

Peekskill Ablaze Over Fire Chief Study Controversy

By Rick Pezzullo

A recent study spearheaded by the City of Peekskill that recommends the hiring of a full-time fire chief has come under fire and created battle lines among the ranks.

Retired fire chief Ed Rush, who has 44 years of experience in career and volunteer fire and EMS services, was retained by the city to examine the current staffing of paid and volunteer firefighters in Peekskill, as well as the supervision and administration of the department.

According to City Manager Andrew Stewart, Peekskill has 24 paid firefighters, who provide the majority of the fire response service in the city, and about 54 volunteers,

including volunteer chiefs.

The objectives of the study, according to Stewart, were to address declining volunteer participation and absence of an effective recruitment and retention strategy; lack of daily supervision of the unionized firefighters due to volunteer chiefs having full-time jobs; and a new state law that makes current chiefs ineligible to serve as incident commanders, starting in 2022, without oversight by a state certified chief.

"City management is looking for effective solutions to declining volunteerism, precisely to prevent the need to hire additional staff, and to hold paid staff accountable," Stewart stated in a report to the community. "The hiring of a full-

time chief comes at the cost of demoting elected volunteer chiefs to assistant chief titles with the right to continued leadership as incident commanders and without the burden of management duties they are currently unable to perform on a volunteer basis. For some, who may aspire to this role as traditionally defined, this may be a bitter pill to swallow, and this is well-understood. However, the recommendation's intent is to bring substantial new support to volunteerism in the fire department, not eliminate it."

The Peekskill Volunteer Firefighters Association (P.V.F.A.) took issue with several of Stewart's assertions, maintaining the group of volunteers is increasing, with five new recruits recently approved by city officials.

The P.V.F.A. also claimed the city has

negotiated away the rights of the volunteer chiefs to manage the department.

"The city currently permits paid staff to make their own schedules without approval or oversight," the P.V.F.A. stated. "The actual oversight falls directly on the city manager in his role as Public Safety Commissioner as stated in the City Code. When the volunteer chiefs offered corrective actions, the city manager ignored all suggestions and chose not to act. The city hired paid lieutenants to supervise the day-to-day operations, including, but not limited to, scheduling which has led to tens of thousands of dollars in overtime. The volunteer chiefs brought this to the attention of the city manager and was consequently ignored, as usual."

In his report, Rush concluded "having one chief oversee the entire operation will allow the department to operate

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Memorial Held for Buchanan Resident



PHOTO BY RICK PEZZULLO

A memorial service for Henry "Hank" Goldberg of Buchanan was held May 12 at U.S.A. Veterans Memorial Park in Verplanck. Goldberg, a U.S. Navy veteran, died April 8. He was 79. Goldberg, a former New York City correctional officer, had received a life-saving kidney transplant from an anonymous New Jersey man in 2018. Viki, his wife of 34 years, was given an American flag as a keepsake at the memorial. "This was Hank's last wish," Viki said at the service. "I carried out his wish at the spot that we loved."

Yorktown Compiles Database of Best and Worst Roads

By Rick Pezzullo

For the first time, Yorktown has created a road-conditions inventory that will serve as a guide to prioritize work on the town's most deteriorated streets.

The inventory is posted on the town's website and it rates the town's roads from 1 for the best to 10 for the worst. The database was created by Highway Superintendent Dave Paganelli.

"We work on our roads every day. Even in the winter, we can patch roads because the town invested in a hot box that keeps asphalt warm," said Paganelli. "I plan on doing the 10s first."

Yorktown's officials allocated \$1,150,000 to repave the town's roads this fiscal year. The spending is 4.55 percent more than last year's allocation.

"Databases are critical to helping town officials and planners make informed decisions about where to invest in improvements," said Supervisor Matt



PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF YORKTOWN.

Left to right: Supervisor Matt Slater, Superintendent Dave Paganelli, Councilman Ed Lachterman and Councilman Tom Diana at an intersection on New Road, one of the worst roads in Yorktown on May 14, 2021.

Slater. "Thanks to the work of our highway superintendent, we have a document that can guide how future federal and state funds can be used to improve our community."

The inventory reveals that most of Yorktown's roads are in the good to best range. The Highway Department is

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Budgets Approved Easily in Area School Districts

By Rick Pezzullo

Voters in local school districts overwhelmingly approved budgets for the 2021-22 school year and elected board of education members Tuesday.

In the largest school district, Lakeland, the \$168 million budget passed 1,088-266. In the Board of Education race, where seven candidates for vying for three seats, board President Michael Daly and Trustee Angela Conti were reelected, while Anna Massaro, who ran with the incumbents, will replace Trustee Karen Pressman, who did not seek reelection.

Daly was the top vote-getter with 924 votes, followed by Massaro with 814 and Conti with 788. Carmela Pervizi received 375 votes, Tatyana Krychikina had 305, Marisa Ragonese pulled in 288 and Vincent Xavier had 276.

In the Hendrick Hudson School District, the budget was approved 962-365, and a bus proposition passed 958-395.

Alexis Bernard and Jennifer Bakker were elected to the Board of Education with 707 and 653 votes respectively. Sarah Rubin (574) and Lukis Deikis (525) came up short. Trustees Laurie Ryan and Mary-Pat Braggi, who cast the lone votes against the district implementing the Princeton Plan in the 2022-23 school year, did not seek reelection.

In Ossining, the budget was approved 1,423-335 and a church proposition passed

1,373-361.

In the Board of Education race for two seats, Trustee Katherin Crossling the only incumbent on the ballot, finished first with 912 votes. Finishing second and earning a spot was Roger Battacharia with 781.

The other three candidates were Christine Mangiamele (671), Myrna Forney (645) and Juanda Dabbs (176).

In Somers, the budget passed with 78% approval rating. Trustee Heidi Cambareri and Nicholas Mancini were victorious in the five-candidate race for two seats on the Board of Education. Trustee Michael D'Anna did not seeking another term.

In Peekskill, the budget was approved 275-77, while Board of Education President Allen Jenkins, Jr. and Trustee Pamela Hallman-Johnson were reelected running unopposed.

In Yorktown, voters approved the budget 594-188 and a \$4 million air conditioning proposition 664-130. In the Board of Education race, board President Jackie Carbone (568) and Trustee Peter Bisaccia (520) were reelected. Richard Giannasca finished third with 323 votes.

In the Croton-Harmon School District, the budget was approved 862-152 and a vehicle proposition also passed.

In the Board of Education race, where eight individuals were vying for three seats, Ann Teague, Omar Mayyasi and Mary Obermeier were victorious.

Peekskill Fire Chief Study...

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much more in sync, especially if the paid chief's performance is measures in part by improvements in volunteer participation and satisfaction."

The P.V.F.A., which suggested the city place the possible hiring of a paid fire chief up for a public referendum, has filed a lawsuit against the city alleging Peekskill is consistently violating established protocols and standard operating procedures, including the failure to follow Civil Service Law, as well as "blatantly engaging in age discrimination practices."

"We have a diverse and inclusive volunteer force, far more than City Hall and the paid firefighter staff," the P.V.F.A. stated. "The city has disincentivized recruitment and retention of volunteers during the past years, to include being locked out of the

fire house, prohibited new recruits from riding in the apparatus, removing certain amenities including the refrigerator and use of the kitchen/pantry areas. In addition, a majority of the paid staff continue to denigrate, demoralize, and verbally abuse the volunteers in the Fire House and on the Fireground/Accident Scenes."

Stewart stated the city has filed a motion in state Supreme Court in White Plains to dismiss the lawsuit.

"The agreements were not intended to, and do not, work in any way to the detriment of the volunteer firefighters whose services are highly valued by the city they serve," Stewart stated. "To the contrary, the agreements were designed to protect the firefighters from bias and unqualified supervision."

Yorktown Best and Worst Roads...

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responsible for paving and patching all of Yorktown's more than 400 miles of roads.

"It's great that we targeted this area," Councilman Tom Diana said as he stood near New Road, which received a 10 rating. "It is one of the worst roads. It's not because of the number of houses on the road or because it's election time, it's because the road needs to be repaired."

Paganelli began discussions about creating the roads inventory a year ago with Slater and Comptroller Patricia Caporale.

"It's great to see the Highway Department

do this project and get us where we need to be," said Councilman Ed Lachterman. "It's important to realize that it's not just the condition of the road, as much as the traffic on the road. As we witnessed, we had 40 cars pass us by while having a press conference on this."

One of the town's worst stretches of roads is 3,501 feet of Baptist Church Road, which will require 1,095 tons of asphalt to repave. The town's annual road paving traditionally begins after the school year ends in late June to avoid school traffic congestion.



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State Has Lowest COVID Rate Since Sept.; Schools Likely to Open in Fall

By Martin Wilbur

New York reached its lowest statewide positivity rate in eight months on the seven-day average on Sunday, clocking in at 0.9 percent.

The encouraging trend prompted Gov. Andrew Cuomo to proclaim that with the current flattening of the infections, he expects the state's public schools to fully open for the start of the 2021-22 school year.

"We have to get back to school, and upon the current trajectory, there is no reason why we can't open schools statewide in September, and it will, I believe, all across the state," he said.

Cuomo delivered the news as nearly 10.4 million New Yorkers have had at least one dose of one of the vaccines as of Monday morning, accounting for 52 percent of the state's total population and about 64 percent of eligible New Yorkers.

Almost 8.8 million state residents are now fully vaccinated, according to the state's vaccination tracker.

The positivity rate has now dropped for 49 consecutive days and is the lowest since Sept. 21.

However, the sobering reality, Cuomo said, is that the number of daily doses administered statewide has dipped below 100,000 and continues to slow.

"It's not over. We are managing it by what we are doing and the tool that manages it is the vaccination, and that is key, to keep the vaccinations going," he said.

On Monday morning, Cuomo unveiled yet another incentive to entice people who have yet to get the vaccine. Anyone who visits any one of New York's 16 state parks this weekend to receive the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccination, will receive a free two-day family pass to any state park. It can be used through Sept. 30.

In Westchester, vaccinations will be administered at FDR State Park in Yorktown this Saturday, Sunday and Monday. For those looking to have a day outdoors this weekend and haven't yet been vaccinated, it's a convenient way to get it done, Cuomo said.

"It's easy, it makes sense, it's smart, you don't have to go out of your way and it's the right thing to do," he said.

Last Thursday, it was announced that the state will be giving away a free Mega Multiplier lottery ticket for those who haven't yet received a vaccine if they travel to one of the 10 major vaccination hubs. In Westchester, the Yonkers armory is one of the 10 sites, although that site is going to be closing on Tuesday.

The Vax & Scratch initiative will be offered through Friday. Each person who participates to get vaccinated will receive the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Other sites in the region that will offer the free lottery ticket include the Javits Center in Manhattan and Bay Eden in the Bronx.

Additional enticements have included the Yankees and Mets offering free tickets if fans are vaccinated at their home games and events such as next month's closing night festivities of the Tribeca Film Festival at the June 19 reopening of Radio City Music Hall will only be open to those who get inoculated.

Every day this week through Friday, Westchester County Airport will be one of

seven airports throughout the state that will be providing the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to U.S. residents arriving or departing. Kennedy and LaGuardia airports are also participating along with those in Albany, Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse.

The Westchester County Airport vaccination site will be open from 5 to 9 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

Progress continues to be made on the COVID-19 front in Westchester as well. The county's active caseload on Sunday dropped to 648, a continuation of the sharp reduction that has been occurring for about the past two months.

