zagarell

It seems these days most Republicans have never seen a tax cut for the super rich they don't like. As a result, the rest of us are left to pay the taxes the super rich won't pay.

They call it a tax cut, but it's really a way of shifting the burden of taxes from the super rich to us. No wonder the wealthy are doing so well in the pandemic while so many others are suffering.

But even when a tax cut for regular people is finally proposed, the way they do it ends up saving us nothing, in many cases costing us even more. How much does a \$100-a-year tax cut save us when the cuts in needed services only lead to higher prices for health care, child care, transportation and everything else?

We pay more because tax cuts also bring reductions in government services. That often forces us to buy the needed services on the private market at even higher costs. Every time we pay money to send our kids to private tutoring because classes are too large, or pay more for medicine because of Medicaid or Medicare cuts we are paying for the way those fake tax cuts were done. We are all feeling it. After decades of Republican talk about cutting taxes, our cost of living has actually increased – and so has our struggle to

make ends meet.

People in the Hudson Valley are suffering right now because of COVID-19, and the economic crisis that has followed it. Many people have lost their jobs and aren't sure where their next paycheck is coming from; others have been unable to make their mortgage payments and are in danger of losing their homes. Still others are in danger of losing their health care because they can no longer afford their insurance payments. We need the government to act.

But in the midst of all these problems what has Republican state Sen. "Silent" Sue Serino proposed to meet the crisis? Just about nothing, except more of the same fake tax cut proposals.

Decades of experience should teach us that a tax cut for regular people can't save us money unless it is also accompanied by a tax increase for the wealthy. That way we get lower taxes for the people who need it most while still receiving the benefit of needed government services.

This is important to understand right now. Currently, there is a pile of bills being introduced in the state legislature to finally make the super rich pay their fair share of taxes. Without that, we will be hit with new service cuts, rising costs and even higher

taxes. We need our elected officials to back these "fair share" tax proposals. But so far, our elected representative in the Senate, Sue Serino, has refused to endorse any of these plans? Where is Serino in this crisis?

One excuse state from state Senate Republicans in their opposition is that they are against big government. They claim tax cuts for the rich will help shrink the government. If that is really what Serino believes, she could support higher taxes on the super rich, and propose to use that money to cut OUR property taxes. That wouldn't expand the government, but it would give money directly to regular people across the state, every month, without destroying our schools and other needed services.

In the 1950s the U.S. was a respected world leader with a large middle class. Many Republicans yearn to return to those days. But the 1950s was also a time when our country strongly taxed the wealthy, and as a result, gave a high standard of living to the middle class.

If Republicans really want to make America great again, they should pass fairness tax laws. It's time to speak up for us!

Michael Zagarell is a Lake Peekskill resident.

Letters to the Editor

Putnam County is Mistaken for Going Without Body Cams, Plate Readers

I recently spoke with Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley and was astounded to discover that the sheriff has not been permitted to purchase crime-fighting tools such as license plate readers and body cameras. It was even more disturbing to find that the majority of our county legislators stand in the way.

Given how litigious our society is, it makes no sense that Putnam County wouldn't want every police officer equipped with a body camera. Body cameras can protect the innocent, be it a police officer or a civilian. They can weed

out bad apples and, importantly, save the county thousands of dollars in false claims.

License plate readers can also be an invaluable tool. From catching criminals to rescuing an abducted child to tracking at-risk adults. Yet in Putnam County, one of the wealthiest in the United States, our sheriff is denied the tools needed to keep us all safer.

These aren't frills, they aren't perks, they are necessary tools. The legislature needs to stop playing political games with our safety and authorize this funding immediately. Putnam County residents

need and deserve this important crime-fighting equipment and they need it as soon as possible.

**Helen Evers
Brewster**

Is Putnam County Lawmaker Being Punished Because of Party Affiliation?

I have recently learned that Putnam County Legislator Nancy Montgomery has been marginalized in her committee assignments. I have read that the usual number of committees that legislators are commonly given is two to three. She was on two and now one of those has been taken away from her, and given to Legislator Neil Sullivan. He is on three committees as it stands now. That leaves her with only one committee assignment.

What is going on here? Could it be that she is being discriminated against since she is the only Democrat on the legislature? When a person has been elected from their district to represent them, that person has the right to be treated equally and fairly by their fellow legislators, regardless of party affiliations. I think it is time for the legislature to "listen up" and reset your thinking.

**Andy Walsh
Yorktown**

**Phyllis Hoenig
Mahopac**

There's a Lot to Like About Proposed Underhill Farms Project in Yorktown

Earlier this week, I watched the presentation to the Yorktown Town Board about the Underhill Farms project planned for the former Soundview Preparatory School property.

For weeks, I've read letters about this project that suggested it would somehow jeopardize the historical significance of the property. Based on the presentation to the Town Board, I believe nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, it seems that moving forward with this project is actually the key to preserving the Underhill legacy and making it truly accessible for all Yorktown residents.

The developer seems to have taken great care to preserve the historic aspects

of the property by hiring a preservation expert and planning to invest \$1 million to restore the Underhill House (and \$250,000 or more each year to maintain it). Equally important, the plans include relocating the Yorktown Museum and the town's Historic Preservation Commission to the Underhill House and opening the house to the public to make it the center of the town's historic preservation efforts moving forward.

As a lifelong Yorktown resident, I for one am extremely pleased by what I heard and I think it's great for our town's history and our future.

Homeland Towers, Village Tussle Over Depleted Escrow Account

By Martin Wilbur

The frayed relationship between Homeland Towers and the Village of Mount Kisco continued to deteriorate last Tuesday after the applicant was removed from the Planning Board agenda for failing to properly maintain its escrow account.

Homeland Towers, which is looking to erect a 145-foot monopole to co-locate multiple cell phone carriers on a portion of the property at 180 S. Bedford Rd., had not yet responded to a nearly \$50,000 bill that was sent on Feb. 5, said attorney Robert Gaudio, representing the applicant.

Acting Planning Board Chair Michael Bonforte made the announcement that the during the board's work session, which immediately preceded the regular meeting, that the item was being taken off the agenda. That raised Gaudio's ire, who suggested the village's actions were in "bad faith" and "frankly illegal."

"I think it's pretty transparent what's going on here," Gaudio said. "These bills from September were sent to us (last) Friday to the tune of \$50,000. No bills had been sent for the prior six months. They were sent a couple days after we signed the tolling agreement and now you are telling us during a work session that our application is being suspended. I think that's outrageous, quite frankly."

Building Inspector Peter Miley said under the village code once an escrow account falls below \$8,000 it is considered deficient and an

application is suspended from further review until more funds are deposited. Money in an escrow account is deposited by an applicant so the hired consultants representing the municipality in the matter can get paid.

Town Attorney Whitney Singleton said there is no leeway for the Planning Board to have done anything else.

"There's no discretion on it," Singleton said. "The Planning Board does not have any discretion. It says they shall not continue to entertain an application until the account has been replenished to the minimum account necessary."

Gaudio responded that his office had previously filed a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request specifically seeking the scope of work and the contracts of any consultants on the matter. He said very little data was provided. He indicated an audit of the bills would be conducted.

He also mentioned he was provided with an e-mail from the village stating that applicants with "escrow accounts that are not current may be removed from an agenda at the discretion of the staff and/or Planning Board chair."

"We were never informed when this had to be paid by," Gaudio said. "These are bills that go back to September."

Singleton refuted Gaudio's claim and stated that suspension of an application is what the code requires.

The spat between the two sides has been escalating in recent months after the two lawyers have argued over the wording in

the contract between Homeland Towers and property owner Skull Island Partners. The Planning Board has maintained that the proposed location of the cell tower on the property can be changed because the contract that was filed with the submission of the application last summer allows for that.

