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The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER Examiner

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

**COVID-19
Breakdown: (Active)**

Yorktown: 4,431 (44)
Village of Ossining: 4,091 (22)
Peekskill: 3,885 (32)
Cortlandt: 3,689 (22)
Somers: 2,077 (7)
Croton-on-Hudson: 766 (5)
Town of Ossining: 584 (4)
Buchanan: 276 (3)

FREE

May 18 - May 24, 2021

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 595

Peekskill \$10M Downtown Revitalization Projects Named

By Rick Pezzullo

Twelve projects in the City of Peekskill were named last week as part of a \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) award the city received in 2019 from New York State.

The announcement was made by Governor Andrew Cuomo, who in 2016 launched the DRI to help municipalities across the state accelerate and expand the revitalization of downtowns and neighborhood to serve as centers of activity and catalysts for investment.

"The Downtown Revitalization Initiative continues to work with and empower local communities to reimagine their cities to create a brighter future for present and future generations," Cuomo stated. "By investing in the infrastructure, we can help attract even more new businesses, residents

and visitors to these areas."

The specific projects to be funded through the Peekskill DRI include:

- Redeveloping 41 N Division Street as a Mixed-Use Building Housing the Peekskill Arts Center, Multi-media Production Spaces, and Apartments - \$1,638,752;
- Transforming the Kiley Youth Center as a New Location of the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester - \$1.5 million;
- Revitalizing the Paramount Theater - \$1 million: Renovations to the building facade and marquee, improved interior spaces for audience and artists, expanded hospitality programs, and upgraded equipment and utilities. Interior upgrades include lighting and sound equipment, stage rigging, accessible seating, flexible seating, and box office renovations;
- Creation of a Downtown Revitalization

continued on page 2

- Fund (\$700,000) to help small businesses in the DRI area make capital improvements. Eligible activities include facade improvements, small business creation and expansion, solar installations, and adaptation to social distancing guidelines;
- Transforming Downtown Peekskill with Public Art - \$500,000;
- Implementing Public Wi-Fi in Lepore and Pugsley Parks and Low-Cost Internet Service for Bohlmann Towers and Barham Senior Houses - \$380,000;
- Creating a Downtown Civic Hub and Improve the Downtown Public Realm on South Division St.- \$1,626,000;
- Improving Connections for Pedestrians and Cyclists between the Waterfront and Downtown - \$1,102,000;
- Creating a Marketing and Branding

Strategy with Wayfinding Signage - \$500,000;

- Enhancing Pugsley Park as a Downtown Attraction - \$313,248;
- Enhancing Monument Park, a Gateway into Downtown Peekskill - \$260,000
- Reconstructing Fleischmann Pier and Improve Charles Point Park as a Premier Waterfront Destination - \$180,000.

Peekskill developed a Strategic Investment Plan to revitalize its downtown with \$300,000 in planning funds from the \$10 million DRI grant. Local Planning Committees made up of municipal representatives, community leaders, and other stakeholders led the effort, supported by a team of private sector experts and state planners.

"New York State is making a big bet on

continued on page 2

Painting Yorktown Purple



Yorktown officials helped raise awareness and funds for this year's Relay for Life Friday by taking part in the Paint the Town Purple event that started on Commerce Street.

Former Cortlandt Foreman Files Suit to Get Job Back

By Rick Pezzullo

A former longtime Town of Cortlandt employee under investigation for an alleged scheme involving illegal dumping on town property has filed a lawsuit in an attempt to try to get his job back.

Robert Dyckman, who was employed for 28 years with the town before resigning effective October 22, 2019—about two months after town officials discovered suspicious activity had allegedly taken place on land behind the town's salt dome at the end of Arlo Lane, filed a lawsuit against the town on April 30.

In the legal action, Dyckman, who submitted a letter of resignation on January 12, 2021 that was accepted by the Town Board, seeks to be restored to his former position as Assistant General Foreman in the Department of Environmental Services Highway Division, a job he held since July 2012.



Town Attorney Thomas Wood

Dyckman claimed in the lawsuit town officials acted "arbitrarily and capriciously" in failing to act on his January 30 letter to Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi, in which he stated he was "not will full faculties at the time I made this resignation and was

continued on page 2

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Croton Officials Consider Residential Housing Project on Maple Street

By Anna Young

A proposal to build a multifamily residential housing development in Croton-on-Hudson is likely to move forward with village officials indicating support for the project.

The proposal, submitted by Regan Development Corporation, calls for the construction of a 33-unit affordable housing development comprised of dual two-story buildings on 2.4 acres at 41-51 Maple Street. The development would offer 11 of each one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, with 12 rental units in one structure and 21 in the other.

The proposed 41,000 square foot project would be located adjacent to the Van Wyck Shopping Center on Maple Street, which houses several retailers and businesses, including the Post Office, CVS Pharmacy, Apple Farm, and Van Wyck Liquors.

"We'd like to have this project move forward but there's a lot of I's to be dotted, T's to be crossed, boxes to be checked and hurdles to be jumped and some of them lie

within the village and then other lie outside the village," Mayor Brian Pugh said at the May 3 Village Board meeting. "There is almost no doubt these units will be snatched up very quickly by applicants when it's actually on the market."

Pugh added the ability to include affordable units is a benefit for the village.

Representatives for the project said each building will have an elevator, with four units fully modified to be handicap accessible and two rooms equipped with audio visual aids. Developers said those units would be fully adapted but the remaining rentals would be designed for those who may require the additional assistance.

With the proposed structures bordering an existing Bee Line bus shelter, developers said improvements would be made to the edifice and possibly moved slightly south on Maple Street. Furthermore, the development would include the construction of a new sidewalk along the property line.

The Planning Board, which recommended the Village Board grant the applicant a special permit for the project, urged the

developers to install another sidewalk from the proposed apartment complex along Maple Street to Wells Avenue to Olcott to accommodate school-aged children walking to the elementary, middle, and high schools.

The applicant was required to apply for a special permit with the land in a C-2 Municipal Place Gateway Overlay District. The zoning requires a special permit approved by the Village Board to construct a multifamily residential building.

The proposal also requires a negative SEQRA declaration prior to granting special permit approval. The Village Board is currently the lead agency for the study.

Planners also recommended the implementation of a sidewalk from Municipal Place to South Riverside Avenue for pedestrians to access both area shopping centers – Van Wyck Shopping Center and Croton Commons – and the River Walk and parks along the Hudson River.

With about 10,000 square-feet of open space within the proposed development, a pocket park is also included in the plans on the southern end of the property where Maple Street meets Municipal Place. A 50-foot vegetation buffer is also proposed at the northern western property line.

In addition, Anthony Russo with AKRF, Inc. said the traffic impact study showed there would be no adverse effects to the area. While the study doesn't reflect the COVID-19 era-traffic, he said the study still resulted in a "low traffic volume" that shows not significant impacts at peak hours.

It is also predicted the development would result in 11 additional students being added to the Croton-Harmon School District.

The Village Board will consider adopting the negative SEQRA declaration and vote on the issuance of the special permit during their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday.

Somers School Bus Accident Sends Six Students to Hospital

Nine people, including six children, received medical attention last week after a Somers school bus crashed into a utility pole transporting student's home.

Last Friday at 3:20 p.m., the Somers Volunteer Fire Department responded to Lakeshore Drive after receiving reports of a single-vehicle accident involving a school bus that resulted in multiple injuries. Van D had been traveling down Orange Drive from Somers Intermediate School carrying six students and two monitors when it struck a utility pole, according to reports.

Units arrived at the scene at 3:25 p.m. and began assessing injuries and treating patients, fire officials said. All eight passengers and the driver were sent to two area hospitals for observation and to receive further treatment for non-life-threatening injuries.

Fire officials said a Mass Casualty Incident was declared, requiring mutual aid ambulances from numerous surrounding EMS agencies to the scene to help transport



patients.

New York State troopers and Somers Police responded to the accident where an officer administered a sobriety test to the driver, Somers Central School District officials said in a letter to the community Friday night. The test was negative, officials said.

The police are still investigating the cause of the accident. School officials assured parents that all district protocols were followed.

Peekskill Downtown Revitalization

continued from page 1

the great City of Peekskill, because they know we have the people, the vision, and the community engagement necessary, to keep the city moving ever upward," said Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey, who delivered his last State of the City Address last week.

"Make no mistake: the state isn't providing \$10 million in funding by accident. They see strong, visionary leadership that is balancing growth and affordability, while remaining true to the creativity and diversity that brought us to this point. I couldn't be more proud of the people of this city and all we have accomplished together," Rainey added.

The Peekskill Business Improvement District (BID) raised funds to produce a

video that accompanied the award-winning grant application to the state. BID Executive Director Bill Powers provided guidance and contributed to the writing of the grant, and the BID's Board of Director's President Brian Fassett served on the DRI review committee.

"We are very excited to see the DRI grant projects move forward," Powers stated. "The \$10 million will help link the downtown with the waterfront, enhance the creativity and visibility of our artist community, re-shape our central business district, provide much-needed help for small businesses, and create a marketing campaign to encourage visitors to discover everything Peekskill has to offer."

Cortlandt Man on Motorcycle Killed in Crash with Car

By Rick Pezzullo

A Cortlandt man operating a motorcycle on Route 6 was killed Thursday when he was struck by a car.

A preliminary investigation by State Police indicated a 2020 Buick Encore, operated by Joyce M. Pellegrino, 72, of Peekskill, was traveling eastbound on Route 6 in Cortlandt when she made a left-hand turn into the path of a westbound motorcycle.

The 2006 Honda motorcycle, operated by Christopher R. Eastman, 7, of Cortlandt, was subsequently struck and ejected.

Troopers arriving on scene began life-saving techniques on Eastman until Emergency Medical Technicians arrived on scene to take over. Eastman was transported by Cortlandt Regional Paramedics to NY Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased while enroute.

Investigators are searching for additional witnesses regarding this crash. Any person that believes they may have witnessed this crash is asked to contact the State Police at (914) 769-2600. (Reference case# 10221106.)

Former Cortlandt Foreman Files Suit to Get Job Back

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pressured to resign without sufficient time to fully consider the ramifications."

In addition, Dyckman alleges the lawsuit Town Attorney Thomas Wood made statements in articles published in Examiner Media that "convicted" him of "unproven charges, and exacerbated (Dyckman's) anxiety, depression and erratic behavior in response to this ongoing municipal persecution."

According to Wood, eyebrows were first raised when another employee was sifting through material that had been unloaded on the town's property in August 2019 that appeared to be more than was anticipated. Surveillance video then allegedly showed trucks from Griffin's Landscaping Corporation in Peekskill, and other unmarked vehicles, entering the property and dumping material.

The video footage, according to Wood, also allegedly showed Dyckman being present when Griffin trucks were there. Wood maintained Dyckman would sometimes leave the gate to the site unlocked or arrive on weekends with his own vehicle to oversee the activity.

"There are text messages to Griffin from

his phone, one saying don't come now people are here," Wood said last week.

Wood said town officials later uncovered improperly billed invoices totaling more than \$100,000 for repairs to approximately 100 catch basins throughout town that were allegedly submitted by Griffin's and signed off by Dyckman. Most of the repairs were not done, according to Wood.

Town officials contacted the District Attorney's Office, which then brought in the FBI. Dyckman was then suspended without pay. The Employee's Union, AFSCME Council 66 Local 2343, filed a grievance with the town requesting Dyckman be reinstated with back pay. In his resignation letter, Dyckman waived and renounced any claim to retiree health care benefits that he may have been eligible to receive.

Wood said earlier this month 14 investigators were at the Arlo Lane site taking samples and gathering scientific evidence of the material that was dumped. "It's a very active investigation," he said.

The town has filed a lawsuit against Griffin's seeking money to clean up the site. Wood said the town will also be seeking sanctions against Dyckman and his attorney Daniel Pagano for what he called "one of the most frivolous lawsuits I have ever seen."

State to Follow CDC Allowing Fully Vaccinated to Ditch Masks

By Martin Wilbur

New York State will adopt the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recent guidelines where fully vaccinated individuals will be able to shed their masks in most situations starting Wednesday.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced the change on Monday as the infection rate, hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19 continue to drop. As of Sunday, the statewide infection rate was 1.26 percent, and 1.11 percent on a seven-day rolling average. Hospitalizations feel to 1,581 statewide, the lowest since Nov. 9.

The numbers were even more encouraging closer to home. The seven-county Mid-Hudson region, which includes Westchester and Putnam, clocked in with a 1.2 percent positivity rate on Sunday and stood at exactly 1 percent on the seven-day average. New York City and Long Island were at 0.91 and 0.98 percent, respectively, on the seven-day average through Sunday.

It also came a day after a group of county executives from downstate and the Hudson Valley urged the governor to follow and open up society as much as possible.

"New Yorkers have made great progress, all the arrows are now pointed in the right direction, so let's get back to life," Cuomo said.