County Executive George Latimer said COVID-19-related hospitalizations remained

at 63 over the past week and there were no fatalities in the county for three consecutive days through Sunday.

Over the past 30 days, 27 Westchester residents have died from the virus, compared with 67 deaths in the 30 days prior and 103 during the 30-day time frame before that. Nearly 50 percent of the county is now fully vaccinated.

"We have to make the connection that the more people are vaccinated, the less likely they are to get the disease," Latimer said.

For the first time on Monday, Latimer appeared at his twice-weekly briefings



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

without a mask. The Centers for Disease Control has offered new guidelines stating that those who are fully vaccinated no longer have to wear a mask indoors in

most situations.

However, anyone traveling on public transportation, visiting a homeless shelter, jail or any kind of health care facility must still wear a face mask in those facilities.

In Putnam County on Saturday, the last day where positivity data was available, there was just one positive case from 303 tests, a 0.3 percent rate. Putnam's seven-day average stood at 0.6 percent as of Saturday.

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New Village Manager Appointed in Croton-on-Hudson

By Rick Pezzullo

The Croton-on-Hudson Village Board voted last week to appoint Bryan Healy as village manager to replace Janine King, who is retiring after 24 years of service.

Healy, 30, has worked since February 2018 as the secretary to the village manager, where he has learned about the operations of the village government.

He will start his new position on Aug. 9.

Mayor Brian Pugh said the village has been fortunate to have had King help them through challenging times, particularly during the past year, with Healy's assistance.

"Mr. Healy has earned this opportunity and has the experience to ensure a smooth,

seamless transition that will allow us to build on our past success and continue to deliver for the residents for the Village of Croton-on-Hudson," Pugh said.

Healy graduated from Fordham University with a bachelor's degree in political science in 2013 and from Marist College with a master's in public administration in 2019. He currently lives in Hastings-on-Hudson.

Healy thanked the mayor and trustees on appointing him to be Croton's fifth village manager.

"It will be a true honor to manage the village where I have had the good fortune to work for the past three years, he said. "I look forward to continuing to serve the Croton-

on-Hudson community for years to come."

After a career in the private sector, King started in 1997 as a part-time records management assistant in the village manager's office and has served as the assistant to the village manager and assistant village manager. She has been in her current role since 2015.

While managing the village, the Croton Point Avenue Traffic, Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvement Project and the improvements along the RiverWalk and Elliott Way have been completed. The village has also achieved silver status as a Climate Smart Community and the annual budget has remained tax-cap compliant every year.

Budgets Approved in Most Putnam School Districts

By Rick Pezzullo

Voters in Putnam County outside of Carmel approved 2021-22 school budgets last week and elected Board of Education members.

In the Mahopac School District, the spending plan was approved 917-694.

Michael Martin finished first among six candidates vying for three seats on the Board of Education with 780 votes. Incumbent trustees David Furfaro (767) and Lucy Massafra (724) were second and third. Also in the race were Allison Mueller (685), Roger Duran (571) and Joaquim Mota Jr. (491).

The Brewster budget was approved 673-446 and a bus proposition passed 681-424.

In the Board of Education contest for four seats, three candidates were on the ballot: Newcomer Cynthia (MacGregor) Fox (844), and trustees Erik Grutzner (731) and Dehisy Jimenez-Vazquez (692). Write-in candidate Leonore Volpe received 222 votes to earn a one-year term. Board President Sonia Mesika

and Trustee Jason Whitehead did not seek re-election.

In Garrison, the \$11 million budget was approved 185-61. Three incumbents, Courtney McCarthy (178), David Gelber (178) and Madeline Julian (191), were all re-elected to new three-year terms on the Board of Education. Kent Schacht finished fourth with 161 votes to complete the unexpired term of former Trustee Jill Lake, who resigned. Ned Rauch came in fifth with 117 votes.

In Putnam Valley, residents approved the budget 430-309. The only two candidates on the ballot for two open seats, incumbent Barbara Parmly and Helen Horvitz, were elected with 590 and 462 votes, respectively. Longtime Trustee Guy Cohen did not run for re-election.

In Haldane, the budget was approved 423-120, while a bus proposition also passed. Meanwhile, John Hedlund and Mary Valentine were elected.

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Latimer Predicts Bright Future for Westchester in State of the County

By Martin Wilbur

Despite a once-in-a-century pandemic and difficult fiscal challenges, Westchester is well on the road to recovery with a rebounding economy, businesses and schools that have reopened and the promise of a bright future.

That was County Executive George Latimer's message during his 2021 State of the County address last Thursday evening at the county office building in White Plains. It was his fourth annual address as he nears the end of his first term and faces re-election in the fall.

"We have a long way to go, we still aren't fully back, but ladies and gentleman, we are getting there and we are united," Latimer said.

The roughly 70-minute speech touted his administration's accomplishments and credited the county's 4,000-plus employees and the Board of Legislators for Westchester's success. Latimer stressed how the county managed to add \$16 million to the general fund balance this year, increasing its total reserves to more than \$200 million, the largest in Westchester's history, without layoffs or furloughs, service cuts or borrowing to cover pension costs. A voluntary early retirement program offered last summer helped to trim the workforce.

Restoring the county's fiscal health has been achieved while maintaining services, undertaking a robust capital projects plan and battling COVID-19.

The 2021 budget set aside \$5 million each



County Executive George Latimer talked about his accomplishments and how Westchester will emerge stronger from the pandemic in the years ahead during last Thursday's State of the County address in White Plains.

toward economic development and housing assistance programs, \$2 million to help ease food insecurity and \$1 million for energy services.

If the early financial projections hold, Latimer said that taxpayers will see a third consecutive year of a property tax reduction in the 2022 budget.

"We have all together had to make hard financial decisions and we've faced difficult

financial times, but we made smart choices with the federal dollars that not only save the county money but also provided essential services for the public when they needed it the most," Latimer said.

He said his office collaborated with the county's school superintendents to have faculty, teachers and staff vaccinated so districts could eventually return students to in-person instruction.

Since Jan. 5, more than 552,000 vaccinations have been administered in Westchester as of last Thursday, with the help of about 1,000 county employees who have volunteered at the county clinics to handle the steady stream of residents. Volunteer ambulance corps from Ossining and Scarsdale have also assisted.

"As we have been since Day One of this crisis, county government has had an all-hands-on-deck approach to help Westchester through this unprecedented pandemic," Latimer said.

The county executive recited a laundry list of capital projects and improvements that have been completed or are in the works, many of which languished for years. In the 2021 budget, about \$231 million was set aside for capital projects.

The New Rochelle Family Court project, refurbishment of the Miller House in North White Plains and some \$100 million in improvements that will be seen by visitors to Playland this summer have been accomplished during the past three-and-a-half years, Latimer said. There are commitments for the long-awaited Memorial Field enhancement in Mount Vernon, sewer consolidation projects

and economic development plans throughout the county, he said.

Through much of the pandemic, the county was also able to open many of its recreation facilities.

"Yes, we have much more to do but I am here to do the job at hand and you are here to do the job at hand, and together united, we will do the job at hand," Latimer said.

He pledged to continue working to make Westchester inclusive, accepting of all its residents regardless of their background and to provide opportunities. The administration is partnering with the district attorney's office to combat hate crimes, encouraging residents to come forward.

During his time in office, he has reformed the Human Rights Commissioner's Fair Housing Assistance Program, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has recertified it for five more years.

"For the past three-and-a-half years, our goal has been growing the economy, making sound financial decisions and attracting new businesses to Westchester," Latimer said. "But we've also been creating a community that works for everyone because that is what good government is supposed to do."

Latimer urged residents to embrace change and progress in the years ahead. Despite the challenging times, that's how the county will "emerge strong, wiser and better than before."

"We are not tired and we are not done," he said. "We are working and striving always to do the job at hand."





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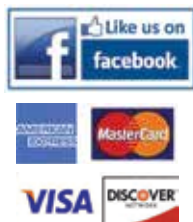
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Proposed Gate of Heaven Solar Farm Receives Frosty Reception at Hearing

By Martin Wilbur

Mount Pleasant Planning Board members and neighboring residents of Gate of Heaven Cemetery indicated last week that they are apprehensive about a proposed 4.375-megawatt solar farm on an unused 32-acre portion of the cemetery's grounds.

The ground-mounted solar array pitched by CES Hawthorne Solar, LLC on behalf of Gate of Heaven and the Trust of St. Patrick's Cathedral would produce 7.2 million kilowatt hours of clean energy annually during the proposed 25-year lease, said Joe Shanahan, project developer for Con Edison Clean Energy Businesses. The town would receive annual payments in lieu of taxes of \$47,800 on land that is currently tax exempt, he said.

About 200 area residents and businesses could sign up for the less expensive electricity from energy derived from the project. They would each receive a roughly 10 percent discount on their electric bills by signing up for the program.

CES Hawthorne Solar needs site plan approval, steep slopes and wetlands permits and a special permit to install the array.

Shanahan said before the start of the Planning Board's May 17 public hearing that the town has been diligent in addressing a litany of issues that the applicant has sought to satisfy. He said the town had the foresight to adopt zoning laws to allow for more solar.

"Until every question and concern has been satisfactorily addressed, this board would not allow us to schedule this public hearing," Shanahan said. "That is doing it right, and in the end, has made this a better project for the developer, the land owner and the community."

However, board members and residents were highly skeptical about the advantages the project would provide the town and the

environment, including the need to clear-cut acres of trees. Board member Joan Lederman contended that the loss of trees and the relatively modest annual payment to the town is a poor tradeoff.

Lederman said while she applauds St. Patrick's representatives for placing solar panels on many of its church and school roofs, they are painting "a very pretty picture" of what will actually be occurring at Gate of Heaven.

"What you are proposing here is clear-cutting acres and acres of forest land, hundreds of trees will be cut down. They are a habitat for many animals and birds," Lederman said. "Trees not only absorb carbon dioxide; they also give off oxygen. I don't think your solar panels give off any oxygen."

She and Board Chairman Michael McLaughlin also wanted to know who the 200 customers are that would benefit from the solar farm and how they would be selected.

Several residents expressed dismay at aspects of the proposal. West Stevens Avenue resident Mary Haggerty, who identified herself as a pro-renewable energy advocate, said she was troubled by the environmental damage that would apparently be caused.

"I think the cutting of the trees is not a benefit and is a great loss," Haggerty said. "I'm disappointed in Con Ed for approaching a property owner that has woods and undisturbed lands rather than approaching the many corporate parks that we have in our town to install solar panels on their roofs and in their parking lots."

A more than 50-year town resident, Jerry Falco, said he was also unsettled by the loss of habitat and the deforestation that would have to take place to make room for the solar panels, even though he supports solar power in general.



The Mount Pleasant Planning Board opened the public hearing on the solar farm proposed for Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne last week.

"So I'm not quite clear that this is maybe the right location for it, but I think we have to have some serious consideration for it," Falco said. "This is a very big project and it's located in a position in a saturated area where the power could really do some good."

Other speakers indicated they were concerned about noise or visual impacts from the array and if there was any potential for flooding, particularly on the nearby Taconic State Parkway, because of the tree cutting.

Shanahan said during his presentation that the loss of the trees on the 32-acre site is estimated to cost one to two million pounds of carbon dioxide over the 25-year while the renewable energy produced by the array would have a 280-million-pound offset in the same time period.

Board member Jane Abbate said the proposed array would reach a height of 12 feet.

"I'm trying to get my head around it," Abbate said. "I can see a three-foot headstone that's on the ground but I can't see a 12-foot (high) solar panel?"