However, Gaudio said the property owner is not permitting Homeland to shift

its site, which would be northeast of the solar farm that is being considered. Singleton has repeatedly asked for an updated copy of the contract but has been rebuffed.

The cell tower is being reviewed for environmental impacts in tandem with the proposed solar farm. The public hearing on the solar farm proceeded as scheduled last Tuesday evening.



Helping Those in Need

To mark 30 years of service, the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry will host a No-Show fundraising gala on Saturday, May 1. By not coming to the event, participants will help the pantry by donating the cost of their ticket to purchase much-needed groceries for northern Westchester neighbors in need. The pantry opened its doors in 1991, helping eight families with supplemental groceries. With the unwavering support of 13 sponsoring congregations, the pantry now serves 1,400 families a week. Information on the gala can be found at www.mountkiscofoodpantry.org.

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

Indian Point Energy Center



Putnam Business Council Introduces New Leadership at Recent Forum

By Sydney Stoller

The Putnam County Business Council has a new leader at the helm as founding chairwoman Jennifer Maher stepped down after serving in the position since the organization was established 10 years ago.

The organization elected Michael Bucci, a Putnam County native and financial adviser, to succeed Maher. Bucci is the associate vice president of Tier 4 Planning, a financial practice of Ameriprise Financial Services.

He joined the council last January and has helped build the website and create digital branding for the group, Maher said.

While Maher will remain active within the organization, Bucci, during the council's Jan. 28 virtual breakfast presentation and general meeting, said that he wants to encourage ongoing projects, in addition to hosting advocacy events and educational breakfasts.

"I think the community has an appetite for knowledge and a thirst for advocacy, especially when they've gone through such unrelenting circumstances," Bucci said.

The council also elected a new slate of officers and board members, including John Kraus, Bill Nulk, Nick D'Andrea, Mark Ciucci, Zachary Cosentino, Caryn Cannova and Rachel Kass.

While small business owners have been largely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Maher said the council has played a more important role in the community, citing that membership has quadrupled since last March. She said most new members joined

looking for relief from the chaos stemming from the pandemic.

Since then, the goals within the organization have been communication, education and promotion. She asserted how crucial it is for business owners to be in contact with their peers to find support, know about various guidelines that need to be followed and mobilize their community.

Maher also touted the relationship the council has with Putnam County government and County Executive MaryEllen Odell, who attended the meeting.

"We have worked together on many projects, ranging from sewers to public

transportation," Maher said. "The county has given us a seat at the table so that our stakeholders have a say. We have not always agreed with local government policy, but we have a say, and that's super important."

During the meeting keynote speaker and local businessman Joe Massaro shared how he got his start as an architect. Initially working in the sheet metal industry, Massaro eventually made enough money to buy Petra Island, a heart-shaped island in the middle of Lake Mahopac, in 1995. The island was empty, except for a unique looking cottage that Frank Lloyd Wright designed in 1950, he said.

Massaro said he fixed the cottage and built a main house based on plans that Wright had outlined.

He went on to describe how he became a self-made businessman, despite many personal and professional setbacks. He also penned his story to success in a new memoir "From the First Seat in the Dumb Row to Owning My Own Private Island."

"We all need a reminder that the strength lies within us to overcome adversity and find success again and Joe's story couldn't be more relevant to that point," Maher said. "Fail forward is my motto so Joe's story resonated with me."

Guarding Against the Cold

It can be a cold winter if you're not properly dressed. Last Saturday, state Sen. Pete Harkham and a couple of local organizations held a Valentine's Day Weekend coat drive at Peekskill High School. More than two tons of items, including coats, jackets, sweaters, scarves, hats, gloves and mittens, were collected for the Caring for the Hungry & Homeless of Peekskill (CHHOP) and the Peekskill Hispanic Community Corporation. The Peekskill Rotary also collected donations, raising \$750 for its Peekskill Food Initiative. Pictured, from left, are James Sacci of Peekskill Rotary, Cynthia Know from CHHOP, Chapman Manzer of Manzer's Landscape Design and Development and Harkham.



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Researching Old Addresses Online Helps Tell Our Own Story

Just a couple of weeks ago, I wrote about discovering online an antique soda water bottle that was filled in and distributed from my grandfather's home business in Philadelphia.

It was a very heartrending exercise for me, having never known my grandfather but now feeling a connection to him through that bottle which I claimed for my collection of historic items. It certainly means more to me than anything else I've purchased of an antique nature.

Not everybody feels that same kind of yearning for one's roots as I do. I remember that my older sister always looked forward, never back. She had moved around the country a lot, married to an engineer who accepted a number of jobs in various locations.

I once asked her if she ever wanted to revisit our childhood home or any of the homes she occupied during her own family's experience. No, she said, she had no interest in going back in time. In fact, I think she enjoyed and looked forward to the next move, the next home, the next chance to furnish and decorate.

Then again, maybe it was the opportunity for her to upgrade her properties each time she moved. I know that her investments



By Bill Primavera

paid off in terms of the profits she earned from each sale.

I'm on the opposite end of the pole. From a young age, I longed to establish a household with roots, a true homestead that I could furnish, decorate, hone to my personality and express what I aspired to.

But perhaps I went too far.

A case in point: Because I always loved collecting things, by the time my daughter was in elementary school, I had quite an ensemble of antique furniture and wall décor. I remember that one of my daughter's playmates visited our home and, seeing a house full of collected

furnishings and antiques, asked my daughter, "Gee, are you rich?"

That question was forwarded to me by my daughter, and I laughed, saying, perhaps flippantly, "No, dear. We just live far beyond our means."

Little did I know that the story would be echoed by my daughter's playmate to her teacher and class when they were sharing interesting places they had visited. My daughter's little friend said, "I went to Emma's house. It's beautiful and filled with wonderful things because her father and mother live far beyond their means." When the teacher relayed that story to



me on Parents' Day, I turned bright red. But what could I do? Children are honest conduits from our homes to the outside world.

It's been six years since my family lived in that old house where my wife and I matured and raised our daughter. But occasionally I find myself going online to look at the photos posted when we were selling it. It's like time travel. The gardens look so beautiful and each interior space is staged to its best advantage.

As I look at those photographs, I remember where I secured the various items we collected and recall the events that happened in those rooms. I remember entertaining in the living room at Christmas, and family gatherings in the

dining room on Thanksgiving and Easter. This kind of extraordinary time travel could never have been done before the internet.

But today's real estate market is powered by that internet, which really didn't exist when I bought my last home, and we can go back and visit the homes of our childhood, even the homes of our parents and grandparents. It can be a very interesting study indeed.

Online I have recently visited the house where I was born in Philadelphia, the various houses we lived in as I grew up in Virginia, my college apartments and my first homes in New York. It's fun. Especially at a time when we might want to space out from the pandemic's woes of restrictions and isolation, it's enjoyable to remember the more sociable times we enjoyed making our houses into homes with our family and friends.

Hopefully those times will return soon.

While both a writer and publicist, Bill Primavera is also a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com), specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call Bill directly at 914-522-2076.

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Westchester IDA's 2020 Approvals Generate \$370M in Private Investment

The Westchester County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) and the Local Development Corporation (LDC) generated impressive economic growth for the county despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, the IDA provided financial incentives and tax-exempt bond financing to a variety of developments representing \$370 million in private investment in Westchester.