Starting Wednesday, the mask mandate that was enacted in April 2020 will be lifted for all fully vaccinated people except for public transportation, nursing homes and health care facilities, schools, homeless shelters and prisons. The CDC guidance stated that vaccinated people may take off their masks outdoors.

Cuomo stressed that individual businesses and organizations are free to follow the new guidance or continue with more stringent rules depending on their situation.

The lifting of the mask requirement this week coincides with the continued easing of other restrictions of venues and businesses throughout the tristate area, which includes New Jersey and Connecticut, that had been announced shortly after the start of the month. As of Monday, the outdoor food and beverage curfew was lifted with the indoor curfew expiring at the end of the month.

Also, on Wednesday, capacity limits for restaurants, museums, retail and offices will sunset.

Already enacted were outdoor capacity limits of 500 people, indoor limits of 250 people and residential gatherings can have up to 50 people. The New York City subway system has been operating around-the-clock for several weeks.

The return to normalcy is also ongoing with some entertainment and sports venue.

Cuomo said the New York City Marathon, which was canceled last year, will return on Sunday, Nov. 7 for its 50th running with up to 33,000 runners, or 60 percent of capacity. He said that restriction can change as the event draws closer.

The Tribeca Film Festival will also return next month with functions in all five boroughs, including the opening night screening of "In the Heights" on the new Pier 76 public space on the Hudson River in Manhattan on June 9.

Radio City Music Hall will reopen on June

19, by hosting the closing night of the festival with a red-carpet event. That evening, the 5,500-seat auditorium will open to 100 percent capacity but only for fully vaccinated people, Cuomo said.

Cuomo said that society will continue to open throughout the spring and summer and the best way to take advantage of what the state has to offer will be to get vaccinated.

"Yes, there are health reasons, but we're opening up with more opportunities to vaccinated people," he said. "So it's another reason to get vaccinated."

Ticket-buying opportunities will also favor the fully vaccinated for Knicks, Nets and Islanders home playoff games that will be beginning at the teams' arenas later

this week. At least 50 percent of the seating will be available for the vaccinated, but there are no restrictions in those areas. There will be sections for unvaccinated

people, but for those sitting in those areas they must still maintain six feet of social distancing and wear masks, which reduces the chances of getting tickets, Cuomo said.

"The whole point of the CDC's change, the whole point of our change is to say to people there are benefits to getting vaccinated," Cuomo said.

This summer, county fairs across the state may open with the local health



departments overseeing the operations unless a venue asks to have more than 5,000 people in attendance. In that event, the operator must receive state

Department of Health clearance.

The MTA will continue its campaign to vaccinate commuters at key transportation hubs on the Metro-North, Long Island Rail Road and New York City subways through Saturday. Vaccinations will be available at Grand Central Station and at 125th Street in Harlem from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Last week 5,701 vaccines were administered at the MTA sites.

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With Mask Mandate to Be Lifted, Full Attention Focused on Vaccines

By Martin Wilbur

County Executive George Latimer said Monday that he supported Gov. Andrew Cuomo's decision to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's new (CDC) guidelines from last week as COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations and deaths continue to plummet.

When the CDC announced that fully vaccinated people can go without masks outside and only need to wear them in limited types of indoor venues, there had been some confusion as well as clamoring to follow the new directive.

"I think we're ready to move to the next step of normalcy," Latimer said.

Much of the continued movement to more

normal activities is distribution of one of the COVID-19 vaccines. In Westchester, through last Thursday, 47 percent of the population, or 456,695 people, have been fully vaccinated, and 542,612 (56.1 percent) have received the first dose of either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines. That represents 69.5 percent of the county's population who are at least 18 years old.

On Sunday, six county executives – Ed Day (Rockland), MaryEllen Odell (Putnam), Marc Molinaro (Dutchess), Steven Neuhaus (Orange), Steve Bellone (Suffolk) and Pat Ryan (Ulster) – released a joint statement urging Cuomo to allow fully vaccinated residents to return to normalcy and discard masks and the need for social distancing outdoors and in most indoors settings.

"As we continue to see active cases, hospitalizations and deaths steadily dropping day by day and more people receiving vaccinations, the governor should implement the CDC's common-sense guidance," their joint statement read. "We also encourage residents who have not been vaccinated to make that a priority so efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 can be successful."

In Putnam County, the overall vaccination rate for those at least 16 years old was 61.5 percent.

On Monday, Cuomo relented, saying the state would follow the CDC guidelines starting on Wednesday, although the public must continue to wear masks on public transportation, in health care facilities and nursing homes, jails and schools.

Cuomo said the state will continue to stress the need for people to get vaccinated as the



Westchester County Executive George Latimer with Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins at a recent COVID-19 briefing in White Plains.

rate of vaccinations has slowed. Statewide, there have been more than 17.6 million doses administered with nearly 10 million people having received at least one dose, which represents 61.8 percent of New York's 18-and-over population, he said. More than 8.3 million state residents 18 and up have been fully vaccinated, which is 52.2 percent.

"The numbers on the vaccinations are the only numbers that is not doing as well as the others," Cuomo said.

Latimer said it's likely that Westchester will have to deal with how to handle the unvaccinated members of the population at county venues such as the parks, beaches and Playland in the weeks ahead.

"If you're not vaccinated you are still subject to the disease and you're still subject to getting the disease and transferring it to other people," Latimer said.

The next challenge is to get as many 12- to 15-year-olds as possible vaccinated. Last week, the Food and Drug Administration

announced that the Pfizer vaccine was safe for that age group to take. Those under 18 years old can only take the Pfizer shot since Moderna's vaccine and the one-shot Johnson & Johnson have not been approved for anyone under that age threshold.

The County Center in White Plains is administering the Pfizer vaccine to those as young as 12 years old, although anyone under 18 must have permission from a parent or guardian.

Last week, Pelham and Westlake high schools partnered with neighboring districts to administer doses to the students at least 16 years old and staff members. This Thursday from 2 to 6:30 p.m., the Bedford School District will partner with Katonah-Lewisboro to make vaccines available at Fox Lane High School.

Meanwhile, vaccinations for the homebound population of any age who are eligible for the vaccine may call the county Department of Health at 914-813-6300 to call for an appointment where it will be administered at their home, said Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins.

The good news for the county is the continued reduction in active cases and COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths. The active caseload has dipped below 1,000 – to 922 through Sunday, Latimer said. Hospitalizations have fallen to 63, and there were four fatalities over the past week.

"It is a very good sign that all of these numbers that I told you, if they continue to decrease the way they seem to, if the vaccinations continue to increase, we'll hopefully see the end of this pandemic," Latimer said.

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P'ville Appoints Recreation Supervisor to Lead Parks & Rec

By Abby Luby

Mike Newman has officially been appointed as Pleasantville's new superintendent of Parks and Recreation, filling the vacancy created last month by the departure of Matt Trainor.

Newman has worked for the department for the last eight years as recreation supervisor. Last week, the Village Board approved Newman to fill the department's top position after Trainor resigned last month to return to the Town of North Castle.

"All of us were involved in the interview process and arrived at the decision to appoint Mike," said Mayor Peter Scherer after the board unanimously approved Newman's

promotion.

Newman grew up in Somers and majored in kinesiology and physical education in college. He was a permanent substitute teacher at John Jay High School at Cross River for five years where he also taught physical education classes and various academic classes while coaching baseball.

Newman, who lives in Carmel with his wife, Marisa, and one-year old daughter Madeline, said he is ready for the task of running Pleasantville's summer schedules for the pool and summer camp.

"It's going to be challenging with rules and regulations changing with things like wearing masks and social distancing," Newman said. "We're doing everything as

cautiously as we can."

His appointment for the \$105,000-a-year post was effective Monday. He is subject to a minimum 12-week probationary period, which can be extended up to 52 weeks.

"We are very excited to have Mike leading the department," said Village Trustee Paul Alvarez.

"It's the happiest news when someone like Mike joins us and grows in the job, and then when an opportunity arises, is there to fulfill it," Scherer added.

Mike Newman was appointed last week to become Pleasantville's new Parks & Recreation superintendent.



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Mt. Kisco Planning Board to Be Lead Agency for Main St. Apartment Project

By Martin Wilbur

The Mount Kisco Planning Board last week declared its intent to be lead agency in its review of a 16-unit apartment building at 134 Main St. proposed by property owner and former village trustee Isi Albanese.

Board members last week directed Albanese and his representatives to meet with village staff in hopes of ironing out details of the submission, most notably to learn what elements of the proposal are zoning compliant. Staff would include Building Inspector Peter Miley, Village Engineer Anthony Oliveri and the municipality's planning consultant Jan Johannessen.

A work session will also be scheduled in the near future to discuss details of the plan.

The applicant intends to opt into the downtown overlay district, which was created with the update of the Comprehensive Plan about three years ago, that would permit development of the four-story structure with covered parking on the ground floor with 16 spaces, said architect Gregg DeAngelis.

"I think it's a good idea to spend some time in a work session to kind of go through it, in part

because we're not sitting here scratching our heads asking the same questions and asking the same thing," said Board Chairman John Bainlardi. "We need to get ourselves to a place that we have a reasonably firm understanding of what the zoning allows or doesn't allow."

Albanese's current plan includes 12 one-bedroom apartments, a pair of two-bedroom units and two studio apartments. There would be a gym on the building's first floor and the roof could contain solar panels on one portion of the roof along with a terrace for socializing.

It would be built directly behind the structure that contains Frannie's Goodie Shop and an AT&T store and near the closed movie theater.

DeAngelis said the plan includes a gathering area with seating for people to sit outside in the space between the theater and Frannie's.

Board member Ralph Vigliotti said he needs to have a better understanding whether the passageway between those buildings is wide enough to accommodate the seating as well as pedestrians who currently use that area as a cut-through to get to the Blackeby parking lot.

Albanese said at its narrowest

point there is about seven feet between the buildings but widens to 13 to 14 feet.

The gathering space will also be coordinated with the village's streetscape project for downtown, which is expected to get underway this year, DeAngelis added.

There was no date given during last Tuesday's Planning Board meeting when the work session might take place or when the item will appear again on a regular agenda.

Cell Tower Review Still on Hold

The board once again adjourned the public hearing on Homeland Towers' application for a cell tower at 180 S. Bedford Rd. near Sarles Street, on a portion of the same parcel as a proposed solar farm.

Village Attorney Whitney Singleton said Homeland Towers has requested a meeting with village officials for further discussions. The applicant has been looking at alternate sites after a series of contentious public hearings and meetings where a torrent of criticisms was raised by neighbors and opponents of the plan.

Singleton said Homeland could request another extension of the tolling agreement until there is



A digital rendering of the plan for a four-story, 16-unit apartment building proposed by downtown merchant and property owner and former trustee Isi Albanese.

greater clarity about whether the company will pursue the South Bedford Road site or one of the alternate locations.

Two main alternatives are on Linden Lane and at Guard Hill preserve, both in the Town of Bedford.

Under federal telecommunications law, a municipality has 150 days from the time of a formal submission of a cell tower application until it decides to make a determination on the project unless there is a mutual agreement to extend that period. There have been two extensions, one from February until mid-April

and another from mid-April to May 28.

"I don't know if that's going to result in a further tolling of the shot clock," Singleton said, "but in any event, if it does not your board would be posed to act on the application at the next meeting."

He said it is incumbent on Homeland Towers to provide significant data about the alternate locations. Without that data it would be difficult to make a determination.

The board's next scheduled meeting is May 25.

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Rivera Toyota Proposes New Repair Location, Renovation of Dealership

By Martin Wilbur

Rivera Toyota in Mount Kisco has proposed shutting down its current service location and moving it to the site of a former burger restaurant within the village near the Bedford border.

Representatives for the car dealership last month submitted plans to move most of the vehicle service operation from Kisco Avenue to 353 N. Bedford Rd., which had formerly been home to the Westchester Burger Company.

It also plans to renovate the 21,745-square-foot building that serves as the showroom at 325 N. Bedford Rd., including updating the 12 existing service bays on the lower level and adding another two bays at the front of the building for customer vehicle pickup, said Daniel Patrick, an attorney for the applicant.

The dealership building, which opened in 2015, will also feature a new customer entry portal, signage, façade, interior floor

plan and a new showroom with sales areas. The work will not increase the size of the building.

Patrick said at 353 N. Bedford Rd. the existing restaurant building would be demolished and redeveloped with a new 12,000-square-foot service-only location containing eight bays in the rear. The facility would also include a customer drop-off where vehicles will be left for repairs and an indoor customer waiting area.

The new location would be mainly for routine repairs and servicing while the staff would drive the cars requiring more extensive work to the main dealership with its 12 renovated bays, he said.

Board members expressed some concern about traffic entering and exiting the site on the very congested North Bedford Road.

"It's a busy roadway and we want to make sure that the queuing and the site traffic is all throughout," said board member Michael Bonforte.