Conservation Advisory Council Chairman Steven Kavee was among those who

corrected Shanahan by stating that Mount Pleasant doesn't have a comprehensive solar law but the Town Board approved zoning text amendments related to solar last year.

McLaughlin and board member James Collins called on the applicants to answer a series of questions and concerns before the hearing may resume at a future date.

"This has burst upon the town, burst upon the Planning Board, burst upon town residents in the last month, so they're going to have to have time to get these issues squared away," McLaughlin said.

McLaughlin said in addition to who would receive the power, he wanted to know why the applicant wasn't reaching out to office parks and whether Con Edison Green Business is in any way affiliated with the utility. He and other board members wanted to learn more about the various business arrangements connected to the proposal.

Collins called on the applicant to conduct a tree study and retain an energy consultant so the board and the town can have greater clarity on the loss of the vegetation and impact on the environment. He also wanted to know why a 12-foot-high array has been proposed. Mount Kisco, for example, has a seven-and-a-half-foot maximum height for ground-mount solar panels and requires a conservation district of at least 25 acres with a 200-foot buffer, he said.

The state Department of Transportation should also be notified.

"I'm not for nor against it; I just want to make sure that we think this through and we investigate this and we definitely identify the unhappy path and decrease these unhappy impediments and move it toward a happier path," Collins said.

The applicant will return when they address the issues and questions posed by the board.

Kensico Cemetery Offering Free Walking Tours in June

Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla is offering free walking tours of its grounds during the month of June. All tours run from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and cover a half-mile section of the cemetery.

The tours are scheduled for Tuesday, June 15; Wednesday, June 16; and Tuesday, June 22, rain or shine. Highlights include a baseball legend and his boss; two inventors; a movie theater mogul; a World's Fair mystery; a controversial circus connection; a scandalous scofflaw; a Sentimental Gentleman; a Broadway angel; and one good witch.

The tour also points out several one-of-a-kind mausoleums and statuary that contribute to Kensico's unique landscape, including the largest mausoleum at Kensico and two bronze sculptures by a renowned artist.

The tour guide is Patrick Raftery, associate director and librarian from the Westchester County Historical

Society, along with Judith C. Mitchell, public relations consultant for Kensico Cemetery.

Tour participants are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes and to follow state mask-wearing guidelines.

"At a time when our community is looking for interesting outdoor activities, these tours are our way of offering an educational and entertaining view of Kensico on late spring evenings," said Kensico President Matt Parisi.

The tours are free, but reservations are required by e-mailing judy.mitchell@kensico.org indicating tour date choice. Directions and details will be included in the confirmation e-mail.

Restrooms will be open in the administration building at the start and at the end of the tour.

Kensico Cemetery is located at 273 Lakeview Ave. in Valhalla.

Kensico Cemetery is a nonprofit membership corporation established in



Local residents can take tours of Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla on June 15, 16 and 22.

1889 to serve the burial needs of the New York metropolitan area.

Mt. Kisco Receives Positive Feedback on Proposed Leaf Blower Law

By Martin Wilbur

A relatively small number of Mount Kisco residents last week recommended village officials pursue a proposed local law that would regulate the use of gas-powered leaf blowers.

There were eight speakers who participated in the May 17 public hearing, although some people believed that the proposed law isn't stringent enough.

Barker Street resident Patricia Lee, who lives in an apartment complex, said the noise the landscapers make from the machines is unbearable. There is little room between buildings, which helps to amplify the noise and pollution.

"We can't afford this health hazard," Lee said. "I mean, if you're in an individual house, it's bad; if you're in an apartment building, it's horrendous. So, I'm just pleading that we get this moving and we get it moving quickly."

Village Trustee Peter Grunthal and resident Lilian Burgler first pitched the plan to the Village Board about two months ago citing the noise and air pollution created by gas-powered leaf blowers, which contribute significantly to carbon emissions.

Under the proposal, which has had some revisions since Grunthal and Burgler delivered the initial presentation, gas-powered leaf blowers can be used from Sept. 15 through Apr. 30. Two-stroke leaf blowers will be prohibited in Mount Kisco

after Dec. 31, 2024. Two-stroke machines are considered more toxic because motor oil is combined with gasoline to operate them, as opposed to four-stroke blowers that only use oil for lubrication, Grunthal said.

Commercial entities, including landscapers, would be able to use the gas-powered blowers from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Commercial outfits would not be allowed to use the machinery on Sundays and holidays.

Residents will have a slightly longer period to operate their leaf blowers – from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays and holidays.

There are no limits on electric leaf blowers.

To accommodate landscapers who work on larger properties, most notably the condominium complexes in the village, more than two leaf blowers being operated simultaneously will be prohibited on less than two acres.

Violators would face fines of \$75 to \$1,000.

"Who this is going to affect are people who are out there at full throttle, who are using their leaf blower for half an hour, 45 minutes, two hours, three hours and that does happen," Burgler said. "So this is to understand how this would actually play out."

Resident Robert Liebman complimented

the board for considering the legislation, although he was one who said the proposed law is too lenient. He said all gas-powered leaf blowers, two-stroke and four-stroke, should be prohibited by next year.

Furthermore, all leaf blowers should not be allowed except in the fall and in April. The Village of Larchmont has regulations with similar restrictions, Liebman said.

"I think Mount Kisco should pass a law something like that and not what's being proposed because it's just way too weak," he said.

John Rhodes, chairman of the Conservation Advisory Committee, commended officials for considering the proposal to improve the lives of residents, particularly the most vulnerable.

He said there's no reason to jeopardize residents' health and quality of life.

"We strongly advise the village to pass this legislation because even though we think it may not be as strong as it could be in its current form, passage and effective enforcement will make a significant improvement in the health and well-being of everyone in Mount Kisco, but especially the children, the elderly and our less affluent residents," Rhodes said.

The only member of the landscaping community to speak was Dan Devanthal, owner of Mowgreen, a Fairfield, Conn.-based lawn care company that has used only electric equipment for 16 years.

Devanthal said there is effective electric equipment that performs comparably

to the gas machines. He keeps extra batteries on hand in case his crews need them. Many times, his customers allow his workers to charge their electric leaf blowers if needed.

"The landscapers think they need the biggest, fastest blower in the hands of four people like an infantry line to strip the property end to end, and people are losing topsoil," Devanthal said.

One resident who voiced a bit of skepticism was Leonard Street resident Eva Versaci. While Versaci said she appreciates officials' concern for residents' health and the environment, she asked the village to consider a buy-back program for people who recently purchased gas-powered blowers.

Also, living near Guard Hill, she said she was concerned that if larger developments in excess of two acres were allowed to use more than two blowers at a time, she and her neighbors might suffer while most other areas of town would benefit.

Mayor Gina Picinich said she would like to hear from a greater cross-section of people in the village, including more landscapers, when the public hearing is scheduled to resume at the board's June 7 meeting.

"It's really, really important that the community share their thoughts," Picinich said. "That's absolutely true. We need to hear from the community to understand the impacts on them."

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PSC Approves Sale of Indian Point Nuclear Plant to Holtec

By Rick Pezzullo

As expected, the state Public Service Commission (PSC) approved the sale of the Indian Point nuclear power plant in Buchanan to Holtec International.

The agreement that was negotiated by state and county officials, local governments, Riverkeeper, the Public Utility Law Project, Holtec and Entergy, the owner of the facility, calls for a complete and safe decommissioning and site remediation.

The last operating unit at Indian Point officially shut down on Apr. 30.

"As governor and previously as attorney general, I have been deeply concerned with the safety of the Indian Point nuclear power facility given its proximity to some of the most densely populated areas in the nation," said Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

"After years of relentless work with our federal, state and local partners, we have finally been able to close it safely and responsibly and will now move on to the decommissioning phase," he added. "This is a win for the health and safety of New Yorkers, and the protection of our environment. Due to the careful planning for the closure, New York remains on track to reliably achieve its clean energy goals."

In January 2017, Entergy, Cuomo and Riverkeeper shocked the community when they jointly announced the two remaining operating reactors at Indian Point would stop producing electricity by the end of April 2021.

In November 2019, Entergy and Holtec filed an application for license transfer with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and separately filed a petition asking the PSC not to exercise any jurisdiction over the sale of the Indian Point facilities and site.

"The proposal to transfer the corporate ownership of the Indian Point nuclear site is a first in New York and only the third time done in the nation," said PSC Chairman John Howard. "After reviewing the joint proposal and the financial assurance and reporting conditions, I supported the joint proposal and its conditions. However, we should recognize that the corporate transfer here is a first-of-its-kind initiative."

Under the agreement, Holtec is required to adhere to a list of financial and administrative provisions, including:

- Maintaining a minimum balance of no less than \$400 million in the decommissioning trust fund for 10 years;
- Maintaining a minimum balance of no less than \$360 million in the decommissioning trust fund at partial site release from the NRC for costs related to waste management and radiological cleanup of the site;
- Requiring Holtec to return 50 percent of the money it recovers from the Department of Energy for spent fuel management costs to the decommissioning trust fund;
- Conducting site restoration and remediation under an order on consent with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, which will oversee the hazardous materials and residual radiation cleanup at Indian Point, including through the use of an on-site monitor;
- Providing funding toward state and local emergency management and response; and

- Providing financial and project reporting to the state and the public through a website and other channels to ensure transparency regarding project status and costs.

In parallel with the PSC's approval of the joint proposal, the Department of Public Service also announced the formation of the Indian Point Nuclear Decommissioning Oversight Board. The board will include state and local elected officials representing the host community, union representatives, environmental and technical experts and relevant state agencies. It will meet regularly to discuss the state's

oversight of decommissioning activities to ensure compliance with the joint proposal's conditions and other regulatory standards. It will also provide a critical venue for public engagement and information sharing.

"A statewide board to oversee the decommissioning of Indian Point, with pertinent officials and experts in the field, will enable New York to monitor the disassembling of a nuclear power plant in all of its complexity," said state Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro). "This will take years, if not decades, of meticulous work."

Tax payments from Entergy will remain in place through 2021 and ramp down gradually following closure. In addition, the taxing jurisdictions will be eligible to receive seven years of financial assistance from the state's cessation program administered by Empire State Development.

At the request of the Indian Point host communities and others earlier this year, the PSC adopted a stable funding mechanism that provides a long-term funding source for the program to ensure greater program certainty.

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Obituaries

Robyn Carter

Robyn K. Carter, 48, formerly of Chappaqua, passed away May 6 at her home in Ashland City, Tenn.

She was the daughter of Bruce and Susan Conley Kaplow of Tarrytown. From early childhood, Robyn and her family were passionately involved with horses and the American Quarter Horse industry. She achieved scores of youth and adult awards in

her equine career: National Hi Point Youth and High Point Horse (Guns Flash Bull); the only youth owner/rider of a Super Horse (One for the Record), owner of two Super Horse titles (Itchin Easy); Amateur All-Around 1993 World Show (Itchin Easy) and breeder of world champions (On Record and Broker of Record).

Robyn was an agent with Kaplow Equine Insurance and a partner at JMC remodeling with her husband, John, in Tennessee.

She is survived by her beloved husband,

John Carter; her father and mother-in-law, Mike and Charlene Carter; her mother, Susan; her brother, Evan (Mary Elizabeth); her aunt, Roni Puckhaber (William); uncles John (Charlotte) and Wesley Kaplow (Amy); her grandmother, Harriet Kaplow; her niece, Brianna; nephews Jak, Luke, Brady, Easton and Ty; and cousins John Conley (Karen), Christopher (Leslie), Kari Puckhaber Wojtowicz (Randy) and Seth and Ryan Kaplow.