The IDA approved incentives for four residential developments that are projected to create or retain more than 560 new residential units of which about half will be affordable. The projects include the 133-unit Marble Hall in Tuckahoe; the 144-unit Ebony Gardens in Mount Vernon; the 106-unit Asbury Terrace Apartments in Tarrytown; and the re-development of the former YMCA building in downtown White Plains into 177 rental apartments.

The projects in Mount Vernon, Tarrytown and Tuckahoe will maintain 384 units of affordable housing. The projects, which represent a total private investment of \$171 million, are expected to create 325 construction and full-time permanent jobs.

In what is the largest county IDA transaction in recent years, the IDA board voted in November to approve financial incentives for Morgan Stanley's multiyear renovation of its 750,000-square-foot corporate office complex at 2000 Westchester Ave. in Harrison. The project represents an investment of at least \$150 million. Morgan Stanley will receive a sales tax exemption of about \$6.5 million to \$13 million, depending on the final scope of the project. It is also seeking a PILOT agreement with the Town of Harrison.

Morgan Stanley's renovation project has significant economic benefits for Westchester, specifically the retention and creation of hundreds of existing and new positions and construction jobs over the course of the project.

The past year was also noteworthy for the county's Local Development Corporation (LDC), which provided \$340 million in bond financing for two major nonprofit institutions.

The LDC, which assists Westchester nonprofit organizations in securing tax-exempt bond financing, approved a \$300 million bond for Westchester County Healthcare Corporation, the public authority responsible for governing the Westchester Medical Center. The bond will be used to refinance outstanding debt of the Medical Center with \$39 million to fund capital

projects and new equipment at the Valhalla campus.

The LDC also approved a \$40 million bond for Sarah Lawrence College and \$546,000 in mortgage recording tax exemption. The proceeds will be used to refund \$5 million in bonds issued to the college by the LDC in 2016; reduce the college's reliance on a \$15 million line of credit; provide \$8.5 million to fund potential financial impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and \$10 million for new initiatives and existing functions at the College.

"The unprecedented challenges of the past year demonstrate the vital importance of the IDA and LDC in growing Westchester's economy," said County Executive George

Latimer. "We are particularly pleased with the financial incentives approved by the IDA for Morgan Stanley's major renovation of its corporate offices in Harrison. This project will provide a significant boost to the county's economy."

Other 2020 highlights include:

- Latimer announcing a new program whereby the IDA provides grants to small businesses and small nonprofit corporations not to exceed \$10,000. The IDA also made loans through the administration of the State Disaster Emergency Loan Program to small businesses and small nonprofit corporations in an amount up to \$25,000.
- The Office of Economic Development

announced a one-on-one mentoring advisory services for small business owners who are struggling financially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program matches the mentor's area of expertise with the specific skill set that small businesses need.

- The Office of Economic Development celebrated the graduation in September of the second cohort of the Element 46 incubator, a program designed to spur the growth of entrepreneurs. The Element 46 incubator provides programming and mentoring to enable startups to develop their businesses within a network of peers.



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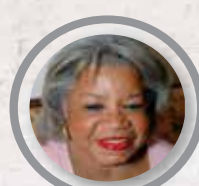
Virtual Peekskill Underground Railroad Tour

Keynote Speaker: Vincent DeForest *Former Special Assistant, National Parks Services, Underground Railroad*

Moderator: William W. Sales Jr. *Professor Emeritus and past Chairperson of the Department of Africana Studies and Director of the Center for African American Studies at Seton Hall University*



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Keynote Speaker: Vincent DeForest
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Breakfast or Lunch, Hayfields Serves as a Community Gathering Space

By Sydney Stoller

If you're passing through North Salem and looking for a quick and delicious breakfast or lunch, then the popular Hayfields Café & Florist is the place for you.

Located on the corner of Route 121 and Bloomer Road, Hayfields is a respite for its visitors. Its friendly atmosphere and fresh food beckons commuters to try the classic bacon, egg and cheese or the more adventurous Breakfast Scrambler, an egg sandwich with spinach, feta and sundried tomato.

The menu isn't limited to breakfast. Hayfields also caters to the lunchtime crowd on the fly by offering sandwiches such as the Fricken Chicken (chicken cutlet, melted mozzarella, arugula and tomato aioli). If guests have time to sit down and enjoy their lunch outside on the patio in good weather, they can try short rib or buffalo chicken tacos and salads like the "Keen-Wah" (quinoa, sweet potato, cranberries, kale and Meyer lemon dressing).

In addition to their breakfast and lunch selections, pastries, coffee products and plants, the cafe also boasts products created by local artisans, including artwork, greeting cards, homemade jams, honey and pickles.

Part owner Renea Dayton said it's important for Hayfields to support its community, and she enjoys showcasing the local artisans' talents and passion projects.

Dayton, a Houston native, said she has always been inclined toward country living, so it was a natural progression for her when she opened Hayfields in 2015. Her husband has been a longtime North Salem resident.

When she started the business with a passion for flowers and all things green, Dayton did not expect Hayfields to become the center of community camaraderie that it is today. Not only is it a place to pick up a meal or local product, but the cafe has become a place to gather.

"We don't have a main street in North Salem, so Hayfields kind of acts like one," Dayton said. "There aren't many places to go (in town) to just hang out with fast casual food, so it became the community hub."

When Dayton and her staff realized that they had inadvertently taken the title as town gathering spot, they sprang into action. They scheduled events such as trivia nights and live music and promotions like Cars and Coffee, where one Sunday a month, drivers pay to reserve parking spots for their antique cars for a free cup of coffee.

In addition, the cafe has hosted flower arrangement workshops and an assortment of family-friendly events.

Since the start of the pandemic, Hayfields' programming has been suspended, but the staff has plans to return with additional events when it is safe to do so.

The wide variety of programs is necessary for Dayton to achieve her goal



of creating a space where everyone feels welcome.

"I didn't want a store that only brought in one type of clientele or customer," Dayton explained. "At the store, you'll see anyone from landscapers in their tattered jeans, to equestrian riders, to women having lunch, to commuters, to families, to business people. Hayfields has a small town, charm feel with good service, so we really get it all."

Whether you are seeking a meal, flower arrangement, artisanal pickles or just a comforting small-town environment, you will find what you need at Hayfields.

Hayfields' current hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. It is located at 1 Bloomer Rd. in North Salem.

For more information, call 914-669-8275 or visit www.hayfieldsmarket.com.

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Delving Into Two Aspects of the Life Cycle of Wine



By Nick Antonaccio

During the course of human history, wine has played an integral role in enhancing the social fabric of numerous cultures and civilizations. At one time wine was consumed as soon as it was fermented into juice and alcohol. As humankind evolved, so too did winemaking – and wine preservation.

Winemaking, and therefore the quality of the resulting wines, was enhanced by increasingly sophisticated techniques for fermenting grapes in a suitable processing – and sanitary – environment. Wine preservation, and therefore the ability to age wines for future consumption, was enhanced by the advancements made in storing wines to increase their ability to age in ideal conditions.

The art and science of wine preservation has been centered on two aspects of the life cycle of wine: stabilized temperature and oxidation prevention.

Many techniques have been employed over the centuries.

Early winemaking, which some believe goes back as far as Neolithic times, was

undertaken on an ad hoc basis: grow native grapes in open fields, induce fermentation by crushing them and then consume them (quickly) before oxygen and bacteria rendered them unpalatable and possibly dangerous. Early man quickly realized that wine was as much a social lubricant as a healthy source of liquid nourishment.

Several years ago, a team of archeologists found the remnants of a basic winery in a cave in Armenia. They determined that the winery and traces of wine unearthed were over 6,000 years old. Among their key findings were a wine press, wine cups, fragments of grapes – and clay storage vessels buried in the cave.