There are plans to renovate the Rivera Toyota dealership at 325 N. Bedford Rd. in Mount Kisco. It has also proposed to open a new vehicle service location a short distance away.

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Police Blotter

Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

May 3: Caller reported at 10:59 a.m. that a bear was walking on the aqueduct trail near Croton Gorge Park and near the top of the Croton Dam at the trailhead at Croton Dam Road. Other police agencies were contacted and advised.

May 3: Caller reported a suspicious black "body bag" with tape wrappings binding it together in the shape and size of a human body that washed up on the beach between the Croton Sailing School and the Croton Yacht Club at 7:14 p.m. Patrols discovered the bag in question was foam wrapped in a black plastic bag.

May 8: Patrol responded to an area on Old Post Road South at 4:53 a.m. after a resident called to report a neighbor going through their garbage. The caller originally thought there were animals rummaging through the garbage. He then purchased a shed to enclose the garbage, which had been damaged. The resident set up a

camera to find the source and found it to be a neighbor going through the garbage. Patrols were shown a video and responded to the neighboring residence and advised them.

North Castle Police Department

May 7: A caller reported at noon that his 14-year-old son lost his wallet at Wampus Brook Park on May 5 and is requesting to be contacted if anyone returns it to this department.

May 8: Parties walked into headquarters at 5:04 p.m. to report a missing bicycle last seen in the area of Maple Avenue, where the complainant's daughter left it unattended earlier this afternoon. The party did not wish to complete witness and owner depositions, but wanted to be contacted if the bicycle is found. The bicycle is described as a red and gray Trek with a phone holder on the handle bars. The report was made as a matter of record.

May 11: A complainant reported

receiving a letter at 10:22 a.m. from a colleague which he said defames his character and practice as a physical therapist.

May 11: A resident reported at 7:58 p.m. that her 15-year-old son lost a ring in the area of Cox Avenue earlier this date. The complainant stated that the ring was her father's NYU graduation ring, which was gold and had a purple stone. She reported that her son may have lost the ring on the trails that are located between Wampus Elementary School, H.C. Crittenden Middle School and Lombardi Park. The complainant was advised to contact the North Castle Parks & Recreation Department in case the property has been turned over to that department.

Putnam Sheriff's Department

May 8: At about midnight while on patrol in the Town of Carmel, Deputy Robert Weinberg observed a 1999 Toyota 4Runner commit a traffic infraction on Route 6 in the area of Route 6N. The driver pulled into the gas station and Weinberg initiated a traffic stop. The driver was identified as Salomon O. Aguirre of Carmel. While interviewing Aguirre, Weinberg detected the odor of an alcoholic beverage on his breath. It was determined that Aguirre was driving while intoxicated and placed him under arrest without incident.

A criminal history search showed Aguirre had a prior DWI conviction in 2016 in the Town of Cortlandt. He was charged with DWI with a previous conviction within 10 years and DWI with a blood-alcohol content of at least .08, both felonies.

State Police/Cortlandt

May 8: Police arrested Jean T. Donatien, 64, of Peekskill, for first-degree endangering the welfare of an incompetent or physically disabled person, a Class E felony. At about 2:50 p.m., troopers were dispatched to the Cortlandt Town Center, where callers had reported a male striking another man with special needs in a van. An investigation, with the help of good Samaritans, found Donatien, an employee of Opengate, slapped and knocked the victim's head against the van window. The victim was not injured. Donatien was arraigned before Judge Fugaro-Norton in Town of Cortlandt Court and released on his own recognizance.

White Plains Police Department

May 12: Report of a 2006 Jeep Cherokee stolen from 28 Mitchell Place between 6 p.m. on May 11 and the early morning hours of May 12. The incident remains under investigation. Police remind residents not to leave keys in vehicles.

Yorktown Police Department

May 13: A 15-year-old Peekskill boy was arrested at 5:30 p.m. and charged with juvenile delinquency in connection with a fight on Mar. 23 at 359 Downing Drive. Following an investigation, it is alleged the juvenile threw a chair at a vehicle, causing damage. The juvenile left the scene prior to police arrival, but was later identified. He was arrested after responding to Yorktown Police headquarters with a parent.

Obituary

Ralph Nardone

Ralph M. Nardone, a lifelong Peekskill resident, died May 13. He was 94.

He was born June 2, 1926, to Michealangelo and Antoinetta (Chiavelli) Nardone. He proudly served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He enjoyed playing baseball, boxing and football and bowling as a young adult.

Along with his father and uncle, Nardone was the proprietor of Nardone Brothers Furniture Store where he served the community for many years. He was proud to have the business passed down to his nephews, a third generation, and continue to run for more than 100 years. He was also a member of the Rotary Club of Peekskill, the Knights of Columbus, the Christopher Columbus Club and the Elks Club. He also volunteered at local fire departments.

Nardone was a dedicated parishioner at The Assumption Church all his life and was a devout Roman Catholic. He served as an usher at mass every Sunday and enjoyed attending church functions throughout the years. After retiring, he spent his time

golfing, going to casinos, taking trips and, most importantly, spending time with his family and friends. He was a dedicated son, brother and uncle. He was always there to lend a hand or give advice.

He was predeceased by his parents; eldest brother and sister-in-law Joseph and Ann Nardone; his sister and brother-in-law, Angelina and Fred Plaviak; his younger brother, Michealangelo ("Mike") Nardone Jr.; and nephews Michael Nardone, Joseph ("Jay") Anstett and Daniel Veglia Jr.

He is survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Marie and Stephen Anstett; his sister-in-law, Trudy Nardone; his nieces and nephews, Judy Veglia, Stephen and Anna Marie Anstett, Edward and Nicole Anstett, Laura and Keith Palmer, Jamie and Jay Gullo and Michael and Caroline Nardone; 24 great-nieces and great-nephews; and 10 great-great nieces and great-great nephews.

Nardone lived life to the fullest, thanked the good Lord for every day and was the definition of a true family man.

Yorktown Summer Movies to Return

Yorktown's summer mobile movie nights will return this year with three films at two locations.

The mobile movies will be held on June 10 at the Jefferson Valley Mall parking lot and on July 8 and August 12 at Veterans Field. The events are sponsored by NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley and the Yorktown Lions Club.

Admission is \$5 per vehicle for residents and \$20 per vehicle for non-residents. Registration for the films will open a week before at <https://register.capturepoint.com/Yorktown>.

The films will be projected on an inflatable 23- by 16-foot screen that will be set up by the Peekskill-based Fun Time Amusements, which runs the Play Connection store inside the mall.





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Levenberg, Feldman Compete for Dems' Support in Ossining Primary

By Rick Pezzullo

The June 22 Democratic primary in the Town of Ossining will determine who will be supervisor for the next two years as incumbent Dana Levenberg faces a challenge from Councilwoman Elizabeth Feldman.

With no Republican in the November race and no minor party lines to fall back on, the primary is essentially a winner-take-all contest. Feldman, who joined the board the same year Levenberg was first elected supervisor six years ago, likes her chances.

"I would say I have a 50-50 chance," Feldman said. "I am a very well-known entity. I would almost say I know more people than she does. She has a much bigger political machine behind her. I have a grassroots campaign that's doing well. I am really doing this for the good of Ossining."

Feldman, a dental hygienist for 26 years, fell short in her bid to win the Democratic nomination and has nothing to lose in the primary as her current four-year council term doesn't expire until the end of 2023.

Levenberg said she is proud of the direction the town is going in and wants "to continue that good work and get even better."

"Being a successful town supervisor demands a holistic approach to

governance," she said. "My focus every day is on managing the town budgets, directing our staff and working toward a vision of an equitable and healthy community in all senses of the word: economically, environmentally, physically and mentally."

"I am grateful to the people of Ossining who have trusted in me to help steer the ship for the last six years," Levenberg continued. "We have kept taxes in check, with no tax rate increase to speak of last year, reduced our carbon footprint, continued to improve our parks and open spaces, restored historic structures, supported habitat steward volunteer efforts, brought in unprecedented grant dollars and put the town on the map through my leadership on various boards."

Feldman said one of the main issues that compelled her to seek the supervisor's office was an intermunicipal agreement that had been discussed between Ossining and New Castle that could have supplied the Village of Ossining with up to 600,000 gallons a day, a decision Feldman said could lead to overdevelopment.

There were insinuations that the proposal to create a district through the IMA was to bring water needed for the expansion of the Sunshine Children's Home & Rehabilitation Center, a pediatric nursing home on Spring Valley Road. Former New Castle supervisor Robert



Ossining Supervisor Dana Levenberg, above, received a surprise this spring when fellow Democratic Town Board member Elizabeth Feldman challenged her for the party's nomination. The two will square off in the June 22 primary.

Greenstein maintained five years ago the IMA would improve fire protection in the area.

"I'm very in favor of trying to protect

our remaining green space," Feldman said. "I don't want us to become Yonkers with overdevelopment. I feel I am standing up for our resources. I don't want to build beyond our rivertown and become a city."

Levenberg stressed the Town of Ossining has no authority to decide what happens with Sunshine Children's Home.

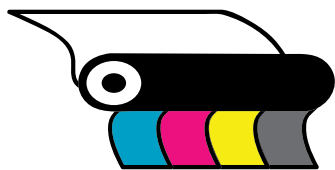
"The Town of New Castle has authority over land use, and the Village of Ossining has authority over the Ossining Water System," Levenberg explained. "Only if the Village of Ossining ever decided to sell water to Sunshine might the town play a role in deciding whether to allow access to a pipe in Cedar Lane Park."

"The future of land use and the development of the Town of Ossining is being decided right now through the Comprehensive Plan process," she continued. "There are many factors to consider as we develop a new Comprehensive Plan with a focus on sustainability that was grant funded, as well as looking at zoning with the help of Pace Land Use Law Center and the Planners4Health Toolbox to improve North State Road."

Levenberg and Feldman encouraged residents to be actively involved in the future planning of Ossining.

"It's time for all voices to be heard," Feldman said. "I just feel I can do a better job. I think it's time for a change."

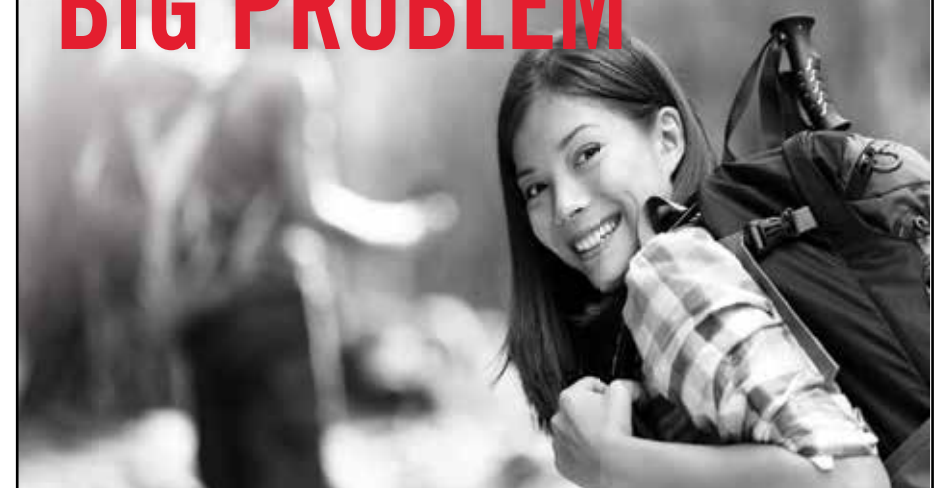
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New Castle Fire District Retains Consultant in Advance of Possible Bond

By Martin Wilbur

Commissioners in New Castle Fire District No. 1 last week voted to retain a consultant to assist in communicating with residents about the need for an expanded firehouse as district officials eye a potential December referendum.

By a 4-1 margin, the Board of Commissioners approved spending \$35,250 to hire Wise Oak Strategies of Bedford, the same outfit that helped the Bedford Village Fire District comfortably pass a referendum in January 2020 to build a new \$14.8 million firehouse after a larger proposal had been defeated.

Board Chairman Terence Hoey said given the job that Wise Oak did to help get the Bedford firehouse vote through, it seems like a wise investment.

"We will increase our chances of answering all the questions of the community, and let's just say presenting a good case for moving forward with this project," Hoey said.

Commissioner Dwight Smith said before the vote that the firm has experience in relaying information to the public on the need to improve fire department facilities and was something the board should pursue. Furthermore, the district has the right to back out within 30 days, according to the agreement, if commissioners have a change of heart, he said.

The dissenting vote came from Commissioner Chris Weddle, who questioned why the board didn't consider



New Castle fire commissioners approved hiring a consultant to help it communicate the need for a possible referendum to expand the King Street firehouse. Pictured above is a rendering from last year of the proposed expansion at that time.

contacting other firms that could provide this type of service. Weddle mentioned that there is the possibility that the state comptroller's office could question the board why it would spend \$35,000 on professional services without having contacted other consultants.