This summer John and Robyn would have celebrated six years of marriage. Their relationship began as teenagers in the '80s at horse shows. After 20 years apart, their love was rekindled and they were married Aug. 8, 2015, in Chappaqua.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the NSBA Crisis Horse Trainers Fund would be her wish. For more information, visit www.NSBA.com.



Robyn Carter

Antonio Carozza

Antonio (Tony) Carozza, a beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother passed away peacefully on May 22 at the age of 87.

Tony was born and raised in a small town called Palena in the Abruzzo region of Italy. He came to the United States at the age of 20 with his father and three of his siblings and settled in Pennsylvania. After his mother and two youngest siblings joined them, the family moved to Yonkers.

It was in New York that Tony met his wife, Giovanna (who is also from Italy), and they spent the next 58 years together raising a family and enjoying a simple life surrounded by friends and family. In 1984, Tony and his family moved to Pleasantville where he lived the remainder of his life.

Tony was a hard-working man, and worked in construction and at General Motors, retiring after 30 years.

Tony is survived by his wife, Giovanna; son Raymond; daughter Ariane; five grandchildren, Christian (CJ), Katherine, Courtney, Connor and Jacob; and five siblings, Nina, Pete, Lou, Julia and Mario. He lived a wonderful life and was dearly loved and will be greatly missed.

The viewing will be held this Tuesday, May 25 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Beecher Flooks Funeral Home, located at 418 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, May 26 at 10 a.m. at Holy Innocents Church, located at 431 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville. Burial will follow at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 10 W. Stevens Ave. in Hawthorne.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Tony's memory to be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at <https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html>.

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Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

May 11: An impound request for a parking scofflaw at the Croton-Harmon train station was received at 12:29 p.m. The vehicle was a black 2018 Jeep Cherokee and was parked in space 434. The owner had eight open or unpaid tickets, owing \$340. Patrol was dispatched and Luposello's Garage and Autobody responded; the court clerk was notified as was the vehicle owner.

May 13: A caller reported at 11:10 a.m. that a coyote was seen on Brook Street and Terrace Place at about midnight.

May 14: A caller reported being approached by a tall, thin, white male at 1:52 p.m. wearing a baseball cap with "veteran" on it and asking people for money near the Mobil quick stop. Patrols were dispatched. A patrol located the subject in the Van Wyck Shopping Center and provided a courtesy transport to a location in Montrose.

North Castle Police Department

May 14: The Mount Pleasant Police Department reported at 8:24 a.m. that it received a 911 call from Virginia Road on a report that a party suffered injuries from a fall; 60 Control was notified. The responding officer reported the injured party was transported to Westchester Medical Center.

May 15: The White Plains Police Department called at 12:57 p.m. to report a 911 call that the department received in reference to a male party on Nethermont Avenue who inadvertently cut himself while using a chainsaw. White Plains police advised that the party is conscious, alert, with a family member on-scene and has since applied a tourniquet. North Castle officers were dispatched to the incident location and 60 Control was notified. The injured party was transported to the Westchester Medical Center ALS.

May 20: A caller reported at 2:07 a.m. that someone just took items off her property, placed them in a wheelbarrow and is currently walking down Nichols Road. The caller would not give further information. The responding officer

canvassed the area with negative results. He spoke to the complainant who was unable to provide further details.

State Police/Cortlandt

May 15: Police are investigating a fatal Bear Mountain Parkway crash in the Town of Cortlandt. At about 6:41 p.m., Gary Malstrom Sr., 67, of East Fishkill, was operating a 2019 Harley-Davidson motorcycle while traveling eastbound on the parkway, lost control of his motorcycle and subsequently struck a guardrail. He was transported to Westchester Medical Center by Mohegan Emergency Medical Services where he was pronounced dead by the attending physician. Mohegan Fire Department also rendered aid at the scene.

May 18: State police, in conjunction with the Putnam County Child Advocacy Center, arrested Fabian Huiracocha Barbecho, 36, of Yonkers for two counts of second-degree rape, a Class D felony. After receiving a law enforcement tip, members of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation in Cortlandt began investigating two instances of alleged rape. The investigation determined Barbecho raped a victim under the age of 15 in both Philipstown and Peekskill. Barbecho was arraigned in the City of Peekskill Court and remanded to the Westchester County Jail in lieu of \$20,000 cash bail, \$30,000 secure bond or \$40,000 partially secure bond.

Yorktown Police Department

May 17: Maurizio Minichino, 64, of Yorktown, was arrested at 12:30 p.m. and charged with fourth-degree grand larceny, a Class E felony, in connection with a Mar. 24 report police received about a stolen wallet that had been left in a shopping cart at Lowe's. Following an investigation, it is alleged Minichino located the wallet in a shopping cart and used the victim's credit cards at another location.

May 18: Rohan Glanville, 36, of Mohegan Lake, was charged with fourth-degree criminal mischief at 10:38 p.m., a Class A misdemeanor, for intentionally puncturing a victim's tire, causing it to go flat.

Area High School Students Warming to Vaccine Despite Concerns

By Alexa Jindal and Annie Dineen

As vaccination eligibility opens up to children as young as 12 years old, many teenagers who saw their age group allowed to take Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for weeks now, area high school students have had to grapple with

They have had to wrestle with the prospect of how severe the side effects may be and whether it is even necessary to get vaccinated. They have also had to differentiate between reliable information and misinformation.

While there may be reservations among some and vaccination rates statewide for the youngest age groups have lagged, in part because they are the most recent to become eligible, there is a strong desire among many local students to try and return to the life they had before March 2020.

"The vaccine has the collective support of so many medical professionals, and it was made by companies that have been creating medical aids like this for years," said Dylan Krsulich, a senior at Briarcliff High School. "So, my parents and I agreed that getting the vaccine was the right choice for me."

Abby Ward, a Dobbs Ferry High School student, said she and some of her peers hope the vaccination efforts will allow them to "go back to normal and to be able to live life again this summer without worrying at all," something that has been missed for more than 14 months.

For high school seniors, many colleges and universities, including all of New York's public colleges and some private schools as well, are requiring students to get vaccinated in order to attend in-person classes in the fall. Ward, who will be attending Middlebury College, a private school in Vermont, also needed the vaccine to attend classes in person.

Haley Harris, a senior at Byram Hills High School, said Tulane University in New Orleans, where she will be attending college next school year, has not announced whether the vaccine will be a requirement to attend class, but the school is a vaccination site.

Harris received the Pfizer vaccine, the only one of the three vaccines available to youngsters from 12 to 17 years old, in April.

"Besides the side effects my family and friends had told me about, I didn't have any concerns about getting the vaccine," she said.

Ward and Harris had relatively mild and common side effects, including fatigue, arm soreness, headache, fever and chills, but were relieved when they finally were vaccinated.

School districts and county governments in Westchester and Putnam have also been encouraging their students to get vaccinated. High schools have been providing resources and information on scheduling vaccines. In weekly e-mails, Briarcliff High School provides links to the Ossining Briarcliff Vaccine Angels website to help students and their families schedule appointments.

There have been multiple pop-up vaccination sites at Westchester high schools for students and staff in the past few weeks. On May 14, Westlake High School partnered with Pleasantville and Valhalla high schools to administer about 100 doses. Last week, Bedford and Katonah-Lewisboro engaged in a similar arrangement, resulting in a pop-up site at Fox Lane High School, and Hendrick Hudson and Croton high schools will do the same this week.

In Putnam last Thursday, the county Department of Health administered its 20,000th COVID-19 vaccine dose at the Philipstown Recreation Center in Garrison where the majority of vaccine recipients were local teens. Putnam will hold additional clinics this week, returning Tuesday afternoon to the recreation center and on Thursday at Lakeview Plaza in Brewster.

There have been educational efforts as well. Westchester County recently released a vaccination public service announcement featuring Knicks players Obi Toppin and Immanuel Quickley.

While resources for youth access to the vaccine have increased, not all teens are sold. Norah Kuduk, a senior at Horace Greeley High School who received her vaccine soon after becoming eligible, said many of her friends and their parents share concerns.

"Most of my friends scheduled appointments to get their vaccines as soon as they were able to, though some were concerned themselves about the side effects, and other parents were more hesitant than they were about the shot," Kuduk said.

Some teens' hesitation stems from potential unknown long-term side effects. For some, getting COVID-19 seems to be less risky and less harmful than receiving a vaccine. Additionally, for the parents of female teenagers, the fear of potential fertility problems also plays a factor into the hesitation.

During a May 13 virtual Town Hall hosted by County Executive George Latimer aimed primarily at younger people on the importance of getting the vaccine, Dr. Mill Etienne, a neurologist at Westchester Medical Center, answered common questions about the vaccine. He was joined by Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden, executive director of the Westchester Youth Bureau, and several high school and college students throughout the county.

Etienne explained that the vaccine helps the immune system immediately identify the spike protein portion of the virus, which can then more easily fight it off in the future.

Etienne debunked a common fallacy that the vaccine can give you the virus, a piece of misinformation often recited by those looking to avoid getting vaccinated. He also said the shots don't cause infertility, another frequent myth.

"There is no evidence at all that any of the vaccines impact fertility," Etienne said. "In fact, even patients who have been



Area officials are hoping that information and educational campaigns will convince more teenagers to take the COVID-19 vaccine.

pregnant, through consultation with their physicians, many of them have gotten the vaccine."

He explained that people use a "cost-benefit analysis," weighing the risks of a COVID-19 exposure against the risks and benefits of the vaccine. For those worried about being too young to get vaccinated, Etienne said they shouldn't be.

"The age will not be dropped to include anybody younger until there is enough data about that particular population," he said. "That's why you see the age each time is getting lowered; it's really based on the data that we have available about who can actually safely get vaccinated."

Town Hall panelist Jack Kelly, a Harrison High School junior, said he was excited when the eligibility was lowered to those who are 16, allowing him to get the vaccine. He experienced the side effects of tiredness and grogginess for a short period of time but that was surpassed by the prospect of being able to start returning to normal.

"I am really enthused about getting young people vaccinated and hoping to crush this pandemic so that we can enter a world where we don't have to deal with many of the problems and adversities that this pandemic has brought upon us," Kelly said.

Kuduk raised another critical factor with

teens' reasons for obtaining the vaccine.

"Those that were hesitant, though, have said that if the vaccine becomes a required thing (for college or travel) they will make appointments for sure," she said.

New Rochelle High School senior Hallye Boughner said she was initially skeptical, but then decided that she wouldn't allow herself to be hesitant anymore.

Julia Kavanagh, junior at Rye Country Day School, felt that it was her "responsibility to keep vulnerable people safe" and protect themselves against the virus.

Etienne said the vaccine also does not clash with medications. He said in the early days of the pandemic, the medical community and other leaders urged mask wearing. Now it's time for people to do the same with the vaccine.

"At the beginning of the pandemic, we told everyone, even if you won't do it for yourself, do it for somebody else you love, somebody else you care about, and I'll say the exact same thing about these vaccines," Etienne said. "Even if you think, I'm not vulnerable, I'm not gonna die from COVID, nothing bad's gonna happen to me, think about the other person that you care about who might actually be affected by COVID, think about the person who might not be able to get the vaccine for whatever reason. You want to protect that person."