Through trial and error, the ancient winemakers had determined that this method of storage was optimum for the necessary temperatures, humidity and darkness for fermenting and storing grape juice. Six millennia later, in spite of significant technological advances, winemakers store and age their wine in caves, at similar temperatures as the ancients.

The ancient Romans and Greeks used these clay storage jugs extensively. Ancient shipping documents refer to these vessels as amphorae. Composed of available local clay, amphorae were the preferred shipping containers for many perishable food products stored on ancient ships plying the long sea

voyages between Greece and mainland Western Europe. Watertight amphorae have been discovered on ancient sunken ships near Sicily containing wine, oils and various spices, several of which were still preserved after centuries under water.

Here in the 21st century, aging wines in amphorae – and concrete – is gaining traction in the United States and Western Europe as alternatives to stainless steel and hardwoods.

The Romans perfected wine storage when they conquered and planted grapes in northeast France. They discovered that the limestone caves in the region designated as Champagne were ideal for storing wines. The extensive caves they excavated are still in use today and are considered the preferred storage method.

Fast forward to modern times. Cave and cellar storage continue to be the preferred method to maintain and age wines. Even with the advent of mechanical cooling, many winemakers – and their cost accountants – prefer natural caves for their temperature consistency and cost efficiency.

In the last century, as coal mining began waning on the East Coast of the United States, mining entrepreneurs transported their boring equipment to California wine country, digging out hillsides to form natural caves. Their scientifically validated criteria for creating the ideal cellars? The ancient natural caves of the Romans and Greeks in

Eastern and Western Europe.

Another unintended influence of the ancients: at least one American and several European winemakers are experimenting with aging wine underwater. Encouraged by still-viable wines found on both ancient and modern sunken ships, these winemakers feel that the ocean offers the ideal temperature, pressure, darkness and swaying motion to age wine.

Here in the 21st century, restaurants and in-home wine cellar owners follow similar principles for ideal storage. The ideal temperatures for most wines are 50 to 60 degrees.

Humidity levels should be 60 to 70 percent. Optimum level of light? Zero. Not coincidentally, these are the same natural conditions found in the ancient caves in early civilizations.

To quote the familiar refrain: everything old is new again.

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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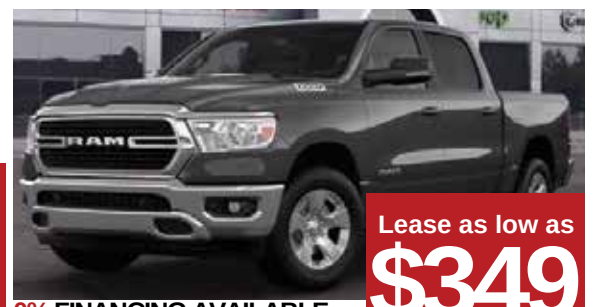
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Local United Way Program Hits 10,000 Deliveries of Food, Essential Goods

On Feb. 3, United Way of Westchester and Putnam announced that its 10,000th delivery of meals, food boxes and household supplies to vulnerable populations throughout Westchester and Putnam counties was completed through the Ride United Last-Mile Delivery initiative.

The milestone delivery also one million meals brought to those in need throughout the United States.

The United Way Ride United Last-Mile home delivery program launched locally in July in response to the COVID-19 crisis to deliver food and essential goods to vulnerable populations in communities across the nation.

United Way's partnership with DoorDash

and generous funding from donors including The Rockefeller Foundation and Safeway Stores' Nourishing Neighbors program enabled delivery services of food boxes from local food banks, pantries and other distribution points to older adults, low-income families and those who can't leave home, providing meals to those in need.

"The last mile represents the final hurdle in getting food to people who must remain at home due to COVID-19 and who experience food insecurity," said Tom Gabriel, CEO of United Way of Westchester and Putnam. "United Ways and the 211-network have convened local agencies, food banks and grocery partners to identify available food for people who can't travel and arrange for deliveries by DoorDash dashers. Solving problems sustainably takes partnership, and by working together we can make sure every person gets the support they need in this difficult time."

The most common client profiles are female, senior citizens and those living alone; high-risk, immunocompromised, populations that are vulnerable to contracting COVID-19 and must quarantine, yet who are food insecure and need access to charitable food; and people who have lost jobs or wages, are without transportation or child care and who need charitable food.

United Way of Westchester and Putnam partners with Feeding Westchester, the Boys & Girls Club of Mount Vernon, the Elmsford School District and the Ossining School District to provide the Westchester Backpack Program. The program delivers supplemental



United Way of Westchester and Putnam has delivered 10,000 meals to the food insecure and the homebound during the past seven months through a new initiative.

United Way delivers parcels from its food pantry partners, such as the Interfaith Emergency Food Pantry of Pleasantville in Thornwood and the YWCA in Yonkers. They also delivered holiday meals donated by Falafel Taco in Pleasantville to clients of Open Door Medical Center.

In Mahopac, United Way has teamed up with the Mahopac School District to deliver its meals from the school lunch program to students who are learning remotely. The program has grown from 80 to 180 meals a day since the delivery option began.

In addition to food, United Way used its Ride United program to deliver toys from Toys for Tots to hundreds of children in Putnam County, Peekskill and Ossining.

For agencies interested in partnering with United Way's Ride United Program, visit uwwp.org/doorDash. For those interested in participating in the Westchester Backpack Food Program, visit uwwp.org/food.


Those who need help finding available local resources, including food, can call 211 for more information.

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If You Love Vibrant Indian Flavors, Curry on Purdy is for You

The exotic sounds, sights, scents and flavors of regional Indian cuisine are coming alive at Curry on Purdy in Harrison.

Proprietor and amiable host Daniel and his friendly professional staff are wonderful culinary tour guides. Put yourself in their hands and let your palate enjoy the ride.

Westchester's newest Indian restaurant opened in the former vintage Risoli's Tavern space on Purdy Street last August. Despite the obstacle of the COVID-19 pandemic, the restaurant has been striving to gain a foothold in the area.

The dining room and bar and lounge are divided. The vintage Risoli bar and cabinetry date back to the 1940s. The restaurant has a retro atmosphere that has been enhanced with Indian artifacts and prints. There is a room for private events in the rear.

Curry on Purdy's menu is extensive and offers dishes from all over the Indian countryside. Good starters are traditional mulligatawny soup with lentil; crispy samosas stuffed with potatoes, onions, peas and spices; tandoori chicken wings; mango shrimp; and crispy pakora fritters.

A large selection of curry and vegetarian dishes include Purdy special goat curry; aloo gobi, potatoes and cauliflower; mushroom mutter masala in a creamy, spiced tomato sauce; saag with choice of vegetable, meat, fish or shrimp in a creamy spinach sauce; a spicy vindaloo plate; flavorful rogan josh with lamb or salmon; and goan or malabar curry.

Signature house specialties also include classic chicken tandoori out of a clay pot;



By Morris Gut

rack of lamb seared in the clay oven; saffron shrimp tikka; vegetable biryani, a vegan-vegetable platter cooked in a clay pot; Purdy paneer tikka, with soft cottage cheese grilled in the tandoor; and chicken chettinad, a south Indian delicacy featuring boneless chicken cooked with spiced coconut.

Hyderabadi dum biryani and rice dishes include vegetable biryani, slow pot-cooked and prepared with long grain basmati rice, and chicken, lamb or special goat biryani.

The fresh Indian breads are a must to help lap up those delicious gravies. Nan, onion kulcha and garlic nan are favorites. A variety of Indian beers or a glass of mango lassi will help you wash it down.