However, Hoey said given Wise Oak's track record in Bedford and the need for the commissioners to act swiftly to hold a vote before the end of the year to expand the King Street firehouse is essential. The board also discussed the matter at a recent work session, he said.

Hoey added that he felt it was unnecessary to search for another firm at this time.

"It's a surprise to me that now we're

going to look for another professional services company after the one that was engaged literally assisted the Board of Fire Commissioners in Bedford Hills to bring home that building project, and looking at how they did it, they had a strategy, they had plans, they opened up communication throughout the town, they were very, very successful," Hoey said.

The board agreed to approve the agreement with Wise Oak Strategies, although Commissioner Ed Frank said he would contact another consultant that had been provided to him by project architect Bob Mitchell. In the event that consultant or firm would be a better fit, the 30-day opt-out period in the agreement would allow the

board flexibility, he said.

Part of the pre-vote strategy, which had been raised early this year, was to create a Community Liaison Committee. The committee would include district residents who hold a variety of opinions on what should be done with the firehouse to help hash out issues related to a bond.

Last fall, the board met with Mitchell to review preliminary designs. At that time, it was mentioned that a March 2020 estimate for the project was just over \$12 million. No other cost estimates have been mentioned publicly since last October.

Last year, the expansion called for a two-story addition. In previous discussions, health and safety issues were slated to be addressed that were lacking in the current facility, including the ability to clean equipment after firefighters return from a blaze to quickly eliminate carcinogens, having uncluttered access to the trucks and equipment that must be stored in safe and logical spaces.

The district's 2016 firehouse expansion referendum was defeated by a wide margin, but another proposition to acquire the neighboring parcel that had once been owned by Chappaqua Animal Hospital was approved by voters about a year later.

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Guest Column

The 800-Pound Ghost in Your Doctor's Office

By Michael Gold

Every time you go to a doctor, you have an unwanted 800-pound ghost in the office, always injecting itself into every conversation about your treatment.

That ghost is, of course, your insurance company.

The doctor's goal is to use his or her medical training to restore you to good health, while the insurance company, despite all their demonstrative protestations, seems to care primarily about profits, creating a fundamental tension.

That tension requires both the patient and the doctor to do a delicate dance to make sure the treatment you need to get better will be covered by your insurer.

The insurance company stands as the ultimate authority judging whether you can get the care you need.

The vast majority of Americans jealously guard their freedoms, but they also willingly allow countless restrictions on their ability to get decent health care by powerful, faceless private organizations that are rarely held accountable by government or anyone else.

I'm a retired teacher and I have relatively good health insurance. And yet, the conflict between the doctor and the insurance company is always there whenever I have a problem requiring treatment more serious than a prescription, physical therapy or vaccine.

For instance, I currently need minor dental surgery, or I'm going to lose some teeth. My insurance company is giving my dental surgeon and me a really hard time.

The surgeon submitted the pre-approval submission for the procedure.

The insurance company responded by sending me a letter stating: "A claim on the above referenced patient is delayed pending receipt of additional information... If we don't receive it, we will have to deny the claim."

I made an urgent call to the dentist to provide the information, which he did.

A week later, I got a second letter stating that the dentist did not use "a valid procedure code" in submitting the pre-approval for part of the procedure, so the company could not cover the claim.

I made a second, urgent phone call to the dentist's office to make sure they used the correct code in submitting the pre-approval a second time.

Now, here I will make the jump to sheer speculation, but I confess it's crossed my mind. I question whether the delay in approving the procedure is part of a deliberate strategy by the insurance company to slow down the processing of the ultimate payout to the dentist.

On a far more critical level, several years ago, while trying to shovel my car out from about two feet of snow that had piled up after a storm, so I could get to work, I experienced severe chest pain.

I called my doctor. He said get to the hospital, fast.

The emergency room personnel gave me nitroglycerine. The attending physician decided I needed to be admitted.

This created a dilemma many patients must face. If I stay in the hospital, will the insurance company cover it?

With up to 10 years of rigorous medical training, doctors have far more knowledge about your condition than you do. Should you disregard their judgment and possibly face a worsening of your health?

The hospital will require you to sign a waiver clearing them of liability if you decide to walk out. That's an additional, powerful reason to trust the doctor's conclusions.

But insurance companies contradict doctors' judgments all the time, often after the fact.

On the doctor's authority, I stayed in the hospital, took a stress test, got treated and was discharged two days later.

Weeks after that, the insurance company sent me a letter denying the claim, because in their words, my stay was not medically necessary. How could they possibly know?

The insurer can come up with all kinds of jargon to justify their decisions, that ordinary people like me usually don't understand.

Thankfully, after this scare, the hospital and insurance company worked it out and I didn't have to pay much for the cost of my stay. But there are many other people who don't enjoy that experience.

It seems to come down to one thing. The insurance companies don't seem as interested as your doctor in helping you heal.

Not incidentally, CEO pay at a health insurance company is extremely rewarding. The CEO of my hospital insurer received \$17 million in compensation in 2020.

The CEO of my dental insurer received \$13 million in compensation in 2019 and \$79 million in 2020.

This system is terribly broken.

Pleasantville resident Michael Gold has written op-ed articles for The New York Daily News, the Albany Times-Union and other newspapers.

Letter to the Editor

Mt. Kisco Must Address Canada Geese Droppings in Leonard Park

As a parent of children in the community, I am writing to express our concern regarding the unfortunate public health issue at Leonard Park. Many parents and friends in the area have similar concerns but are unsure what to do, which has prompted me to reach out to our community leaders.

The park has such wonderful potential to provide our residents with amazing opportunities to enjoy nature and recreate outdoors in such a conveniently located part of our community. However, the plethora of Canada geese feces covering the grounds is concerning. According to many studies,

geese feces contain hazardous bacteria and can cause dangerous disease, such as E. coli, salmonella, histoplasmosis, campylobacter, coccidia and giardia, with increased risks for children, seniors and pets. In fact, some articles suggest that high concentrations of birds can render public spaces completely unusable. How can we ask our children to play soccer, baseball, basketball, volleyball, disc golf or have a picnic at the park while the grounds are covered in hazardous feces?

I understand that the situation is complex given Humane Society protocols, and clearly safety of the birds must remain a top

priority. At the same time, I do believe that it should also be a top priority to provide our children, pets and families a safer environment for outdoor recreation and youth sports.

Can we work together as a community to come up with a solution to provide our children and families a safer and more sanitary park?

We look forward to your response.

Kelly Bania
Mount Kisco

Blood Drive Scheduled for Pleasantville on May 27

The Pleasantville Fire Department and Volunteer Ambulance Corps are pleased to announce that they will be hosting a Community Blood Drive on Thursday, May 27 from 1 to 7 p.m. at the Pleasantville Firehouse, located at 75 Washington Ave. in Pleasantville.

To comply with social distancing guidelines, appointments are preferred and strongly encouraged. Walk-ins can only be accepted if distancing requirements can be followed. This may result in an inconvenience to those without an appointment since donors with appointments will be processed first.

Donors will be given a health pre-screening and will be required to wear a face covering.

For questions regarding eligibility call 800-688-0900. To make an appointment, call 800-933-2566 or visit https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/292754.

Guest Column

Future Growth in Yorktown is Dependent on Improving its Infrastructure

By Lanny Gilbert

In order for Yorktown to thrive, we need to grow. Our population in 2010 was 36,095 and in 2019 it was 36,269 – virtually unchanged, according to the census and town data.

We need to continue growing the population and the businesses that support our residents. When you have defined borders and limited open space, growth requires revitalization, especially when you recognize that the core infrastructure was put in place in the 1960s when the population was around 16,000.

To revitalize Yorktown and make it a thriving community relies on repairing or replacing the visible and invisible infrastructure. This includes the roads, communications, water towers and power above ground, along with the water, sewer, communications, power and drainage systems underground.

To do it right, we need to make wise decisions now as we consider significant changes to our zoning that is meant to facilitate our growth.

Infrastructure on the federal, state and

local levels is the watchword of our times.

During my term as Yorktown supervisor, I led the effort to make much-needed infrastructure improvements in the town, including repaving, new generators for our public works buildings (Town Hall and the highway garage) for emergency storm strengthening and new roofs on the badly-aged Town Hall, police department and courthouse complex and Water Department buildings.

Additionally, we improved playgrounds, completed the Granite Knolls Sports Complex and repaired our tennis courts. I secured the grant money for revitalizing Railroad Depot and Park, and we began critical work on the failing Mohegan Lake retaining wall. Various culverts on Veterans Road and Hill Boulevard were identified for repair, and grants were sought to pay for them.

But these infrastructure projects were intended just to catch up, to keep us current and operational. I gained invaluable knowledge and experience about our existing infrastructure, and I understand the need to continue critical maintenance but to also execute a needs assessment.

As former town supervisor I know that much more work is needed going forward, especially if the town intends to expand businesses and increase rental apartments and other housing to move out of stagnation.

It's time to properly study our infrastructure needs. Where are the traffic bottlenecks and dangerous intersections? How much additional capacity will our sewer and water supply systems require? How much additional power and bandwidth must the utilities provide? How do they improve availability? Which roads need more than patching?

There are proposals to permit more flexible zoning for developers, but we need the supporting studies completed on our future infrastructure needs, before we even consider those proposals.

Since leaving the supervisor's office, I have been named a commissioner on the New York State Bridge Authority, which oversees five bridges, from the Bear Mountain Bridge north to the Rip van Winkle Bridge, along with the Walkway Over the Hudson. Bridge infrastructure

maintenance and growth are continuously monitored and future needs are considered to determine future actions. Being a bridge commissioner has increased my appreciation for proper maintenance and planning.

All state and local infrastructure require maintenance and/or replacement, in order to support growth and ensure safety due to wear and tear.

The key to Yorktown's growth and revitalization projects is effectively balancing the needs for vital development with the residents' quality of life. With our knowledge of the infrastructure, zoning and permitting processes and the needs of all hamlets considered, we can proceed with projects that will help our town grow appropriately.

I look forward to using our significant fund surplus and the newly committed federal funds to improve our current infrastructure and to properly plan and budget for our future needs.

Lanny Gilbert is a former Yorktown supervisor and is a candidate for Town Board this year.

A New Direction for the Proposed Form Based Code in New Castle

By Holly McCall, Lori Morton, Michael Weinberg and Jennifer Bounds

Although there are many issues facing New Castle, the Form Based Code (FBC) is rightfully one of the most prominent. More than a mere zoning code, the FBC can enable the revitalization that the Chappaqua hamlet has lacked to date and in a manner consistent with 2017's Comprehensive Plan.

We, like many residents, had concerns and questions about the implementation of the code to the original 72-acre study area. We are reassured by the Town Board's new direction:

- Limiting the FBC solely to the six-acre North Greeley corridor (a more than 90 percent reduction);
- Restoration of oversight by the Planning Board and Architectural Review Board;
- No five-story buildings; and
- Excluding public spaces, such as the train station parking lot.

We believe that this new plan is both reasonable and the right path forward to create a vibrant and healthy community.

But to be clear this is a zoning change, not a development or construction plan. Only if and when property owners decide to build, within the code, would anything be built. Although there is much to be done beyond the FBC to achieve our collective goals, there is a pathway forward not merely for the sake of development but in a manner that meets community needs in both of scale and size.

Each member of the Democrats 4 New Castle slate is deeply vested in our town. Before stepping up to serve the community as candidates for the Town Board and long after we hopefully have the honor to do so,

we were and will remain residents first.

We and many fellow community members cite the exceptional Chappaqua Central School District as a reason for choosing New Castle as our home. We understand that the due diligence applied by the district and Board of Education was to the premise of a full build-out scenario, but believe many of these concerns are now mitigated by the limited scope of rezoning currently under consideration.

The potential of a few hundred new students is now reduced to a few dozen spread over multiple schools. We believe we can, as a community, welcome new students without diminishing educational quality.

We support the opportunity for multiple entry points into the New Castle housing market. We believe that there are several advantages offered by stimulating housing development in the hamlet: revitalization, economic and business development for New Castle, lowered carbon footprint of downtown buildings and the inclusion of residents currently unable to live or stay in our community.

We support the addition of affordable and workforce housing, and appreciate that the housing need extends beyond it. New and varied housing options are needed in New Castle to support young adults, empty-nesters, two-household families and middle-income families.

In order for Chappaqua to retain its quaint charm while incentivizing development that will create a flourishing and vibrant hamlet, there is much work to be done. We are ready to roll up our sleeves and do that work. Implementing the NYSEDA building code that mandates higher energy efficiency standards for new construction can lower

our footprint.

Increasing housing options helps us do our part to mitigate some of the housing crisis in our county.

Policy experts and local leaders like the Interfaith Council and the Council for Race and Equity (CRE) recommend implementing the FBC as part of a plan to move toward racial equity. In fact, the CRE's Housing & Planning Committee conducted exhaustive research and due diligence and concluded that the best practice for New Castle is an FBC to create a more diverse and inclusive community. North Greeley Avenue can, and we believe will, be a shining example of smart growth and green building construction.