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Adam Stone
astone@theexaminernews.com
Publisher

Martin Wilbur
mwilbur@theexaminernews.com
Editor-in-Chief

Rick Pezzullo
rpezzullo@theexaminernews.com
Editor

Anna Young
ayoung@theexaminernews.com
Digital Editor

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Letters to the Editor

Supporting Local Businesses is Key to Healthy, Vibrant Communities

The COVID-19 pandemic has been incredibly difficult for us all. Whether you were sick, lost a loved one or spent endless nights worrying about yourself or your family, the effects of this crisis have been far-reaching and long-lasting.

But as vaccination rates increase and we slowly return to a more normal way of life, we must remember our small business owners. They bore an enormous burden throughout the pandemic and many are still struggling.

Even as indoor dining returns, restaurant business remains well below pre-pandemic levels. Revenues at dry cleaners, nail salons and other businesses have declined dramatically as people stayed home and opted to buy online. We've heard of business owners taking second and third loans just to stay in business. Unfortunately, others

have already had to close. Losing any local business affects the social and economic vibrancy of our entire community.

But we can help our friends and neighbors. The next time you think of ordering from Amazon or venturing to Costco, please consider Harrison's local stores and storekeepers. When deciding to eat out, choose the restaurants in your neighborhood, instead of national chains. If you are uncomfortable dining indoors, many establishments within Harrison offer outdoor seating. Tip well if you are able. And be patient and understanding of any delays or if something doesn't go quite right.

For more info on local establishments check out the Harrison Public Library's "Taste of Harrison" program (<https://www.harrisonpl.org/taste-of-harrison>) and the

Harrison Chamber of Commerce's website (<https://harrisonchamberofcommerce.com>).

The Moving Harrison Forward team of Frank Gordon for mayor and Rachel Berkey and Adam Weiner for Town Board, is committed to supporting local business in Harrison. Follow us all year long as we highlight some of the wonderful offerings of businesses around town. And join us in showing your support for the community by posting any recommendations you may have on social media.

More information on the Moving Harrison Forward team can be found at www.movingharrisonforward.com.

Adam Weiner
Candidate for Town Board
Moving Harrison Forward

Proposed Carbon Tax Would Be Hardship for New York's Drivers

This is in response to the letter by Assemblywoman Sandy Galef in the April 27-May 3 issue ("Property Tax Circuit Breaker Was a Long Time Coming for Homeowners").

Ms. Galef writes a good letter about the STAR program and the property tax cap that help residents struggling with rising school and property taxes.

In Ms. Galef's letter she speaks of her success introducing a property tax circuit breaker that will result in a credit to those eligible for the STAR program that have less than \$250,000 in income.

I was disappointed to learn that Ms. Galef has recently endorsed New York Senate Bill S4264A sponsored by Kevin Parker of New York City. This bill seeks

to impose a 55-cent-per-gallon gasoline tax (carbon tax) increase in New York State (see article 3041 of the bill). This tax will affect all carbon-based fuels sold or brought into the state, including coal, home heating oil, natural gas, electricity, waste-to-energy conversion and biomass (see paragraph 3042). The bill also states that the amount of carbon tax will increase 5 percent annually.

This bill will definitely affect everyone, especially those making less than \$250,000 a year and be another reason for people on fixed incomes to leave New York State after retiring.

The pandemic has caused many local businesses to close and others to lay off employees in Putnam County. Those

people must now travel further to gain employment and a 55-cent-per-gallon carbon tax increase will become a harsh reality for working and living in New York. If a vehicle holds 18 gallons of fuel it will result in an increase of about \$10 per tank.

Please call the offices of Assemblywoman Galef (518-455-5348), Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (518-455-5783), state Sen. Kevin Parker (518-455-2580) and state Sen. Peter Harcham (518-455-2340) to oppose this unjust carbon tax. Also sign Sen. Sue Serino's petition opposing this tax at Serino@nysenate.gov.

Peter Gebhardt
Carmel

Feiner's Concern for All Makes Him the Choice in Greenburgh

I am writing to urge Greenburgh Democrats to vote for Paul Feiner in the upcoming Democratic primary on June 22.

Not only is Paul a true progressive, but he has also always shown care and concern for the special needs community in Greenburgh. As the mother of a young man with developmental disabilities, I am grateful for the opportunities that Paul has created for my son and others to become employed and make a contribution to their community. Paul has opened doors

to employment, created internships and supported recreational activities for those with special needs.

Paul is also aware of the critical need for supported housing for young adults with developmental disabilities, seeking creative solutions where the state and Office of Persons With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) have told families that they are pretty much on their own.

Paul has shown genuine concern and caring for those with special needs within

the Greenburgh community – and that concern has translated into action and programs. If we vote for Paul, I am sure that he will continue to fight for the neediest among us, not just for political reasons but because he really has shown that he listens and cares.

Rochelle Stolzenberg
Ardsley

Renaming Congressional Earmarks Won't Solve a Larger Issue in D.C.

Likes pigs dining at the trough, members of Congress just can't get enough pork to bring back home.

On a bipartisan basis, they have resurrected the old "member items" previously known as "congressional earmarks." Both Democrats and Republicans believe it is one way to assure re-election in 2022. Congressional earmarks have been rebranded under a

new title, "community project funding" requests. It is the equivalent of putting lipstick on a pig.

Federal civil servants want to make sure dollars are spent for eligible projects that are shovel-ready, completed on time and within budget with taxpayers receiving the full benefits.

They have the independence and technical expertise to do a better job in

the distribution of funds and to protect the interests of taxpayers in avoiding any waste, fraud or abuse than members of Congress.

Larry Penner
Great Neck, N.Y.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

End of an Era: Thornwood Hair Salon to Close After 53 Years

By Martin Wilbur

When a longtime business has been in the same location for decades, it's easy to think that it will always be there.

But this Saturday, when the last customer leaves Crown Hair Design in Thornwood's Rose Hill Shopping Center, it will be the final call for a salon that has run by the same man for 53 years.

Its 85-year-old owner, John Torzilli, who opened the shop with his two brothers in 1968 and kept the business running in the same storefront through innumerable style changes, recessions and most recently a pandemic, suffered a stroke in December and has been forced into retirement, said Eva Kischak, one of his three longtime hairdressers.

For the past five months, Kischak, along with 21-year veteran April Reda and Anna Marcin, who has been with Torzilli since 1976, have been running the shop. In early April they were contacted by his family confirming that Torzilli wouldn't be returning and they would need to close.

"It's just amazing. He was always pretty much here before us every morning and he was here after us every day, five days a



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Pictured, from left, are Crown Hair Design hairstylists April Reda, Anna Marcin and Eva Kischak. They held a party last weekend to commemorate the Thornwood salon, which will be going out of business on Saturday.

week," Kischak said.

Torzilli's two brothers, Rio and Angelo, eventually ran their own shops elsewhere in Westchester, but Torzilli persevered. Early on, the salon only cut and styled women's hair, while Continental Hair Salon, which is literally next door to Crown, cut men's hair.

But over the years people

started bringing their children into the salon, and Torzilli, a top-notch hairstylist and barber in his own right, would cut anyone's hair.

Marcin has worked at Crown through so many of her personal milestones, from the time she was dating her husband, to getting engaged, then married and starting a family, that it's almost

like she's been part of Torzilli's family as well.

Longtime customer and Thornwood resident Carol Schloman said Torzilli has been an outstanding haircutter. Her father was also a barber and she said she could tell when someone had talent behind the chair. He and his stylists were so accomplished, there was never a need to go anywhere else once she moved to town in 1970.

"He gave a great haircut," Schloman said. "If your hair didn't curl, it would lay so perfectly. You wouldn't want to go anyplace else for a haircut, so I never went anywhere else."

Two longtime Rose Hill Shopping Center merchants said they have missed Torzilli these past five months. Michael DiNardo, who owns Silvio's Ristorante a few doors down, said he would see him every morning. He called Torzilli always respectful and a class act.

"The girls have been with him a long time, that says a lot about somebody," DiNardo said. "Today, it doesn't take much for someone to just leave and take off somewhere else. He will be missed."

Bobby Artuso, the owner of

Artuso Bakery, said losing Crown Hair Design and Torzilli will be felt.

"When you lose a tenant, it's a friendship and everybody is on the same page," he said. "Everybody wants the same thing for everybody and everybody helps each other in the shopping center."

Reda said everyone in the shop knew each other, not only her two colleagues and Torzilli but the customers who stayed with them, in some cases for decades. Plus, with most everyone local, it was a quick and easy commute.

"It's very convenient, and like Eva said, family," Reda explained. "We're all very close and we're going to go next door together, the three of us."

That may be the silver lining for Kischak, Reda and Marcin. As bittersweet as the closing of Crown will be when they shut the doors early Saturday evening, they will be working at Continental starting next week and their customers will still see familiar faces, relationships cultivated over decades in many cases.

"It's not the way anybody wanted to see him go out, but you know what, he gave it good run," Kischak said.

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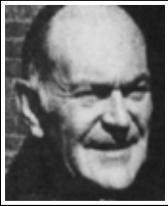
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Dobbs Ferry Man Charged With Attempting to Murder Police Sergeant

By Anna Young

A Dobbs Ferry resident is facing murder charges after he stabbed a law enforcement official in the head last week.

Matthew V. Burke, 36, was arrested and charged with first-degree attempted murder of a police officer and second-degree attempted murder, both Class A felonies, and attempted aggravated assault upon a police officer, a Class B felony. Burke is also charged with third-degree criminal possession of a weapon, a Class D felony.

On May 20, Dobbs Ferry police

responded to reports around 1:26 p.m. of a sergeant requiring assistance after being assaulted by a man wielding a knife. The sergeant, whose name was not released, had been assisting Con Edison with a traffic detail on Beacon Hill Drive, according to police.

A search of the surrounding area was conducted, and Burke was arrested soon thereafter, police said. Dobbs Ferry officials said they were assisted by construction workers that had been assigned to the worksite who had seen the assault, which appeared to be unprovoked.

Area law enforcement agencies, including

the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, the Westchester County district attorney's office, FBI Safe Streets Task Force, Greenburgh Police Department, Irvington Police Department, Ardsley Police Department, Hastings-on-Hudson Police Department and members of the Greenburgh Drug & Alcohol Task Force, were requested for mutual aid.

The officer who was attacked was transported to an area hospital where he was treated for injuries. Mayor Vincent Rossillo at the time said the sergeant was doing as well as can be expected after experiencing such a "brutal attack."

"On behalf of myself, the Board of Trustees and the Village Staff we offer our thanks and gratitude not only to the officer who was attacked, but to the entire Dobbs Ferry Police Department for their service to our community," Rossillo said in a statement. "We would also like to thank the Con Ed and construction workers who helped during and immediately following the attack."

Burke was arraigned last Thursday and remanded to Westchester County Jail pending his next court appearance.



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American Legion Post 1037 will be holding a Memorial Day ceremony at 11 a.m. at the Legion Hall at 35 Bedford Rd. in Armonk

Pleasantville

The Village of Pleasantville and the Fancher Nicoll American Legion Post will celebrate Memorial Day on Monday, May 31 at 10 a.m. in Memorial Plaza. Local officials, community groups and an honor guard will hold a ceremony at the war monuments. Due to current COVID-19 regulations, there will be no parade or ceremony at the Bedford Road School. The event will be recorded on PCTV.

Putnam County

New York Riders and the Putnam County Joint Veterans Council will dedicate a Battlefield Cross Statue at Veterans Memorial Park at 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 30.

On Monday, May 31, the Veterans of Foreign War posts in Brewster, Mahopac and Putnam Lake will each be hosting a parade at 10 a.m. American Legion Post 1542 in Patterson will be holding a walk from the post to the monument on Route 311 for a ceremony at 10 a.m.