For dessert, try the Purdy special kheer (rice cooked with milk, raisins and served cold with a sprinkle of pistachio), Bengali rasmalai (soft paneer balls immersed in chilled creamy milk), hot gulab jamun (milk solids rolled with flour and deep-fried in rich ghee) or gajar halwa prepared with shredded carrots.

A traditional multicourse Indian buffet will be served once COVID-19 protocols are relaxed.

Curry on Purdy is located at 7 Purdy St. in Harrison, down the street from the Metro-North station. Open seven days a

week for lunch and dinner. Full takeout and delivery. The same menu is served all day. Starters from \$4.95. Main courses range from \$8.99 to \$27.99. Contains a vintage bar and lounge with TVs. Major credit cards accepted. A private party room is available. Casual dress. Free street parking. Reservations suggested



There's a large array of regional Indian specialties at Curry on Purdy in Harrison.

for larger groups. Info: 914-600-8500 or visit www.curryonpurdy.com.

The Bus at Salinger's

David DiBari is one dynamic chef. He seems to be all over the map. DiBari is the proprietor of The Cookery and The Parlor, two highly popular restaurants in Dobbs Ferry, and the traveling DoughNation pizza truck making its rounds to farmers markets and events across Westchester.

For his latest venture, late last year he converted an old school bus into a food truck and set it down at Salinger's Orchard in Brewster. It is a joint venture between DiBari and orchard owner Tim Salinger.

There is an eclectic menu. As the seasons roll on, there will be creative overstuffed sandwiches, his well-known decadent pizzas, whole animal roasts, outdoor wood-fired cooking and more.

Currently, The Bus operates Fridays through Sundays. Check ahead for hours and details. Salinger's Orchard is located at 230 Guinea Rd. in Brewster. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Info: 845-277-3521 or visit www.salingersorchard.net.

Winter Farmers Markets

So, you've had enough of winter and you're miss visiting your favorite farmers market. Well, there is good news for intrepid farmers market lovers. Some of the most popular markets have been operating all season. While you may not get all the in-season harvests, it still is a good place to pick up a variety of artisanal goods such as meats, fish, cheese, jams and bread.

Here are some local markets and happy grazing.

Pleasantville Farmers Market, Memorial Plaza, Pleasantville. Saturdays, 9 to 11:30 a.m. Info (including pre-ordering online from Tuesday at 7 p.m. through Thursday at 7 p.m.): www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.

Mamaroneck Winter Farmers Market, Harbor Island Park Pavilion, 1 Harbor Island Park, Mamaroneck. Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: www.downtoearthmarkets.com.

Ossining Winter Down to Earth Farmers Market, corner of Main and Spring streets, Ossining. Year-round on Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: www.downtoearthmarkets.com.

Irvington Winter Farmers Market, Main Street School parking lot 101 Main St., Irvington. Second and fourth Sundays of the month through May, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: www.irvmkt.org.

Hastings-on-Hudson Winter Farmers Market, Zinsser commuter lot, 131 Southside Ave., Hastings-on-Hudson. First and third Saturdays of the month, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: www.hastingsfarmersmarket.org.

Gossett's Farm Market, Gossett Brothers Nursery, 1202 Old Post Rd. (Route 35), South Salem. Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: www.gossettbrothers.com.

Cold Spring Farmers Market, Boscobel House and Gardens, 1601 Route 9D, Garrison. Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: www.csfarmmarket.org.

Hudson Valley Regional Farmers Market, 15 Mount Ebo Rd. South, Brewster. Every Sunday year-round (weather permitting), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. www.hudsonvalleyfarmersmarket.org.

For a general overview of more markets, visit www.nyfarmersmarket.com/winter or www.downtoearthmarkets.com.

Happy winter foraging!

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



Westchester's newest Indian restaurant, Curry on Purdy.

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Cooped Up in the House? Take a Drive to One of These Fun Spots

I've been MIA since the holiday season, taking the long view of 2021 and trying to figure out what "Detours" will look like.

While we are still in the throes of the pandemic, I'm living my life and experiencing as much as possible but with parameters. I know this isn't for everyone or even an option for many. Working in the field of public health, I am all too aware of the risks of letting your guard down and the adverse effect on mental health when we are too isolated. I think I've been on all ends of the spectrum.

I've driven 70 miles to visit a close friend (regularly) and sit in her enclosed porch with the windows open in a snowstorm. During the holiday season we visited the train show at the New York Botanical Garden, the train show at Lasdon Park & Arboretum in Somers,

visited the stunning lights of Untermyer Park & Gardens in Yonkers and enjoyed the subtle, delicate lighting at Boscobel House and Gardens. We are careful and follow COVID-19 protocols.

There does appear to be plenty to do if you dig deep and get creative locally, which is what I am doing into the near future. So far, so good. I am excited to share some of my most recent detours.

Usually, I have a theme, and I like that to keep my plans and thoughts organized. But, right now, that poses more of a challenge, so

I am just going with what is fun, accessible and possible.

Ski Butternut

We are a family of skiers and have skied at most of the areas within the New York-southern New England region. One Sunday we decided to go back in time, so to speak, to a favorite spot of ours from college, Ski Butternut.

We called six places to get one of my kids into a half-day package and Butternut was the first to call back and made the process as simple as possible. Everything is done in advance – yes, on the phone! – and we could even order and pre-pay our lift tickets.

The ride up the Taconic State Parkway never disappoints and is a quick one.

Upon arrival, Ski Butternut is organized, distanced, has clear signage and efficient. The lodges were clean and follow all COVID-19 protocols. Even with a 45-minute time frame for seating, it never got too crowded, nor did we have to leave. The trails were excellent, there were reasonable lift lines (which is key since you can't be paired with another "single" during the pandemic) and the vibe was friendly and low-key.

Ski Butternut, 380 State Rd., Great Barrington, Mass. Info: Visit www.skibutternut.com.

Fishkill Farms

I apologize in advance if I write about Fishkill

Farms too often. I cannot help it because there is so much to do and experience there.

Just when I think we have done everything they offer – yoga at the farm, berry and apple picking, the corn maze (their Resist Racism maze this year was a game-changer), farm store, live music and food trucks – there is more.

We visited the Treasury Cider Garden for a few cider flights and a charcuterie board. (Treasury Cider is Fishkill Farms' award-winning traditionally-crafted cider.) Not only is the seating overlooking the farm and the orchard, which is beautiful in the snow, but what is especially cool is that kids can sled or tube (bring your own) up and down the hills for free.

The Farm Store is open with a wide array of gifts, local Hudson Valley provisions and their own fresh-baked goods and treats. There is a hot chocolate bar and everyone is so friendly and warm. The indoor seating is well-managed, distanced and meets all COVID-19 standards. There is also plenty of outdoor seating for the courageous.

Reservations for the Cider Garden are encouraged. Last call is at 4:45 p.m. as they close at 5 p.m.

Fishkill Farms, 9 Fishkill Farm Rd., Hopewell Junction. Info: Visit www.fishkillfarms.com.



By Nancy Sorbella

Sloop Brewing Company

Full disclosure: I do not drink beer. But everyone else I know does and we have not been to a craft beer brewery that we did not like.

Fortunately, Sloop, located in the iPark complex, formerly IBM of East Fishkill, carries hard cider and has a contemporary, eclectic menu of craft wood-fired pizza, burgers, bowls, tacos, fusion dishes and a kid's menu. The space, in

the reclaimed semiconductor plant, is bright and industrial, open (very socially distanced) and friendly.

There's plenty of pairing advice to go around, which is particularly helpful if you plan to take some beer home with you. There are events throughout the year but one cool thing going on this week is Date Night. This is a pick up-only multicourse meal with a beer pairing for the Lunar New Year.