Whatever the path forward may be, have no misgivings. The Democrats 4 New Castle slate will not implement any future zoning change in the hamlet without robust public engagement. Any consideration to expand

the FBC would not only be contingent upon the outcome and success of the North Greeley corridor but require that such zoning be specifically tailored to the location in which it would be implemented.

Most importantly, we will listen to all voices, remain open to opposing ideas and demonstrate with our actions that before anything else, you, the residents that make our community a place we are proud to call home, always – always – come first.

We look forward to continued dialogue, working together, and your support on June 22.

Holly McCall is a Democratic candidate for New Castle town supervisor. Lori Morton, Michael Weinberg and Jennifer Bounds are Democratic candidates for Town Board. They will also all appear on the independent 4 New Castle line.

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Sisters Return With Lemonade Stand to Raise Funds for Cancer Research

By Martin Wilbur

Not even a pandemic can deter Jenna and Rebecca Blum from their annual fundraising efforts to help find a cure for childhood cancer.

For the eighth year, the Chappaqua sisters will be selling their freshly squeezed lemonade at the hamlet's Saturday morning farmers market to raise money so perhaps one day children and families who must face childhood cancer will see the day when there is a cure.

During the previous seven years, they have raised more than \$15,000 for Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for Childhood Cancer.

"It's good to know that even though there's not a cure we're making a small difference and that it's still something," said Jenna Blum, 13, who is three years younger than Rebecca.

On Friday night, the sisters will be freshly squeezing hundreds of lemons to make about 10 gallons of lemonade. They plan to rise shortly after 6 a.m. on Saturday and mix the lemon juice with water and sugar and head out to their table at the market, that is now being held in the back parking lot at the Chappaqua train station.

Despite the gravity of the cause Jenna and Rebecca are supporting,

they make sure to enjoy themselves. At the farmers market, their friends and people they know in town usually stop by to help out and say hello.

"It's always fun because we put on music (and) we do it as a family, and we're all smiling together," Rebecca said.

If the long-range weather forecast holds up, there might be more business than usual with the first summer-like weather of the year coming in this week.

Farmers market patrons and residents who are thirsty can contribute whatever they want for a cup of lemonade. The sisters will again have a jar filled with lemonheads, and for the person who comes closest to correctly guessing the number will win half the pot. Each guess costs \$1.

A new wrinkle this year will be Jenna and Rebecca making and selling bracelets with yellow and blue beads, the official colors of Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for Childhood Cancer.

Trying to help other families who have been touched by cancer is also personal for Jenna and Rebecca. About four-and-a-half years ago, the lost their grandfather, Papa Neal, to cancer. It is a way for them to honor his legacy by operating the stand in

his honor.

For the eighth consecutive year, they have also found a way to raise money by hosting a fundraising event. Last year, during the depths of the pandemic, they held a pizza pop-up party when they were able to arrange for a local pizza truck to spend two hours on their block. The proprietor donated 15 percent of the proceeds to the Alex's Lemonade Stand.

Jenna Blum said the operators of the Chappaqua Farmers Market have always been generous by allowing them to set up a stand for their Saturday each year. Once again that is the case this year.

So far, they have raised about \$1,100 in advance of Saturday's sales.

"We're helping in some way to fund research to hopefully help find a cure, which is a really great thing to know because even though it's not like there's been a cure yet, it's always good to know that you're helping take steps toward that," Rebecca Blum said.

The Chappaqua Farmers Market is open from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information on Alex's Lemonade Stand and the Blum sisters' effort, visit www.alexslimonade.org/mypage/2472058.



Jenna and Rebecca Blum will be at the Chappaqua Farmers Market this Saturday morning to raise money for Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for Childhood Cancer, an organization that funds pediatric cancer research.

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Putnam Valley's Lone Food Pantry Fills Void in the Community

By Martin Wilbur

In 2004, about a half-dozen local houses of worship and organizations partnered to create Putnam Valley's only food pantry.

Now, 17 years later, the Putnam Valley Community Food Pantry continues to be the town's one place where local residents who face food insecurity can visit each week to help sustain them and their families through difficult times.

Although the need for food assistance has returned almost to pre-pandemic levels at the pantry, said its director Roni Rodman, it fills a significant void in the communities that it serves in northern Westchester and southern Putnam County.

Roughly 75 to 100 clients arrive at the back of the Grace Methodist Church at 337 Peekskill Hollow Rd. every Saturday morning from 9 until 11 or 11:30 a.m. when the pantry is open. About 20 local residents who serve as volunteers give up their Saturday morning each week to help.

"We're here, and if families or an individual needs us, we want to provide them with the necessary means to survive," Rodman said.

Not only are there the pantry staples of nonperishable food for families to choose from, but the Putnam Valley Community Food Pantry also has a variety of meats, dairy, eggs, cheese, butter and milk in its walk-in refrigerator located outside the entrance, Rodman said.

The pantry receives most of its food, at least 5,000 pounds each week, from the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley in Cornwall,

Orange County. It buys the food with money received from the federal Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) grant that it has received each year.

Rodman said the pantry works off that grant and places its order for pickup every Friday morning.

About seven to 10 volunteers gather early every Friday morning, a few of whom make the drive to Cornwall in the pantry's new 2021 Mitsubishi Fuso box truck that was acquired in February. The remainder wait at the pantry waiting for it to arrive at about 9 a.m. to help unload.

One of the volunteers, Bobby Sellazzo, who works for a private sanitation company, said there is a client of the company in Pleasantville who did work for the Bob and Delores Hope Foundation, which supports nonprofit organizations that help others in need.

As the pantry's previous truck continued to deteriorate, Sellazzo innocently inquired about whether the foundation could help buy a newer truck for the weekly food runs.

The foundation provided the pantry with half of the money for the \$50,000 truck, and if the pantry can raise \$12,500 from its fundraising efforts, it has pledged to pick up the remaining expense to pay off the truck as part of a dollar-for-dollar match, he said.

Sellazzo said the new truck is not only more reliable but it reduces the amount of time to load and unload the food with its mechanical platform.

"I come out once in a while, but good for these people," he said of many of the other



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Putnam Valley Community Food Pantry volunteers unload the weekly shipment of more than 5,000 pounds of food every Friday morning to stock the shelves for its clients who arrive on Saturday.

volunteers. "They are out here for 10 to 12 hours every week to do this."

Another volunteer, Mark Perez, said the truck's platform is greatly appreciated in inclement weather.

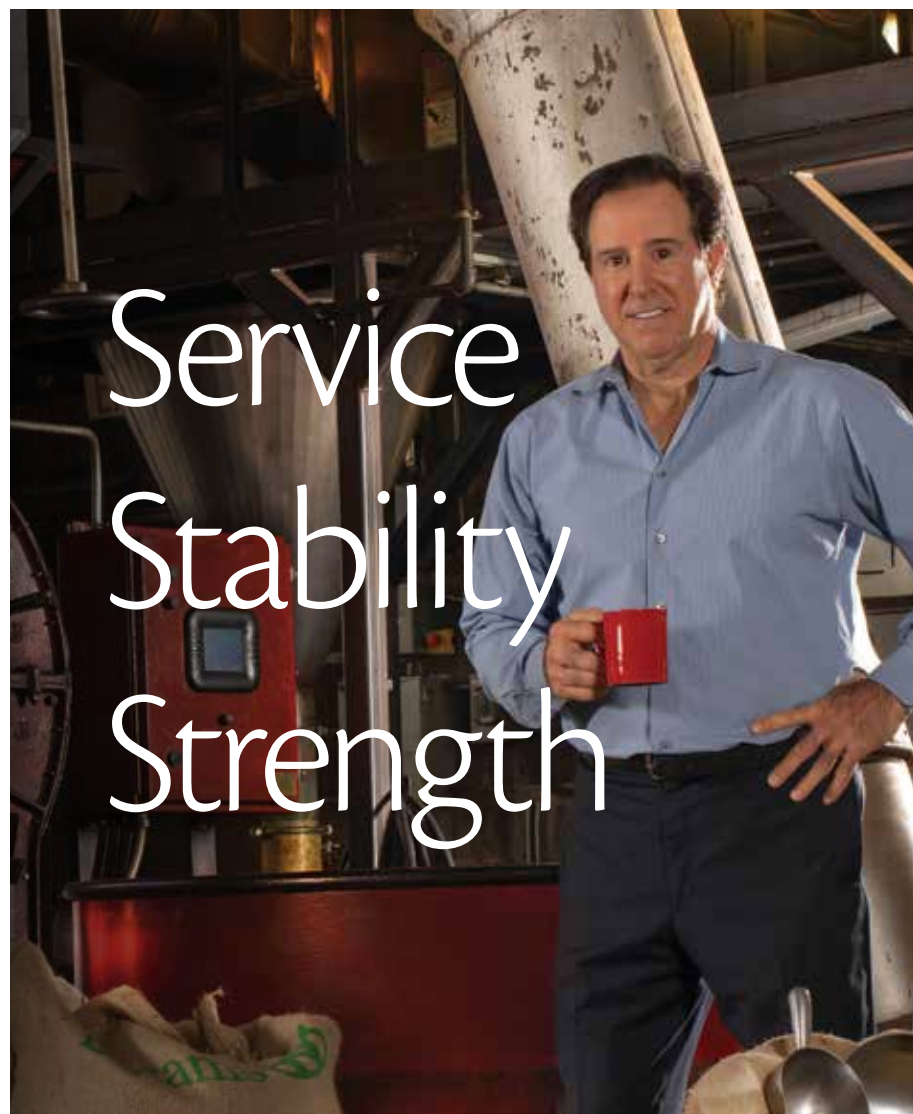
"It's been a blessing. It really has, and for them to match whatever we raised, it's a blessing, too, it really is," Perez said of the Bob and Dolores Hope Foundation. "And it's all volunteers. Nobody makes a nickel."

Rodman said in the spring of 2004, congregants at the Grace Methodist Church were joined by members of The Reform Temple of Putnam Valley, St. Luke's Lutheran

Church, St. Columbanus Roman Catholic Church in Cortlandt and the Putnam Valley Rotary Club because they saw the need for it in the community. The pantry is an interfaith and community-based venture, she said.

Clients are asked to fill out a simple registration form and provide proof with a photo identification that they are local residents, Rodman said.

For more information on the Putnam Valley Community Food pantry, visit www.putnamvalleyfoodpantry.org or visit its Facebook page.



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Announcing My Favorite (and Easiest) Flower to Grow: The Peony

This week, I visited a very nice home in Croton-on-Hudson, which I will be listing for sale very shortly. In surveying the outside property, I spied a row of plants with buds of flowers that for many years were my favorite; peonies.

When I first moved to Westchester, I was delighted that I would once again be able to grow a flower garden like the one I had when I was a young boy living in the South.

Originally, I also had a vegetable garden, including a hardy couple of rows of corn, but I was more desirous of having a flower garden that looked pretty from spring to fall. Besides, vegetables are so easy to buy with none of the sweat to grow them.

The first two years, I was overly ambitious, even going so far as to plant annuals from seed and thinning out the spouts until each plant could grow with enough space around it to grow large.

Marigolds were my favorite choice to start with because they were so easy to grow, but once my taste became more sophisticated, I ventured into growing what became my favorite flower – the peony. Not only is it a perennial but it boasts the most beautiful blooms of any flower in the garden, and there seemed to be an endless variety of them.

Peonies grow from tubers, bulb-like structures that store the nutrients the plant needs to regrow each year. It is a gorgeous



By Bill Primavera

perennial that boasts breathtaking, fragrant blooms and a long lifespan. Some varieties have been known to live for as long as 100 years.

Peonies are hardy in our area, and there are many different cultivars within the main types of these plants (tree peonies and herbaceous peonies, or *Paenonia suffruticosa* and *Paenonia officinalis*). In spring, peonies produce large, multicolored blossoms that make for excellent cut flowers. Then, after its bloom, the peony's shiny green foliage lasts all summer.

Caring for peonies is relatively simple, since they require little maintenance so long as they are planted properly. In terms of feeding

peonies, great soil plus just the right amount of plant food is the perfect combination for healthy-looking blooms. Whether fertilizing peonies in containers or the ground, it's important to give them the right kind of nutrition at the right time.

When deciding on a location, keep in mind that peonies thrive in fertile, rich, well-drained soil in full sun to partial shade. Spacing is important; peonies should be three to four feet apart to allow for decent air circulation. Planting (or transplanting or dividing) peonies is best done in early fall, although they can also be planted in spring as soon as soils are workable.

When planting, dig a generous hole (about two feet deep and two feet across) and set

the root so that the eyes face upward on top of a mound of soil in the hole, placing the roots two inches below the soil surface. Then, fill the hole back up, burying the root deeper than two inches. If growing a container peony, take care to cover it no deeper than it grew.