In Cold Spring, there will be a small local ceremony at the Main Street Memorial and 10 a.m. followed by a wreath laying on the Hudson River.

VFW Post 391 in Putnam Valley will be hosting a live-streamed event.

Westchester County

The county will hold its Memorial Day service at Lasdon Park & Arboretum in Somers this Friday, May 28 at noon. The ceremony will

be live-streamed on Facebook.

White Plains

A commemoration ceremony will be held at Delfino Park, located at 104 Lake St. on Monday, May 31 at 11 a.m. Everyone can socially distance and be outdoors while honoring the

city's veterans. Ebersole Ice Rink, a covered outdoor area at Delfino Park, will be utilized in case of inclement weather.

The deceased honorees this year are Malcolm Baehr and Jack Collins, both of whom served on the mayor's Veterans Committee for many years.



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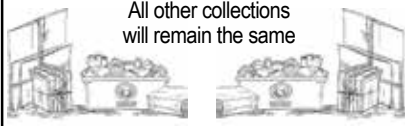
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Which Exterior Color is Best to Sell Your Home?

Last week, I visited a home which bears the historic mark of being a Sears catalogue home. It was delightful, from its design and layout to its exterior paint color that its owner says was selected by vote from his online friends. It's a very rich red and, with its off-white trim, nicely defines and sets off the presence of the home on its street.

But would a rich red be the best color to paint a house for sale? As I viewed this particular house, I thought that the answer would be yes. But choosing the right exterior color for a house depends on many factors including the style of the house and its relationship to the other houses on the street.

When I found my dream home in moving from the big city to the "country," a historic (meaning old) property in Yorktown Heights, it was painted a barnyard brown. Supposedly there was a woman on the town's Advisory Board on Architecture and Community Appearance, who happened to love the color brown and her influence was felt on many projects that came up for review by her committee. For a while, it seemed as though the town might be on its way to being renamed Brownsville.

With my house, every nook and cranny, including all the trim work, was painted the same drab brown color. I stayed with it for a few years until my budget allowed for a new paint job, even though it wasn't yet needed. I just wanted to get away from the brown,



By Bill Primavera

which was a more recessive color.

For the new paint job, I chose for my home a color that was a cross between gray and beige. When my Aunt Pearl first visited us, she christened the color "greige." And we lived with that color until we were ready to sell almost 40 years later.

Interestingly, I hadn't realized that the color had oxidized significantly through the years and was a pronounced pale green by the painter who came to do touchups in the few places where the paint had chipped away.

What? Green? Yes, the color had actually faded to a pale green and we had to match it from the greens on the Benjamin Moore color chart.

But whatever color it was, it was lighter and brighter than the original dark brown, and the color "popped" forward, rather than receding back into the landscape. The change to a lighter color had the effect of enlarging the house for the viewer, and that was fine with me when it came to finding a buyer.

For appealing to buyers, a home for sale should look warm and inviting. Unusual colors may turn away some potential buyers. Bob Vila's website recommends some trending colors that he feels work best for selling a house.

If painting for resale, Vila recommends 12 exterior house paint colors, which he claims offer undeniable curb appeal. In descending order, they include: off-white, which would



appeal to a majority of people, being as neutral as you can get, and pale to medium yellow, that says "happy" right off the bat. (Make sure the color doesn't get too intense; I remember a house in my neighborhood that was painted such an intense color of marigold that some neighbors thought it was done as a spite job!)

Moving on with the list, there's light blue (my personal least favorite, but taste cannot be argued); gray (which is always a safe choice for appealing to the largest number of people); taupe; putty; blue/gray; wheat; medium to pale green; white; brown; and my friend's choice for his Sears home, red.

My only experience until now with a home painted red was visiting the house of my first teenage girlfriend crush whose father told me that he regretted painting it that color because he felt that it absorbed the heat. The

color also faded on him.

I don't know the quality of the paint he used, but I do know that red was America's favorite color for painting barns throughout the 19th century because it absorbed more of the sun's rays than bare wood and kept the inside of the barn warmer during the winter months. So, its fault is also a benefit.

A buyer viewing my friend's Sears home will love it, no matter what color it might be. But for appealing to the largest number of prospective buyers today, most realtors would recommend sticking with the neutrals.

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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Old-Fashioned Hearty Italian Flavors Delight at Casa Rina

Casa Rina of Thornwood on Commerce Street is a throwback restaurant, to the days when the Italian-American kitchen reigned supreme. There are Sinatra photos on one wall while Marilyn Monroe pictures highlight another.

When I stopped by one afternoon there was a room full of seniors networking and obviously enjoying the fare.

It had been years since I visited the sprawling house that is Casa Rina, a restaurant, catering facility and bar/lounge all in one. Owner Tommy Stratis took it over 20 years ago and has been keeping the creative juices flowing.

After taking a quick walk through, I took a seat at the wraparound bar and ordered a Captain Lawrence. The friendly waiter brought me a copy of the menu. There they were, listed one after the other, the classics – hot antipasto for two; manicotti; rigatoni with broccoli rabe and sausage; chicken parmigiana Scarpariello-style; a big zuppa di pesce; shrimp scampi; and, yes, veal saltimbocca. Memories galore hit my palate!

What caught my eye, though, was a sign on the reception table: “Martinis & Meatballs @ Casa Rina, Friday Nights, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. \$6 Martinis & Unlimited Complimentary Meatballs, and live DJ entertainment to boot.”

The meatballs did it for me. At that moment I craved a dose of comfort.

I asked the waiter if they had some meatballs in the kitchen and he gladly said yes. I ordered a platter off the reasonably-priced Happy Hour menu. They were quite large and came with a very tasty tomato sauce and a dollop of creamy ricotta cheese on top.

I also ordered a nice helping of broccoli rabe on the side. Just had to have it. I am pleased to report both were delicious. Good Italian bread and condiments came along with it. Will return down the line for one of those classics.

Casa Rina of Thornwood is located at 886 Commerce St. in Thornwood. Open seven days for lunch and dinner. Catering facilities. Check website for the latest hours and updates. Info: 914-769-4515 or visit www.casarinarestaurant.com.

Wednesday is Friends Day at Melting Pot

Melting Pot in White Plains has started Wednesday Friends Day with what they call a “Best Fondue Friends Forever” menu. Specially-priced three- and four-course meals are served featuring some of their most popular specialties.

For example, a cheese fondue comes with special premium dippers including prosciutto, summer sausage, French baguette, pretzel bread, honey wheat bread, seasonal vegetables and fruit. Pick a fresh salad of choice.

The special chocolate fondue with



By Morris Gut

another round of premium dippers includes macaroons, crème puffs, brownies, blondies, Rice Krispies treats and pound cake along with Oreo-dusted marshmallows, fresh strawberries, banana and pineapple. Yes, you are reading that correctly.

Diners can create a four-course meal by adding an entrée. Price for a three-course selection is \$29.95; the four-course meal costs \$39.95.

Melting Pot is a national chain based in south Florida, bringing the fondue experience to the public since 1975. Frankly, it has been years since I visited a Melting Pot. Will give it a try in the near future.

Melting Pot is located at 30 Mamaroneck Ave. in White Plains. Info (including hours of service): 914-993-6358 or visit www.meltingpot.com/white-plains-ny.

Chef Residencies Redux at Stone Barns

Last year I reported about the imaginative job Blue Hill at Stone Barns in Pocantico Hills was doing with its resourceED food boxes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Their popular guest chef residency program is also starting a new season. Guest chefs are selected from diverse backgrounds and bring their unique culinary vision to the Blue Hill kitchen and the public.

This year’s chef residencies include Pitmaster Bryan Furman (barbecue) through May 29 and Pam Yung’s pizza dining experience (Aug. 25-Sept. 18). Those will be offered outdoors in a casual atmosphere.

Diners are invited to explore the farm before and after their reservation time to learn more about the ingredients and practices behind their meals.

Chefs Jorge Vallejo (June 2-26), Jonathan Tam (June 30-July 24) and Adrienne Cheatham (July 28-Aug. 21) will follow Stone Barns’ tasting menu format.

According to Stone Barns Chef Dan Barber, the residencies are “a celebration of many of the complex, delicious traditions that make up the American foodscape, carried out by chefs who are deeply rooted in connections to agriculture and the cuisines they will share with us.”

For bios, check the website. Subscriptions are available.

Blue Hill at Stone Barns is located at 630 Bedford Rd. in Tarrytown. Info: 914-366-9600. For updated dining hours and to make guest chef residency reservations, visit www.bluehillfarm.com <https://stonebarnscenter.org/residency>.

Steam Table Available at Pizza Cucina

It’s an old-fashioned dining concept and still highly popular at markets, bodegas and even the occasional gas station.

The daily steam table is also alive and well at none other than Pizza Cucina in



Meatballs and broccoli rabe with sides are among the delectable choices at Casa Rina of Thornwood, an old-time Italian restaurant.



Melting Pot in White Plains takes fondue to a new level.



The sea bass oreganata was among the selections at the steam table at Pizza Cucina in White Plains.

White Plains. I sat at the cozy bar recently and watched patron after patron order their fill. A local cop, hospital workers, teachers, mechanics, landscapers were all part of the mix.

On this day, hot and hearty specials on the steam table included chicken and

sweet Italian sausage Contadina; penne with meat sauce; sauteed cauliflower and carrots; rice with diced veggies; and sweet potato fries.

On another day the steam table’s main course was sea bass oreganata. Accompanying it were penne Bolognese, grilled asparagus and sauteed carrots and rice with veggies. The mix-and-match meals are sold in small and large containers and are reasonably priced at about \$8 to \$10.

Pizza Cucina is located at 102 W. Post Rd. in White Plains. Open seven days. Info: 914-752-4611 or visit www.pizzacucinawp.com.

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

Smaller Chappaqua Children's Book Festival to Return This Fall

By Martin Wilbur

The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on nearly everyone's lives and forced the cancellation of virtually every local event since March of last year.

Now, one of the most popular fixtures on the local calendar is set to return.

The Chappaqua Children's Book Festival, which was created eight years ago and has drawn thousands of families and young readers each year, will be back on Saturday, Oct. 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., albeit a scaled-down version and in a new location.

Festival Executive Director Dawn Greenberg said the 2021 renewal will be limited to about 45 authors and is being relocated to a portion of the Town of New Castle's parking lot at the Chappaqua train station.

"We're super-excited," Greenberg said. "We're a little frantic, though we're excited."

Last week, the New Castle Town Board authorized use of the town-owned lot to host the festival. It had been held on the grounds of Robert E. Bell Middle School across South Greeley Avenue in recent years. In 2019, the festival drew upwards of 7,000 people and close to 150 authors and illustrators were on hand.

That won't be happening this year. Greenberg said there will be an online reservation system on the festival's website where about 350 to 400 people will be admitted for each one-hour interval. Currently, state guidance for outdoor events

is a maximum of 500 people, and that would include the authors, volunteers and any other personnel that needs to be present in addition to the patrons.

If guidance changes over the next four months, perhaps the number of authors can be increased.

"If the positivity rate keeps cratering and the governor thinks that we can do more, I indicated to the Town Board that we can hold it open if things become better looking for us, then maybe we can bump up the author count a little," Greenberg said.

Proof of a COVID-19 vaccination will be needed to attend. Since vaccinations may still not be available for children under 12, then proof of a negative test would also work, she said.

Despite the reduced number of authors, organizers are working to get as wide a mix as possible. Some of the more popular authors will be on hand but there will be representation from non-fiction and young adult authors, among other categories, Greenberg said.