The vibe was very laid back, with all ages and plenty of families with kids. Sloop is open Thursday through Sunday.

Sloop Brewing Company, 755 East Drive, Suite 106, Hopewell Junction. Info: Visit www.sloopbrewing.com.

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Seven Golden Globe, SAG Award Nominees Filmed in Westchester

Awards season officially kicked off last week with the announcement of nominees for both Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild (SAG) awards.

Once again, Westchester was well-represented, seeing seven award nominations in top categories going to productions that were filmed right here in the county.

“These nominations highlight our diverse locations and film-friendly climate,” said County Executive George Latimer. “The recognition signals the quality of production that’s taking place in Westchester, and represents just a small slice of the success we have had with the film and television industry. Going forward, we’re eager to work with location scouts and managers, producers, directors and designers to help plan successful and safe productions.”

Among the celebrated shows is the HBO Max comedy, “The Flight Attendant,” which features actress Kaley Cuoco as the flight attendant whose life unravels after she wakes up in a hotel room next to a dead man but with no memory of what happened.

Cuoco and the ensemble cast received Golden Globe and SAG nominations for acting. The show



was also nominated in the Golden Globe category, Best Series, Musical or Comedy. Several scenes were filmed in Westchester, including the Motel 6 in Elmsford, The Galleria in White Plains and at a private residence on Buckout Road in West Harrison.

This year’s nominees also include the Amazon drama, “Hunters,” starring Al Pacino, which follows a band of Nazi hunters in New York City in 1977. Pacino earned a Golden Globe nomination for best actor in a TV drama for his starring role in the



Above, Ramy Youssef, who stars in the Hulu comedy “Ramy,” and left, the HBO Max comedy “The Flight Attendant” featuring Kaley Cuoco, are two of the seven award-nominated films or programs that were at least partially shot in Westchester County.

show. The production filmed at Undermeyer Gardens in Yonkers and in the Village of Ossining, which stood in for Paraguay for the opening scene in the fifth episode.

Ramy Youssef, who stars in the self-titled Hulu comedy, “Ramy,” earned best acting nods from both the Hollywood Foreign Press (Golden Globes) and the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA). Now in its second season, the

show most recently filmed at the Westchester County Correctional Facility.

“Westchester County is attractive to the industry because of our diversity of locations, which offer ample space to spread out and socially distance on set,” said Westchester County Tourism and Film Director Natasha Caputo. “We can stand in for any backdrop required, from small-town scenes and rural landscapes to urban

and industrial settings, historic mansions, hospitable hotels, and film-friendly airport and correctional facility.”

Latimer said it’s not only a joy to see Westchester sites featured in award-winning productions, but the activity brings economic benefits. The nominations represent a small portion of the success the county has had with the film and television industry, which generated a \$45 million economic impact in 2019.

“Film is an important economic driver in Westchester and it will be important to our recovery in 2021,” Latimer said.

Notably, several nominees with ties to Westchester received Golden Globe and SAG nominations, including Scarsdale native Aaron Sorkin, who received nods for his motion picture, “Trial of the Chicago 7,” and Jason Bateman, born in Rye, who was nominated for best actor in a television series drama, for his work in “Ozark.”

The 78th annual Golden Globe Awards will air live on Feb. 28 starting at 8 p.m. on NBC. This year’s SAG Awards will air live on Sunday, April 4 at 9 p.m. on TNT and TBS.

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THERE’S A WORD FOR IT A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

I Spy. To celebrate George Washington’s birthday this month, the quiz words come from the book “Washington’s Spies” by Alexander Rose. Rose’s narrative tells the story of the Culper spy ring, active in and around the tristate area, that helped America win the Revolutionary War. Perhaps you will spy a few words to add to your vocabulary.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. provocateur (n.) | A) an agitator | B) an unrefined person | C) divine guidance |
| 2. miscreant (n.) | A) a wrong direction | B) one who behaves badly | C) a mishap |
| 3. inexorable (adj.) | A) nonexistent | B) relentless | C) inaccurate |
| 4. imbibe (v.) | A) to assimilate | B) overlap | C) form a mental image |
| 5. prerogative (n.) | A) a necessary element | B) an earlier work | C) a special right |
| 6. succor (v.) | A) to draw out | B) go to the aid of | C) turn out well |
| 7. milieu (n.) | A) a milestone | B) a body of citizens | C) social setting |
| 8. amercé (v.) | A) to punish with a fine | B) become involved | C) reform oneself |

ANSWERS:
1. A. A person who provokes trouble or incites dissent; agitator; agent provocateur
2. B. A person who behaves badly or in a way that breaks the law; wrongdoer
3. B. Not to be persuaded or moved by entreaty; occurs or develops
4. A. To absorb or assimilate (ideas or knowledge); taken in as if by drinking
5. C. An exclusive or special right, power, or privilege
6. B. To go to the aid of; relieve
7. C. A person’s social environment; setting the physical or social setting in which something occurs or develops
8. A. To punish with a fine whose amount is fixed by the court

**2021
ICE HOCKEY
Preview Edition**

Examiner Sports



Feel Like a Million Pucks!

COVID be Damned: Slapshots, Wristers & Checks 'Bout to Drop

by Ray Gallagher

Examiner Sports Editor @Directrays &
Rob Diantonio @RJD_Photos

Ice time is always tough to come by for Section 1 hockey teams, which have to scramble for any available rink access they can find during a normal year. Throw in a pandemic, a high-risk label and an assortment of political obstacles and you have the makings for a chaotic, abbreviated 2021 hockey season. While it's been tough on everybody associated with Section 1 ice hockey to have been labeled high-risk, superintendents, athletic directors and coaches have jumped through hoops to ensure live action beginning Feb. 16 with the regular season to conclude on March 9. Players and coaches are excited for the opportunity, which is expected to conclude with culminating regional events soon thereafter.

"I had faith that we would play this season back in early January, but I just didn't think it would take this long to get going," said Coach Joseph Lopane of the combined Brewster/Yorktown/Somers/North Salem squad. "I am beyond happy, especially for our seniors, that we are finally having a season for them. It really would have broken the coaching staff's heart if we were cancelled, but we do understand that putting safety first, along with everyone's health, is the most important factor. I wish the coaches and teams around the league the best of luck this season."

Those leagues will also have a regionalized flavor this season as districts will attempt to keep players and coaches safe by keeping them closer to home while also cancelling state and sectional tournaments in lieu of regionals: Putnam-Northern Westchester; Southern Westchester; Rockland. Whatever system is approved by the Section 1 Athletic Council and Executive Committee is totally chill with the players, so long as they take the ice in "healthy" competition.

continued on next page



Carmel junior F Brendan Murphy (L), a freakish scorer, Brewster G Matthew Gergley and the rest of Section 1's hockey players feel like a million pucks (pun intended!) after health department officials and school administrators gave ice hockey the green light for an abbreviated five-week season amidst COVID-19 concerns.

Sports

Ice Hockey Preview

continued from previous page



Carmel senior D Graham Ludwig is a premier defender for 2021 Rams.



Mahopac Coach Tim Donaghy lays out some ground rules for 2021 season in recent practice at Brewster Ice Arena.

"We are definitely excited to get back out on the ice to start playing games next week," Mahopac junior captain Matt Luczkowski said. "After a long time waiting, I think the whole team can agree that we are happy we are getting the chance to finally play and that has shown this week in practice. I loved being back around such a hard working group of kids, and I can't wait to be one of the leaders of the team and help everyone get better as a player and a person."

MAHOPAC Coach Donaghy's Indians had a rare down year last season, one they expect to bounce back from with several experienced returnees, including captains Ryan Caraher, Matt Luczkowski and Nick Biagini, who can all carry and score effectively.