The best way to fertilize peonies is by using a tulip fertilizer. You should work the soil well before you plant, mixing in compost or another organic material like bonemeal or well-rotted manure and a small amount of fertilizer.

In the spring, when the plants begin to grow and the shoots are three to four inches high, you can apply a complete, dry, synthetic fertilizer such as 5-10-5 or 10-10-10 or organic fertilizer such as 5-5-5. One application of fertilizer per year is usually sufficient to promote plant growth.

Using a low-nitrogen fertilizer for peonies is important, as a fertilizer with too much nitrogen could hinder the plant's growth. Be careful to not overfertilize. Always add the fertilizer around the drip line of the plant; if you add it directly on the crown, it could burn the plant.

Once established, peonies require very little water, though they should be watered thoroughly upon first being planted and during their first year of growth.



Blossoms should be deadheaded when they begin to fade to promote flower production.

Peonies should not be covered with too much mulch; otherwise, they'll be smothered. If temperatures dip below freezing, peonies can be mulched with shredded bark or pine needles. But mulch must be removed in the spring.

Support peony stems with wire tomato cages or another form of support, as stems tend

to be weak, and their massive blooms can easily overpower the peony's stem. But the flower's beauty is worth the trouble to support them.

Peony tubers are easily purchased at a variety of sites online and at local garden centers. When cutting peony flowers for the home, don't cut more than one-third to one-half of the flowers and leave as much foliage as possible.

Then, just be grateful that God creates such floral beauty for our enjoyment.

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

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PLA033-3

Mt. Kisco Sculptor Makes Statements About the World Through Art

By Gloria Raskin

Speaking to Howard Menken is a journey into his head, heart and hands that have all worked together throughout his life to produce his photography, then his furniture designs and now sculptures.

Menken, 87, a 20-year Mount Kisco resident, is a true Renaissance man who expresses himself in many mediums. Today, the foremost are his sculptures of which he has amassed between 40 and 50 over the past few years. Jokingly, he said he doesn't have any more room in his home to build and house them.

This month, the Katonah Museum of Art has taken one of Menken's sculptures that is being exhibited in its virtual show titled "Ricochet," which opened last Saturday and will run through June 13.

His abstract sculptures are comments on multiple problems facing the world, he said.

"Why haven't we (America) learned from our past? Why do atrocities like the Holocaust and the genocide in Ethiopia keep happening?" Menken asked.

To highlight one of the national problems the nation has grappled with over the past year, Menken has a sculpture planned related to the killing of George Floyd. He doesn't quite know what shape or form that will take, but it is important for Menken to relate his feelings and emotions into his work.

"What happens is when certain events take place, and I think this was a very important event, that fits into, let's say, the pieces that



I've done under the theme of why," Menken explained.

Menken was born and raised in Brooklyn. He fondly recalls playing in the streets with a pink "Spaldeen," the high-bounce ball that was a staple of a city childhood for decades, and making up games with other children.

From a young age, Menken loved working with his hands, starting with block building when he was in kindergarten.

His love for graphic design eventually led him to a photography career.



Three of Mount Kisco resident and sculptor's most notable works. Above, "From Sea to Toxic Sea," right, "Summer Memories – Stickball, Stickball, Stickball!" and left, "Shame," which depicts a Holocaust victim who is being taken to the gas chambers. The latter work is currently part of a Katonah Museum of Art exhibit.



ignored multiple job offers.

Menken opened his own photography studio in Chelsea while continuing to work as a fashion photographer for more than 40 years, capturing fashion and lifestyle images for advertising agencies throughout the United States and Europe.

When he hung up his camera, he turned his creative mind to furniture, and began designing pieces he called "transformable" – furniture that can be reconfigured in different ways and only limited by the imagination of the consumer. His line of furniture was typically aimed for young families, able to

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Longtime Mahopac Library Staff Member Perillo to Retire Next Week

Gail Perillo, also known to hundreds of community members as Miss Gail, will officially retire from the Mahopac Public Library on May 27.

Miss Kitty, Gail's puppet companion, was heartbroken when she heard the news that her dearest story time friend would be leaving the library.

"It will be hard to fill Gail's shoes," said Library Director Michele Capozzella. "Her energy and enthusiasm is so engaging, and her love for our young patrons brings out the best in them."

Patrons of all ages are welcome to stop in at the library on Wednesday, May 26 and Thursday, May 27, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., to say goodbye to Perillo and wish her a successful retirement.

Perillo has been a library staff member since 2001, working part-time and then full-time in the Youth Services Department. It might be hard to imagine that she was once a shy student, but at the age of 10 one of her teachers encouraged her to join a theater group, and the rest is history.

Among other things, she initiated an active teen theater group, managed the teen volunteer program and supervised the Teen Balloon Club. Perillo also established the Teen Library Council, the MPL Teens That Care group and encouraged teens to interview members of the community through the Traveling Teen Reporter project.

Many of her story time fans grew up listening to Perillo read their favorite stories when they were youngsters, and then joining

one of her terrific teen programs as they transitioned to middle and high school. They remember her playful exuberance at the library's annual Gingerbread House Making event, the Summer Reading Ice Cream parties, Winter Frosty Fun, Stuffed Animal Sleepover and Teen After Hours Laser Tag.

Perillo also represented Mahopac Library at Sycamore Park's Harvest Fest, and was instrumental in creating the Putnam County Teen Talent Show – a countywide event that highlighted the incredible abilities of our local middle and high school age kids.

Perillo inspired generations of children and their family members to make reading and learning fun. Based on her own experience of raising a son who could not sit still in school, Perillo developed programs for two- and three-



Gail Perillo, pictured here with her puppet companion Miss Kitty, will be retiring next week from the Mahopac Public Library after serving the community for 20 years.

Mt. Kisco Sculptor Makes Statements About the World Through Art

continued from page 17

adapt his pieces to their lifestyle and living environment.

From there it was a short leap to sculptures, which he has been doing in earnest the last few years. Menken's first sculpture was titled "Birth," his interpretation of what it must feel like when a woman brings a child into the world.

"So you can see that there's, obviously, there's a connection between all of these creative expressions, so this one, as far as sculpture goes and my furniture design as well, which is also a sculptural process, is where I am presently," Menken said.

His works tell a story created from his

background and experiences. Menken said he comes up with an idea for a sculpture, and the sculpture becomes a statement of the idea, a sort of three-dimensional portrait of his thoughts. Each of his sculptures tells a story.

Of the works Menken has completed, there are three that stand out. "From Sea to Toxic Sea" dramatizes the pollution problem facing fish and the nation's watercourses. Refuse is dumped into the waterways, the fish ingest the garbage and later the fish are caught and eaten. The sculpture shows a large, colorful fish leaping out of the water in an effort to dramatize the problem.

"Summer Memories – Stickball, Stickball,

Stickball!" reminds Menken of his years growing up when his and his friends' playground was the streets of Brooklyn, and stickball, played with the pink Spalden, kept them occupied for hours.

"Shame," which is the sculpture currently on display at the Katonah Museum of Art, is Menken's powerful Holocaust sculpture. It holds two meanings – one interpretation is the shame that genocide brought to the world and the other is the shame of the victim that is depicted as he's led to the gas chamber with his hands clasped in front of him.

For additional information, Howard Menken can be reached by e-mail at hmenken@gmail.com.

year-olds that encouraged active participation, and made it okay to run around while listening to stories and playing with musical instruments at the library and at home.

Even during the pandemic, while the building was closed to the public, Perillo reached out to young audiences by providing virtual story times, Footloose Fun and engaging musical programs.

A longtime Mahopac resident, Perillo will miss the friendships she forged with her colleagues, and hearing about all of the children whose lives she touched. She looks forward to spending time outdoors – biking, kayaking and traveling on motorbikes with her husband.

(Miss Kitty might just retire and join them on their travels as well. We'll have to wait and see!)

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LPGA Hall of Famer Stephenson to Appear at Summit Club This Saturday

LPGA legend Jan Stephenson is making a special appearance at Westchester's new Summit Club at Armonk this Saturday, May 22, and the public is invited to watch a short-game golf clinic, participate in a Q&A and meet one of the LPGA's greatest stars.

The event takes place between 3 and 5 p.m. and reservations are requested to ensure a spot. Light refreshments also will be served.

"Jan is one of the LPGA's greatest players and we're looking forward to having her here at The Summit Club," said Managing Partner Christopher A. Schiavone. "This is a great opportunity for area golfers to spend a few hours with Jan and get some short game tips from a celebrated Hall of Famer."

During her illustrious career, Stephenson won 16 LPGA titles and three majors, including the 1983 U.S. Women's Open and the 1982 LPGA Championship. In all, the native Australian captured 41 worldwide professional wins.

Stephenson was immensely popular in the 1970s and early '80s. She was attractive and stylish, had charisma to go along with a silky-smooth golf swing and was a magnet for the LPGA and had many male followers and fans. She currently plays select tournaments on

the LPGA Legends Tour. She received The Order of Australia Medal for her contributions to golf and her global fundraising efforts for nonprofits.

For information about Stephenson, visit www.janstephenson.com.

To reserve a spot for this exclusive event, contact Leslie Dixon at 914-273-9300 or e-mail ldixon@thesummitclub.net. For more information about The Summit Club at Armonk, visit www.thesummitclub.net. The Summit Club is located at 568 Bedford Rd. in Armonk.

Front Nine Opens

The new Summit Club at Armonk last Wednesday opened the first nine holes of its highly anticipated renovated golf course by acclaimed architect Rees Jones. The transformation of the former Brynwood Golf & Country Club gives area golfers the opportunity to play a first-class Jones design by joining this new brand of club that has been styled as "the private club experience reimagined."

All 18 holes will be ready for member play in mid-June, as will the upgraded practice facilities. The Summit Club at Armonk course presents a good test for golfers and

will play to 6,700 yards from the back tees to a par of 71. The par-5 14th hole already has been recognized by Westchester magazine as one of the great new golf holes among the county's recently improved or renovated courses.

"The extensive golf course improvements will make The Summit Club at Armonk a place that all levels of golfers can enjoy in a natural landscape that offers dramatic elevation changes and stunning panoramic views of the New York countryside," Jones said.

"The Summit Club is being designed as a 21st century lifestyle community with a focus on golf, tennis, fitness and wellness within a resort-like environment," said Jeffrey B. Mendell, Managing Partner. "Our orientation is to make golf more fun and less stuffy."

In addition to the renovated golf course, The Summit Club at Armonk will provide exceptional amenities that will open in phases over the next few years. A temporary reception center, pro shop, food truck and covered outdoor dining terrace are now operational. An amenities pavilion that will include a pool, fitness center and casual dining breaks ground later this year. The new clubhouse and tennis courts are expected to commence construction in 2023. Also planned for the site are 73 luxury condominium residences.



LPGA legend Jan Stephenson will appear at The Summit Club at Armonk this weekend to participate in a clinic and Q&A.

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Crossword

Across

1. In any way
5. Cattle marking
10. Connection
11. Chest feature
12. D.C. agents
13. Number of degrees in a right angle
14. Green veggies
16. Southern swamp
19. Canoe
24. On top of
25. Sci-Fi novel
26. Ornamental buttons
28. Drain
29. Ride that's hailed
31. Firing range weapon
35. Bright colors
39. Like Swiss peaks
40. Dark forces
41. Aircraft
42. Naysay

Down

1. Polar worker
2. Compete (for)
3. Objective
4. Answer
5. Lively
6. Operated
7. Wonderment
8. Tennis equipment
9. Like some martinis
11. Law and Order investigation subject
15. Land of the euro, for short
16. Restaurant, table job
17. On target

1	2	3	4			5	6	7	8	9
10					11					
12					13					
			14	15						
16	17	18				19	20	21	22	23
24						25				
26				27		28				
				29	30					
31	32	33	34				35	36	37	38
39							40			
41							42			

18. Person indicated
20. Popular
21. Nope's counterpart
22. Pantry pest
23. Most important
27. Bit of gravel
28. Former
30. Schooner filler
31. Baby food
32. "___ Be Seeing You"
33. Pool locale
34. Roofing material
36. Christmas ___
37. Loud commotion
38. "Rocky" actor

Answers on page 25

Ronald McDonald House, JP Morgan Chase to Serve More HV Families

Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley has announced that JPMorgan Chase is increasing its strong commitment to the organization and is once again serving as a corporate Program Partner for the third year in a row.

JPMorgan Chase and its Westchester and Hudson Valley employees are leading supporters of the Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley, providing funding for the COVID Relief Plan and Overflow Housing Programs as well as volunteers for the organization's meal program.

The COVID Relief Plan was developed to continue providing critical services to families experiencing medical crises during this global pandemic. Ongoing COVID protocols led to limited occupancy of families as well as restricted numbers of volunteers permitted at the Ronald McDonald House.