Authors that have already committed include Dan Gutman, who has written about 160 children's books, Vedra Hiranandani, author of "The Night Diary," a winner of the Newbery Honor, and "Biscuits" creators Alyssa Capucilli and Pat Schories, celebrating Biscuit's 25th birthday.

Last week, the Town Board expressed some concern about having enough space and parking capacity, since the Chappaqua Farmers Market has been operating in the



The Chappaqua Children's Book Festival will be held this fall with a smaller, scaled-down version consisting of about 45 authors to ensure safety for all visitors.

back lot on Saturday mornings into the early afternoon. Town Administrator Jill Shapiro said there should be ample space to accommodate both events.

To prepare for any parking shortfall, Greenberg said the festival is prepared to ask school officials about using Grafflin or Roaring Brook elementary schools for spillover parking and to run a shuttle from the school to the train station parking lot, if necessary.

"We'll keep an eye on that but I don't imagine it's going to be a big problem, if we keep it at 300 to 500 (people) an hour,"

Greenberg said.

In addition to reduced capacity for the book festival this year, there will be no food vendors at the festival. Visitors may walk over to the farmers market to get something to eat or they will be directed to downtown Chappaqua with signage, she said.

Admission will be free but required reservations are expected to be available online at the Chappaqua Children's Book Festival website at www.ccf.org on or about Aug. 1. For additional information, also visit the festival's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/chappaquachildrensbokfestival.

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Mt. Kisco Summer Concert Series to Return Next Week With Eclectic Mix

By Martin Wilbur

There are reasons to celebrate now that life is slowly emerging from the pandemic. Starting next Wednesday, local music lovers can rejoice some more.

After a one-year break due to the coronavirus, the Village of Mount Kisco is bringing back its Fountain Park Concert Series outside Village Hall. From June 2 through Sept. 8 there will be eight early evenings of music on alternating Wednesdays by local musicians and groups covering a wide assortment of genres.

With nearly everyone largely confined to home over the last year, conventional wisdom suggests that there may be pent-up demand on the part of local residents to come out for a concert.

"I am personally so excited to be able to get back into the sunshine again and visit with our neighbors," said Jean Farber, a former village trustee and part of the Mount Kisco Arts Council that is presenting the concert series. "Everyone is just starved to be together and that's one of the nicest, most bonding ways to do it. So we are really thrilled, and as you can see, we have a very interesting lineup of artists."

The council's music coordinator, Dan Blake, who established the series in 2018, helped program this year's performers with what he described as the most diverse



The popular Fountain Park Concert Series outside Mount Kisco Village Hall will return next Wednesday evening.

lineup of the first three seasons.

Leading off next Wednesday is the Sun Kings, a Beatles cover band, followed two weeks later by Wayne Tucker, a jazz performer with an emphasis on social justice issues a few days before Juneteenth.

On June 30, there will be a children's music program from Live Music With Luke, then Blake, a contemporary jazz saxophonist will take the stage on July 14.

After a year without performing, Blake, a village resident who in March had his latest album released, said it's been an emotional experience getting back out in front live audiences.

"The playing itself, the music has been



Mount Kisco Arts Council Music Coordinator Dan Blake will perform with fellow jazz musicians on July 14.

so alive and just deeper than before," Blake said.

The series continues on July 28 with Puppets for Hire, a local rock 'n' roll band, followed by a blues and R&B group on Aug. 11.

The last two concerts feature a group called Upside on Aug. 25 and the New York Arabic Orchestra for the finale on Sept. 8. If there is a rainout during the summer, Sept. 15 will serve as a makeup date.

All concerts start at 6:30 p.m. and are free.

Blake said there will be seats but local residents can carry a blanket for a picnic or bring food from one of the downtown restaurants.

"We have chairs that we set up outside in the past," he said. "People can bring their own chairs. You sometimes see families come with a stroller and blanket, they're going to be in a picnic-type situation and people bring food if they want their own food, and then there are some built-in benches in the area between the library and Village Hall."

Farber said the village will follow local and state guidance regarding limits on gatherings. Currently, for outdoor events, the capacity is 500 people.

For more information, including whether there will be a cancellation because of inclement weather, visit the Mount Arts Council's Facebook page or follow on Instagram.

Top 5 Health Hazards to Avoid This Spring and Summer

By Dr. James Dwyer

White sandy beaches. Sunrise hikes. The sizzle of the barbecue grill.

For many of us, the warmer months mean family, fun and adventure. Yet the season can also bring unexpected dangers, from insect bites to heat stroke, with potentially serious consequences.

Here I'll explain five spring and summer health hazards medical professionals often encounter – and how you can avoid them and improve your safety.

1. **Accidents.** Sure, the feeling of soft grass or sand between your toes is appealing. However, I see a tremendous increase in cuts and lacerations to feet during the warmer months. To protect your feet, always wear shoes when walking outside.

More people hit the road in the warmer months. Unfortunately, more people on the road means more car accidents. Always wear your seat belt, even in the backseat. Make sure children are properly secured in car seats.

1. **Always Check Your Backseat for Children.** Did you know that three dozen children are killed each year from being left alone in hot cars? Sometimes busy or exhausted parents either forget they didn't drop off their child as planned or get distracted. Get in the habit of always checking the backseat before leaving

your car.

2. **Heat-related Illnesses.** Hot, humid weather leads to an increased risk of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Symptoms of heat exhaustion include excessive sweating, fatigue, foggiess and even fainting. Heat stroke can cause a high body temperature, headache, nausea, red skin that feels hot to the touch and an altered mental state. To avoid heat-related illnesses, stay hydrated, avoid direct sunlight during hot weather, wear loose clothing and always apply sunscreen.

3. **Insects.** Bugs can lead to bigger problems than a ruined picnic. When it comes to bugs, the biggest danger in the Hudson Valley is tick-borne illnesses. The best-known of these is Lyme disease, symptoms of which include fatigue, joint pain, muscle ache, fever and a distinctive "bull's-eye" rash. Another tick-borne illness, babesiosis, presents like malaria, with symptoms including high fever, anemia and body aches and chills. To avoid ticks, wear long pants when hiking, tuck the bottoms of your pants into your shoes and use insect repellent with DEET. Always check yourself and kids for ticks after outdoor activities. Should you find an engorged tick on your body, a doctor will likely prescribe



antibiotics and monitor for symptoms.

4. **Food-borne Illnesses.** Everyone loves a barbecue or picnic. Unfortunately, so do bacteria and other parasites. Increased heat and humidity allow bacteria to grow on food.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture cautions that food left out of refrigeration for more than two hours may not be safe to eat. When the temperature is above 90 degrees, don't leave food out for more than one hour. Always have a cooler with ice available so you can store leftover

perishables so they don't spoil and become unsafe to eat.

In addition to the aforementioned hazards, it's important to know that COVID-19 remains a threat. The Pfizer vaccine is available for those age 12 and up. Now is the time to get vaccinated in advance of a potential fall and winter resurgence of COVID-19. Book your appointment today at Northwell.edu/BookNow.

Dr. James Dwyer is chair of emergency medicine at Northern Westchester Hospital.

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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 25, 2021

continued on next page

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New Consignment Boutique Opens in Mahopac Created by Teens

By Rick Pezzullo

Secondaries Boutique, a new consignment shop in Mahopac, is all about second chances.

The brainchild of Julia Maher and Samantha Jinek, two Mahopac High School seniors, and Jennifer Maher, Julia's mother, this visionary, for-profit boutique will not only give clothing and accessories a second life, but it will be a welcome resource for women in need.

"The pandemic has been an extremely challenging time for everyone, but even more so for those facing financial difficulties," Julia Maher said. "Samantha and I wanted to find a way to bring some light into the world and to offer assistance to those who need it."

She said her mother has been on board with the venture from the start, helping them move forward from idea to building a full-fledged business.

"Julia, Jennifer and I love our community and want to play a role in making it a better place for everyone," Jinek added. "We believe this boutique can be transformative for those who bring in items, those who benefit from them and for us, too. We know we can make a positive difference in others' lives, and that means a great deal to us."

The stylish boutique hosted a ribbon



Pictured, from left, are Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley, Jim Heyer, candidate for state Supreme Court; Mahopac High School seniors Julia Maher and Samantha Jinek and Carmel Supervisor Ken Schmitt following the recent opening of Secondaries Boutique, a Mahopac consignment shop created by Maher and Jinek.

cutting on May 13, where more than 50 community members joined in the celebration.

Twenty percent of the boutique's profits will go to Dress for Success, a global nonprofit organization that empowers

women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and the development tools to help them thrive inside and outside the workplace.

In addition, Secondaries Boutique is helping to clothe clients of the Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center and The Hope Chest, two organizations dedicated to assisting victims of domestic violence. The boutique also is sourcing donations to other local charities.

Concierge appointments are currently available, and website shopping will begin June 15. Those who need a helping hand, as well as those interested in selling or purchasing clothes and accessories, are encouraged to visit www.shopsecondaries.com or e-mail shopsecondaries@gmail.com to make appointments.

"I could not be prouder of Julia and Samantha, who are both budding entrepreneurs and philanthropists," said Jennifer Maher. "Instead of succumbing to the challenges of the pandemic and turning inward, they looked for a way to better themselves and the community. They took a leap of faith and are now discovering how much they can do. The future is bright for Secondaries Boutique and these young women."

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Irvington Theater Launches In-person Outdoor Summer Film Series

After 15 months of exclusively virtual programming, Irvington Theater is thrilled to welcome back patrons of all ages with in-person, outdoor events this summer, the first summer season in its 119-year history.

The fun begins on June 10 with Sunset Cinema, an all-new series of music films that will be screened outdoors on the lawn behind Main Street School. Audiences are invited to bring a blanket or chair, pack a picnic (no alcohol on school grounds) and enjoy live music from 7:30 p.m. each night until the film begins around sunset.

Sunset Cinema will feature one film during each summer month, starting on June 10 with "Stop Making Sense," the 1984 concert

movie featuring the beloved rock group Talking Heads. "Amazing Grace," the story of Aretha Franklin's 1972 performance with the New Bethel Baptist Church Choir, will screen on July 8, followed by "Gimme Shelter" on Aug. 12, the documentary chronicling the tumultuous final weeks of the Rolling Stones' 1969 United States tour.

"After being cooped up and isolated for too long, we all need some rockin' – but safe – outdoor fun," said Irvington Theater Commission member Shana Liebman who helped to produce this series. "These musical films will be familiar to many and festive for all, so bring a blanket and come kick back under the stars."



PALM PICTURES PHOTO

Singer David Byrne in "Stop Making Sense," the 1984 concert film featuring the beloved rock group Talking Heads. The first of three outdoor screenings of music-themed movies will be presented by the Irvington Theater on Thursday, June 10.

Safety is a top priority, and all COVID-19 protocols will be followed in accordance with up-to-date guidance from New York State and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For the latest information, visit irvingtontheater.com/safety.

Main Street School is located at 101 Main St. in Irvington. (The rain date for all three films is Aug. 19.) All tickets are \$12 and must be purchased in advance at irvingtontheater.com.

com/sunsetcinema. Please be advised that there will be no public restrooms at this event.

Irvington Theater is home to a diverse range of innovative programming that entertains, enlightens and inspires, establishing itself over its 119-year history as the cultural heart of the Rivertowns. Its current season, #IrvingtonAnywhere, features both in-person and online streaming events.