CARMEL will come strong up front with a pair of talented scoring threats in junior forwards Luke Golisano and Brendan Murphy, plus a back line bolstered by

senior Graham Ludwig. With high-scoring forward Steven Mount having graduated, the Rams will look to build upon a superb regular season that ended in quarterfinal disappointment against Rivertown after a 7-6 opening round win over a perennially strong **WHITE PLAINS** club.

OSSINING sophomores Anthony Cappello and Jacob Miller are legit scoring

threats for a Rivertown club that humbled Carmel in last year's quarterfinals. **FOX LANE** has been steady throughout the years and look to build upon a solid season behind the Della Penna bros. and a defensive leader, fittingly, named Leader. The **CORTLANDT** Rebels have some high hopes after winning the league title last year, but league

continued on next page



Brewster senior G Matthew Gergley will need big year if BYSNS expects to challenge.



Mahopac junior Matt Luczkowski (L) showed great promise last year and has earned a captaincy in 2021.

Sports

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Somers' Carson Brunco of the BYSNS club should deliver a solid 2021 season.

realignment has not been kind to them with Carmel, D-II runnerup John Jay CR and DI semifinalist **HORACE GREELEY** in the mix. The Quakers are coming off a solid campaign, having played well against some of the toughest competition in the section. The other local league, which is also up for grabs, features Mahopac, BYSNS, Fox Lane and Byram Hills.

During a normal Section 1 season, hockey coaches usually prescribe to the theory that it's not a sprint, it's a marathon, but with nothing more than six regular season games and a TBD regionalized playoff on the horizon, the 2021 campaign is nothing short of a Usan Bolt-like dash to the finish. There will be no time for downshifting as the season will be over in the blink of an eye, even sooner if programs can't stay out of quarantine. We reached out for thoughts and insight below.

CARMEL

2019-20 record and playoff result: 14-7-2 (most wins school history), beat White Plains in opening round, lost to Rivertown in quarters

Coach: Michael Chiacchia, 7th season

Key departures: Chris Cieciora, Gavin Golisano, Jack Lagan, Steven Mount

Key returners: Brendan Murphy, jr., F, All Section HM; Luke Golisano, jr., F, All Section HM; Graham Ludwin, sr., D

Key newcomers: Christian Buckner, fr., F; Noah Jettelson, fr. D

By the numbers: Golisano (25G, 34A, 59P), Murphy (20G, 36A, 56P); Noah Richardson (15A)

Team goals: Win our league and regional

playoff tournament.

Team strengths: We have above average defensive depth, goaltending, and top level scoring this season.

Coach's comments: We are very excited to have been approved to have any sort of season. The players have worked extremely hard and are committed to making this season the best it can be. Our program has been trending in the right direction for several years now. We continue to have high expectations and strive for excellence. With only three seniors this season, we are hoping to build off of last year's success and make a run at a title this year and beyond.

Twitter: @carmel_hockey

BREWSTER/YORKTOWN/SOMERS/NORTH SALEM (BYSNS)

2019-20 record and playoff result: 9-13, lost in the first round of sectionals to Clarkstown, 5-3.

Coach: Joseph Lopane (3rd season in this organization)

Key Departures: Frank Vigiletti from Brewster, Steven Fernandez from North Salem

Key Returners: Connor Brooks, Brewster, sr., D; Matthew Gergley, Brewster, sr., G; Ashley Goodliffe, Brewster, sr., F; Tim Froessel, Brewster, sr., F; Jesse Frey, Brewster, sr. F; Ian Woloshyn, North Salem, sr. F; Brien Suchanek, Somers, sr., D; Carson Brunco, Somers, sr. F; Ryan Cinderich, North Salem, sr., F

Key Newcomers: TBD

Team Goals: We would like to see more quality shots taken this season, become an aggressive offensive team by putting lots of

pucks in the net and getting a bit stronger in front of the opposing goaltender. We need more offense, bottom line.

Team Strengths: Our goaltender has been our strength both on and off the ice, with a few veteran defensemen. He keeps us in the games on a daily basis, makes the players around him more determined and hungry to succeed. Our veteran defensemen are very smart with the puck, have great awareness anywhere on the ice. They come on a daily regimen and take on whatever is thrown at them. I'd like all of them to be more vocal this year, wherever they can be.

Coach's Comments: I had faith that we would play this season back in early January, I just didn't think it would take this long to get going. I am beyond happy, especially for our seniors that we are finally having a season for them. It really would have broken the coaching staff's heart if we were cancelled but we do understand, putting safety first along with everyone's health is the most important factor. So here we are, I wish the coaches and teams around the league the best of luck this season. I'd like to say a big thank you to the section 1 committee, who worked tirelessly to make the season happen, along with all of our athletic directors and anyone else behind the scenes. Just from our first practice back last night, you can tell the kids were excited to be back and to see their hockey family. It is a sense of relief for everyone, to get back into the groove.

Twitter: @brewtownSNSpuck

MAHOPAC

2019-20 record and playoff result: 2-17-1

Coach: Tim Donaghy, 4th season

Key departures: Adain Martin; Danny Shum; Cooper Betancourt

Key returners: Nick Biagini, sr. F; Ryan Caraher All-League HM sr., F; Matt Luczkowski, jr., F; Rich Gosniowski, sr., D; Chris Stiller, sr., D; Shane Moody, sr., F;

Mike Horan, sr., G; John Bosio, sr., F; Sean McKee, sr., D; Jake Roberts, sr., D; Jordan Donatone, jr., F

Key newcomers: Jonny Martirano, so. F; Nick Stiller, so., D; Tommy Poniro, so., F; AJ Pfeifer, so., D; Matt Dulyk, fresh., F; Mike Sciarabba, fresh., F

By the numbers: Caraher, Biagini two leading returning scorers

Team goals: The opportunity to play games this season, which a few weeks ago seemed impossible.

Team strengths: Great group of guys that will not be outworked and have a desire to improve.

Coach's comments: This year has been so tough dealing with trying to get a season together in just a couple of weeks but that moment the team touched the ice together made it all worth it. Everyone coaches and players are enjoying the chance to be together as a team.

Twitter: @Pac_hockey

CORTLAND (Lakeland/Panas/Hen Hud/Putnam Valley/Haldane)

2019-20 record and playoff result: League 3 champs (4-0-1), 11-8-2 overall, lost first round sectionals

Coach: Bart Mucci, 21st year

Key departures: PJ Kowal, and Nick Perez 2 capt. from last season

Key returners: Sr., F, All-League captain Jack Tuite; sr., F, All-League captain Joe Jimenez; Andrew Dzubak Jr. fwd.; D Colin Cody; D Fox Perelsom; junior G Aaron Hathaway

Key newcomers: Nick Miele, so., G

By the numbers: Jimenez (26 G), Dzubak, Tuite (25A), all 3 over 40 points

Team goals: Repeat as league champs.

Team strengths: We can score with anyone and have 2 strong goalies and now our D is 10th and 11th graders this season instead of 9th and 10th last year even in this

continued on next page



Carmel junior F Luke Golisano had an explosive sophomore campaign he hopes to build upon in 2021.

Sports

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Greeley D Dylan Mutkoski will anchor the Quakers' back line in 2021.



Fox Lane freshman F Henry Della Penna will be one to keep an eye on for next few years.

weird year their development will be a big part of our success.

Coach's comments: My expectations are high with this group. The new league alignment will be a challenge. Greeley, Jay and Carmel are all excellent, well-coached teams. I think the kids are excited to be back together playing and are doing what we need to to stay safe. More than anything I'm happy we are having a season kids deserve it.