The immediate needs that have been supported by the COVID Relief Plan include ongoing programs such as Meals that Heal, which provides daily meals to families both in Ronald McDonald House as well as at their child's hospital bedside while volunteer meal preparation is restricted. The relief plan also includes overflow housing that provides hotel accommodations for families due to occupancy restraints in Ronald McDonald House.

Other necessary resources include providing personal protective equipment for staff and families and initiatives necessary to provide families support during these times. Remote education resources for young students and their parents staying at

the house are critical as is providing mental health support for staff and families.

The Overflow Housing Program, initially funded by JPMorgan Chase, was created to help support funding for families to stay offsite at local partnering hotels to keep families close when Ronald McDonald House is at full capacity. These funds were utilized during the last year to provide alternate accommodations as a result of occupancy restrictions due to COVID.

Anthony Trimarchi, executive director, JPMorgan Private Bank and a co-leader of the firm's Westchester and Hudson Valley Market Leadership Team, also serves as an active member of the Ronald McDonald House Board of Directors and was instrumental in developing the COVID Relief Plan.

Trimarchi knows firsthand the importance of keeping families close to their children during their medical crises, especially during the ongoing pandemic.

"As a parent of a child who battled a chronic disease, I know how important it is for families to focus on what's most important – the health of their children," said Trimarchi. "The stress and uncertainty that we all experienced this year reminds us of what families with critically ill children face every day, and through the COVID Relief Plan, JPMorgan Chase is so proud to continue our support of the Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley and invest in their mission to help as many families as possible throughout our community."



Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley and JPMorgan Chase are serving as a corporate Program Partner for the third consecutive year.

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A Spiritual View

By Cantor Lilah Sugarman

Early in the year, I sprained my ankle. To help strengthen my ankles, the doctor suggested I balance on one foot throughout the day. She said that the balance receptors are in the ligaments of your ankle, so when those are injured, your balance is affected.

The first thing I thought was how neat our bodies are, and then I instantly thought of a story in our Jewish tradition about a person who went to the first century Rabbi Hillel and asked, "Teach me the Torah, the Jewish Bible, while I stand on one foot." In response Hillel taught him: "That which is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow. That is the whole Torah, all the rest is commentary. Now, go and learn it."

I am always struck by this story. It teaches the value that everyone is created b'zelem elohim – in God's



image, and each life inherently has value and is worthy of honor and respect. It is also significant that it does not say, do to others what you want to be done to yourself. What we want is not necessarily what others

want or need.

Sunday, May 16 at sundown was the holiday of Shavuot, the holiday in which the Jewish people commemorate receiving the Torah on Sinai.

I am now able to balance for quite a long time, and even so, I

know I will never be able to learn the whole Torah standing on one foot. The beauty of this sacred book is that there is always more to learn.

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

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continued on page 26

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One of the Best Places in the Area to Make a Great 24-Hour Escape

As a travel writer with my wings still clipped, just like most folks, I've desperately missed getting away.

So recently I've had my first great escape since the onset of COVID-19. Crabtree's Kittle House Restaurant & Inn in Chappaqua, one of the most heralded restaurants and inns in Westchester, was perhaps my most enjoyable 24-hour getaway.

Yes, this charming, old-world, romantic restaurant nestled in the woods has 13 gorgeous, antique-decorated guest rooms. More than 200 years ago, this was a family farm. It has also served as a Prohibition-era Roadhouse, a private girl's school, a country playhouse where Henry Fonda and Tallulah Bankhead starred and a bed and breakfast during Hollywood's Golden Era.

The classic white structure was built in 1879. You're sure to be overwhelmed when you feast your eyes upon your romantic room. Ask



By Richard Levy

The Travel Maven

for suite 2F if available, with its huge antique wooden sled bed. The other rooms are just as beautiful with stunning four-poster beds.

Come down before dinner to their lovely tap room for a cocktail at 6 p.m. Dinner's a half-hour later in either their spectacular dining room or outside in the sprawling, spectacular garden terrace. Be sure to reserve a window table with a lovely view if dining inside.

Owner John Crabtree and his award-winning chefs have assembled an amazing, gastronomic menu, filled with so many enticing appetizers and entrees you'll have a hard time deciding what to order. Their freshly-baked sourdough bread they place on the table will blow you away.

Two of the most renowned dishes are their just-jumped-out-of-the-ocean bluefin sushi tuna pizzetta (crispy sushi rice cake, tobiko, jalapeño and Japanese aioli) and their mouthwatering pan roasted Hudson Valley pork belly with baked apple,

prunes and port wine sauce.

Two of their best main dishes is the to-die-for slow-braised, grass-fed short ribs with root vegetable velouté, glazed heirloom carrots, Swiss chard and crispy parsnips, and the striped bass with shiitake mushrooms, bok choy and Israeli couscous.

Every dish in this one-of-a-kind gourmet restaurant is incredibly prepared and served like a beautiful painting. You absolutely can't miss, no matter what you order. You can even choose your dishes blindfolded. Be sure to include a couple of their decadent side dishes in your order. I loved the parmesan truffle fries and cider-roasted brussels sprouts.

Leave all your wine selections up to their knowledgeable sommelier. Crabtree, the owner, has one of the country's most envied wine cellars. Wine Spectator magazine gave his eclectic wine selection a standing ovation.

The incredible, creative desserts are not to be missed. I went gaga over their Valrhona Chocolate Gift, which is filled with molten dark chocolate and surrounded by creme anglaise.

The attentive waiter staff is old-world, serving every dish artfully while explaining how each was prepared and how each ingredient



Crabtree's Kittle House & Inn has 13 beautiful antique-decorated guest rooms on its grounds in Chappaqua. That along with its fine dining makes it a perfect overnight getaway for those who need a quick break close to home.

was locally and sustainably sourced.

In the morning, after a restful night's sleep, perhaps your first away from home since COVID-19, head downstairs for a lovely continental breakfast buffet spread with lots of delicious goodies and the best coffee you've ever had.

After breakfast, consider returning to your room to celebrate your first night away with a romantic farewell. After all, life is short. Carpe diem.

So don't wait, make plans now and surprise your significant other with a

nearby overnight getaway.

Crabtree Kittle House is located at 11 Kittle Rd. in Chappaqua. For more information or reservations, call 914-666-8044 or visit www.crabtreeskittlehouse.com.

Hastings-on-Hudson resident Richard Levy is a former advertising "Mad Man" creative director and now a travel writer. He's also an inventor of innovative new products and is writing and illustrating a new children's book. You can contact him at RichardLevyTravelWriter@gmail.com.



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Doctors Answer Patient Questions About COVID-19 Vaccination

The American Medical Association (AMA) is urging Americans to get vaccinated and continue precautions against COVID-19 infection. But patients have many questions.

“For more than a year, physicians and public health officials have asked us to mask up, physically distance and do all we can to stop the spread of COVID-19 in an effort to save lives while scientists developed vaccines to help bring us back to normal,” said AMA President Dr. Susan R. Bailey. “With vaccines here and available to all Americans over 12, it’s your turn.”

Here are the AMA’s answers to top patient questions.

1. How do we know COVID-19 vaccines are safe? COVID-19 vaccines were tested in large clinical trials with participants of different races, ages, ethnicities and medical conditions to ensure they meet safety standards. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reviewed all trial safety data before authorizing vaccines for emergency use and are continuing to monitor their safety to ensure even very rare side effects are identified.

2. Which vaccine should I get? Three vaccines are now available in the United States: those made by Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen Pharmaceuticals. All are safe and highly effective at preventing severe COVID-19 illness, hospitalizations and death. The vaccines were studied at different times, in different countries and under different



conditions, making comparisons difficult. However, the best vaccine is the first one available to you.

3. Should I get the vaccine if pregnant or breastfeeding? There isn’t definitive data on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines for pregnant women, but no untoward effects have been reported. Data suggest when pregnant individuals contract COVID-19, they have increased risk of severe illness, hospitalization and death, along with risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes. All pregnant individuals should have an opportunity to receive a vaccination. If you have questions, speak with your physician and

make decisions based on risk of exposure to COVID-19.

4. How do I know when I’m eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine? All people age 12 and up in every state are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. For people from 12 to 17 years old, only the Pfizer vaccine has been approved for those ages. Additional information about eligibility and timeline can be found at your local public health department website found at www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/healthdirectories/. Vaccination information changes quickly, so check back frequently.

5. Will COVID-19 vaccines be available for

young children? Vaccines aren’t currently authorized for anyone under 12. As trials are completed in younger populations, vaccines may become available.

6. Once I’m vaccinated, can I stop wearing masks and practicing physical distancing? The CDC has phased out certain prevention measures for fully vaccinated people allowing them to resume some lower-risk activities. The CDC guidance allows fully vaccinated people in non-health care settings to visit other fully vaccinated people indoors without masks or physical distancing. They no longer need to wear a mask outdoors while walking, running, hiking or biking alone, or when in small gatherings, including with members of their own households.

However, masks are still necessary in some crowded outdoor venues like sports stadiums, according to the CDC. Additionally, fully vaccinated people should continue taking precautions – wearing masks, physical distancing and adhering to other prevention measures – when in public and when visiting unvaccinated people at increased risk for severe disease or who have an unvaccinated household member at increased risk.

Follow the CDC and health department guidance as it updates at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html.

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Student-Run Clinic Opens, Expands Services to Care in Westchester

On May 6, La Casita de la Salud, the New York Medical College (NYMC) student-run clinic operating since 2005 in East Harlem, opened a new location at NYMC’s Family Health Center in Valhalla, in conjunction with Touro Dental Health, the state-of-the-art dental health facility of the Touro College of Dental Medicine (TCDM).

The new location will offer free medical and dental care to uninsured adults in the surrounding community. Initially, the clinic will operate one Thursday a month from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., with plans for expanded operations in the future.

Since 2005, the original La Casita de la Salud student-run clinic in East Harlem has bridged the gap in health care disparities by providing quality, culturally competent care regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, nationality or ability to pay.

“We are so pleased to open a new La Casita location as the clinic truly encompasses the shared values that NYMC and Touro seek to embody,” said Dr. Lori Solomon, clinical associate professor and chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine and director of the Family Health Center, who serves as a faculty advisor for the clinic.

“Our goal is to train students to deliver

skilled and compassionate care, as well as prioritize always giving back to the community. We hope that expanding the clinic to a new location and offering additional accessible care will make a positive impact on those who need it and the community as a whole.”

A typical patient visit will begin with a physical exam at the Family Health Center, followed by a warm handoff to Touro Dental Health and a dental exam and care. This model exemplifies a true interdisciplinary clinic and showcases the interprofessional education that NYMC and TCDM students receive.

La Casita will offer exams and laboratory testing for free and will help patients apply for free or reduced-fee pharmaceuticals, advanced diagnostic testing and referrals for specialty care if necessary.

Patients will receive longitudinal care, while students will get valuable clinical experience under the supervision of faculty advisors. Patient care will be delivered by a pre-clinical and clinical student pair in both settings. More than 100 students, each from NYMC and TCDM, have applied to volunteer at La Casita. In addition to clinical experience, student volunteers will also gain valuable operational and management experience.



La Casita will operate under strict COVID-19 protocols including reduced capacity, screening practices, use of personal protective equipment and enhanced cleaning practices.

To confirm eligibility and schedule an appointment, patients may call La Casita de la Salud at 845-519-7119 or Touro Dental Health at 914-594-2700.

Land Conservation a Key Strategy in Limiting Impacts of Climate Change

By Lori Ensinger

As part of a global push to avoid the harshest impacts of climate change and to slow species extinctions, President Joe Biden has committed his administration to an ambitious conservation goal – to protect 30 percent of U.S. land and coastal seas by 2030.

The science behind the plan demonstrates that 30 percent is needed to sustain and protect roughly 75 percent of the species on Earth, slow climate change by storing carbon in soil and plants and protect communities from climate change-related extreme weather events.

The plan is referred to as “30x30,” and as a country we have a lot of work to do to reach these targets. Here in Westchester County, we have a strong history of conservation to build upon, and the 30x30 plan offers a bold call for us to act to protect the land before it is too late.

According to the United States Geological Survey, the U.S. has conserved about 26 percent of its coastal waters but only about 12 percent of its land. In Westchester, it is estimated that just under 20 percent of our land is protected, although this protected land is not evenly distributed throughout the county.

This statistic may seem surprising because parts of Westchester feel very open and free from development. But it is important to realize that the land that is undeveloped today is not necessarily conserved or protected in perpetuity. And the areas most in need of open space tend to have the least undeveloped land available to protect.

Who will drive the massive conservation efforts behind the 30x30 plan? To reach the plan’s targets, we cannot rely solely on federal, state or local governments to do the heavy lifting. Nonprofit conservation groups, such as land trusts, will play an important role.

Collectively land trusts have already

preserved an astonishing 60 million acres across the U.S. To put this in perspective, that is an area larger than the entire National Park System, or the states of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island and New Hampshire combined.