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

Some Recent Finds. We are surrounded by words. Some are spoken, others appear in print. One way to increase your vocabulary is make note of words that you are not familiar with, haven't used in a while or wish to learn more about. This week the quiz is composed of words that gathered together by a certain quiz creator. Perhaps you will make of note of a few yourself.

1. magnanimous (adj.)	A) authoritative	B) being of one mind	C) willing to forgive
2. bailiwick (n.)	A) a specific area of ability	B) a social gathering	C) a courtyard
3. tarry (v.)	A) to detract	B) stay longer than intended	C) cover with tar
4. complaisant (adj.)	A) agreeable	B) unfavorable	C) complex
5. inanity (n.)	A) an oversight	B) total lack of ideas	C) inattention
6. irrefragable (adj.)	A) lacking clarity	B) hopeless	C) established as fact
7. betide (v.)	A) to lead astray	B) happen as if by fate	C) make better
8. refection (n.)	A) a refined method	B) a way of thinking	C) a light meal

ANSWERS:

1. C. Quick and willing to forgive; noble and fair;
2. A. A person's specific area of skill; knowledge, or ability; a bailiff's jurisdiction
3. B. To stay longer than intended; delay leaving a place
4. A. Willing to please others; obliging; agreeable

5. B. Total lack of meaning or ideas; pointlessness
6. C. Established as fact; not able to be refuted or disproved; indisputable
7. B. To happen, especially as if by fate; to happen to (someone); befall
8. C. A meal, especially a light one; (literary) refreshment by food or drink

The Evolution of Physiology of the Glass Wine Bottle



By Nick Antonaccio

Recently, our family came over for dinner (first time in a long pandemic-time) and we were enjoying one of my wife's new chicken recipes and a bottle of Austrian Grüner Veltliner.

My granddaughter noticed the wine bottle on the table and asked what was in the bottle.

"Grape juice," I replied. To which she responded: "But it's not in a juice box."

Hmm, inspirations for wine column subjects can come from the least expected sources.

Last week we explored the changing landscape of wine containers. Have you ever wondered how traditional wine bottles evolved to their present-day shape, color and size?

Let's review three aspects of the physiology of the wine bottle.

Shape. Early Greeks transported wine in amphorae, two-handled ceramic jars with a narrow neck, wide body and pointed bottom. This shape served an additional purpose: an easy pouring spout for filling wine vessels. When glass-blowing became popular in the 16th century, the present-day compact and

portable bottle shape began to take form.

When you peruse the wine shelves and racks at your local wine shop, there is a helpful key to identifying the type of wine that is in the bottle, regardless of its region of origin. Think of it as an early-detection system. Here are five of the basic shapes:

First is the Bordeaux-style bottle, distinguished by its straight sides and tall, rounded shoulders. This bottle typically identifies the contents as one of the Bordeaux blended varietals: Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, Merlot, Malbec, Carmenere for reds and Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon and dessert wines for the whites.

Second is the Burgundy-style bottle, with sloping shoulders and a slightly broader bottom than the Bordeaux bottle. This shape is used for the two prime varietals of the region, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. (The wines of the Loire Valley are also typically bottled in this shape.)

Third is the Rhone-style bottle, with a shape similar to the Burgundy bottle, but with more angular shoulders and a bit slimmer. If a bottle displays a coat of arms on the neck it is specifically from the Rhone subregion of Châteauneuf du Pape. This shape typically indicates Syrah, Grenache, Mourvedre or a blend for reds and Viognier, Marsanne, Roussanne or a blend for whites.

Fourth is the Champagne-style bottle. Here, invention is the mother of necessity. The walls are much thicker than other bottles and there is a large dimple in the bottom – to control adequately the pressure in the bottle (which is three times greater than the PSI inside a car tire).

Fifth is the German and Alsatian-style bottle, very distinctive for being taller and narrower than other bottles, and having a very gentle slope to its shoulders. You won't have any difficulty identifying bottles of Rieslings or Gewürztraminer.

Color. Light can be detrimental to the life and quality of bottled wine. Hence, most bottles of red wine are made of dark green glass and white wine a lighter green – a logical choice since red wines are generally aged longer than whites. A number of German and Italian wines are stored in brown bottles. Many white and dessert wine bottles are made of clear glass, meant to be displayed naturally – and not generally expected to be aged for extended periods.

Size. The standard size (750ml/25.4 ounces) has remained constant since 16th century glassblowers first began producing bottles. As legend has it, the volume



capacity of today's bottle was a direct function of the glassblower's lung capacity to blow a single bottle. Larger bottles range in size from magnums (equivalent to two bottles) to bottles with Biblical references: Methuselah (eight bottles), Salmanazer (12 bottles), Nebuchadnezzar (20 bottles) and Goliath (a whopping 36 bottles).

The Old World practicality that dictated the shape, size and color of wine bottles is not as compelling today. Several alternative formats

are making inroads in the marketplace, including Tetra Paks (juice boxes), paper and aluminum, in standard and single-serve containers.

Who knows, I may soon be sharing a juice box format with my granddaughter.

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

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I GOT VACCINATED BECAUSE... I want to keep my family safe and wanted to visit the ones that I love.

PUTNAM COUNTY

f i t

WCC Student Named Jack Kent Cooke Scholar, Headed to Harvard

Bianca Braun of Shrub Oak became the 11th student in Westchester Community College (WCC) history to win the highly competitive Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship.

This scholarship provides selected students with up to \$40,000 a year to complete their bachelors' degrees.

Bianca came to WCC in large part due to its low tuition, but also for its Honors College, which provides guaranteed tuition coverage and substantial textbook stipends from the WCC Foundation. Honors College scholars have access to specialized co-curricular programming, including study abroad and internship opportunities.

"I am so grateful for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's generosity," Braun said. "This support will enable me to start my studies at Harvard University in September, where I can further pursue my goal of becoming a child psychiatrist and helping children who have been mistreated or suffered other forms of trauma. I never imagined this would be my path when I moved here from Germany when I was 18. WCC has established a solid educational foundation upon which this scholarship will help me build."

In addition to financial support, new Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholars will receive comprehensive educational advisement to guide them through the process of transitioning to a four-year college and preparing for their careers. Scholars will also receive opportunities for internships, study abroad and graduate school funding, as well as connection to a thriving network of Cooke Scholars and Alumni.

WCC President Dr. Belinda Miles said the school is proud of Braun's accomplishments.

"Bianca fully embraced the WCC experience, participating in extracurricular activities, taking advantage of all that our Honors College has to offer, and excelling in her studies," Miles said. "It is great to see that her enthusiasm, her dedication and her perseverance during this difficult year have been rewarded with the Jack Kent Cooke scholarship and acceptance to Harvard University."

Today, nearly half of the students pursuing college choose to attend two-year institutions. Research commissioned by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation found that community college students who transfer to selective institutions have equal to or higher graduation rates as students who enrolled

directly from high school or transferred from four-year institutions.

Yet, at the nation's top colleges, only 5 percent have transferred from a community college. The Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship seeks to increase the number of community college students completing their education at top four-year institutions.

Bianca Braun, a Shrub Oak resident, has been named a winner of the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship, which awards students \$40,000 per year to complete their studies at a four-year institution. Braun will be headed to Harvard later this year to continue her studies toward becoming a child psychiatrist.



Byram Hills to Host Virtual Authentic Science Research Symposium June 2

Byram Hills High School will be hosting its 32nd annual Dr. Robert Pavlica Authentic Science Research Symposium virtually on Wednesday, June 2 at 7 p.m. The authentic science research program is a three-year course that encourages students to pursue excellence in areas of original research.

The evening will begin with a montage during the live-streamed event, featuring remarks from Program Director Stephanie Greenwald, Principal Christopher Walsh and senior speaker Chloe Weissman, as well as ceremonies for the seniors and program-wide awards. The live-streamed portion will conclude with an explanation of the symposium website's Virtual Presentation Hall.

For more information about the Dr. Robert Pavlica Authentic Science Research Symposium and to watch the event, visit <https://www.byramhills.org/academics/academic-departments/science/science-research>.



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Abstract Painter Seeks to Bring Calm to Art Lovers at Cold Spring Exhibit

By Lindsay Marr

The whole world is busy, always on to the next thing. We are constantly moving, hardly paying attention to the present.

But not Eleanor Rahim.

Rahim, an abstract painter, focuses on the simplicities of life through texture and shape. She has found beauty in the most unexpected places.

Starting last Friday and continuing through Memorial Day weekend, a collection of Rahim's paintings on wood panel, canvas and aluminum will be part of an exhibition called "Fluid State" at 44MAIN, a pop-up space in downtown Cold Spring.

Rahim said she wants her paintings to "provoke feelings and memories of the Earth and nature, perhaps they can be a subtle reminder of its fragility and how maybe we can protect it in some small way."

The London-born artist, who arrived in New York in 2007, has always been inspired by the ocean because of her deep appreciation for the Earth

and consequences of climate change, which has helped influence her work and the upcoming exhibit. The planet is about 70 percent water, in a constant fluid state, she said.

Fluidity can have a number of meanings, but Rahim hopes those who view her work find her paintings to be a calming influence in their lives.

It's the "ability to fluidly change gears – and keep moving forward – exploring different themes and techniques," said Rahim, a Manhattan resident with a studio in Long Island City, Queens.

Rahim has been drawing or painting since she was a young child. She started drawing on microscope slides as her father worked in a hospital's Histology Department. Later, Rahim's drawings were no longer just microscope slides, it was art.

Those images and patterns have stuck with her ever since, and what is now presented in her new exhibit are the colors of the ocean, patterns on rugged rocks, satellite images of the Earth and microscopic



An example of one of the works by abstract painter Eleanor Rahim. Her exhibit in Cold Spring opens Friday and runs through Memorial Day.

anatomy.

Rahim said she has been working alongside Rachel Goldsmith, an artist with a similar vision of fluidity. They met through a multigenerational art group called Spliced Connector. The two instantly became kindred spirits. Goldsmith's work complements Rahim's by drawing inspiration from the same places – peeling paint, the ocean, rock strata and other pieces of her environment.

The tension between the elements is what guides Rahim through her art. Bodies and minds are always changing, flowing through emotions and feelings, constantly adapting, she said. Her goal is to bring a peace of mind through her artwork.

The exhibit at 44MAIN, located at 44 Main St. in Cold Spring, will again be open to the public 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. this weekend, Friday, May 28 through Monday, May 31.

For more information, visit www.44main.net or www.eleanorrahim.com.



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Thank you, Indian Point

For nearly 60 years, Indian Point has provided electricity that powered the lives of millions of New York City and lower Hudson Valley residents – safely, reliably, and securely.

But Indian Point's legacy is much greater than that.

The men and women of Indian Point and their dedication to professionalism, safety, and service will be remembered and celebrated as the power plant's legacy.

The people of Indian Point designed and built the plant, tested its components, and started it up for the first time.

They harnessed the energy generated by the plant around the clock, with dedicated personnel onsite, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, year after year, for the last 59 years without interruption.

They powered our lives through hot summer days and freezing cold winter nights.

The people of Indian Point raised their children, volunteered with local organizations, and lived their lives in this area, serving the community professionally and personally.

Indian Point shut down on April 30 for the last time after running continuously for 753 days since it was last refueled – a new world record for light water reactors and a fitting tribute to its people.


When I look back on Indian Point Energy Center and its history of operation, I will remember the dedicated men and women who I met, along with those who came before them, with deep appreciation and respect for having served with honor and distinction.


The people who passed through the plant will live on in the memory of everyone who has ever worked at Indian Point.

On behalf of the team,

Chris Bakken
Chief Nuclear Officer, Entergy Nuclear

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