FOX LANE

2019-20 record and playoff result: 10-10, lost in the first round of the playoffs to Rivertown.

Very short bench in a very tight game.

Coach: Dan Mulvey (second season as head coach, third with team).

Key Departures: Adam Maiorano, Michael Gallary, Max Rauch, Steve Mains.

Key Returners: Charlie Della Penna, sr., D; Dan Leader, sr., D; Jake Wollman, sr., F; Henry Wallace, sr., F; Mikey Toole, so., F; Henry Della Penna, fr., F



F Charlie Della Penna paced Fox Lane in goals (14) and assists (10) last season and looks set up for big year.

Ice Hockey Preview

Key Newcomers: Sheldon Rothfleisch, fr., D

By the Numbers: Charlie Della Penna is our most productive and consistent returning player from last season. Charlie finished his 2019-2020 campaign with 14 goals and 10 assists. He had a point in all but two games that he played in. He missed the last two games including the playoff game due to injury. He is a very underrated hockey player.

Team Goals: Given all that people are dealing with, we just want to have fun and enjoy hockey.

Of course we'd like to win games, but that is secondary. We want our players to enjoy every last minute of this season, especially our seniors.

Team Strengths: We have some very talented players. It seems like our main strength is our blue-liners. They're tough defensively and they can create offensively. We also have a bunch of guys that are willing to do the dirty work and scrap for points.

Coach's Comments: I'm psyched to be back behind the bench with Tom McGinn (our other coach). It's been such a rollercoaster ride trying and hoping to get back on the ice. I hope our kids have a great season, despite the fact that it will look and feel very differently. I hope they are willing to make the best of the situation, and I hope we're able to assist them in doing so. I certainly wish this could be a "normal" season, but it's certainly better than no season at all. Mostly, I hope everyone engaging in athletics of any kind stays safe and healthy. I hope everyone is able to finish their season as it is currently laid out. I wish everyone the best of luck.

Twitter: @FoxLaneHockey

HORACE GREELEY

2019-20 record and playoff result: 13-9, beat Pearl River 5-0 in quarterfinals, lost to John Jay- Cross River 4-1 in the semis.

Coach: Dan Perito (fourth season)

Key Departures: Jake Potter, Tony Girardi, Matt Maitland, Evan Scott

Key Returners: Dylan Mutkoski, sr., D; Arye Wolberg, sr., G; Gabe Adams, jr., F; Ben Cohen, jr., F

Key Newcomers: eight freshmen

By the Numbers: Leader in assists Mutkoski; leader in goals Cohen; leader in points Adams

Team Goals: Win the league.

Team Strengths: The majority of our top scorers return and will be leaned on heavily throughout the abbreviated year. We also have a great group of experienced seniors who will help guide this team.

Coach's Comments: We are very excited to finally be back on the ice playing and competing in the game we love. Twenty games, 10 games, six games, it doesn't matter. All we wanted was a chance to play and luckily we have been given that opportunity.

Twitter: @GreeleyHockey

WHITE PLAINS

2019-20 record and playoff result:
continued on next page

Sports

Ice Hockey Preview

continued from previous page



White Plains junior Teddy Hauser is a key defenseman for the 2021 Tigers.

9-12, lost to Carmel 7-6 (OT) in first round of playoffs

Coach: Howie Rubenstein (24th season)

Key Departures: Devin Garnett, Jason Manorqui, Marcello Cappello

Key Returners: John Myers, sr., F; Dan Cardozo, jr., F; Teddy Hauser, jr., D; Jason Monte, jr., D; Jason Katz, sr., F; Jack Chetti, sr., F

Key Newcomers: TBD

By the Numbers: John Myers (62 points), Dan Cardozo (31 goals), John Myers (34 assists)

Team Goals: Compete, work hard, have fun. Team Strengths: We return a lot of players with experience. We have good leadership, hard workers and commitment to the team.



White Plains should have plenty of scoring punch behind the dynamic duo of John Myers and Daniel Cardozo.

Coach's Comments: With COVID, just being able to play games and let the players, especially the seniors, have some sort of season is really what this is about.

Twitter: @dubset_puck

coach, 19 with program).

Key Departures: top three forwards Stephen Stackhouse, Aidan McDonough, Luca Fanelli, who had played four years of varsity and each collected All-League honors.

Key Returners: Chris Spano, sr., G, four-year varsity starter, individual honors as league all-star (first team); A.J. Falciglia, sr., F, among the team's leading scorers the past two years; we return three defensemen who have been varsity starters since sophomore

STEPINAC

2019-20 record and playoff result: 18-5, last year we finished third in the league (CHSAA-A division) and lost in the quarterfinals.

Coach: Matthew Hogan (8 years head

continued on next page



Fox Lane D Daniel Leader is a steady defensive force for 2021 Foxes.



Greeley F Gabe Adams should provide ample scoring punch for Quakers in 2021.

Sports

Ice Hockey Preview

continued from previous page

year.

Key Newcomers: Christopher Stackhouse, so., F; Andrew Girolamo, so., F

By the Numbers: A.J. Falciglia at forward leads in goals amongst active players, assists and overall points go to sophomore Christopher Stackhouse.

Team Goals: With the season being what it is, freelance schedule and no playoff competition, the seniors have made it their goal to play a challenging schedule of teams in the league, and higher, to demonstrate that the program would have been a highlight contender this season under regular circumstances and that they are leaving the team in great hands for the future. We will be graduating nine senior skaters and two senior goalies which will undoubtedly impact our program in the short term, but with promising underclass players and the prospect of talented new players with a bunch of opportunities to step into key minutes next season, it won't be long until Stepinac is back to our normal high standards of competition.

Team Strengths: As with all Stepinac sports programs, we are a family. Stepinac is a team of individually talented, yet unselfish players who play for their brothers in uniform.

Coach's Comments: My heart breaks for all student-athletes in all schools throughout the CHSAA and New York, but it is especially heavy for the senior class that we have this year. Eleven players, most of which have played varsity for all four years, helping to build the program to a championship contender and they will not get a chance to put another banner in our gym. But I know

and they know, that the program will be better because they contributed and set such a great example.

Twitter: @StepinacHockey

BYRAM HILLS

2019-20 playoff result: did not qualify for playoffs

Coach: A.J. Cloherty (ninth season)

Key Departures: Sarina Oliveira

Key Returners: Lucca Conigliaro - 12/F; Daniel Fontana - 12/D ; Joe Cipriano 12/D; Ben Sfarra 12/G

Team goals: Play as many games as possible, develop our youth, and have fun as a family.

Team strengths: Speed & Youth

Coach's comments: It is a privilege to be able to play varsity ice hockey this year. We consider ourselves lucky and will cherish every opportunity we are able to gather as a family both on and off the ice. Our young players have some great seniors to look up to. Let's all go out and enjoy ourselves as best we can.

Twitter: @ByramHockey

MOUNT PLEASANT

2019-20 record and playoff result: 7-12-2, lost to Mamroneck in opening round

Coach: Greg Antash (first season)

Key Departures: Mike Donoghue, Daniel Leddy, Ben Bottiglieri

Key Returners: Robert Crisculio, Pleasantville, sr., D; Noah Whitney, Pleasantville, jr., F; Nick Delia, Valhalla, so., F

Twitter: @Mtp_IceCats



Byram Hills senior F Lucca Conigliaro is among the top Bobcat scorers in 2021.



Yorktown junior F Sava Makarenko will provide ample spark for the BYSNS Herd in 2021.



Byram Hills senior D Daniel Fontana will fortify the Bobcats' blue line in 2021.