Land trusts typically protect land in two ways. They can acquire the title to a property by either purchasing it or accepting it as a donation from a landowner. Another method is through the use of a conservation easement, which allows landowners to keep their land while ensuring it is preserved. A conservation easement runs with the property and is a voluntary, perpetual legal agreement between a property owner and a land trust or government agency, which permanently restricts certain land uses (such as development) that would damage important ecological characteristics of the property.

With limited funds available to purchase properties, land trusts adopt conservation plans to guide them in prioritizing which lands to protect for the greatest positive impact on the surrounding ecosystems and community. Properties that expand corridors by connecting existing protected parcels are often a high priority for protection.

Land is also evaluated for its climate resiliency: Does it buffer communities from coastal flooding? Provide shade trees in densely populated areas? Have wetlands or woodlands that store carbon? To ensure adequate access to the many benefits of living near nature, land that is in communities that have been historically excluded from the conservation movement are of high priority and will be a key part of the

30x30 success stories of our future.

Land conservation looks different in Westchester than it does in other parts of the country. The size of parcels here are much smaller than the thousand-acre



Preserving land strategically, including protecting key vistas and natural resources, are essential for Westchester and the United States.

tracts our colleagues protect out west. For example, Westchester Land Trust has protected nearly 9,000 acres in our 32 years, but that is comprised of 260 separate projects.

Our region’s land protection achievements might be accomplished on a smaller scale, but they will be no less important to the overall goal, and they will rely heavily on private landowners taking action to piece together a mosaic of protected land.

Westchester Land Trust and other conservation organizations stand ready to guide and assist these landowners in being part of the 30x30 solution.

There is no doubt that the 30x30 plan is one of the boldest conservation commitments we have seen in recent

decades. For many in the conservation sector, President Biden’s pledge offers overwhelming validation of the importance of our mission. His administration’s announcement confirms that we are at a conservation crossroad and it is time to take bold and strategic steps to protect our natural resources for the residents of Westchester today, and all who will come after us.

Lori Ensinger is president of the Westchester Land Trust, a regional conservation organization based in Bedford Hills that has preserved nearly 9,000 acres since its founding in 1988. For more information on conservation options for your property, visit www.westchesterlandtrust.org.

Social Security Releases the Most Popular Baby Names for 2020

The Social Security Administration announced last Thursday the most popular baby names in New York for 2020 were Liam and Olivia.

Rounding out the top five boys’ names in the state were Noah, Lucas, Jacob and Ethan. For girls, following Olivia, it was Emma, Sophia, Ava and Isabella.

The agency also announced last week that Olivia and Liam were the most popular baby names in the U.S. last year. How does New York compare to the rest of the country? Check out Social Security’s website – www.socialsecurity.gov – to see the top national baby names for 2020.

Social Security encourages everyone to enjoy the baby names list and, while online, create a my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. It is a personalized online account that people can use beginning in their working years and continuing while receiving Social Security benefits.

Social Security beneficiaries have instant access to their benefit verification letter, payment history and complete earnings record by establishing a my Social Security account. Beneficiaries also can change their address, start or change direct deposit information and request a replacement SSA-1099 online. People receiving benefits can request a replacement Medicare card online.

People 18 and older who are not receiving benefits can also sign up for a my Social Security account to get their personalized online Social Security Statement. The online statement provides workers with secure and convenient access to their Social Security earnings and benefit information and estimates of future benefits they can use to plan for their retirement. Residents of most states may request a replacement Social Security card online if they meet certain requirements.

The agency began compiling the baby names list in 1997, with names dating

back to 1880. At the time of a child’s birth, parents supply the name to the agency when applying for a child’s Social Security card, thus making Social Security America’s source for the most popular baby names.

In addition to each state’s top baby names

(and names for U.S. territories), Social Security’s website has a list of the 1,000 most popular boys’ and girls’ names for 2020.

To see the fastest rising girls’ and boys’ names in 2020, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/news/press/releases/2021/#5-2021-2.

Crossword Answers

1	E	V	3	E	4	R	5	B	6	R	7	A	8	N	9	D
10	L	I	N	E	11	D	R	A	W	E	R					
12	F	E	D	S	13	N	I	N	E	T	Y					
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24	U	P	O	N	25	D	U	N	E							
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39	A	L	P	I	N	E	40	E	V	I	L					
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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village Treasurer of the Village of Pleasantville has received the Tax Roll and Warrant for the collection of taxes for the fiscal year 2021-2022. Tax payments can be made online via the Village website www.pleasantville-ny.gov, sent via mail service or left in the drop box available at the entrance to the Village Police Department, Village Hall, 80 Wheeler Avenue. Payments can also be dropped off in-person at Village Hall, 3rd Floor of 80 Wheeler Avenue, Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm

by scheduling an appointment with the Tax Department at 914-769-1997. Taxes and other assessments, if any, become due and payable June 1, 2021, but may be paid in two installments without penalty. The first installment may be paid without penalty from June 1, 2021 to and including July 1, 2021. The second installment may be paid without penalty from June 1, 2021 to and including December 31, 2021. To all first installment taxes remaining unpaid after July 1, 2021, five percent (5%) will be added for the month of July, and an additional one percent (1%) for each month or fraction thereof until paid. To all second installment taxes remaining unpaid after December 31, 2021, five percent (5%) will be added for the month of January, and an additional one percent (1%) for each month or fraction thereof until paid. On or before February 1, 2022 a delinquent list will be published.

Mary Schwartz, Village Treasurer

Dated: May 18, 2021

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The Changing Landscape of Alternative Wine Containers



By Nick Antonaccio

In last week's column I focused on the carbon footprint of shipping wine. This week my focus is on reducing the carbon footprint further, by changing the wine container. Slowly, but inexorably, the wine industry is moving to alternatives.

How might this foreshadow an environment impact? To ensuring the quality of wine? To the sensibilities of consumers?

Bottles have been the preferred containers for centuries and, until recently, never questioned. But now we're at a crossroad of being environmentally conscious (which we all support) while possibly periling the quality of our wines (which we all resist).

We've been through this before. Remember Almaden Hearty Burgundy in the '80s and '90s that was sold in boxes? Remember the – ugh – wines in those boxes? As it turns out, those rudimentary containers may have been ahead of their time.

Now that the entire planet has become eco-conscious, the wine industry has been studying the ecological impact of their current packaging and, in the true spirit of American entrepreneurialism, a marketing

angle to exploit.

In the last few years, the wine industry has increasingly embraced a radical change that initially met with pessimism and snobbery: screw caps. Winemakers – and marketing companies – have been exploring new ways to change their packaging.

This outside-the-box thinking has resulted in an inside-the-box answer. Quality wines are slowly becoming "green."

The capability of packaging quality wines at a reduced cost is having a major impact on traditional winemakers. I believe this will usher in a brave new world of improved packaging for quality wines (but not high-end wines). Consumers are becoming more demanding in their pursuit of ecologically sustainable purchases, including wine.

The weight of a case of wine in glass bottles is 40 pounds (or more) and is typically distributed 50-50 between the wine and the packaging, compared to paper and plastic containers, which are nearly half the weight with

a distribution of 95-5 between the wine and the packaging. This results in a significant reduction in the raw materials utilized, the environmental impact and the transportation costs of wine.

So, what innovative packaging has hit the market over the last few years?

1. Flat Bottles. Garçon Wines of Great Britain produces a slimmed-down version

of a plastic wine bottle. No wider than a traditional screwcap (less volume footprint) and much lighter than a glass bottle, it addresses two carbon footprint issues (notwithstanding the ecological issues of plastic recyclability).

2. Paper Bottles. The "Frugal bottle" is composed of 94 percent recycled paperboard around a food grade liner, similar to the bag inside boxed wine. According to the manufacturer it is up to five times lighter than a typical glass bottle and has a carbon footprint up to six times lower.

3. Tetra Paks. This is the wine in a box, which comes in many shapes and sizes. The plastic "bag" in a cardboard, recyclable box preserves wine better than a bottle.

It collapses around the wine, eliminating oxygen and thereby delaying oxidation and spoilage. Wines in opened boxes have a shelf life of 30 to 60 days, compared to 12 to 24 hours for bottles. Recently, a number of mass-market wine companies have embraced this technology and are producing much higher quality wines than in the past.

4. Single-serving Containers. The wine in a box has typically been marketed in one- to three-liter sizes for convenience. For today's typical on-the-go consumer, a number

of wines are available in single-serving pouches, the equivalent of kids' juice boxes (replete with straw if you so desire).

The single-serving container trend has evolved into several alternatives. When hiking or picnicking, glass bottles can be cumbersome and even dangerous. Why not pack your wine in an aluminum can?

Or an esthetically more pleasing aluminum bottle shape?

The hurdle facing winemakers – and it's huge – is the psychological image of an other-than-glass vessel containing an inferior drink for the masses. As more and more winemakers introduce quality wines in boxes, I think this image will change. How many of you turned up your noses when screw

caps first came on the market?

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.



**You Heard It
Through the
Grapevine**

The Brothers Emmet: One Escaped for a Woman's Love, One Didn't

Our focus this issue is on two brothers, Robert and Thomas Addis Emmet.

Robert, the youngest son of Dr. Robert Emmet and Elizabeth Mason, was born in Dublin in 1778. His family were members of the "Anglo-Irish Ascendancy"; wealthy and Protestant, members of the minority ruling class in Ireland. Yet, they had strong sympathy with those who sought to keep Irish political autonomy alive in the late 18th century.

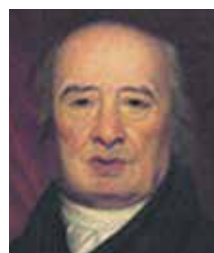
Robert's elder brother, Thomas, 14 years his senior, was a staunch Irish nationalist, and Robert grew up in a home where political debate was encouraged and guests like famed Irish revolutionary Theobald Wolfe Tone were openly welcomed.

Both brothers attended Trinity College in Dublin, though only Thomas completed his studies. He entered the field of law, and was quickly recognized as a man of talent. An

eminent member of the United Irishmen, the group responsible for the disastrous Rebellion

of 1798, Thomas was arrested early that year. Robert was expelled in April for his involvement in the rebellion and fled to France. Thomas remained imprisoned until 1802, one year after the Act of Union moved Ireland firmly under the hand of the British Parliament.

In France, Robert continued to plot



Thomas A. Emmet
(1764-1827)



Robert Emmet
(1778-1803)

ways to throw off British rule. Thomas, upon his release, went to Brussels, and there learned of his younger brother's attempts to stage another rebellion. Success depended upon the French aiding the Irish, a promise they had barely delivered upon in 1798. Nor would they in 1803.

The 1803 Rebellion was an abortive affair from the very beginning. Great Britain opened its coffers to informants and double agents, who infiltrated the loose ranks of the revolutionaries. Soon all the details were known to the British authorities.

On July 23, 1803, only 200 men rose in Dublin, and the rebellion lasted little more than a day. Robert went into hiding, and, despite encouragement to flee to France, decided he would see his fiancée, Sarah Curran, one last time before he left.

Captured on Aug. 25, he was tried and found guilty of high treason on Sept. 19, 1803. The Crown bribed his chief defence attorney to further ensure the case against him.

Robert is best remembered for his famous speech: "I am here ready to die. Let my character and my motives repose in obscurity and peace, till other times and other men can do them justice. Then shall my character be vindicated; then may my epitaph be written."

He was sentenced to the brutal punishment then reserved for those who raised their hand against the British Lion: to be hung, drawn and quartered. This sentence was carried out in Thomas Street in Dublin the following day. When dead, he was beheaded, and his remains left on the street to be picked at by carrion birds. Afraid of further retribution, no one stepped forward to claim what was left of the battered body. The exact location where he was finally interred remains a mystery to this day.

Thomas, who had remained in Paris, sailed for America upon learning of his brother's arrest and brutal execution. He pursued a distinguished legal career there, and rose to become New York's attorney general. He died in 1827.

He was one of many who kept his



By Brian McGowan

brother's memory alive, both in Ireland and the United States. A memorial to him stands in the churchyard of St. Paul's Chapel in lower Manhattan, where many believe he is buried, although he is not. His first resting place was at St. Mark's on the Bowery in Manhattan's East Village. In 1922, his grandson, Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet, arranged for his grandfather's body to be re-interred in Dublin's Glasnevin

Cemetery, the final resting place of countless Irish revolutionaries.

As for Sarah Curran, though depicted in story and song as grief-stricken over her loss, she seems to have quickly recovered. In 1805 she married a British officer, and bore one child who died very young. She passed in 1808, a victim of tuberculosis.

Pleasantville resident Brian McGowan was born and raised in the Bronx, and is a second-, third- and fifth-generation Irish-American/Canadian, as his immigrant ancestors followed several paths to the New World. Reach him at brian.m.mcgowan1952@gmail.com or on Twitter (@Bmcgowan52M). He is the author of two books, "Thunder at Noon," about the battle of Waterloo, and "Love, Son John," about World War II. Both are available at Amazon.com.

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